
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

Time: 9.15am
Date: Thursday, 12 February 2015
Venue: Committee Room 1
Ground Floor, Council Offices
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

Business

Page No.

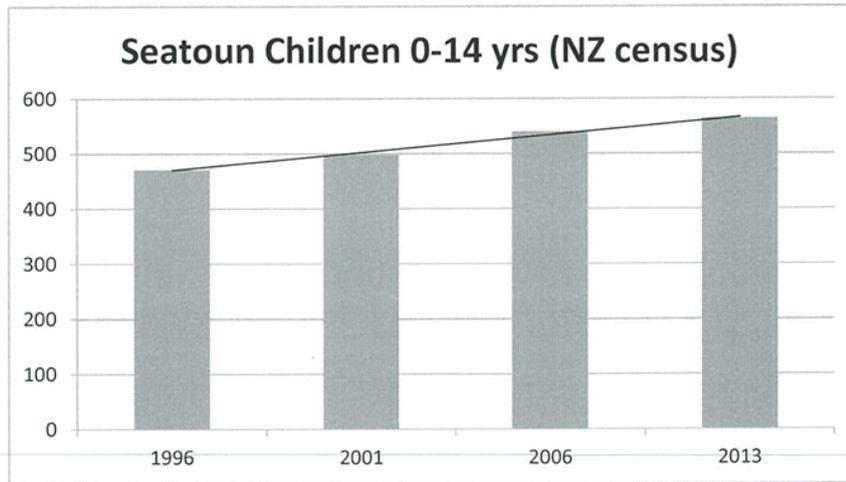
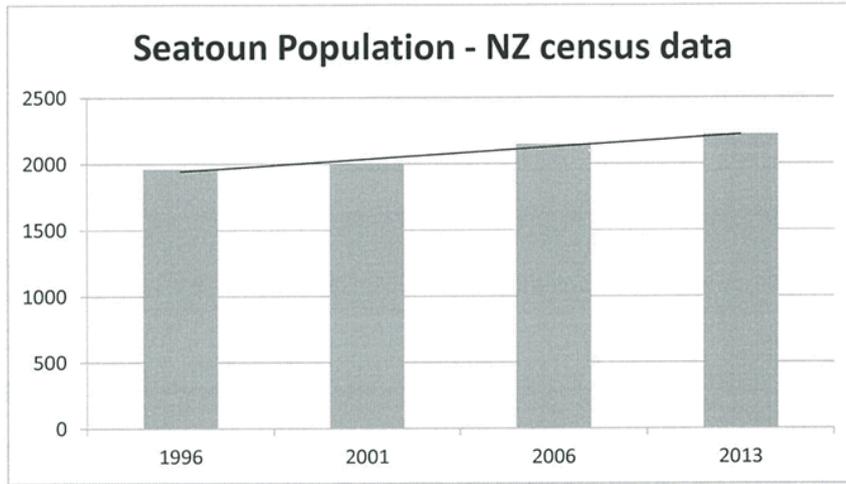
3.1 Draft Suburban Reserves Management Plan Oral Hearings

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1.6.2 Public Participation - Owhiro Bay Residents' Association

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-

Derek
McCorkindale
Tabled.



Susan submitted
tabled info.

Seatoun Park Playground: Submission Number 226 Page 152

My name is Susan Stanford, I've come to speak to you today about the proposal to decommission the Seatoun Park playground. I wish to state my objection to this proposal. I am a Wellington City ratepayer and a long term resident of Seatoun, I have lived there for 39 years, I grew up in Seatoun and now choose to raise my family there. There is only one of me speaking to you now, but alongside me today are other members of my community, some you'll hear from. Also alongside me are the 91 community members who have written in objecting to the proposal, as well as the 532 people who in just 2 weeks signed a petition to object to the proposal. Seatoun is a small, well defined community with a population of 2235 according to the 2013 census. 627 people mostly individuals have let you know they object to your proposal. That's 28% of the population. That doesn't count any of the people who wrote in on behalf of their family, partner, husband or wife. It doesn't take into account people who didn't write in, but object to it as well. I hope you agree that's a good proportion of Seatoun who object to the proposal.

Today's world is full of rules, regulations, guidelines and policies, most of these are black and white, stating what can and can't be done. Here at the Council someone has followed a set of black and white rules when making the decision to decommission our playground. From the rules it was decided: this playground is too close to the Churchill Park playground, it costs too much to maintain, it's too expensive to upgrade it. And therefore based on the black and white rules the Seatoun Park Playground must go. Well we like our playground and wish for it to stay and be upgraded.

I am disappointed in your process of letting our community know about this important proposal. I saw a very small sign at the park advertising your 'Draft Suburban Reserves Management Plan' which you had to obtain and read before finding on the last page the Council's intention to decommission the Seatoun Park Playground. I only saw the sign after Councillor Paul Eagle had come into our community and made us aware. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't have known that the playground was to close until the day it was gone.

I ask you to have a look at my handout. I've taken Primary School rolls numbers from the ERO website and number of playgrounds per

suburb from the Wellington City Council website. I've worked out the number of children per playground in 3 different suburbs. Seatoun, Miramar and Tawa. I draw your attention to the red figures. If the proposed playground in Miramar Park goes ahead then Miramar has 1 playground per 163 children. Tawa has 1 playground per 120 children. If you take away Seatoun Park playground we will have 1 playground per 291 children. How is that fair? I'd be interested to know why Tawa has so many more playgrounds than Seatoun, why they get to keep all theirs and why our one should go.

Seatoun is a growing community with lots of young families, we have enough young children in the area to warrant another playground, according to the ratio of children to playgrounds. It makes no sense to find a new area 600m away from Churchill Park where a new playground could be established. It makes sense to let us keep and upgrade what we have.

Sometimes people making decisions need to put the black and white rules aside, and show a sense of grey. You needed to come out to our community and see how this playground is actually used and how it serves a different purpose to the Churchill Park playground. You needed to come to Seatoun Park playground in the middle of winter and see the children playing on it while watching family play soccer, you needed to come out on a beautiful summer day when Seatoun is full of visitors and those visitors are at the beach and using the Churchill Park playground. You needed to come to Seatoun on a strong northerly and see how much more sheltered this playground is. If that had happened what you would have seen is a very well used, well loved playground serving a different purpose to Churchill Park. Even though the playground has had little maintenance over the years, the children still play there.

