



Waihirere Domain Reserve Management Plan

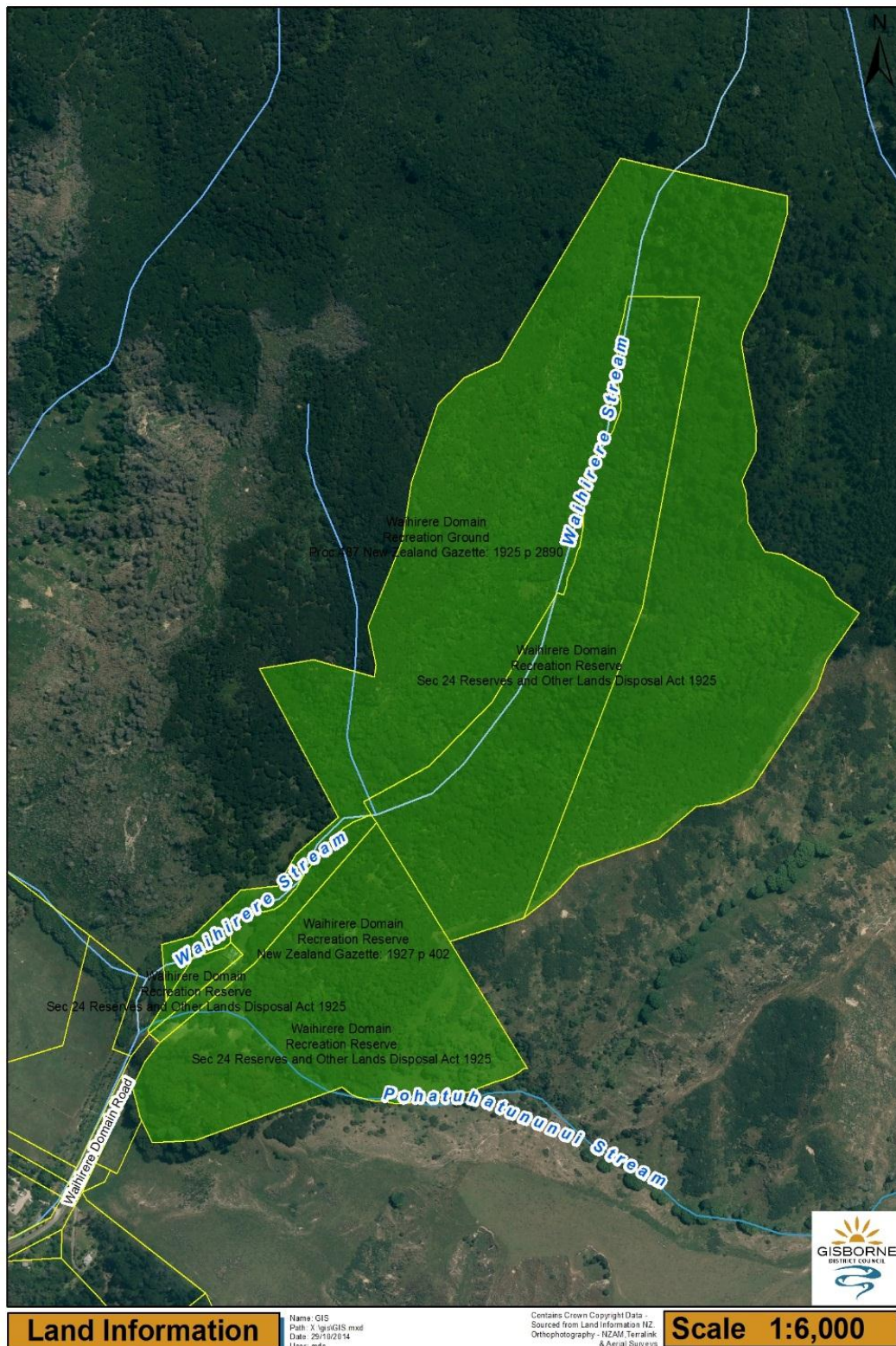
Te tuhinga māhere whakahaere mo te
papa taiao ki Waihirere



June/ Hune 2015

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1. Introduction

Waihirere Domain (located 14km north-west from Gisborne city centre off Back Ormond Road on Waihirere Road) is an iconic destination reserve for the region. Classified as a recreation reserve (under the Reserves Act 1977), it is approximately 52.82 hectares.

It comprises hill-slopes and cliffs lining part of the upper catchment of the Waihirere Stream. The southern part of the reserve has exotic plantation and grassland, with picnic facilities, playground equipment and a closed swimming pool complex.¹

Waihirere Domain is made up of the following parcels:

Land parcel	Land Status	Purpose	Area
Section 3 Blk X Waimata SD	Reserves Act	Recreation reserve	30.3514 ha
Section 4 Blk X Waimata SD	Reserves Act	Recreation reserve	10.9265 ha
Section 5 Blk X Waimata SD	Reserves Act	Recreation reserve	10.3195 ha
Pt Section 6 Blk X Waimata SD	Reserves Act	Recreation reserve	1.2307 ha

2. History

The land was originally owned by the people of Waihirere who belong to Ngāti Kōhuru, Ngā Pōtiki, Ngāriki, Te Whānau-a-Kai, Ngāi Taupara, Te Whānau-a-Iwi, Ngāti Wāhia and Ngāti Matepū hapū of Te Aitanga a Māhaki iwi.

Ko te take i ingoatia te Waihirere, ko te mea he wairere i te awa nei. E kīa ana, ko Ahititi te puke kake ai nga tipuna o Te Waihirere ki te hopu tītī. Ka tahuna nga ahi i waenga pō. Ka kite ake i te ahi, ka rere mai nga manu, ka porowhīwhiwhi ki te kupenga ka hopukia.² (The name Waihirere comes from the fact that a waterfall is a feature of the Waihirere Stream. It was said that Ahititi was the hill where the ancestors of Waihirere trapped muttonbird. They would light fires at night which would attract the birds and they would be snared in nets.)

Waihirere Domain was once managed with Gray's Bush and Donner's Bush Domain and administered by the Waihirere Domain Board (established in 1926, Gray's Bush was added in 1932). In 1981 the Department of Lands and Survey, following Government policy of the day, returned decision-making on local reserves to local people by vesting reserves with the territorial authorities. On 18 October 1982 land was vested in Cook County Council for recreation purposes. The Local Government Reorganisation Order in 1989 made the Gisborne District Council the administering body with the dissolution of Cook County Council.^{3 4}

¹ Waihirere Reserve Management Plan, 1987.

² Na Gabriel Terekia tenei korero. Taken 29/10/14 from <http://www.waihirere.maori.nz/index.html>

³ See Appendix 5: Waihirere Domain Board from File no. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982.

⁴ See Appendix 4: Waihirere Domain legal background history.

