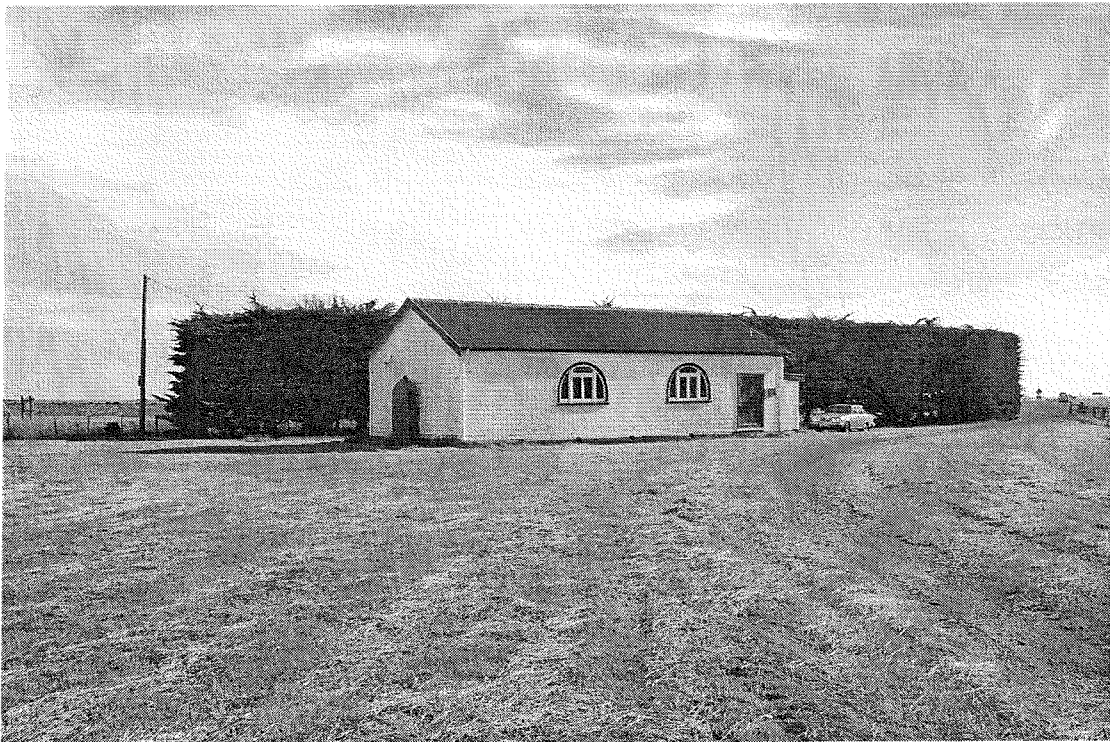


ATAAHUA
RECREATION RESERVE
MANAGEMENT PLAN



Banks Peninsula District Council 2006

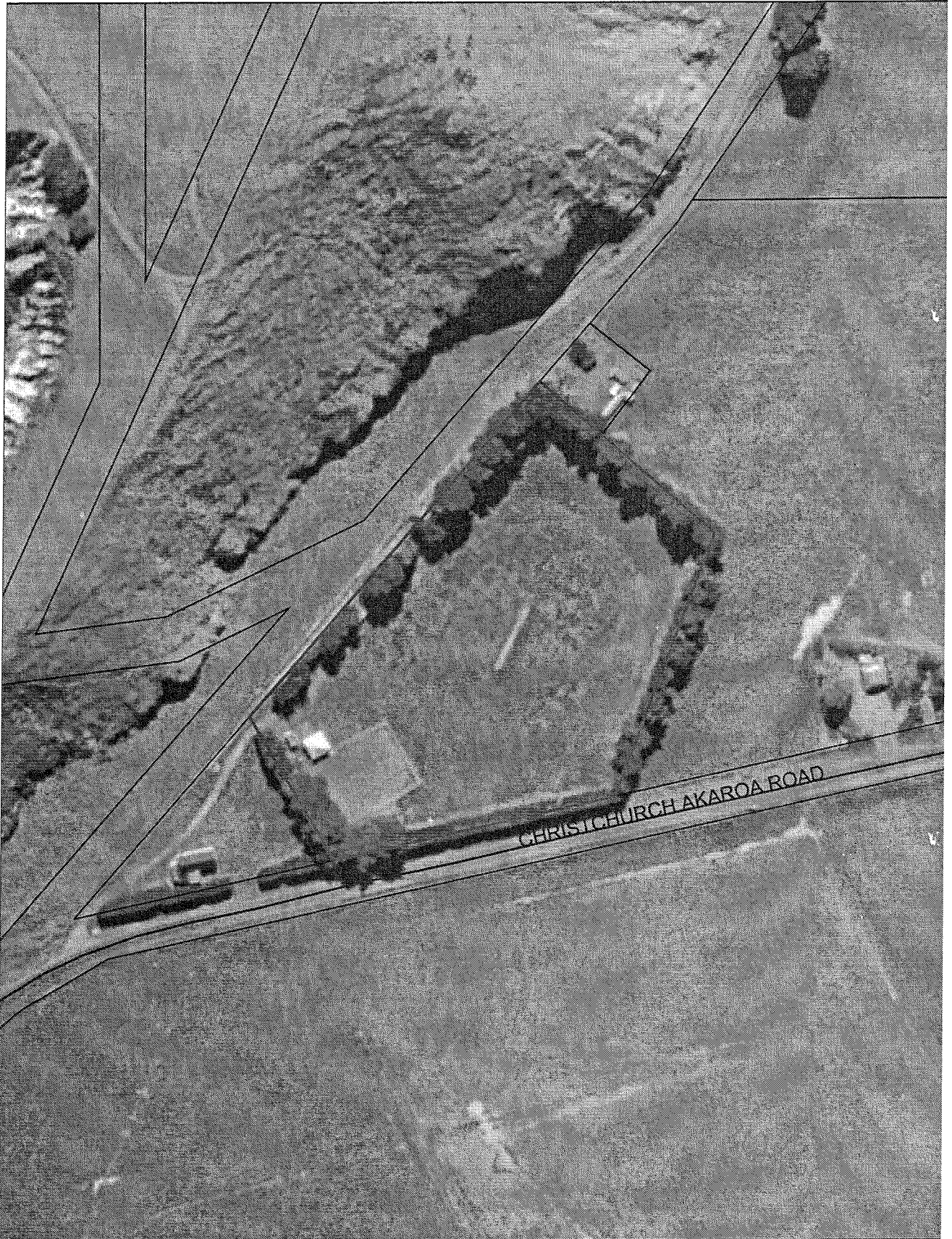
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This management plan was prepared for the Banks Peninsula District Council by Chris Todd with assistance from Nina Harrison.