When making your decision on the Seatoun Park playground I ask you to make your decision not based on what the black and white rules say but rather with a little sense of grey. Or maybe we should all move to Tawa!

Primary Schools	School Roll	Play Areas	Current Number of Primary School Aged Children per playground	Number of Children per playground in Miramar with proposed Miramar Park Development	Number of Children per playground in Seatoun if Seatoun Park decommissioned
Miramar		Miramar			
Miramar North	296	Centennial Park Miramar North Play Area			
Miramar Central	240	Chelsea Play Area			
Holy Cross	230	Crawford Green Park Play Area			
Miramar Christian	65	Wilberforce Street Play Area			
Worser Bay	150	Scorching Bay			
Total Number of Primary School Aged Children in area	981	5	196	163	
Tawa		Tawa			
Green Acres	210	Brasenose Place Play Area			
Hampton Hill	137	Coronation Park Play Area			
Tawa	300	Duncan Park Play Area			
Linden	108	Grasslees Reserve Play Area			
Tawa Intermediate	476	Larsen Park Play Area			
Redwood	168	Lyndhurst Park Play Area			
St Francis Xavier	163	Pikitanga Close Play Area			
Total Number of Primary School Aged Children in area	1562	Raroa Park Play Area (Tawa) Taylor Park Play Area Tui Park Play Area Victory Crescent Park Play Area Wall Park Play Area Willowbank Reserve Play Area			
		13	120		
Seatoun		Seatoun			Play Areas in Seatoun Total
Seatoun	402	Churchill Park Play Area			2
St Anthony's	106	Seatoun Park Play Area			
TKKM O Nga Mokopuna	74	Breaker Bay			
Total Number of Primary School Aged Children in area	582	3	194		291

Primary School Roll Numbers obtained from ERO <http://www.ero.govt.nz/> or school's website
Play Areas obtained from WCC website <http://wellington.govt.nz/recreation/stuff-for-kids/play-areas/locations>

St Gerard's Park and Walkway – A Heritage Site For All

Marian Evans

St Gerard's Park sits on a promontory above Oriental Bay. With 180-degree views over the inner harbour, a view-shaft down to Oriental Bay and a stand of mature pohutukawa on one boundary, it's a beautiful, intimate and peaceful site, enhanced by traces of its history as the former kitchen garden and orchard for St Gerard's Monastery. In Europe it would be treasured, both as a tourist attraction and as a significant element in the city's – and the nation's – heritage.

What the Plan Says

The *Draft Suburban Reserve Management Plan 2014* suggests that the park be protected and acquired. It also says that there is 'limited potential to increase general use because of lack of road frontage and somewhat difficult access'.

My submissions (in association with my Powerpoint presentation):

1. St Gerard's Park and Walkway should be acquired and protected because of its position and its history and its potential use by Wellingtonians and tourists, as a beautiful peaceful spot within a key central city recreational network.

2. Access to St Gerard's Park is no more difficult than to many parks on Mount Victoria and there is significant potential to increase general use by better signage and by better integrating the park and walkway into the neighbouring and heavily used upper Oriental Terrace zigzag reserve.

3. The neighbourhood enhancement initiated by the upper Oriental Terrace community could be extended in association with development of St Gerard's Park and Walkway, to the benefit of both and current and potential users–

- at the zigzag end of the St Gerard's walkway including the zigzag entrance; and
- on the zigzag itself, through WCC commitment to support of neighbourhood initiatives in a high and varied use reserve, at a level that meets the investment made at the McFarlane Street end of the walkway – this could include placing ugly utility wires underground.

The remainder of this paper provides background information in support of these submissions.

Routes to St Gerard's Park

McFarlane Street

At the moment, the most welcoming and attractive route into the park is via a broad entrance and well-tended stretch of walkway from McFarlane Street, accessible by road (with a small non-resident car park near the entrance) and via steps from the Hawker Street bus stop, which is at the outer limit of the central city zone. Foot traffic in McFarlane Street is moderate and in my observation McFarlane Street is not much used by runners or by pedestrians en route to Oriental Bay.

Oriental Terrace zigzag

On the other side of St Gerard's Park, the walkway continues to the Oriental Terrace pedestrian zigzag, originally an extension of Hawker Street. This end of the walkway is untended and neglected, with no attractive plantings and many noxious weeds. The

St Gerard's Park and Walkway – A Heritage Site For All

opening where the walkway meets the zigzag is narrow. It too is neglected, unlike other parts of the zigzag. As at the McFarlane Street end, there's a narrow post pointing to the walkway, but no mention of the St Gerard's Park.

The zigzag is very different than McFarlane Street. It's busy, dynamic, a quasi-park that's very well-used by Wellingtonians and a surprising number of tourists, for a variety of activities. People bring their partners, their mates, their parents and their children. They wander. They power walk. They linger. They run. They train, on a circuit that often includes Hawker Street, lower Oriental Terrace (the roadway) and the waterfront. They walk their dogs. They text. They plod. They listen to music. They push their bikes. They chat. They sit on the park bench and catch their breath. Traffic is heavy, from and to various destinations–

- the Hawker Street bus stop, used by denizens of the high-density lower reaches of Oriental Terrace among others;
- various Mount Victoria walkways (pedestrians and cyclists);
- Oriental Bay and its bus stops;
- Freyberg Pool; and
- the waterfront.

Many of these people do not know about the park. Those who do tend not to share the secret, because we prefer it not to be too popular. I know all this because I've used McFarlane Street, the St Gerard's Walkway and Park and the other amenities for four decades. And because I now garden seriously on the zigzag, where passersby engage with me.

General Access via the Zigzag and Zigzag development

If St Gerard's Walkway and Park were better signposted and the zigzag end of the walkway made more attractive and welcoming, it seems very likely that the Park would become almost as popular as the zigzag, where in the last year, the upper Oriental Terrace community has become much more proactive, partly thanks to new residents who have established one large area as a community garden and partly from renewed commitment from long term residents.

