

Kaikoura Today -
What are the issues we are facing?

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Kaikoura – Our Town, Our District

The Kaikoura District spans from the Haumuri Bluffs in the south to the Kekerengu valley in the north, covering 2,048 square kilometres of diverse landscape. The inland boundary of our District is the Inland Kaikoura Range, climbing 2,885 metres and snow covered for much of the year. The spectacular coastline provides excellent fishing, sporting and recreation for Kaikoura's residents and visitors. The Kaikoura Canyon, at around 1,300 metres deep, provides the natural habitat for the sperm whale, and is also host to over 200 species of marine life.

The Kaikoura Township is situated on a peninsula protruding from this rugged coastline. Maori legend tells that it was from this peninsula that Maui fished up the North Island from out of the ocean. Maori history and culture is an integral part of Kaikoura, and there is evidence of Maori settlement in the area up to 1,000 years ago. The Tangata Whenua in the Kaikoura District is the Kati Kuri Hapu of the Ngai Tahu iwi.

Historically the District has thrived in the fishing, farming and dairy industries. Today Kaikoura is a world-class tourism destination, yet still maintains its fishing and farming heritage. The District boasts award-winning restaurants, cafés and accommodation facilities, wineries, a modern small boat facility and excellent airport facilities.

The Kaikoura Township is the District's primary residential, commercial and industrial area, and the focal point of the tourism industry. Outside the township, the District is largely rural in focus, with smaller settlements and mixed rural/residential activities scattered throughout.

A Green Globe Certified Community

In November 2004, Kaikoura was proud to become the first local authority in the world – and the second community in the world – to achieve Green Globe certification, and we have maintained our certified status since then.

But what is it? Green Globe is simply an internationally recognised system of measurement that tourism businesses and communities can use to improve their impact on the environment and become more sustainable. Kaikoura's environment is important to our community and attracts the large number of visitors here each year so we need to look after the environment for our community, for our visitors, and for our next generation to enjoy.



To become a Green Globe community, Kaikoura first needed to measure its environmental impact, called benchmarking, and then improve on this impact by implementing the Green Globe community standard.

Kaikoura's performance against the Green Globe indicators now show all fourteen assessed Earthcheck indicators are above the baseline level. Nine indicators; *Energy Consumption, Water Consumption, Waste sent to Landfill, Greenhouse Gas Production, Air Quality (for each of Nitrogen Oxide, Sulphur Dioxide and Particulates), Habitat Conservation, and Pesticide Products*, are **above the world best practice level**.

This is a stunning achievement and is a testament to the efforts of the community in caring for its environment. Without the work of the clubs, societies and committed individuals in Kaikoura, the community would not have got this far and without their continued work Kaikoura would not be in the position of maintaining its status as the first local authority area in the world to be Green Globe certified.

Kaikoura District Council takes an organisation-wide approach to its Green Globe objectives. The Green Globe benchmarks and performance targets are incorporated throughout the Council Activities section of this LTCCP to show how they relate to the progress towards achieving our community outcomes.

Our Profile



Location: Between Canterbury and Marlborough on the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand.

Population: 3,621 (Census 2006)

