

---

**REPORT 2**  
(1215/52/IM)

## **PROPOSALS FOR A NAME FOR OPEN SPACE AT MURCHISON STREET, OWHIRO BAY AND TO RENAME CENTENNIAL PARK IN MIRAMAR**

---

### **1. Purpose of Report**

To seek the Committee's agreement to recommend to Council the proposed name for open space situated at Murchison Street, Island Bay and to change the name of Centennial Park, Weka Street, Miramar.

### **2. Executive Summary**

The Southern Environmental Association (SEA) has proposed a new name, Tawatawa Reserve for a 65ha reserve between Quebec Street, Kingston and Murchison Street, Owhiro Bay (map attached as Appendix 3). The proposal has been assessed under the Open Space Naming Policy.

The Miramar Rangers Association Football Club (Miramar Rangers) has proposed that Centennial Park in Miramar be renamed as David Farrington Park, in memory of David Farrington's 40 year contribution as administrator and coach at the club. The proposal was assessed as an exception to the Open Space Naming Policy as the policy does not allow officially named open space areas to be renamed.

### **3. Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Recommend that the Council agree that the 64.9798 hectares of open space at Murchison Road, Owhiro Bay comprising Part Lot 1 DP 9934 and Lots 4-5 DP 23322, Lots 1 & 3, Part Lot 2, Block VII DP 1855 and Part Secs 20 and 23 Owhiro District, and Lot 610 DP 817 be named Tawatawa Reserve.*
- 3. Recommend that the Council agree to make an exception to the Open Space Naming Policy and rename the current Centennial Park comprising Part Lot 1 DP 8458 as David Farrington Park.*

## **4. Background**

Council's Open Space Naming Policy (adopted in 2001) guides the way Council determines names for open spaces.

### **4.1 How the Policy Works**

Under the policy, when a new or unnamed open space needs to be officially named, the Council will, in the first instance, discuss with iwi whether the site is of significance to them. If it is, an appropriate name will be determined in conjunction with iwi.

If the open space holds little or no significance for iwi, or if iwi wish to consider the possibility of joint Maori-European naming, then the policy provides a process for recommending an appropriate name for consideration. In addition, the policy allows for some special conditions to apply if the open space has been gifted to the Council or to facilitate commercial involvement in name association in certain circumstances.

The Open Space Naming Policy's decision-making framework requires officers to:

- i. Determine if there are names in common usage.  
'Common usage' is defined as:
  - name used by more than one community of interest (for example community groups, schools, businesses); and
  - name referred to in local documentation (for example local newsletters).
- ii. Determine if any names have already been suggested.
- iii. Seek additional suggestions through targeted consultation, having regard to Council's Consultation Policy, with:
  - Local historians
  - Local community groups
  - Community boards (Makara/Ohariu and Tawa) in their respective areas
  - Developers where appropriate.

The suggested names are then considered against the policy's Style Guide (Appendix 1) and ranked against the weighted selection criteria (Appendix 2).

All names require formal approval by resolution of Council. Once Council has approved a name, appropriate signage will be implemented to identify the open space.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Murchison Street, Owhiro Bay

This site bounded by Quebec Street in Kingston and Murchison Street in Owhiro Bay contains the ex Preston's Gully landfill and contains an area zoned conservation site under the District Plan called Tawatawa Ridge. A trig station *Tawatawa No 2* is situated on the ridge top and is an official geographic name approved by the New Zealand Geographic Board. The total area of the site comprises 64.9798 hectares legally described below (Appendix 3):

| <b>Legal description</b>  | <b>Certificate of title</b> | <b>area</b>       |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Part Lot 1 DP 9934<br>and Lots 4-5 DP<br>23322  | 47C/674                     | 29.9361 ha        |
| Lots 1 & 3, Part Lot<br>2, Block VII DP 1855<br>and Part Secs 20<br>and 23 Owhiro<br>District | 52A/851                     | 28.164 ha         |
| Lot 610 DP 817  | 529/181                     | 6.8797 ha         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |                             | <b>64.9798 ha</b> |

The Preston's Gully landfill operated on the southern part of this site for about 4 years between 1973 and 1977.

The land is fee simple and not covered under an existing reserves management plan. The Town Belt Management Plan (1995) recommends that most of this area should be added to the Town Belt (Additions and Acquisitions (ix) page 16).

In 2008, following public consultation, Council approved a long term landscape plan for this area. The plan identified the area as Tawatawa Ridge Reserve including Preston's Gully Park.

During this process the Southern Environment Association (SEA) wrote to Council and asked that it consider the name Tawatawa Forest and Bird Reserve for the whole area. Following further discussion with SEA it has been agreed that the requested name is the Tawatawa Reserve in line with criteria in the Open Space Naming Policy to avoid descriptive names.

Iwi support the proposed name.