My own example – as documented in my powerpoint presentation – is just one. Long ago I agreed with WCC to care for the zigzag where it adjoins my section, because I didn't want any WCC spraying there. I planted harakeke/flax and olives (because of the Mount Victoria Greek connection). In 2014, in consultation with neighbours on the other side of the zigzag, I committed to another large section and am experimenting with growing food among my old plantings and gardening without watering. The experiment includes building hugelkultur and growing herbs, silver beet, tomatoes, cape gooseberries for passersby and bee-loved flowering plants – already well-established in my own garden – for the bees.

The outcome of this community activity has been many many conversations with zigzag users and, for me, a deeper understanding of how significant a well-tended quasi-park on this walkway is for wider communities from within and outside Wellington. I also have a fresh awareness of the potential of St Gerard's Park and Walkway. Passersby often ask about working bees and with WCC support these could support development, integration and maintenance of the zigzag, St Gerard's Park, and St Gerard's walkway.

12-FEB-15

"Review the future role and use of the reserve and dispose of it if no appropriate use is identified."

- shock to residents
- number of submissions
- No appreciation of the importance of the Park

Welland Place Recreation Reserve

much more than "a pleasant place"

- Now well established as part of the local community:
 - regularly used as a play area,
 - picnic spot,
 - photographic vantage point
 - Provides a view of the South Coast for 4 Houses

Welland Place Recreation Reserve

The Park

- Established at the time of subdivision
- Council has upgraded the Park with signs, plantings and fencing
- Maintenance needs are minimal
- Residents mow the grass from time to time
- Alternative play area > 600m away (down steep roads)

Welland Place Recreation Reserve

"Provision of a wide range of quality open space and outdoor recreation opportunities close to where people live".

- The draft recommendation is:
 - Inconsistent with council goals
 - Fails to appreciate the value of the park to residents
 - Needs to be revised
 - To ensure this valued resource is retained for the community

Welland Place Recreation Reserve

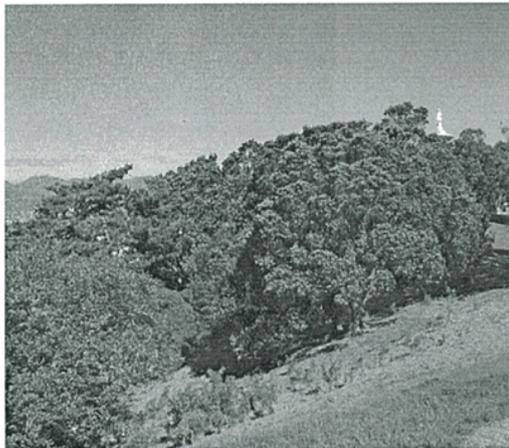
Ruth Pemberton

**Oral Submission on Draft Suburban Reserves Management Plan 2014 (DSRMP):
Brooklyn War Memorial Cultural Heritage/Local Purpose Reserve**



Although only a few details are known it would be an advantage to have a sign detailing the memorial's history.

The "WAR MEMORIAL" sign rotates in strong winds, so better signage from Mitchell St would certainly help.

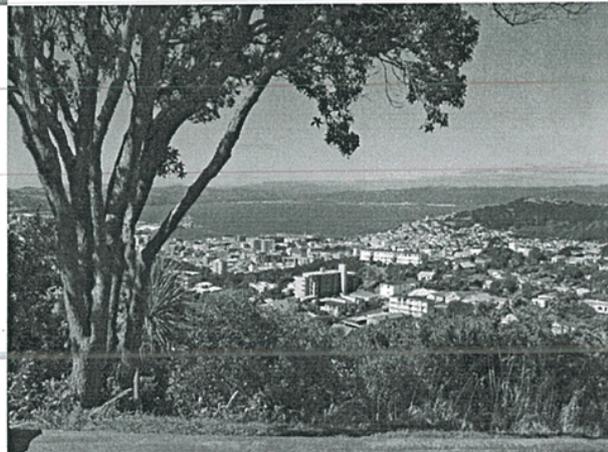


Existing trees both native and exotic provide habitat for birds and other fauna. Tui and Kaka frequent the large trees including the pines. In the middle ground are native seedlings recently planted by the Council which will increase the biodiversity and add to its ecological role as part of a flight corridor.

As the Council has done pruning and weeding since the draft plan was published, I assume there is an existing management plan for this reserve. If so, it should be mentioned in the DSRMP.

The views from the memorial are expansive and the environment round the memorial should complement these.

Many Wellingtonians walk through the reserve on their way to and from work and Brooklyn has a strong and active community. I would like to see the stated policy of engaging with communities (DSRMP, p13) added as an action for the future management of this small but significant gem in Wellington's landscape.



Ruth Pemberton, 12 February 2015

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

12 FEBRUARY 2015

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Ilissick Park

A park covers a large area of rugged landscape extending from the Ngāio Gorge to the Māhoroa Stream with an extensive network of walking tracks. Cared for by a dedicated group of volunteers in co-operation with the Wellington City Council over 20 years, the park has regenerating bush and a number of heritage trees.

There are five main entrances to Trellissick Park: Ngāio Gorge / Kaiwharawhara Road, Ngāio Gorge Road, Ilissick Crescent, Kowhai Street, Hanover Street, and the Silverstream from Crofton Downs enters from a culvert. Adjacent to this are the remains of a rare old drystone wall constructed when the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Line was built in the 1890s.

The track follows the Kōwhiri Stream until it intersects with the Ngāio Gorge. From there, the track descends to the junction with the Wadestown-Trellissick section of the track. A zigzag track provides access to one of the park's finest scenic features. This is the emergence of the stream from a section known as The Gorge from its narrowness and steep sides. At the junction there are several notable trees, including a large tree with a hollowed-out trunk. The track continues to the two lower Ngāio Gorge exits.

Major point of interest towards the end of the track is the remains of an historic powder magazine built in 1879-80 and used for storing explosives during the Russian invasion of the 1880s. In 2002 the site was damaged when a truck robbery getaway car was set alight.

Northern Walkway

The track in Trellissick Park from Hanover Street to Waiwai Street is part of the Northern Walkway. From Waiwai Street a short road walk leads to Cummings Park. From Cummings Park the walkway goes along Khandallah Road and Simia Crescent to Khandallah Park where it ascends to the top of Mt Kaukau.