3. Legislation and Planning Policy Framework

Legislation and local Council strategies and policies inform and provide the framework for this management plan.

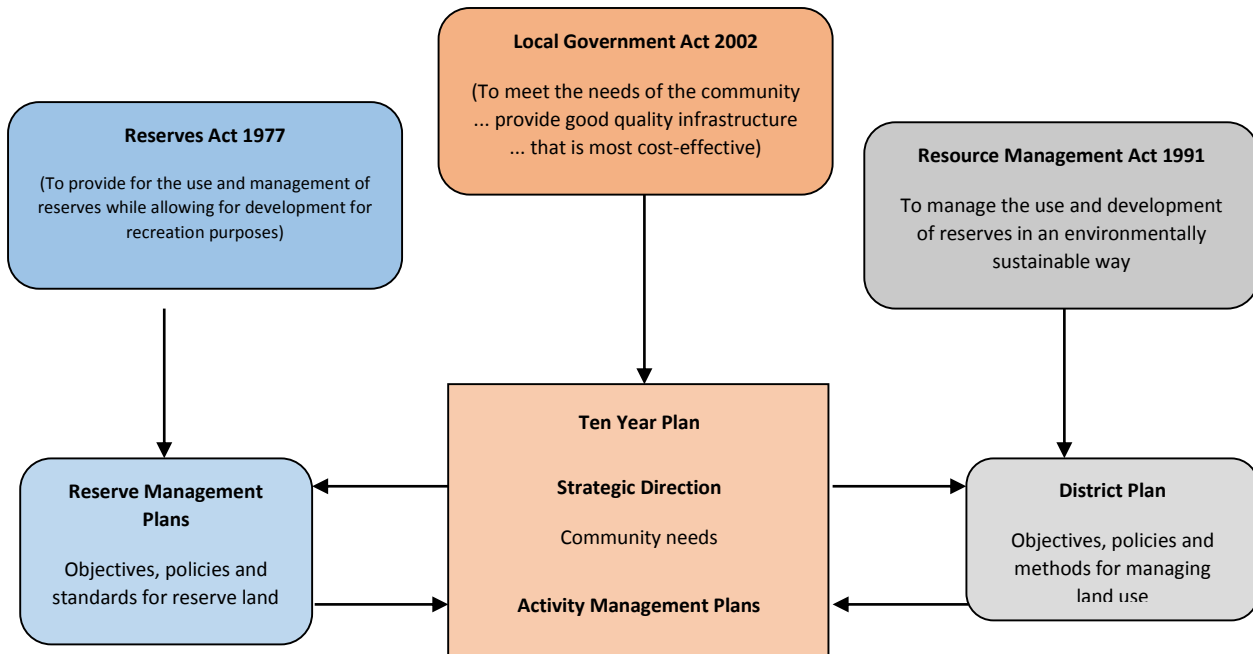
The statutory framework that has shaped this Reserve Management Plan are:

- Reserves Act 1977;
- Local Government Act 2002;
- Resource Management Act 1991.

Council plans, strategies, policies and bylaws that this plan recognises and works with include:

Statutory Plans	Strategies	Policies	Council Bylaws
Ten Year Plan 2012-2022; Gisborne District's Combined Regional Land and District Plan ("District Plan"); (Draft) Freshwater Plan;	Community Facilities Strategy (draft pending 2015); 2012-2018 Waste Management Minimisation Plan; Regional Pest management strategy 2010-2015; Disability Strategy; Open Space Strategy 2000; Sustainability strategy; (Draft) <i>Tairāwhiti Piritahi</i> 2014 (Māori responsiveness framework);	Reserves policy; Significance & engagement policy; Te Reo me ona tikanga policy; Art in public places policy;	Reserves; Fire prevention; Dog control.

Statutory Framework for Reserve Management Plans



3.1 Reserves Act 1977

Council is required to prepare management plans for reserves held under the Reserves Act 1977 ("the Act"). The Act provides the statutory (and high level) framework for applying management policies and philosophies to a piece of land held as a reserve.

The purpose of a management plan is defined in the Act is to:

provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and to the extent that the administering bodies' resources permit the development as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes of which it is classified (Section 41(3)).

Under the Act, the "class" determines the primary purpose of the reserve. Waihirere Reserve currently has a recreation classification. The recreation classification provides for a range of uses and is the most commonly used class by local authorities due to its broad recreation and environmental principles. The purpose of the recreation classification is:

Providing areas for recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside (Section 17(1)).

3.2 Local Government Act 2002

The Local Government Act 2002 ("LGA") empowers Councils:

To meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services, and the performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.

Good-quality, in relation to local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions, means infrastructure, services, and performance that are—

- (a) efficient; and*
- (b) effective; and*
- (c) appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances.*

The LGA enables and directs Council's administrative processes. The preparation of the Ten Year Plan is mandatory under the Local Government Act 2002. It is the principle document providing strategic direction for Council's activities as well as identifying priorities for action and funding streams.

3.2.1 Ten Year Plan 2015-2025

The Council maintains a parks and open spaces network that provides our district with areas that allow cultural, leisure and recreational activity and opportunities. We also ensure landscape amenity values and ecological protection and enhancement of these areas is achieved. The network helps protect the district's biodiversity and moderate the impact of human activity on the natural environment.

- Council's Ten Year Plan (2015-2025) objectives for parks and open spaces with specific regard to Waihirere Domain and its management are: Carry out actions associated with the Waihirere Domain Reserve Management Plan;
-

3.3 Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of the Resource Management Act ("RMA") is to:

Promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources to manage the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enable people and their communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while...

- a) Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- b) Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and*
- c) Avoiding, remedying, and mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

3.3.1 District Plan

The District Plan defines the way in which the district's natural and physical resources will be managed to achieve the principles and purpose of the RMA. The District Plan recognises management plans prepared under the Reserves Act as a method to implement its objectives and policies.

Chapter 22 of the District Plan provides for activities on reserves through the use of zones. Reserves are grouped into four broad zones to indicate the range of acceptable effects from activities. The District Plan zones include; recreation reserve, neighbourhood reserve, heritage reserve, amenity reserve, and cemetery reserve.

The **amenity reserve zone** includes reserves that provide scenic and landscape values and Waihirere Domain falls into this.

Land use activities within the recreation reserve zone are permitted provided they meet the General Rules (i.e. structures, height, lighting and glare) where applicable, and the activity is carried out in accordance with an approved management plan prepared under the Reserves Act 1977.