Use: Predominantly Rural

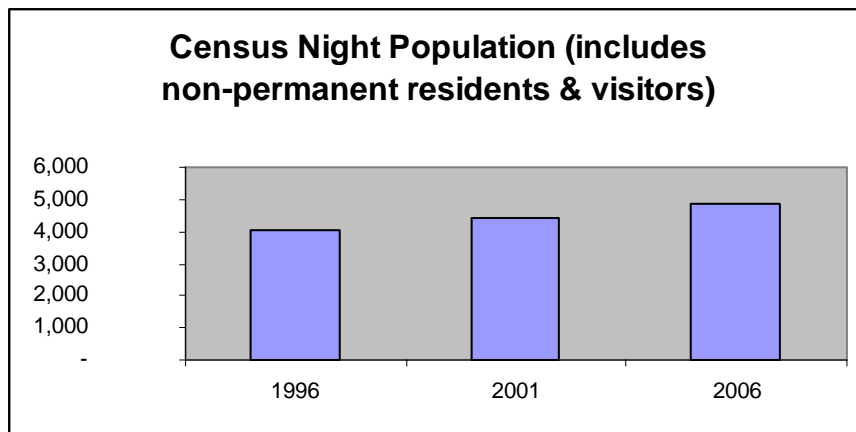
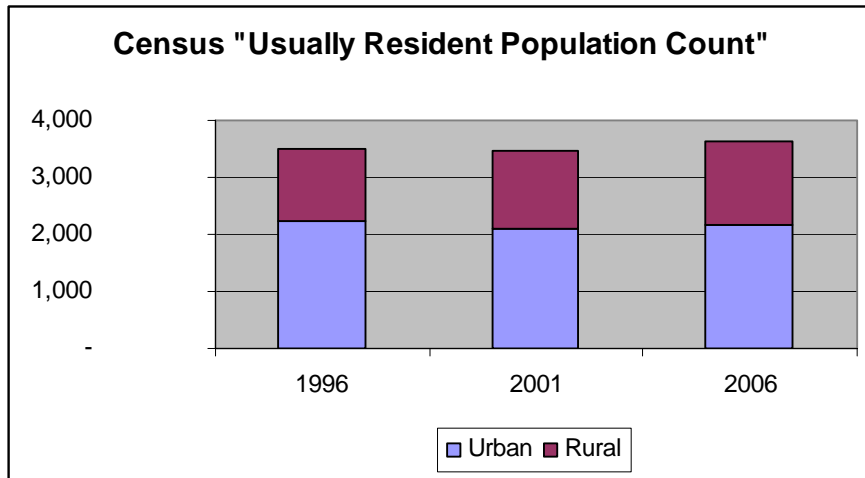
Rateable Properties: 2,617

Land Area: 2,048 sq km

Capital Value: \$1,451,214,000



2006 Statistics NZ Census of Population & Dwellings



Population Counts, Sex & Ethnicity

Census 2006 showed Kaikoura's permanent population to have increased by 4.0% over the 2001 count to 3,621 people. Of those, there were 2,172 living in Kaikoura Township, and 1,449 in the rural areas.

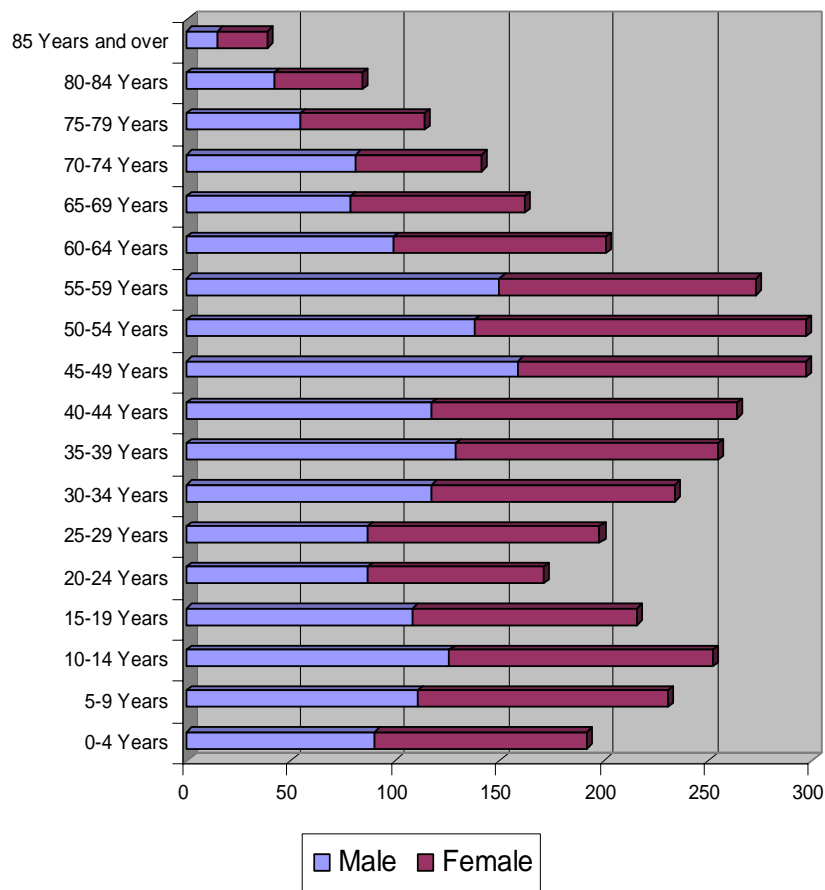
The Census also showed that there are slightly more women than men living in the district, and a substantial proportion of our population is aged between 40 and 59 years.