Huntleigh Park Reserve

This lesser known area is a MCC reserve. Adjoining bush is administered by the Girl Guides Association. Access is from behind the Play Centre in Silverstream Road, Crofton Downs and Huntleigh Park Way. Tracks are marked with small coloured steps. Some care is needed in several areas that are quite steep.

Cummings Park

This grassed flat park is behind the Ngāio shops. There is a stream, an old totara, a sculpture, seating, a children's playground and a designated off-lead dog exercise area.

Heke Street Reserve

A pleasant track through this reserve links Crofton Downs and Ngāio. Access is from the end of Collingwood Street and between 45 and 47 Thatcher Crescent. A side track runs to Heke Street emerging next to 41 Heke Street.

Silversky Track

The Silversky Track is a walking and biking track from Downing Street up towards the Crofton Downs station. From there you can follow a track to the Skyline Walkway. A new section connecting Downing St with Silverstream Road is due for completion in late 2014.

Bell's Track

This re-established route starts at the top of Awarua Street and joins a farm track up to a saddle on the ridge. It originally provided access between farms in Otari Valley and Ngāio railway station. From the top there are fantastic views over Wellington and the South Island. A dedicated care group is restoring the vegetation.

Orleans Makoruru Reserve (Pukatea Track)

This small reserve has an interesting 10 minute track running from Makoruru Street (off Heke Street) to Orleans Street (off Chelmsford Street). There is a gently sloped grassed area at the Orleans end. The reserve is notable for a number of fine specimens of native trees (pūkatea, kahikatea and tiki) that are survivors from the original bush. A local care group looks after the area.

Skyline Walkway

Part of this walkway runs north-south along the ridge between Mt Kaukau and Crofton Downs. It is 4 km long and takes 1.5 hours at an easy pace. On a clear day there are spectacular views of the Kāwharā ranges, the Māhoroa and Otara, Wellington City and Harbour and the Tararua and Oroua ranges. The walkway is open to walkers and mountain bike riders.

Local access points to the Skyline Walkway are:

- through the car park at the end of Chartwell Drive
- Bell's Track, from the end of Awarua Street
- Khandallah Park. Tracks to Mt Kaukau join up with the Skyline Walkway.

Piwakawaka Track (Odell's Reserve)

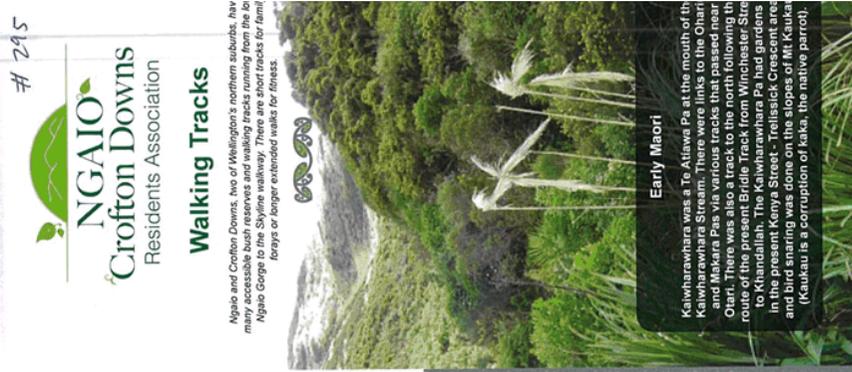
Access is from alongside 14 Puriaba Street or from Old Port Road near the entrance to the Harbour Lights subdivision. This track passes through regenerating bush and provides a convenient segment of a circular walk in association with the Bridle Track. The highest point, at the water tanks, provides spectacular views of the city, harbour and Ngāio itself. Great vantage point for Guy Fawkes night.

Chartwell Reserve

The Green Belters restoration group are developing a delightful picnic area at the entrance to Chartwell Reserve near the top of Chartwell Drive. From there you can walk to Otari Wilson's Bush or the Skyline Walkway, passing beehives and a horse paddock on the way.

Otari - Wilson's Bush

This unique sanctuary in nearby Wilson is devoted to indigenous New Zealand plants. It has a range of tracks through forest gardens, open spaces and picnic areas. This is one of the finest showcases of native flora in the country. It is a



Walking Tracks

Ngāio and Crofton Downs, two of Wellington's northern suburbs, have many accessible bush reserves and walking tracks running from the Ngāio Gorge to the Skyline Walkway. There are short tracks for families or longer extended walks for fitness.

Early Maori

Kaiwharawhara was a Te Atiawa Pa at the mouth of the Kaiwharawhara Stream. There were two pa that passed near the present-day bridge. There was also a track to the north following the route of the present Bridle Track from Winchester Street to Khandallah. The Kaiwharawhara Pa had gardens in the present Kenya Street - Trellissick Crescent area and bird snaring was done on the slopes of Mt Kaukau (Kaukau is a corruption of kaka, the native parrot).

Suburban Walkways

Ngāio and Crofton Downs have a large number of zigzag walkways and steps between streets. These provide easier access for pedestrians to shops and transport. These are shown on the map as dotted lines linking streets. They complement the track system and provide interesting walks and shortcuts through the suburbs.

How to Get There

Trains - Local stations on the Johnsonville Line are Crofton Downs, Ngāio, Awarua Street, Simia Crescent and Box Hill www.tranzmetro.co.nz

Several bus routes connect from Wellington to Ngāio. Metlink has train and bus timetables and journey planner. ph 0800 801 700 www.metlink.org.nz

Dog Exercise Areas

There are five off-the-leash dog exercise areas in Ngāio and Crofton Downs: the whole of Trellissick Park, Chelmsford Park off Lower Chelmsford Street, Cummings Park, Silverstream Road Reserve and Odell's Reserve.

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Safety

Stout shoes or boots should be worn and a waterproof jacket and warm clothing carried in case of a change in the weather. Tell someone your plans. These precautions are essential if you plan to walk on the exposed skyline ridges. Adventure Smart has outdoor safety information www.adventuresmart.org.nz

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Geology

Ngāio rocks are raised sedimentary sandstones (greywacke) and black mudstone (argillite). Subsidiary earthshale (bluish-grey) has allowed streams to erode valleys, such as the Ngāio Gorge, or have left their mark elsewhere on the land. A good example of this is the fault line that crosses the Otari - Wilson's Bush and the Skyline Walkway. This fault is the Chew's Nest and small notches in the southern ridges between the track and Mt Kaukau.

