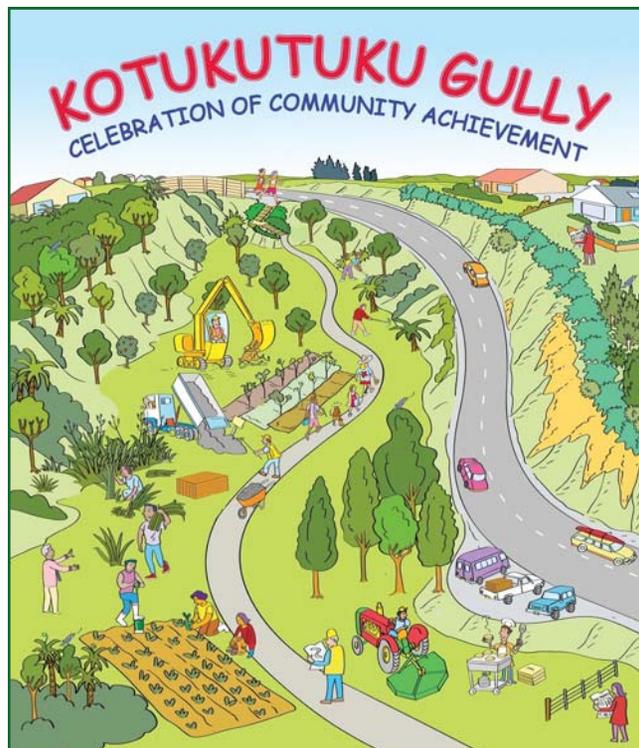




The Kotukutuku Gully receives its name from the Kotukutuku tree which is being re-established in this beautiful natural walkway.

A native to New Zealand, small flowers appear on the tree between August and December, and then change from greenish-yellow to purple-red.

The flowers are rich in nectar and are visited by honey-eating birds, especially tui, bellbirds and silvereyes. The dark purple berries, known as konini by Maori, are edible and taste like tamarillos.



Poster by Glen Ayo celebrating the opening of the restored Kotukutuku Gully in 2010.

ABOUT THE GULLY

The Kotukutuku Gully restoration is a product of countless hours of community volunteer effort. Through the vision and leadership of Maketu resident, Trevor Hughes, this historic spot has been returned to its natural beauty for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Over 2000 native flowering or berry bearing trees were planted to form a “bird corridor” along with a diverse range of flax and native bush. And, there are a few non-native fruit trees to be found for the enjoyment of those who stroll along the all-weather pathway

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Kotukutuku Gully



Historic Maketu

This historic gully receives its name from the Kotukutuku tree which has been re-established in this picturesque walkway. Stroll through the gully, enjoy its beauty, and reflect on its past.

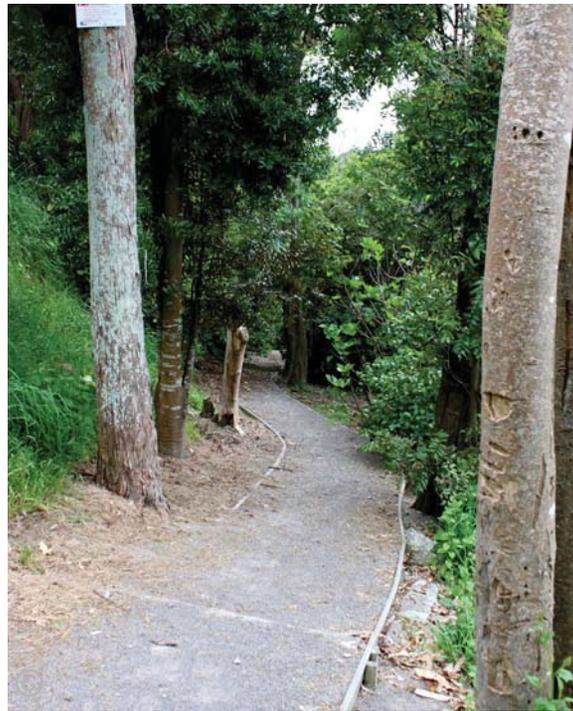
This gully, although steeped in history, was once an overgrown jungle and a dumping ground for car bodies and rubbish. It took a digger three days to clear it!



Life in the gully was very different eight centuries ago when the first Arawa waka (canoe) landed - one of the great migrations that brought the first human settlers to Aotearoa (New Zealand).



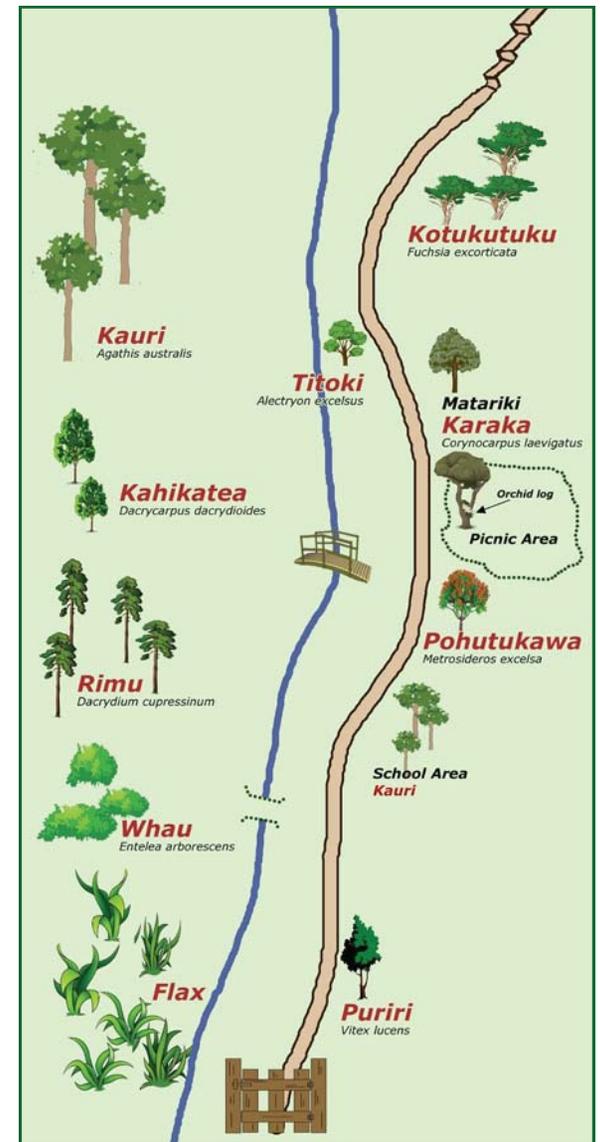
The gully was used for gardens. Rongoa (medicinal) plants were gathered and can still be found here today. Hangi stones (earth ovens) as well as middens (shell waste) have also been unearthed here.



This land was a pathway to the estuary at Little Waihi in peacetime, or a way for Maori warriors to get behind their attacking enemy seeking to capture the pa (fortified village) on Okurei Point.

It is believed to have been a birthing place for the Arawa women, perhaps because of the hot water springs in the area.

Come for a stroll through this peaceful area. There are 37 different native plant species here. Get off the pathway and browse at your leisure.



Check out the school area, the Whau on the far bank that early Maori used as floats on their fishing nets, the pretty Titoki tree, the native orchids on the old log in the fork of a tree, and of course the beautiful Kotukutuku trees.

There are many surprises!