3.4 Council Strategies and Policies

Council strategies, policies and bylaws are considered and integrated within the reserve management planning framework. The most relevant strategies, policies and bylaws referred to during the development of this management plan are:

- Community Facilities Strategy (draft pending 2015);
- 2012-2018 Waste Management Minimisation Plan;
- Regional Pest management strategy 2010-2015;
- Disability Strategy;
- Sustainability strategy;
- (Draft) Freshwater Plan;
- (Draft) Tairāwhiti Piritahi (Māori responsiveness framework);
- Reserves policy;
- Significance & engagement policy;
- Te Reo me ona tikanga policy;
- Art in public places policy;
- Council Bylaws.

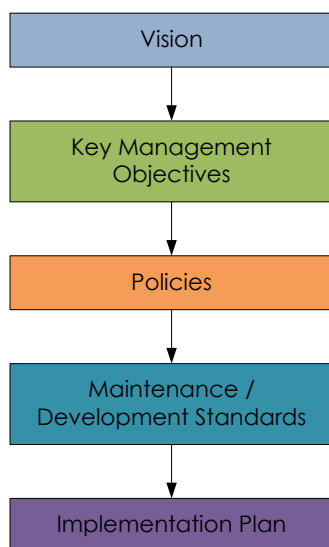
3.4.1 Council Bylaws

Bylaws are the local laws set by the Council. They include laws around public health, safety, nuisances and animals. Council bylaws facilitate the use of parks and open space within the district and restrict and control certain activities within them.

This management plan will be consistent with, and give effect to all Council bylaws including the following:

-
- **Reserves Bylaw 2008** (to be reviewed in 2014) identifies a range of activities which Council can prevent or restrict through enforcement action: rules which cover public safety and nuisance, damage, fire and camping, litter, water, obstructions, erection of booths and tents, articles for trade, animals in reserves, assembly, sports and games, riding and driving, dangerous and inconsiderate driving, bathing, restricting use of play equipment, destruction of wildlife, times of opening and charges, closing in special circumstances, charges on special occasions;
 - **Fire prevention bylaw involving vegetation 2008** restriction of open air fires, conditions on lighting of barbecues
 - **Dog Control Bylaw 2010:** does not identify Waihirere Reserve as a designated or not place for dogs.

4. Management Framework



Council will aim to achieve the vision for Waihirere Domain through implementing the following:

1. **Key management objectives** provide the high level goals to guide strategic decisions regarding cultural values and kaitiakitanga, natural values and recreation use
2. **Policy statements** are to ensure management decisions are consistent and provide guidance for the day to day management and use. Policy statements may also include discussion that provides additional explanation for policy directions.

4.1 Vision

“ E kō e te kōmako raro i a Ahititi” (Below Ahititi, the bell bird sings its song)

The vision refers to the birdsong (specifically of the komako or bellbird) once abundant at Waihirere Domain. (Ahititi is the ancestral mountain of the hapu of Waihirere which is on neighbouring land). The vision reflects the community's aspiration to restore Waihirere Domain's ecosystems to its once abundant biodiversity.

The following **key management objectives** will enable the vision to be realised.

Waihirere Domain is the place where:

1. The historical, cultural and spiritual connection and values of whanau/hapu/iwi with Waihirere Domain is restored, maintained and celebrated. This special relationship is the basis for welcoming the wider community to use and enjoy Waihirere Domain (CULTURAL VALUES and KAITIAKITANGA);
2. The land, air and waters are pristine and flora and fauna are restored, plentiful and healthy (NATURAL VALUES);
3. Public amenities are provided and maintained in safe working order (RECREATION VALUES & USE).

4.2 Kaitiakitanga Values Discussion

For generations Waihirere Domain has been a site of spiritual and cultural significance to the hapu of Waihirere. It is a place where the hapu practice their customary role as mana whenua and responsibilities to be kaitiaki for the area. The mana whenua of Waihirere derive their pepeha (turangawaewae/identity) from sites located within the Domain. It is a place of reflection for all visitors where the whakapapa (geneology) of both the people and taonga (species) are practiced and celebrated through:

- kaitiakitanga (spiritual guardianship) and as a turangawaewae (a place to stand);
- customary harvests (for arts, healing and food gathering purposes)⁵;
- as a place of gathering for the hapu (eg. practicing the arts such as kapa haka) and the community.

Policies:

1. Formalise the relationship with mana whenua of Waihirere through a co-management agreement with clear roles and responsibilities and where both parties will actively work together to provide for cultural, leisure and recreational opportunities at Waihirere Domain.
2. Support and advocate for hapu and community to build resources and relationships to restore native flora and fauna enhancing the practice of kaitiakitanga of the Domain;
3. Support hapu and community to identify, record, catalogue customary sites and resources of the Domain for the appropriate maintenance and management. Sites may include:
 - Archaeological sites;
 - Waahi tapu;
 - Sites recorded in oral tradition and historic documents;
 - Sites of customary practices and resources.
4. Educate users about the historic, cultural and scenic significance of Waihirere Domain leading to greater appreciation and enjoyment of the Domain. This can happen through planned events, bilingual interpretation and signage (including art works such as pou whakairo), educational visits and research, marketing and promotion.

4.3 Natural Values Discussion

Waihirere Domain is one of few remnant native natural habitats on the Poverty Bay Flats and has immense natural and scenic value to the district. Users appreciate having access to an open space area where native species (birds, bush, insects and fish) and their habitat are protected and enhanced. The water quality and aquatic life of Waihirere Stream and its catchment is a distinguishing feature. The hapu and community has an active role in restoration initiatives at the Domain.

⁵ Subject to the Wildlife Act 1953.

Policies:**Control:**

1. Protect and enhance natural ecosystems through the control and eradication of pest plants and species as per the Pest Control Management Strategy and hapu and community restoration priorities and activity;

Protection:

2. Ensure native flora and fauna are not adversely affected by any activity in the Domain;
3. Identify, enhance and protect significant landscapes, landmarks and vistas;
4. Ensure exotic plant species are contained where they:
 - become unsafe;
 - lessen amenity values; and/or
 - threaten reserve and ecological values.
5. Ensure that fertilisers and chemicals are applied and used safely, responsibly and effectively and in a way that prevents run off into waterways;

Enhancement:

6. At identified restoration sites in the Domain, weed and pest control measures will be signposted and publicised to ensure public safety and awareness.⁶

Discussion: Restoration is the actions and process taken to return degraded or damaged ecosystems towards natural conditions. As the landowner and advocate for the district Council will work closely with hapu and community with any restoration aspirations, planning and implementation.

7. Council will work with hapu and community to connect with the Domain's neighbours and other partners to establish ecological linkages and wildlife corridors;
8. Enhance water quality by establishing and protecting riparian margins. Managing drainage issues and having a catchment management approach will assist with this.⁷
9. Use locally sourced plants (ie hardy and self-sustaining) where possible in re-vegetation projects to support the ecological integrity of the domain's ecosystem and the region's biodiversity.