That remnant of the original land surface or peneplain still remains on Mt Kaukau and has given its name to the extensive area at surface that originally existed over much of the Wellington area (the Kaukau-surface or K-surface). More recently (10-20,000 years ago) freeze/thaw action during an Ice Age produced a water-logged mantle of mud and rock fragments that flowed down the hillsides. This debris (and the underlying bedrocks) can be seen in many Ngāio road cuttings.

More Information

- Wellington City Council has maps and brochures on tracks, walkways, parks, reserves and heritage trails. <http://wellington.govt.nz>
- Cummings Park Library, Ngāio
- Onslow Historical Society, 86 Khandallah Road, Open 1-4pm, Sunday
- Te Araoa Trail site www.tearaoa.org.nz

www.ngaio.org.nz

Draft Suburban Reserves Management Plan
Submission 245
Kelburn Park Play Area

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

I begin with my suggested changes to the Plan. In 'Sector 3 Key Actions' Replace first point with:

'Consult with stakeholders to determine the appropriate mix of play equipment for the playground at Kelburn Park. In addition investigate opportunities to partner with either a local school, community group or other partnership in the Kelburn Village area.'

In 'Sector 3.3.2 Playgrounds' Replace paragraph 3 with:

'In preparation for the renewal of the playground at Kelburn Park (scheduled for 2017/18) consult with stakeholders to determine the appropriate mix of play equipment and other features for the playground. To improve play provision in the southern part of the sector around Kelburn Village investigate opportunities to partner with either a local school, community group or other partnership in the Kelburn Village area.'

I now explain why Council should make the suggested changes.

HISTORY

The playground at Kelburn Park is the top of a gully through which once flowed a tributary of Kumutoto. It became Town Belt, and that gully was filled in to become the north end of Kelburn Park. The present playground is what is left of a 'cable car' themed play area that once included an original trailer car. This popular area has suffered from heavy use. The last of the cable car features has been removed and the remaining play equipment is tired. The area very much needs a 'makeover'.

USE

To begin to understand the demands on the area I attempt to separate users into four groups:

Infants

A green space with play equipment for local children as well as groups of children from several nearby creches.

School Children

A green area for Clifton Terrace Model School particularly when the main Park is unavailable because of use by other sports or maintenance. And as I write this the playground is hosting two bus loads of school children visiting Wellington. They are swarming across the area and all of the equipment.

Students

A breathing space for students who need to get away from a desk for a while. During university terms the swing is particularly popular as was climbing on the cable car trailer.

Visitors

A safe haven for children when their accompanying adults are participating in or supporting sports at Kelburn Park. Typically when both rugby and soccer fields are in use or when cricket is played.

For all these user groups alternate playgrounds are further away and out of sight. The wide age range of users is a challenge and stakeholders need an opportunity to consider what new equipment best suits the renewed playground.

STAKEHOLDERS

My initial inquiries to identify stakeholders suggest:

- neighbourhood residents
- Victoria University
- Clifton Terrace Model School
- Wellington Tenth/Port Nicholson Block Trust
- Wellington City Council

Each stakeholder needs an adequate opportunity to consider what they might want for the area and then to engage with the others.

FUTURE

To start thinking about the future of the area here is an initial suggestion:

- renewed neighbourhood (local) type play area
- part of a revitalised Kelburn fitness circuit
- new plantings
- new paths to improve access to Cable Car and Park

Additional information stakeholders will need includes if/when Kelburn Park becomes artificial turf, and how the Cable Car station at Salamanca will be rebuilt.

PROCESS

I suggest the following timetable:

2015 stakeholders engage
2016 planning
2017 implementation

Thank you

Submitter Details
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Kosam...
Averton.

Submission SbrbnReservesMgtPlan due 5_12_14

Suburban Reserves Mgt Plan 2014
Rebecca Ramsey: Planner
WCC

28th November 2014

I make this submission as an individual.

I consider the time allocated to submitters derisory and contemptuous of the effort put into writing submissions. I recognise that my submission will be thus treated and therefore decline to waste my time being heard by elected representatives. I would be willing to expand on any matter raised directly with relevant Council staff.

I do have an interest in the Suburban Reserves Management Plan as a regular user and wish to contribute to the general debate on this topic for the record and regardless of the fact that my submission along with most others will be dismissed as the rantings of an ill informed citizen. I visit most of the "reserves" at least monthly and most more frequently so am aware of their current "condition". Therefore I regard myself as "informed" and "interested" about these reserves and others not yet being considered as part of any current plan (ie: Open Spaces, Northern Growth, South Coast, South Karori Plans etc) .

I have a special interest in the interconnections between the various reserves in Newlands > Grenada > Takapu Road. I understood that there was an 1998 intention that a link joining the various reserves would be created within 3 years that intention along with the completion of the pathway from Ngauranga to Petone has failed to eventuate whilst other projects including the unnecessary cycleway from Island Bay to Wakefield Park is astonishingly being treated as a priority within Council's budget.

I made a submission to the Town Belt Management Plan and was reassured that there would be no further clear felling of trees that assurance was worthless. Using the excuse of "removal of trees for safety reasons" is patently a nonsense when healthy trees have been removed willy nilly along street sides (ie: Churchill Drive and top of Ngauranga Gorge). The results have been unstable hillsides and escarpments, landslips, inadvertent waterfalls, consequent loss of habitat for flora and fauna and creation of eyesores with tree stumps providing punctuation. Trust and confidence is at a low ebb.

Council produced the excellent WSUDP which so far been sidelined and ignored to the present and long term detriment of Wellington.

I appreciate the work that has gone into this comprehensive and coherent that has been produced with minimum hyperbole. It is a document that I generally support.

Submission:

General comment:

Opportunity plants should be left to allow them to knit together the steep sides of the gorge and to provide habitat for fauna. On a recent visit I watched insects visiting foxgloves when along came a Tui who, watched and waited before dive bombing and presumably eating the insects feeding off the nectar...magic.