**Assessment against style guide** – When assessing a suggested name against the style guide a number of points need to be taken into consideration. This name fulfils all of the criteria listed.

- In use elsewhere in the city No
- Possessive form (for example John Smith's Park) avoided Yes
- Contains hyphens No
- Spelt correctly Yes
- In poor taste or likely to cause offence No
- Established geographic name Yes. Tawatawa No 2 is the trig point within the reserve
- Incorrect name in established local usage No

Tawatawa Reserve is therefore a suitable name according to the style guide criteria.

**Ranking against Weighted Criteria** – This suggestion also meets two of the nine criteria – local usage (3 points) and published name (1 point) for a total of 4 points.

**Consultation** - As part of the consultation process, adjacent residents' associations and community groups were written to and asked to comment on the proposed name by Friday 13 March. Council has received verbal confirmation that Island Bay Residents' Association supports the proposal. The Friends of Owhiro Stream strongly support the proposal in principle but also made a suggestion that the area could be called Tawatawa-Owhiro Reserve to recognise a significant stream within the reserve. Officers discussed the matter with SEA and Friends of Owhiro Stream. As a result the Friends of Owhiro Stream are happy to support the proposed name.

## **5.2 Centennial Park, Weka Street, Miramar**

The name Centennial Park is an already approved Council name.

The Open Space Naming Policy states that a name once approved will remain in perpetuity. Although it is not clear that this refers to names approved prior to the policy's adoption (2001) legal advice confirms that this should most likely be the case. Nonetheless, legal advice also states that the policy does not preclude the Council from making decisions that are inconsistent with the policy (section 80 of the LGA 2002). Officers believe that significant reasons exist for the Council to create an exception to the policy and rename the park under the authority given it to do so in Section 16 (10) of the Reserves Act 1977. The site in question is bounded by Weka Street and Darlington Road and is the home of Miramar Rangers (map attached as Appendix 4).

Centennial Park was part of a 40 acre site (16.2 ha) set aside by Council on 16 November 1938 as a motorcamp for use during the Centennial Exhibition. Council resolved:

*“That the Council’s area of 40 acres at the Glen, Miramar and an additional area adjoining be acquired by the Corporation to be appropriated as a permanent motor-camp site.” [Archives ref: 00001:1131:31/285 Pt 1]*

Work was started in 1939 and on 15 March 1939 the Council resolved: *“His Worship the Mayor recommended that the motor camp at Darlington Road, Miramar, under construction by the Council be regarded as a local Centennial Memorial and that application be made to the National Centennial Council for the government subsidy towards the cost of the work.” [Archives ref: 00166:0:48, page 367]*

On 15 May 1939 the Centennial Committee approved the “Centennial Park and Motor Camp” as one of three local Centennial memorials [Archives ref: 00184:0:4]. From then on it is usually referred to as either Centennial Park or the Miramar Motor Camp in Council correspondence.

Various things have happened to the land since then. The Army occupied the site during the war, and after that it was used for Transit Housing. In the 1960s part of the land was subdivided and sold for housing and Weka and Darlington Roads were joined up.

Miramar Rangers moved to the remaining land known as Centennial Park in the early 1970’s and developed the ground including the clubrooms and associated facilities.

In recent years the steep hillside section of the original area has become known as Centennial Reserve with the sportsground occupied by Miramar Rangers continuing to be known as Centennial Park.

Miramar Rangers recently wrote to the Mayor proposing that Centennial Park be renamed David Farrington Park. The late David Farrington was involved in Wellington football for over 40 years as a coach and administrator of Miramar Rangers as well as coach for the Wellington representative team and the NZ Women’s national team. He was described as a dedicated volunteer, mentor of youth and great Wellington football personality.

**Renaming an existing Park** – Officers believe exceptional circumstances exist based on the above and for the following reasons:

- The original Centennial Park comprised 40 acres (16.2ha) and included all of the land shown in Appendix 4. In the 1960’s part of the land was subdivided, with the area now known as Centennial Park being developed into a football ground (Appendix 5) and the steep area north of Weka Street and Miramar North Road becoming known as Centennial Reserve.
- The renaming involves only a small portion of the original park, now isolated from the original park and recognised by the public as the home of Miramar Rangers.
- The northern section of the original reserve will continue to be known as Centennial Reserve to recognise the original significance of the name.

Iwi support the proposed renaming.

Even though it is a proposed exception to the policy, the same criteria has been used to ensure consistency.

### **Assessment against style guide**

- In use elsewhere in the city No
- Possessive form (for example John Smith's Park) avoided Yes
- Contains hyphens No
- Spelt correctly Yes
- In poor taste or likely to cause offence No
- Established geographic name No
- Incorrect name in established local usage No

David Farrington Park is therefore a suitable name according to the style guide criteria.