Protection:

10. Fencing of the reserves boundaries are important for maximising the biodiversity of the Domain. Council will maintain a stock proof fence of the Domain to minimise the goat population.

⁶ Restoration tools available are GDC *Streamside planting guide* 2013, Cultural health Index (Ministry for Environment, 2008), Restoration Indicator Toolkit (Indicators for monitoring the ecological success of Stream restoration).

⁷ See Appendix 2: Waihirere Stream watershed.

4.4 Recreation values discussion:

Waihirere Domain, in its “glory days” was reknown for the whanau (family) picnics and as a popular Christmas party spot for Gisborne employers - due in large part to the popularity of the swimming pool⁸. Since the pools closing Waihirere Domain still remains as a place to enjoy, relatively close to the city, where people go for tramping, communing with nature, family picnics, entertainment, fitness, use of the playground.

Policies:

Facilities and furniture:

1. Toilets are cleaned and maintained;
2. Drinking water is available at the Domain;
3. Playground is maintained to a safe standard with regular safety inspection/audits;
4. The former swimming pool is fenced off and the building facilities (changing shed, pump shed, pumps) are regularly tidied to ensure their location does not impact on the amenity and purpose of the reserve;
5. Litter recycling and appropriate disposal will be encouraged in the Domain through the provision of litter receptacles to sort glass, plastic bottles and cans for recycling in the car park areas;
6. Furniture including picnic tables and seating will be regularly updated when resource is available;
7. Grounds maintenance is business as usual, in that mowing and removal of rubbish takes place regularly;
8. To encourage day picnics Council will consider gas barbeques being available during summer either through concrete pads for bring your own or in partnership with a sponsor and caretaker.

Access:

9. Maintain key waterfall track (and three pedestrian bridges) to the DOC track service standards (SNZ HB8630:2004)⁹.

Discussion: Council will consider opening up further areas of the Domain with loop walking tracks to encourage restoration and further leisure opportunities. These are dependent on resources available and ability to meet safety standards.

10. The two existing car parks at the Domain (covering 423m²) will be maintained to a tidy and sealed standard.

Discussion: To support potentially larger-scale use through events at the Domain, Council will consider additional car parking space, subject to resources.

11. Vandalism will be cleaned as soon as possible to discourage further vandalism.

⁸ Council closed the pool in 2006 due to damage and it hasn't been re-opened.

⁹ SNZ HB8630:2004 provides specifications for those responsible for designing, constructing, maintaining, and/or managing tracks and outdoor visitor structures. Use of these specifications will ensure that tracks and outdoor visitor structures provide the right level of service to meet visitor recreation and safety needs, and will help protect the facilities and the environment from damage.

12. The entrance driveway to the Domain is regularly maintained to ensure access. It is also an appropriate site to place welcoming interpretation such as signage or a tomokanga (carved entrance).

Development:

13. Concessions: The temporary or permanent private commercial use of public reserves will generally not be permitted. From time to time, however, Council may determine that a commercial activity is complementary to the purpose of the reserve, will assist in the public use and enjoyment of the reserve, is compatible with or will avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects on neighbours and will not adversely affect the general character and amenity of the reserve. In such cases Council may determine that it is appropriate to provide for the activity by way of a licence/permit.

Any concession for use of a reserve will: define and limit the area within which the activity is to be carried out; specify the times (over the year and during the day) during which the concession can operate; specify the nature of the activities the concession operator can provide; define the signage (if any) permitted in association with the concession; and specify the fee or bond amount.

Concessions will not provide for the exclusive use of any part of a reserve and will not function to the disadvantage of general public use of the reserve. Any concession permitted by Council will be specific to the operator identified and will not be transferable. Any concession granted by Council will be for a specified period with no automatic rights of renewal.

14. Leases: Leases will only be permitted under the following conditions:

- Council's satisfaction with the lessee's performance;
- the exclusive use of part of the reserve is necessary to support a sporting or recreational activity that is complementary to the purpose and function of the reserve;
- the lease provides for the sport and recreation needs of a significant proportion of the local community;
- the potential lessee is responsible for the maintenance of the leased area consistent with Council's maintenance standard and an appropriate level of insurance as defined in the lease agreement;
- the purpose of the lease would be the most appropriate use of that site;
- the lease area is subject to redevelopment;
- the lease promotes equitable support and provision for all; and/or
- the lease is the most cost-effective way of providing for community needs and facilities.

Granting of a lease does not constitute an automatic right of renewal.

Discussion: A lease grants exclusive use over an area of a reserve and excludes the public. The needs of local communities should take precedence over those of specific organisations. Council will negotiate leases for the sites of buildings with organisations in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 (section 54 and the provisions under Schedule One).

15. Community events: Events (such as picnic/sports days) are supported, encouraged and managed. Council has an *Organising an event form* which outlines the process of how Council supports community events including on Council owned land. Council will consider applications for use of sports parks for one-off community events of less than 3 days in duration based on the following criteria:
- the potential degree of negative impact of the event on the Domain;
 - the impacts of any exclusive use on existing users;
 - the impacts of use on the future quality of the Domain particularly the ancillary facilities.
 - Council will also consider if the event will contribute to the enjoyment of the public of the reserve.

Charges may be incurred pending the review of Council's Fees and Charges Policy.

Discussion: Reserve users will need to apply to Council via the booking system to ensure an area is available, and to allow maintenance to be programmed. Booking the Domain for an event will also help to reduce any potential conflicts of use. Bookings can be made at Council or on Council's website¹⁰.