I oppose the poisoning of any opportunity vegetation and the dangers of any consequential poisoning of our environment. I am appalled that WCC continues to fell some trees having designated them "pests" because they are not "local" in origin hence the term used "eco-fascist".

1. P.133 : Reserve areas to be classified or reclassified: Support.

2.

A: Sector 1:

Comment: I note only a cursory reference to the "connecting route" between Ngaio Station > Collingwood > Thatcher. This route which leads to various by-ways to the Skyline is in need of care and attention as an important ecological link. It provides a sheltered a shady trail that takes one through healthy bush away from asphalted roads back to Crofton Downs avoiding vehicles.

The Tyers Stream Reserve was first excavated (!) and then re-vegetated about 8 years ago the intention then was to formally open up a track to Gurka Street, Khandallah. This direct route from the bottom of Ngauranga – Tyers is beside and between a mini industrial site. Signage is needed for those wishing to take this steepish but direct route to Khandallah which has yet to achieve its promise as an "ecological link".

Incidentally there is still no sign showing that Wakely Road which is on the far side of Ngauranga Gorge/Centennial Highway is a track legally designated a road providing a shortcut to Newlands.

I abhor the removal of many trees alongside the "Bridle Track" once this pathway had views through stands of healthy vegetation filled with birds these days there is no shelter or shade and much of the slippery asphalt path is completely exposed to the elements.

The loop route from Old Porirua Road > Odell Reserve > Punjab > Nicholson and then down the "Bridle Track" to Ngaio Gorge needs directional signage to allow "visitors" to find their way back to the Hutt Road.

B: Sector 2:

The Northern Pathway within Trellisick Park going south past the stream towards Crofton Downs needs regular track maintenance to ensure that visitors are not deterred by the difficult (!) terrain. WCC should employ a person to do this "upgrading" as is happening at Makara Bike Park. Special attention should be paid to the much loved but sometimes precarious "Tramping Trail" which always needs slips removed, edging-boards reinstated and tamping down of the trail surface etc. This route is a taonga which should be demonstrably cherished.

The access route proposed in the Trellisick Park Plan 1995 to Churchill Drive – Otari should be built.

The many archaeological heritage sites should be commemorated with plaques to indicate their historic significance.

I think that the Oban Site entrance would present topographical and geo-technical challenges. The construction of a path on Fort Buckley was fraught and expensive. Perhaps NZ Rail could pay for initial "exploratory" work to check feasibility?

C: Sector 3:

The recent and continuing clear felling on Tinakori Hill north should be halted forthwith. The decision, without wide public consultation, to remove these trees is unforgiveable. Suggesting that there will be new trees planted in/on this difficult terrain is farcical. The site is exposed to the elements, the terrain is a sprinkling of mud on rock. It laughable that the idea of strewing mulch will help plants establish when in the past such mulch generally blew with any remaining washing away and down the slopes flooding houses below. The scar on the hillside will remain for many years with the eyesore visible from the four corners of Wellington.

I submit that all tree felling should be halted forthwith.

No further tracks are needed but again WCC should employ a person dedicated to maintaining the existing network.

The tracks on the eastern side of Tinakori Hill have still not been cleared of fallen trees. Those logs should be sawn through to ensure access to some much loved and used routes. Further colonisation by trail bikers in Tinakori Hill should be inhibited by the erection of bollards in the middle of track entrances. The newly created "skills" area should be reinstated as forest with

the earth and wooden ramps removed. I understand that motorcyclists are now hurtling through Tinakori Hill at night.

Queen's Park north behind and besides the Wadestown Vet and up to Wadestown Road has been "tidied" and all of the seats removed. Logs should be placed in each alcove now left vacant and the middle track should have its seat replaced. This spot is deliciously sheltered and shady. Another wee park close to the City and ideal for a peaceful and rejuvenating break. The southern end is more exposed but does have some backed seats. There is a single seat on the lawn in Goldies Brae.

Birdwood Reserve, Waiapu Road is a blissful connection to either Ponsonby Road or upwards to the escarpment above Messines Road leading back down to Campbell/Croydon Park south to Wrights Hill. The only reference I can find to this ecological corridor is that that refers to 19 Waiapu Road. This area should be given formal reserve status. A playground could easily be accommodated on the flat land at the confluence of Campbell/Croydon Park cyclists have many alternative routes to bypass the flat land.

Steps have been required urgently for many years on the sometimes vertical escarpment leading from Birdwood Reserve. The unwarranted removal of "alien" vegetation some 3 years ago has caused further erosion. I understand is only responsible the track inside the fence and that abutting it the rest of the area is owned by us and should be maintained by WCC.

More prominent signage is required to the bush pathway through Kelburn Park and linkage to Aro Street would need to bypass the university exiting at Devon Street.

D: Section 4:

Greater attention should be given to clearing trees, by sawing through them, affected by the 1968 Wahine storm from the old routes around Karori Park.

A great job was done after the 2013 storms clearing trees and creating diversions around root balls however this enthusiasm did not stretch to ensuring some tracks, trails and routes are available exclusively to walkers.

Any trees threatened with felling should be considered for transplanting to sites such as alongside Makara Road north of the Cemetery. Removing trees has left walkers exposed to the elements and without any discreet places where walkers and cyclists might relieve themselves.

I recall that large mature trees removed from a local park were re-planted alongside the railway track on Hutt road where they are thriving, providing habitat and aesthetic delight, though not shelter of shade as they are too far from the footpath.

The playground at Montgomery Road needs some large trees for habitat, recreation, shelter and shade. The "reservoir" should be adorned with a mural or trompe l'oeil and perhaps a parapet under which sheltered seats could be installed.

The area around the new Messines Reservoir needs further planting and also a sheltered seat.

The trees around the very windy small playground on Hazelwood opposite Fitzgerald Place should be enhanced with new play equipment.

The large trees at the mouth of South Makara Stream by Karori West Normal School have been felled removing habitat, shelter and shading.

It is many years since the notion of a direct route between South Makara Road and South Karori Road has been pursued. It should be.

I support the move of the bicycle shop to the Terawhiti Bowling Club site but urge that some of the splendid and mature trees around it are left undisturbed. There is a truly magnificent giant (about 10 metres tall) hebe which I take visitors to view each year.

A plaque giving recognition to Chris Horne and Barbara Metcalfe for their work restoring the small area by Makara Beach should be installed.