82% of our community identify themselves as NZ European, and 15% identify themselves as Maori. There are only a very small number of people in our community of other ethnicities, well below the national average. International visitors to our district, however, continue to enhance our cultural diversity, and as the next graph suggests, these visitor numbers were continuing to grow in 2006.

The Census night population shows the actual count of people who were in the district on the evening the census was taken (therefore including non-permanent residents and visitors). At 4,884 people, this shows an increase in the total overnight population count of 8.9% in 2001 and 11.0% in 2006.

This also suggests that, on the night of the census, 1,263 people were either non-permanent residents, or visitors to the district. The census was conducted on Tuesday 7 March 2006, well after the peak visitor season had subsided.

Age Group Census 2006 (Usually Resident Population Count)

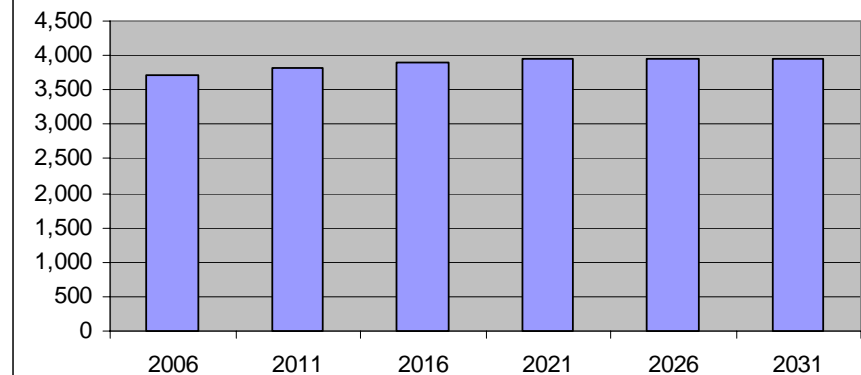


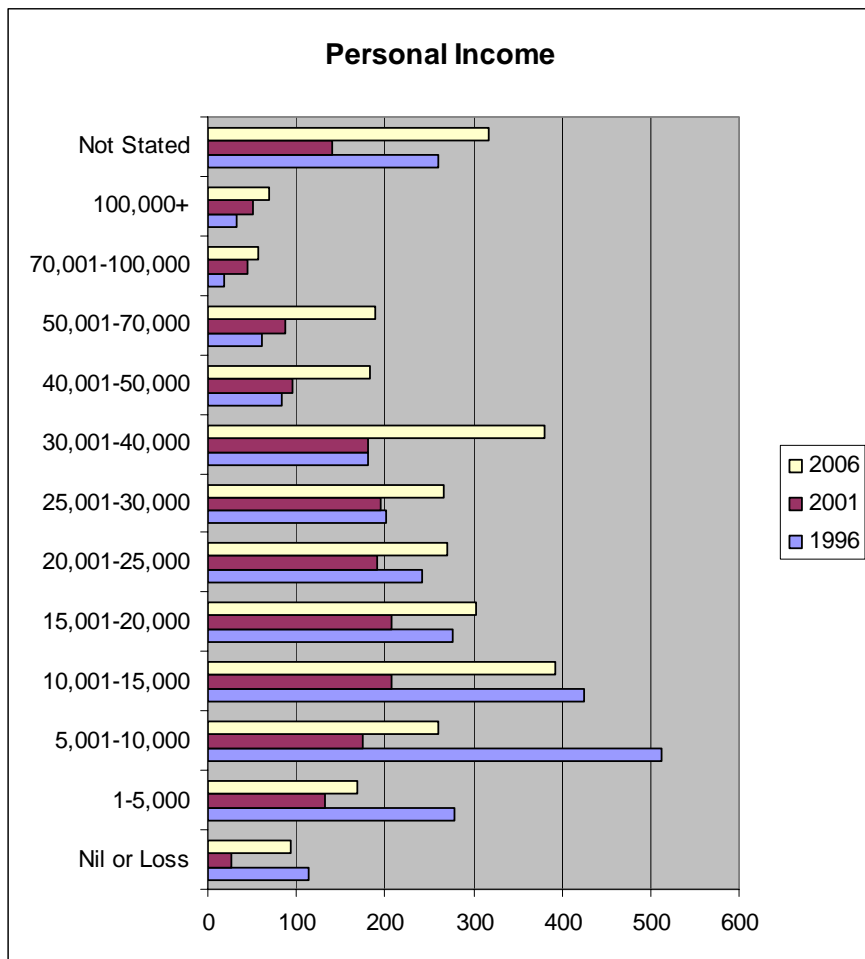
Age Groups

The majority of people living in Kaikoura are between 30-60 years of age, and there is a reasonable balance between the sexes for each age group. Numbers of youth (aged 0-19 years) have decreased slightly since the last census taken in 2001, from 903 to 891. Despite this, youth make up a considerable proportion of our population (25%). Since 2001, there has been an increase in the number of people aged 80 years and over, from 102 to 123. In total, the population aged 60 and over makes up 20% of our usually resident population count.