**Ranking against Weighted Criteria** – This suggestion also partly meets one of the nine criteria – personal name (surname) for special service (1 point)

**Consultation** - As part of the consultation process Miramar Rangers consulted with the local community and the Wellington football fraternity. Submissions of support were received from New Zealand Football, Enterprise Miramar and the Strathmore Park Progressive and Beautifying Association (Appendix 6). In addition Council received 334 submissions supporting the proposal on a standard form. Thirteen of these were from relatives of David Farrington. Most were from the Miramar/Strathmore area with others from the football community in the wider Wellington region.

**Implementation** – There are likely to be issues around the name change for users of the Park, and Council will work closely with Miramar Rangers and Capital Football to minimise any confusion over this and ensure all print and web-based maps and signage are changed as soon as possible.

## **6. Conclusion**

The Wellington Tenth Trust, Ngati Toa, and the local community support the proposed names for the reserve areas. Following research and consultation, this report identifies Tawatawa Reserve as the recommended name under Council's Open Spaces Naming Policy for open space situated at Murchison Street, Island Bay and to change the name of Centennial Park, Weka Street, Miramar to David Farrington Park.

Contact Officer: *Mike Oates, Manager Open Space and Recreation Planning*

## **Supporting Information**

### **1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*This project supports outcome 5.1*

*5.1 Stronger Sense of Place. Wellington will have a strong local identity that celebrates and protects its sense of place, capital-city status, distinctive landform and landmarks, defining features, history, heritage buildings, places and spaces.*

### **2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact**

*There is no specific Annual Plan reference relating to the naming of open spaces. Naming is undertaken under the Open Space Naming Policy.*

*There are no implications for the LTCCP. New signage will be funded from existing budgets.*

### **3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*The report discusses the treaty of Waitangi implications, as the process has been agreed in Council's Open Space Naming Policy.*

### **4) Decision-Making**

*This is not a significant decision. The report sets out a number of options and reflects the views and preferences of those with an interest in this matter who have been consulted with.*

### **5) Consultation**

#### **a) General Consultation**

*Consultation has taken place with local residents groups for both reserves and with the football fraternity in particular for the renaming of Centennial Park.*

#### **b) Consultation with Maori**

*Consultation has taken place with the Tenth Trust and Ngati Toa who support the proposals.*

### **6) Legal Implications**

*These are discussed in section 5.2 of the report.*

### **7) Consistency with existing policy**

*This report recommends certain measures which are inconsistent with the Open Space Naming Policy. Officers believe that significant reasons exist for the Council to create an exception to the policy.*

## **Appendix 1 Style Guide**

These criteria will be used to establish the relative merits of any suggested names. All names that are suggested through Step 3 of the framework will be compared using the criteria which has been weighted to reflect relative importance (see Table 1). The names will then be ranked in order of merit with the highest scored name highest ranked.

### **1. Local Usage**

Proof of establishment and the extent of common usage need to be determined at Step 3 of the framework.

### **2. Historical Person or Event**

This can be for example settlers, early notable people or events with local association. Naming after persons living or recently deceased should generally be avoided where the issue is potentially sensitive.

### **3. Significant geographical feature, landscape, flora or fauna**

Naming after minor features should be avoided.

### **4. Personal name (surname) for special service**

This can be for conservation, sport, community service or other sphere of activity with local association which can be duly recognised. Naming after persons living or recently deceased should generally be avoided where the issue is potentially sensitive.

### **5. Descriptive name**

For example Hill Park (as in on a hill). Naming after minor features should be avoided.

### **6. Associated name**

That is a part of an association or grouping of names in a suburb.

### **7. Published name in any work**

The work needs to be authoritative in the opinion of Council. However publishing will not confer establishment.

### **8. Cultural Significance other than Maori**

Significance to be determined through written evidence.

### **9. Adjacent street or name of suburb**

**NOTE: Naming of an open space will not preclude naming significant features within it for example a fountain, artwork or memorial.**



## Appendix 2: Weighted Selection Criteria

| <b>Criterion</b>                                 | <b>Weighting</b> |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Local Usage                                   | <b>High 3</b>    |
| 2. Historical Person or Event *                  | Medium 2         |
| 3. Significant feature                           | Medium 2         |
| 4. Personal name (surname) for special service * | Low 1            |
| 5. Descriptive name                              | Low 1            |
| 6. Associated name                               | High 3           |
| 7. Published name in any work                    | Low 1            |
| 8. Cultural Significance                         | High 3           |
| 9. Adjacent Street/suburb                        | Low 1            |

### Criterion Weighting Score

\*Note that for each of these criteria there may be more than one name suggested. If so the officer responsible will need to make an assessment on the relative merits of each name under the same criterion with regard to the following:

- extent of local knowledge about person or event
- contribution to area of interest