E: Section 5:

George Denton Park appears to have been omitted; is it already a reserve?. It has seats, tables and many connecting tracks leading to Bullock Track, Brosnahan and of course the taonga which is Highbury Fling to connect with "Car Parts/Barking Emu > Tip Track and eventually all tracks going south to Red Rocks and down through "Long Gully" and along the helter-skelter trail to South Karori Road.

What is the status and who owns the Manawa Kororo behind Tapu te Ranga Marae ?

The erection of an enormous house at the end of the Karepa Street path from Mortimer is an abomination and has caused the destruction of stands of healthy bush that survived the various poisonings of plants. This site is very exposed so its unlikely that any vegetation planted without shelter will survive.

The Owhiro Stream group have done a splendid job over the years. Is there to be a path dedicated to the late Robert Logan? Ideally I would like a track going upwards to meet Mornington. The zig-zag to Quebec (City-to-Sea) is very exposed and gets really skittery it needs loads of agapanthus,

montbretia and ixea to attract birds and to knit together the surface whilst the remaining surrounding bush recovers.

F: Section 6:

Hardly any trees were wind thrown in the 2013 storms but many trees on the north end of Mount Victoria were wantonly felled. Poisoners have been busy destroying any opportunity plants that attract birds including some "native" that dies due to "spray drift". The devastation is clear beneath the remaining trees. Like Tinakori Hill the soil is thinly spread on rock subject to erosion. Innumerable downhill tracks have been created endangering pedestrian tracks and trails. It was not the intention when the Makara Bike Park was approved that an alternative would be created on Mount Victoria.

Parts of Mount Victoria should revert to being for pedestrians only. If cyclists want adventure they can hurtle downhill well away from the well used trails frequented by walkers. Bollards should be placed at access points on well used tracks to deter Hurling Hoodlums on Bikes!

A lavatory should be installed on or besides the Pirie Street Playground.

The lavatory on Melrose Park should be accessible on weekdays. It is part of the Southern Walkway the tracks leading from here to Mount Albert badly need attention.

Prince of Wales Park from Hutchison Road heading south following the pathway behind the Rugby Club and up to Finnemore Terrace (the site of the landslip visible from Mount Victoria) and now more tree felling facing Brooklyn. This escarpment was clear felled about 8 years ago as was the area behind the Berhampore Golf Course. The eastern side of the Golf Course leads up to Mount Albert and then to Sinclair Park – Buckley Reserve – Bann Street and down to Island Bay. The scars caused by the windblown trees resulting from the 2013 storms are healing slowly colonised by many colourful opportunity plants.

Creating a pathway lined with agapanthus and those other South Africans that have been here since 1836 would help prevent erosion, provide habitat and probably be impervious to tsunami, storm events and perhaps earthquakes. Planting tussock is not a solution to holding our shoreline in place as was seen around from Island Bay > Lyall Bay > Moa Point, Miramar peninsula, Seatoun and Shelly Bay in 2013. **Note: the whole coastal road which some want to "restore" to "Pre European times" are living a fantasy; there was no road before the 1855 earthquake lifted the ground.**

Clearfelling the trees behind Newtown was unwarranted and has left an ugly backdrop it has also cause a domino effect to the remaining trees on the ridgeline leading to Truby King Park – Melrose Park etc.

It is a pity that the walking map prepared about 10 years ago should be made readily available to show people some of the routes leading up and along from Manchester Street. Melrose Park has some useful access ways especially the one on the left of the field leading upwards to Auckland Road.

F: Section 7:

Tawatawa Reserve/Preston's Gully is a sad sight with its entire western pine forest removed. Especially painful when one walks from Quebec Street, Mornington. The only way to avoid the sight is to enter Preston's Gully/Tawatawa Reserve from Murchison Road and then stay in the bush track encircling the gully before exiting at the reservoir and heading left to the verdant Manawa Korioro behind Tapu te Ranga Marae exiting at any of the streets that go down to Island Bay.

What is the status of the Domanski Reserve?

G: Section 8:

Creating a pathway lined with agapanthus and those other South Africans that have been here since 1836 would help prevent erosion, provide habitat and probably be impervious to tsunami, storm events and perhaps earthquakes. Planting tussock is not a solution to holding our shoreline in place as was seen around from Island Bay > Lyall Bay > Moa Point, Miramar peninsula, Fort Dorset, Seatoun and Shelly Bay in 2013. **Note: the whole coastal road which some want to "restore" to "Pre European times" are living a fantasy; there was no road before the 1855 earthquake lifted the ground.**

What is the status of the access path Scorching Bay > Fort Balance > Mahenga Bay ?

I support the creation of a playground on the flat park area by the Ahuriri , Strathmore gates and oppose the removal of the playground at Miramar North. I support all existing playgrounds they are preferable to the large impersonal play-areas.

Conclusion:

I ask that you consider this submission especially in regard to the installation of plaques for :

Ellen Blake should be given official recognition for the area she has nurtured over many years and despite the acts of vandalism on north Mount Victoria.

David Lee who over many years has created the greenest corner on the main track. David was also responsible for all of the planting around the long defunct petanque lawn on Mount Victoria.

But primarily the remedy I seek is the total prohibition of the use of poison sprays and the felling of any trees.

Finally, I refer you to "Town Belt Walks" by Mark Pickering 1995 for the most comprehensive guide to most of the tracks around Wellington linking the reserves.

Thank you.

Rosamund Averton

12/17 Brougham Street,
Mount Victoria,
Wellington 6011

Phone: 3851 495.

NB: I rarely visit my inbox a phone call is always welcome.