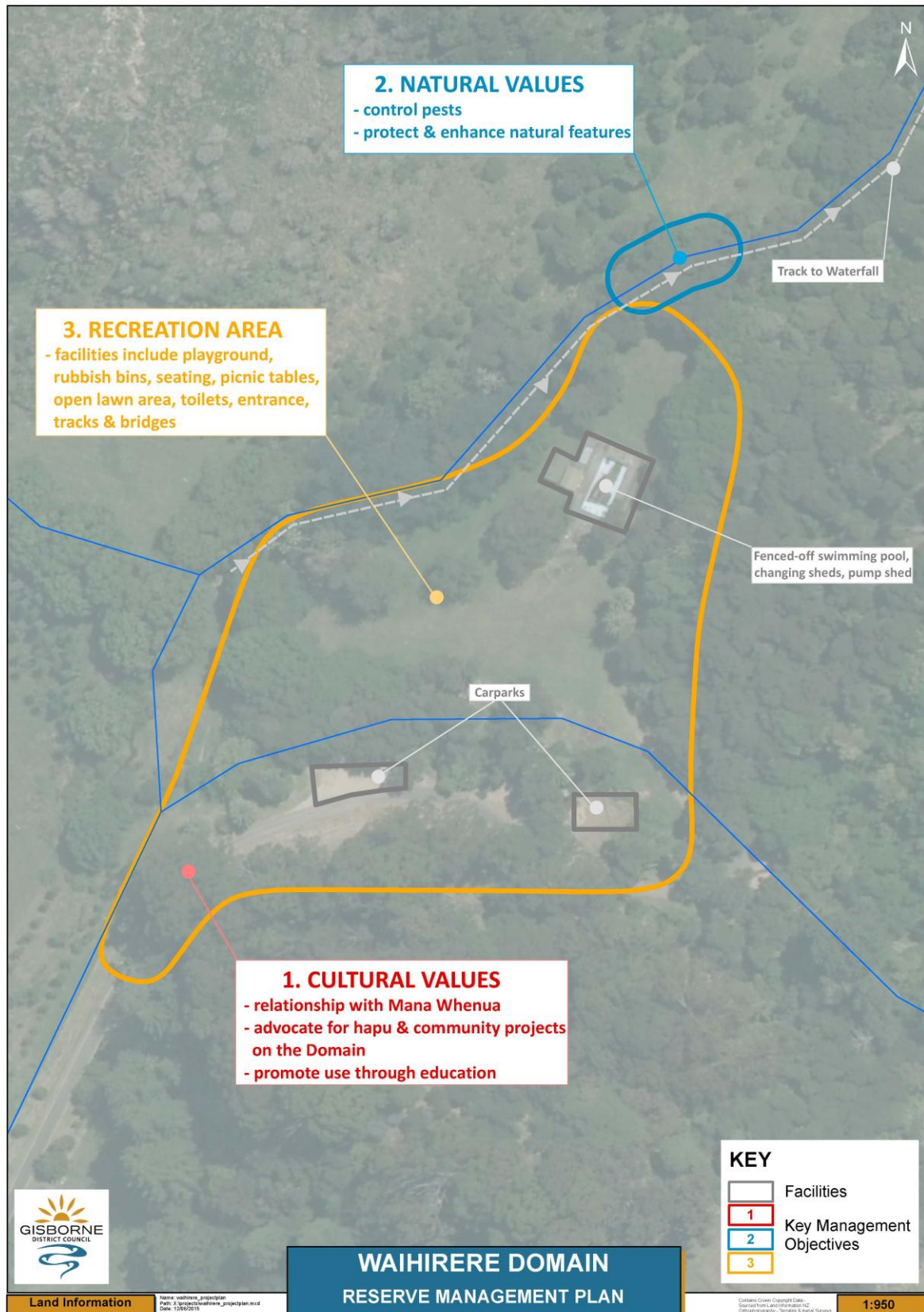
Currently, there are no fees or charges included in Council's Fees and Charges Policy for the use of Waihirere Domain, although this may be amended during the next review of the policy as part of the Ten Year Plan process.

16. No overnight camping allowed. Overnight camping has the potential to have a significant impact on the availability and amenity of reserve areas. Camping activities have the potential to impact on the cleanliness and health of the site (human/animal and solid waste disposal), and safety at the site (with broken glass, metal objects etc). Use of Waihirere Domain for overnight camping needs to consider the costs of these impacts and how they can be mitigated and compensated for. Overnight camping will not be permitted on Waihirere Domain except in the following circumstances: where the reserve has a specific licensed campground and is managed by Council.¹¹

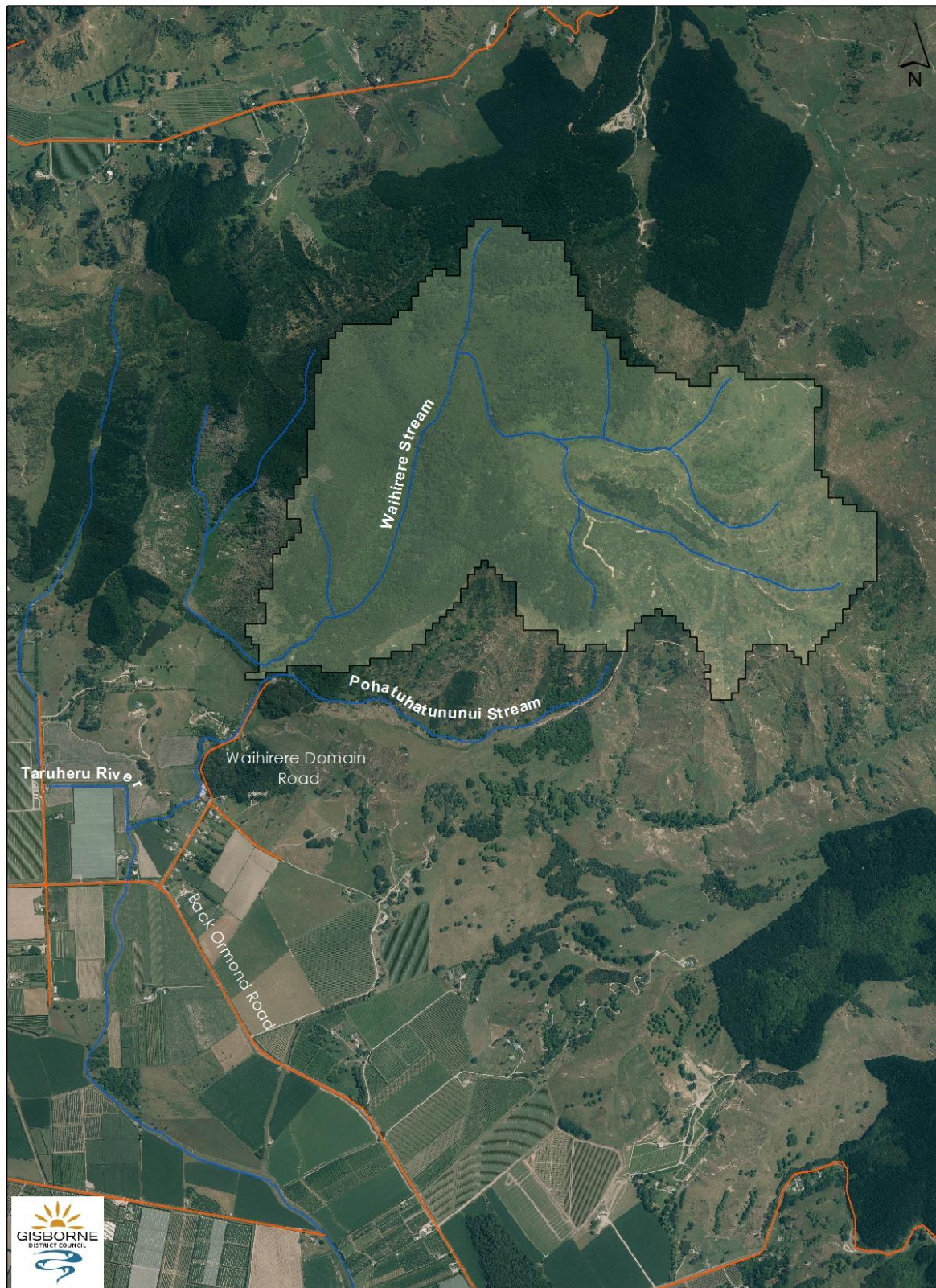
¹⁰ <http://www.gdc.govt.nz/park-fees-booking-information/>

¹¹ Taken from Gisborne District Council Sports Park Management Plan.