The following is the census projections from the Dept of Statistics.

Total Population Projections: 2006-2031





Income

The results of the last three Censuses suggest that personal income has increased significantly within our community. In 1996 a disproportionate number of people were earning less than \$15,000 per annum, with the largest group represented earning less than \$10,000 per annum.

At that time, this created a significant issue for our community in terms of social and economic wellbeing. Since then, personal income has shown a quantum shift with a new majority group earning \$30-\$40,000 a year, and substantial increases in the number of people earning more than this.

This may well be a reflection on the impact tourism has had on the local economy, the substantial payouts within the dairy industry, and the investment in the community from the commercial sector.

Technology

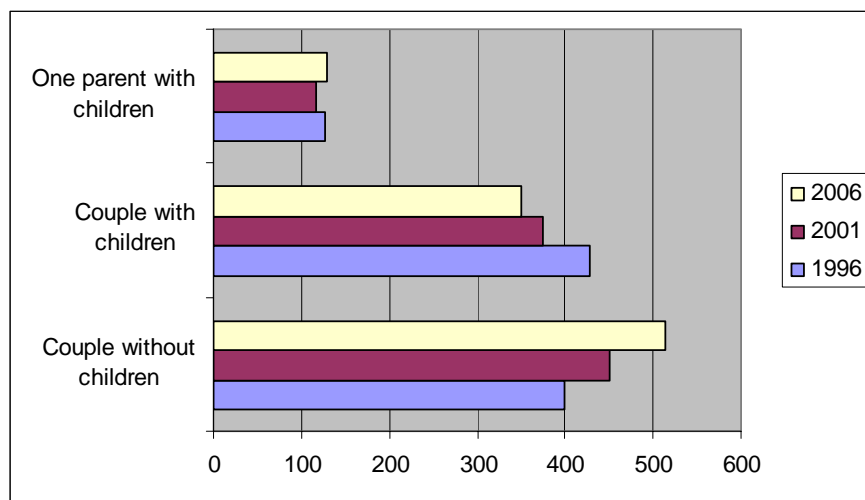
The census also suggests that around half of households have access to the internet, and the majority of households have at least one mobile phone. These are also substantial increases in the use of these technologies from previous years.

This has an impact on how our community associates with other areas, how we communicate with each other, and potentially reduces the perception of isolation within our district.