Owhiro Bay Residents' Association
*Presentation to the WCC Environment
Committee on Freedom Camping*

12th February 2015

Purpose of Presentation

- ▶ To inform committee of issues at Te Kopahau Reserve as a result of the Freedom Camping bylaw implementation in late 2014
- ▶ To request an acceleration of the review of this bylaw change
- ▶ To develop interim solutions to issues whilst review process is undertaken

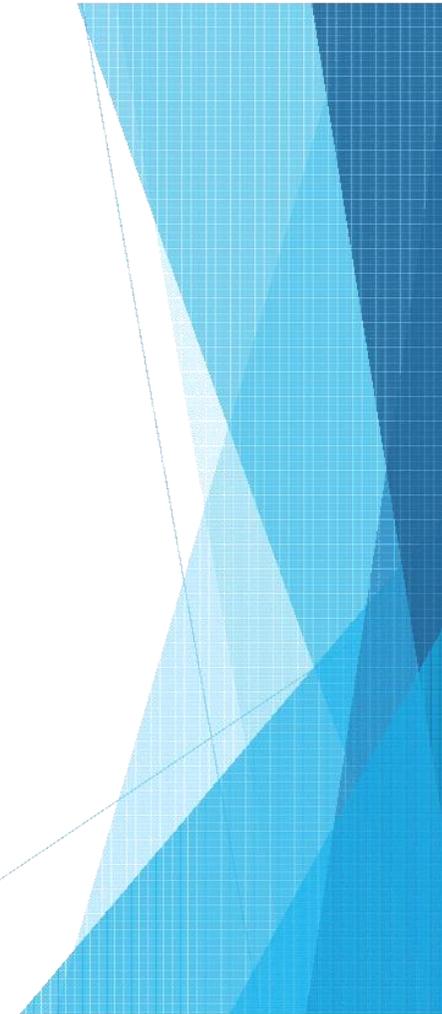
The Issue.....From This



To This



4



Bylaw change has lead to significant community and environmental impacts

- ▶ Residents Association conducted a survey between Jan 16 - 25 gathering views on the change and its impact
 - 134 Respondents, high response rate
 - Respondents use the area regularly - close to two-thirds of respondents use the area either daily or weekly
 - Respondents mainly use the area for activities that have them walk through or engage with the Reserve (dog walking, picnicking, community events) rather than using the Reserve as a starting point (fishing, four wheel driving)
 - When asked if they supported Freedom Camping at Te Kopahau Reserve:
 - 33 per cent, a large proportion of the respondents want freedom camping banned within the Reserve
 - A further 52 per cent of respondents agree with camping but only if significant changes are made to the current situation.

What's the problem?



Excessive numbers of campers

- 30-75, ave 40+ most nights to date
- No parks for locals to use the Reserve



Inappropriate parking and setting up of camping equipment covering footpaths



Rubbish including glass, plastic bags, food scraps, broken camping equipment, toilet paper and human waste



Dramatic change from the Reserve being a beautiful, open recreational space to it now being a cluttered, untidy camping ground

What are we asking for?

1. An acknowledgement that the implementation of this change has had significant impact to the Te Kopahau Reserve:
 - Loss in amenity and enjoyment for locals who would otherwise regularly use the Reserve
 - A degradation of the precious local environment due to rubbish volumes, and type, along with the risks associated with the Reserve's adjacency to the Taputeranga Marine Reserve
2. Committee endorsement to accelerate the review of the bylaw to allow changes to be implemented prior to next summer
3. Committee endorsement of an urgent working group to look at possible interim fixes to the issues eg signage, increased monitoring and enforcement, enhanced tourist education via social media

We are very committed to resolving the impact of this change and are willing to help

Appendices



Appendix 1: Selection of verbatim comments from Survey Respondents

"This area was not designed as a camping ground and lacks facilities. Its exceptional beauty would be ruined by permanent camping."

It's a great idea to allow others to enjoy our coast, but it should be much more restricted and better policed. If it is for freedom campers then they should be able to contain their waste and not use facilities. Also should leave no rubbish, and be policed for staying max 2 days and a max of 10 spaces per night."

"Increase presence of WCC staff on site raising awareness not only monitoring compliance."

"Concerned about the impact on penguin nesting."

"I think that we need to be reasonably accommodating to visitors -either we have done this in the past or we have kids who are doing this. Lets leave them with impression that Wellington is a welcoming place to visit."

"I feel there was insufficient consultation with residents and the reserve was neither custom built nor intended as a camp site. The idea is great, but not here. Most of the campers live out of the back of their cars in a quaint but squalid/gypsy style which lowers the tone of the beautifully conceived garden, art work, visitors centre etc. Nothing against them personally but they need to go somewhere purpose built."

"2 nights would have been enough. Originally I thought it would be an overnight stay for tourists waiting to travel South or North. I regret agreeing to it."

Appendix 2: Top Issues as reflected in survey responses

Issue	% Respondents
Rubbish	86%
Unhygienic practices such as using the reserve gardens as a toilet	81%
A lack of car parks for other visitors to the reserve	73%
Dirty toilet and Visitor Centre facilities	70%
Environmental damage to the reserve affecting flora and fauna	68%
Environmental damage to the Marine Reserve, including illegal fishing	62%
Reduced enjoyment of the area due to feeling like you are encroaching	61%
Inappropriate parking by campers obstructing car parks or footpaths	61%

Appendix 3: Top Changes as reflected in survey responses

Changes Required	% Respondents
Increased signage to make clear the rules of the location and camping	53%
Increase Wellington City Council compliance monitoring including issuing of infringement notices and fines	50%
Increase the number of alternative camp sites available on the coast eg Princess Bay, Waitangi Park	45%
Put in place adequate facilities eg a shower and sink area	40%
Improve the rubbish management facilities including putting in place a recycling area	40%
Do not use Reserves for this purpose. Wellington City Council to set up dedicated camp sites on other Council land	37%
Restrict the number of campers allowed to a few of the parking bays only eg maximum of 20 vans per night or 30 % of area	36%
Increased Wellington City Council cleaning and rubbish management processes	36%
Ban all Freedom Camping in the Te Kopahau Reserve area	35%

Note: Responses were much more distributed on solution options than the issues list

Appendix 4: Freedom Camping restrictions and arrangements

- ▶ Freedom camping is permitted at Te Kopahau Reserve:
 - For a maximum of 4 nights
 - Within the Reserve car park area only
 - For all types of campers ie NOT restricted to self-contained vehicles only
 - Tents are allowed but have been discouraged
- ▶ The WCC has:
 - Provided 1 small sign at entrance, showing car park areas permitted and prohibited for camping
 - Opened toilets 24 hrs and increased cleaning to 4 times p/day
 - Increased monitoring with Park Rangers on site at least once per day
 - Placed 2 additional temporary wheelie bins for rubbish