Appendix 1: Concept plan



Appendix 2: Waihirere Stream watershed



Waihirere Stream Watershed

Contains Crown Copyright Data -
Sourced from Land Information NZ.
Orthophotography - NZAM, Terralink & Aerial Surveys

Scale 1:20,000

Appendix 3: Visitor measures individual report, Gisborne District Council 2013, Parkcheck (May 2013)

Waihirere Domain:

1. *Visitors:*
 - Local – 83%
 - Regional – 8%
 - Out of region (international) – 8%
2. *Time to travel to Waihirere:*
 - Less than 5 mins – 10%
 - 6-10 mins – 20%
 - More than 30 mins – 70%
3. *Modes of transport:*
 - Walk - 8%
 - Private motor vehicle – 92%
4. *Visitor frequency:*
 - Every day – 8%
 - Once a week – 25%
 - Once a month – 8%
 - 2 – 6 times per year – 17%
 - Once a year – 8%
 - Less than once a year - 25%
 - First visit – 8%

Appendix 4: GDC Goat and possum control statistics

Waihirere Station

Year	Inspection hours	Possum control hours	Possums destroyed	Goat hunter hours	Goats shot
2004	5	54	427	41.5	311
2005	2.5	8.25	55		3
2006	1.5			8	74
2007	3.5	37	293	64	502
2008		13.5	82	43.5	216
2009				13	25
2010	2				
2011	2	57	112	56	527
2012		1		12.5	92
2013	3.5	11.5	38	25.5	59
2014				33	117
TOTALS	20	182.25	1007	303	1920

Note: Possum control carried using Feratox (encapsulated cyanide) pellets in bait stations.

Waihirere Reserve

Year	Inspection hours	Possum control hours	Possums destroyed	Goat hunter hours	Goats shot
2004	11.5	47.5	140	9.5	68
2005	Nil				
2006	Nil				
2007	12.5	58		13	24
2008	Nil				
2009	Nil				
2010	Nil				
2011	5.5				
2012	4			3	7
2013	14.5				
2014	6	18.5	23	0	0
TOTALS	54	124	163	25.5	99

Note: Possum control in 2004 was undertaken using Victor No 1 leg hold traps.

Possum control in 2007 was carried out using toxic pellet bait Decal applied in bait bags.

Possum control in 2014 in conjunction with and part of community pest control initiative.

Appendix 5: Waihirere Domain legal background research

Legal background

- Part of the land came from what was originally known as Waihirere No. 1, Waihirere No 2 and Waihirere No 3 Blocks of Blocks X and XIV Waimata SD.
- A portion of land being Pt Waihirere No 1 Block was subsequently by proclamation taken for Railway Quarry on 9 January 1909 (CT GS 76/189 now cancelled replaced with CT GS 76/190).
- It was then taken for purposes of a public Domain 1 October 1925 (CT GS 76/190 now cancelled replaced with CT GS 2C/1425 - 16 May 1969).
- Land became known as Sec 5 Blk X Waimata SD. 18 October 1982 land vested in Cook County Council for recreation Purposes. Title GS 2C/1425 cancelled and transferred to become part of GS 5C/373.
- CT GS 52/177 dated 28 April 1914 (now cancelled) in the name originally of The Proprietors of Waihirere and Waihirere No 2 Blocks a body corporate, for a portion of land being Waihirere Blk X & XIV Waimata SD. 1925 a portion taken for recreation ground title cancelled and transferred to GS76/98.
- CT GS 52/99 dated 23 January 1914 (now cancelled) in the name originally of The Proprietors fo Waihirere and Waihirere No 2 Blocks a body corporate, for a portion of land being Waihirere No 2 Blk X Waimata SD. 1925 a portion taken for recreation ground title cancelled and transferred to GS76/98.
- CT GS76/98 dated 24 October 1925 subsequently cancelled 1 May 1969 and transferred to GS 2C/1381.
- Land became known as Sec 3 Blk X Waimata SD – title GS 2C/1381.
- 18 October 1982 land vested in Cook County Council for recreation Purposes. Title cancelled 2 Sept 1991 and transferred to become part of GS 5C/373.

CROWN CARD INFORMATION

Secs 3-5 Blk X Waimata SD

- Gazette 1908 page 1249 land was taken for a quarry
- Gazette 1909 page 138 vested the land in the Gisborne Borough Council
- Gazette 1925 page 2890/91 taken for recreation purposes vested in the Crown (sec 24 Reserves & Other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies Empowering Act 1925 – public Domain subject to Part II of the Public Reserves and Domains Act 1908 and Sec 24 of the ROLD Act)
- Gazette 1926 page 1365 Domain
- Gazette 1982 page 2578 Vested in Cook County Council

Part Sec 6 Blk X Waimata SD

- Gazette 1908 page 1249 land was taken for a quarry
- Gazette 1927 page 402 Recreation Reserve
- Gazette 1927 page 669 Domain
- Gazette 1982 page 2578 vested in Cook County Council
- Refer also SO Plans: 803, 818, 1742, 1765

Other information

- **1932 page 2070** - Union of Waihirere and Grays Bush Domain to be known as Waihirere and Grays Bush Domain
- **1932 page 2185** - Board appointed to have control of Waihirere and Gray's Bush Domain
- **1957 page 1511** – Board appointed to have control of Waihirere and Gray's Bush Domain
- **1957 page 1516** – Union of Waihirere & Grays Bush Domain and Donner's Bush Domain
- *Waihirere & Grays Bush Domain united with Donner's Bush Domain to form one domain to be known as the Waihirere & Grays Bush Domain*

(Note a number of other gazette notices in ensuing years relating to appointment of various domain board members.)