Families

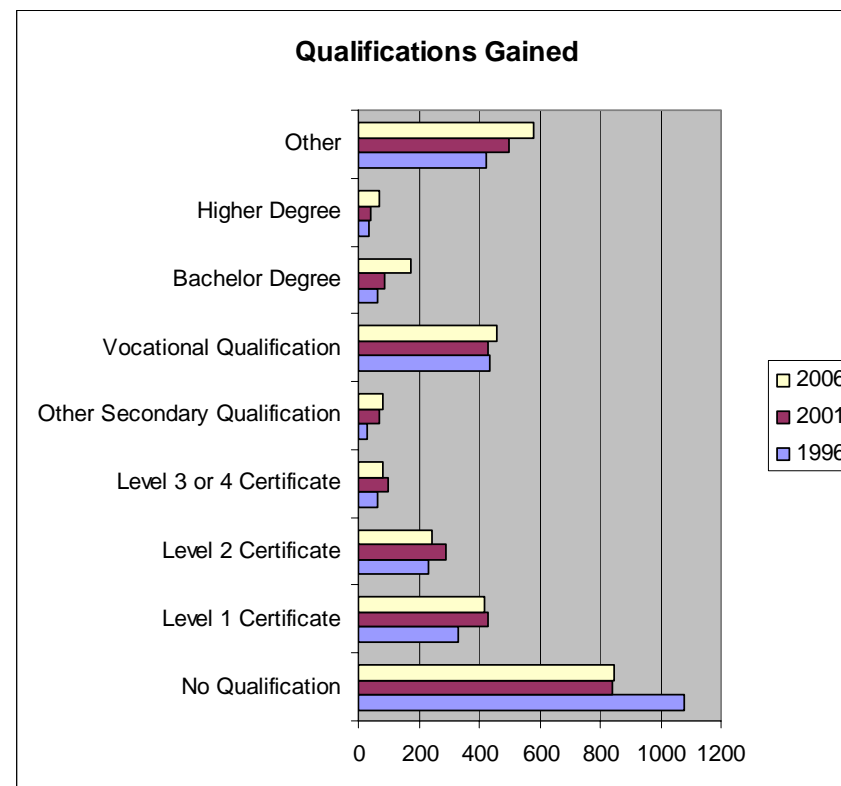
The following graph shows the trends in the number of families with (or without) children. Sadly, this suggests that families with children are leaving the District. This is supported by the number of people aged 19 and under, which has fallen from a peak of 1,047 in 1996 to 891 in 2006.

This potentially impacts on the schools in the area, which are funded based on student numbers, and less children may result in fewer resources in the classroom or even fewer teachers. Less children also potentially impacts on the demand for certain facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, and sports fields.



Education

Pleasingly, residents of Kaikoura appear to be increasingly gaining qualifications, with fewer people having no qualification at all. This has numerous benefits to our community by providing a better skilled work-force.



Growth Assumptions

Global uncertainty regarding economic growth, the state of the international financial markets, unstable fuel prices, and a volatile political environment overseas makes growth assumptions at this juncture particularly difficult.

Kaikoura District Council takes a conservative approach to growth in these uncertain times, and currently anticipates the NZ economy will continue to decline in 2009 and will remain flat through to the end of 2010. We also currently assume the global economic recession will continue until late 2010 followed by a slow recovery.

These factors are anticipated to reduce the number of international visitors to Kaikoura by around 10% in 2009.

In the LTCCP 2006-2016, Council estimated 900 new residential dwellings would be built in the district within the 10 year period, with the bulk of those occurring by 2009. While many of the dwellings are yet to be built, this estimate did prove to be quite accurate in terms of the numbers of new titles created. In the 2½ year period between 1 July 2006 to 31 December 2008, 376 new titles were created, and 102 new residential dwellings built.

Despite the current uncertainty within the economy, there are currently subdivision consents granted and yet to be given effect to, for around 350 titles, plus a further known 270 titles in resource consents yet to be granted. Discussions held with these developers suggest that there remains strong confidence that these subdivisions

will go ahead, however there remains a question mark over the timing of these, and Council assumes these will not take place until 2011/2012.

Council considers that there could potentially be another 280 titles created that are yet to be presented to Council during the latter half of the ten-year period contained within this long term plan. Therefore Council continues to predict 900 new titles will be created within the ten-year period from 2009 to 2019, but that of this perhaps only 35 new dwellings per year will be built. Many of the remaining titles may potentially relate to unit-title apartments, the proposed business park, and other like developments.

Council has, however, assumed that the proposed Whale Watch development incorporating a substantial visitor centre, hotel complex, golf course and apartments, will not eventuate within the ten-year period. This development had also been assumed not to eventuate in the 2006-2016 LTCCP.