

OTAKI KAPITI (O.K.) PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



23rd November 2018.

To whom it may concern

I write on behalf of the Otaki - Kāpiti Principals' Association in support of the Whale Song Project

The OKPA have read material supplied by the organisers of the project, had a discussion with the initiators and discussed its implications for the Kāpiti region and for education in particular.

As educators, we see opportunities for the development and construction of the project to be a valuable teaching opportunity for our children. We love the concept that they will be able to be part of the construction through collecting aluminium cans which will form part of the construction on one of the whales.

The project points us towards local history, both pre and post European settlement, in the importance of Kāpiti Island as a place of value and as a food source. Te Rauparaha and Ngati Toa controlled the region from Kāpiti Island early last century and contacts with early Europeans were through whaling enterprises. As well as history, the Whales will provide an on-going focus for teaching about the environment and conservation, as well as art, particularly sculpture.

As far as the region is concerned, Kāpiti has grown rapidly over the last 50 years from a series of small beach settlements to a population of over 50,000 and that expansion will inevitably continue with the completion of Transmission Gully.

Soft infrastructure is important in building community and symbols in and of the community are important. Whale Song will be a central symbol in our community, visible from the expressway, drawing tourists in, a source of pride and identity for the resident population.

The Otaki Kāpiti Principals are unanimously in support of the Whale Song Project and we therefore urge favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely

Mike Farrelly

Mike Farrelly
Chairman for Life
Otaki-Kapiti Principals' Association