Appendix 6: Waihirere Domain Board history

All material referred to has been taken from Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982

The Waihirere Domain Board was appointed to have control of the Waihirere Domain on the 26 July 1926, – Gazette No. 51, 29 July 1926 with the first meeting of the Board being held on the 19 August 1926 at the Crown Lands Office. ¹²

The First Board Members were:¹³

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • E H Farnie (Crown Land) | 1926 – 1931 |
| • G Wildish (Mayor of Gisborne) | 1926 |
| • Chas Matthews (Cook County) | 1926 – 1938 |
| • Claude Herbert Williams | 1926 – 1957 |
| • Howard Kenway | 1926 – until his death in 1939 |
| • Thomas Todd | 1926 – 1946 |
| • Arapeta Rongo Whakaata (Halbert) | 1926 – 1957 |

Board Chairman

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Mr E H Farnie (Crown Land) | 1926 – 1931 |
| • Mr H L Primrose (Crown Land) | 1932 – until his death in 1944 |

Board Secretaries

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| • R W Cumming | 1926 – 1930 |
| • A C R Anderson | 1930 – 1938 |

Other Committee Members

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • C E Armstrong | 1927 – until his death in 1928 |
| • D W Coleman (Mayor) | 1928 – 1940 |
| • Dalrymple Guthrie Robertson | 1932 – until his death in 1940 |
| • W G Sherratt | 1938 – 1939 |

Caretaker

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| • Mr Kiri Kiri Hoekae | 1927 – 1931 |
|-----------------------|-------------|

General Information

- Land was acquired in 1926 to create the Waihirere Domain
- The first track cut to the falls was commenced on 19 August 1927 with the help of a grant from Kohi Bush Fund for £100 as well as contributions from the Borough and Cook County. The track was widened and improved in 1931.
- The question of constructing a swimming pool and creating small artificial water falls in the creek was first raised in a meeting held on 19 August 1927. The matter was held over. ¹⁴

¹² Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982

¹³ Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982, Minutes of 19 August 1926

¹⁴ Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982 – Minutes taken at the Annual General Meeting held 19 August 1927

- In May 1931 it was suggested by Board Member, Mr T Todd that the Board put a dam in a suitable position for the formation of a swimming pool.¹⁵ This pool was made available during the greater part of summer and proved very popular, but unfortunately it was destroyed at the time of a flood.¹⁶
- After the flood the Board made arrangements for the construction of a temporary pool which was approved and left in the hands of Board Member Mr D G Robertson.¹⁷
- In May 1933 as part of the Boards annual inspection of the Domain, consideration for point (2) Employment of labour under No. 5 Scheme for improving the swimming pool would be looked at. As part of the Annual Report presented to the Board they were informed that with the aid of unemployed labour the swimming pool was enlarged, re-newed and proved as popular as ever during the summer. At the same meeting a paddling pool was also suggested for the first time.¹⁸
- In 1935 after considerable discussion by Board Members it was decided on the proposition by Member Mr C H Williams that estimates are obtained for a swimming pool approximately 75 x 25, 5 feet deep at one end and 3 feet at the shallow end, together with a paddling pool for children. The estimates would be considered at a later meeting.¹⁹
- In an Annual Report presented to the Board in 1936 plans and specifications were prepared and a site selected for the construction of a permanent concrete swimming pool which it was hoped would be completed before the summer season. On consideration of tenders received to erect the pool, it was resolved that Mr H M Ritchie was the successful tender. At the same meeting an Opening Ceremony was discussed and decided by the Board to hold the opening about the end of October 1936.²⁰
- It seems even though both the main pool and paddling pool had been completed for some time in 1936, and had proved a great boom all through the summer discussion of an opening was still continuing in 1937. It was again suggested that the Board should endeavour to hold an Opening Ceremony on a suitable date to which the public could be invited.²¹
- The diving board was erected in 1956 with extensions of the concrete surrounding the main pool.
- A stone wall was erected in 1937 along one side of the main pool to minimize the danger to small children
- The Boards planting of trees was commenced in 1927 and continued until the vesting of the Domain to Cook County Council
- In November 1927 it was decided to construct suitable fireplaces for the purpose of boiling water

¹⁵ Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982 – Minutes taken at the Annual General Meeting held 4 May 1934

¹⁶ Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982 – Annual Report of Special Meeting held 30 May 1934

¹⁷ Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982 – Minutes taken at the Annual General Meeting held 14 November 1932

¹⁸ Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982 – Minutes taken at the Annual General Meeting held 15 May 1933

¹⁹ Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982 – Minutes taken at the Annual General Meeting held 13 May 1935

²⁰ Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982 – Annual Report of Annual General Meeting held 11 May 1936

²¹ Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982 – Annual Report of Annual General Meeting held 10 May 1937

- The beginning of the construction of the playground commenced in 1930 with the installation of a set of three swings. Further play equipment was installed in 1931/1932 in the form of 1 set of 3 boat swings, 1 giant slide, 2 see saws, a schute and a lullaby/rock-a-bye playform swing. A small swing was added in 1934. In 1956 the construction of new swing boats were commenced.
- In 1931, a number of requests were received for permission to camp on the Domain
- The erection of separate Mens and Womens conveniences and bathing sheds was in 1932 as well as footbridges and cattle stop in the same year

Waihirere and Grays Bush Domain Board

(Ref. File No. 416 – Waihirere Reserve 1924 – 1982).

Amalgamation of the Waihirere and Grays Bush Boards was – Gazette No. 68, 3 November 1932.

First Board Members

- Commissioner of Crown Land
- Mayor of Gisborne
- Chairman of Cook County
- Claude Herbert Williams 1926 – 1957
- Howard Kenway 1926 – until his death in 1939
- Thomas Todd 1926 – until his resignation in 1945
- Arapeta Rongo Whakaata Halbert 1926 – 1957

Board Chairman

- Mr H L Primrose 1932 – until his death in 1944
- Mr J P Lane 1944 – 1946
- E P Wakelin (Crown Lands) 1946 – 1947
- C L Cox (Crown Lands) 1947 – 1949
- E P Wakelin (Crown Lands) 1949 – 1956
- H R Chrisp (Crown Lands) 1956 – 1957
- William Vernon Clarke 1957 – 1959
- R C Parker 1959 – 1967
- L K Grey 1967 – 1975
- T L C Williams 1975 – ?

Board Secretaries

- A C R Anderson 1930 – 1938
- S H Brown 1938 – 1945
- A D Macartney 1945 – until his resignation in 1946
- C G Meiklejohn 1946 – until his retirement in 1956
- J W Campin (Land Survey Department) 1956 – 1957
- Reginald Keith Gardiner (County Clerk) 1957 –
- Peter Johnstone 1975 –

Other Committee Members

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • C Matthews | 1926 – |
| • G Wildish | 1926 – |
| • D W Coleman (Mayor) | 1928 – |
| • R W Halbert | 1957 – |
| • Dalrymple Guthrie Robertson | 1932 – |
| • John Jackson (Mayor Borough) | 1932 – |
| • E H Williams | 1938 – |
| • W G Sherratt | 1938 – |
| • N H Bull (Mayor Borough) | 1941 – |
| • F R Andrews | 1945 – |
| • A A Fraser | 1945 – |
| • E M Monckton | 1946 – |
| • Thomas Roy Andrews | 1948 – |
| • Barker (Mayor Gisborne) | 1956 – |
| • Fredrick Edward Faulkner | 1957 – until his resignation in 1975 |
| • William Fredrick Roland Graham | 1957 – |
| • James Holdsworth | 1957 – |
| • John Dow Williams | 1957 – |
| • F W Brown | 1959 – |
| • Leonard Keith Grey | 1959 – |
| • C L Costello | 1967 – |
| • Mrs F E B Gregory | 1975 – |
| • J D Overbye | 1975 – |
| • N D Wehi | 1975 – |
| • Mrs K Gaukrodger | 1979 – |
| • G W Boggs | 1979 – |
| • P G Holdsworth | 1979 – |

