Some low-lying communities in Aotearoa New Zealand are already being affected by increased flooding, coastal erosion and higher water levels. Over time, more communities will be affected and the impacts will worsen. But there is still a lot of uncertainty about how bad it might get and the timeframes.

The Government, councils and researchers are starting to work on how to respond to this huge challenge. But one thing is clear—affected communities will need to be involved in determining the way forward.

In this cartoon we are wanting to show how devastating it can be when individuals and families start to be affected by climate change, but also the strength that communities can have when they come together to identify solutions that will work for them.



This cartoon forms part of the research findings of the Climate-Adaptive Communities project of the Deep South National Science Challenge.

We have drawn from the stories and insights shared with the research team by community members, iwi members and council staff. Our warm thanks to you all / nga mihi mahana ki a koutou.

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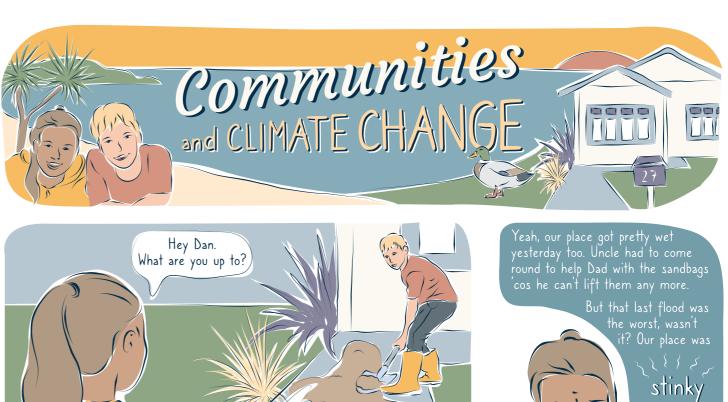
Centre for Sustainability Kā Rakahau o Te Ao Tūroa





THE DEEP SOUTH





Mum says I've got to shovel the mud off the path...AGAIN. Luckily the water didn't come inside this time. She was reaaaal scared. Yeah. Hey you know Mrs Ha up the road? She was moved out by welfare people. They say she can't ever go back with her house getting wet so often. I'd hate to be moved out. Do you think it would happen to us? And he says some kaimoana like cockle Mum's going to a community

meeting this afternoon about

all of this.

Dan, look at this, the ground is so wet the potatoes are ROTTING! The water is too close to the surface. Angie next door is putting in a pump but we can't afford that.

And Dad's going to the marae this weekend for a hui about

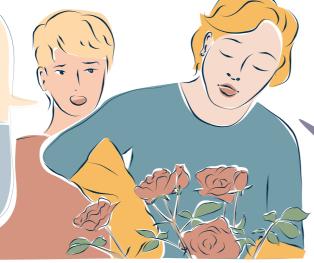
LATER...



But it's been good getting together with the rest of the community to talk about things like that, 'cos we're all worried. Next month we've got a workshop where we're starting to think about what this place might look like in 20 years time.

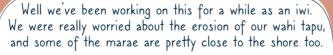
20 years? I'll be ancient then - 30 years old! I wonder what it will look like. I wonder if school would be in a lake—that would be funny. And what about the shops, will they still be there?





We're going to share them and get to...

Dad, what happened at the hui? (What's going to happen to the paua?



And some of our best food gathering places are already changing. We've been seeing this and the scientists are saying it too.

So we looked back to the past to see how we'd dealt with big changes. And then we looked forward, a hundred years or so, to see how it might be then.

And then, OK, how do we make the best of it?

Because we're always going to be here.

We'll always be kaitiaki.



Well, my Mum and me are going to go to these council/community workshops to start designing what we might have in future.

She's all for helping the community get strong ... so we can make good decisions when we have to.

Like, if council or someone builds new housing, what should that look like?

..We could catch eels!