Caretaker

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| • Mr A Smith | 1931 – 1955 | |
| • Charles Anthony Bryant | 1955 – 1967 | } All three shared duties |
| • Kahu Kingi | 1955 – | |
| • Whare Kingi | 1955 – | |
| • P P Johnston | 1967 – | |

General Information

- Amalgamation of both the Waihirere and Grays Bush Boards was as a result of resolutions passed at a combined meeting held on 6 May 1932. The combined Boards were made official on the 3 November 1932.
- First meeting of Board was on 14 November 1932.

- In 1932 the Board considered that a suitable shelter shed be built and this was completed by the end of the year.
- The first mention of vandalism was raised in May 1934 with the discovery of initials being carved into some of the Nikau palms.
- The erection of the ladies and mens conveniences were completed in 1934.
- Satisfactory fencing was put in place around Grays Bush in accordance with the adjoining owner in 1934.
- The water that led from a spring on the Maori land adjoining, by permission of the owners, and taken to a 400 gallon tank to which two separate taps have been attached for the use of the public. Annual Report presented to members 31 March 1935.
- On suggestion by Mr Robinson the construction of a 'Punga House' was erected in 1936.
- The metalling and forming of the access to Gray Bush was in 1940. A request was made to the Cook County.
- Through private donations, 5 seats were made and erected in the domain in 1939. The only named donor was the Return Services Association.
- On 10 August 1939 the Waihirere and Grays Bush Domain Board were appointed to the control of the Donners Bush Domains, Gazette No. 61, pg 2131. All members were notified and organized to meet but changed conditions were brought about as a result of the war. The three Domain Boards were officially amalgamated on the 8 August 1957, and on the 15 August 1957 in the Gazette No. 60, pg 1516.
- The first mention of Donners Bush Domain was in 1940. Later in 1940 it was decided to remove the internal fences in the Waihirere Domain to re-use the fencing materials in Donners Bush Domain as the fencing wire was regarded as scarce.
- In 1940 a new slide was added to the playground and a ladies dressing shed was erected close to the pool.
- Financial problems started to be evident around 1947/48. In 1956 a meeting was called to discuss the possibility of having either the City Council or Cook County to take over control of the Domains.
- In June 1958 an offer by the Gisborne Battalion, Boys Brigade to build a suitable open fire place at the Waihirere Domain was received by the Board. This fireplace was duly built and the unveiling ceremony took place on 8 November 1958.
- It was raised at the meeting in October 1975 that the existing paddling pool be closed and made into a sand pit, and that the eventual site for a new paddling pool be in front of the two large palm trees.
- It was requested both by H M Terekia (Chairman) of Parihimanihi Marae Committee and Ngapo 'Bub' Wehi (on behalf of the Waihirere community, that permission be given to closed of the Domain for the opening of the new Dining Hall on the 7 March 1981. Permission was granted.
- The Waihirere Reserve was vested to the Cook County Council on the 5 August 1982, Gazette No. 90, pg 2578.

Appendix 7: Enviroschools newsletter January 2014

WAIHIRERE DOMAIN

This picturesque spot is getting some well deserved attention from the local community. All of Ormond School had a great morning investigating how clean the stream is, pulling out Tradescantia weeds and setting up monitoring of pests like possums, mustelids, rats and mice. The chew cards with hidden peanut butter revealed a plethora of rats out there and the tracking tunnels revealed lots of rat and mouse footprints. Super interesting.

But best of all both Makauri and Ormond bat detectors recorded the beautiful ultrasound calls of long tailed native bats. These unusual mammals are well worth finding more about and it's very special that they are utilising Waihirere domain. Makauri School is planning to build mustelid trap boxes with the help of Joe Waikari from Department of Conservation to help protect the bats.

Te Karaka school have already built and placed 15 traps. They have even had their first kills. Please let Kauri know if you would like to be involved in the restoration of this great little spot.



www.enviroschools.org.nz

Please check out the enviroschools website. It has heaps of great ideas for students and staff.

FRUIT TREES

I have seen some healthy, well mulched fruit trees around our local schools. Some are even fruiting. Yay. Please water on a cool day and keep heavily mulched. Fix up any netting or staking that is protecting them from kids, balls etc.

Appendix 8: 1991 DOC report Turanga Ecological District

19

1991
DOC
report
Turanga Ecological
District

PNA 2 Waihirere Recreation Reserve

Area	52.8 ha
Altitude	60-200 m
Grid Reference	Y17 413810
Landscape Unit	hill country
Bioclimatic Zone	semi-coastal

tawa-karaka forest	on hillslope	22.2 ha
wharariki rockland	on cliff	+
kanuka forest	on hillslope	21.1 ha
native plantation	on hillslope	+
exotic plantation	on hillslope	8.4 ha
exotic grassland	on alluvial terrace	1.1 ha

This reserve comprises hillslopes and cliffs lining part of the upper catchment of the Waihirere Stream. Tawa-karaka forest grows along the stream and lower hillslopes, and secondary kanuka forest covers the upper slopes and ridges. Rock outcrops and cliffs are sparsely vegetated with mainly wharariki flaxland. The southern part of the reserve has exotic plantation and grassland, with picnic facilities, playground equipment and a swimming pool.

Waihirere is the most representative remnant in the district; it has the largest forest tract, the largest flora (more than 160 native species), and a variety of cliff, stream and forest habitat. It also has several species, e.g., *Scandia rosifolia* and *Jovellana sinclairii*, not recorded elsewhere during the present survey. There is potential to more than double the existing protected natural area by addition of adjoining kanuka-dominated tracts to the north and west (see Waihirere North RAP). This would then include almost the entire upper catchment of the Waihirere Stream. The tract (Waihirere Recreation Reserve plus Waihirere North RAP) is classified as a Site of Special Wildlife Interest with a Moderate ranking (Rasch 1989). Many common bush and field birds, including kereru the regionally threatened weka, were recorded.

The present classification, Recreation Reserve, affords inadequate protection to the flora and fauna in this important reserve. It is thus highly desirable that protection be upgraded by suitable reclassification.

A very small native plantation pocket (c. 50 years old?) includes many species that do not naturally occur in the vicinity. Two of these species, silver beech and tanekaha, have subsequently naturalised, seedlings being noted near the adult trees.