ATAAHUA
2401006000 - RES 3705

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WARNING: The position and depth of services must be verified by hand digging to avoid damage by mechanical excavators.

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Map printed 22/11/2005



1 Background Information

1.1 Legal Classification

Gazette notice:	NZ Gaz 1983
Legal description:	Res 3705 Blk. III Ellesmere SD
Land area:	2.4256 ha
Classification and status:	Vested as a Recreation Reserve in 1983 by the Wairewa County Council under the Reserves Act 1977

1.2 Location & Access

Ataahua Domain is bounded by State Highway 75 approximately 800m northwest of the Kaituna Valley Road turnoff. Access is from a metalled driveway running from the main road past the hall to the playing fields and tennis courts.

1.3 Description & Landscape Character

Ataahua Domain is flat, grassed area situated at the mouth of the Kaituna Valley and the base of a southwest spur of Mt Bradley. The expanse of Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere and its seasonally grazed wetland margins lies immediately south of the reserve. The reserve is surrounded by macrocarpa hedges and the land immediately surrounding it is grazed and cropped.

The reserve contains a hall, tennis and cricket pavilion, a tractor shed (containing a tractor and gang mower) and a small concrete block toilet building with a tennis volley-wall on one side. All buildings are in reasonable condition, although the tennis pavilion is subject to vandalism and in some need of repair. Kaituna Hall, with its distinctive semicircular window frames, was formerly the Ataahua School.

The main recreational facility is a large playing field with an artificial cricket pitch, which is well-used. The two tennis courts adjacent to the pavilion have perished fences and much-cracked asphalt surfaces that make them largely unusable. However, the underlying base would be capable of supporting a renewed surface. A concrete water tank is situated on a stand behind the pavilion.

The domain is fenced adequately, with power, water and sewer connections on site. Water is supplied from a neighbouring farm.

1.4 Administration & Management

The reserve was originally managed by the Ataahua Reserve Board, then by the Wairewa County Council after it was gazetted as a Recreation Reserve in 1983. The reserve is now managed and maintained by the Ataahua Reserve Management Committee, an elected body under the Banks Peninsula District Council.

1.5 Regional Context

Ataahua Domain was set up in an era when people travelled less and the rural population was higher. People now tend to travel further for their sporting and recreational activities. Consequently, only country cricket remains as an organised sport at the Domain. The hall is still an important community resource and well used, especially by the local play-centre group.

Implementation of the proposed Rail Trail running from Motukarara to Little River has the potential to draw people to the reserve in the future, either as a sheltered staging stop en-route or as a camping ground. Awareness of Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere's value as an outstanding bird habitat and wetland is also increasing, which may provide opportunities for the reserve.

Ataahua Reserve could be an attractive stopover point for campervans visiting Banks Peninsula, especially with the provision of an effluent disposal tank. Some campervans use the reserve at present despite the lack of signage to indicate its availability. There are relatively few alternatives for campervans to stop overnight on Banks Peninsula.

2 Management of Reserve Environment

2.1 Vegetation Management

The reserve consists of a grassed playing field surrounded by macrocarpa hedging. The hedges are trimmed every two years. The playing fields are mowed (voluntarily) by a local resident in summer and grazed occasionally in winter. The biggest hazard to the reserve is from fire, which could easily destroy the hedges and wooden buildings.



Figure 1: The playing fields looking south, with macrocarpa hedging next to SH 75.

Objective:

To manage the reserve vegetation for amenity values, shelter, fire prevention, sport and recreation.

Policies:

- Manage the turf in a state suitable for organised sport, especially cricket, and for fire protection.
- Keep hedges trimmed to an agricultural level.

See also General Policy 7.4 Tree Planting on Reserves and 5.12 Fire.

Actions:

- Mow turf and occasionally winter-graze (sheep only).
- Trim macrocarpa hedges annually or biennially.

3 Management of Services, Structures & Facilities

Overall objectives:

To ensure that buildings and structures on reserves meet the needs of approved use and users without significant adverse effects on the values of the reserve and reserve neighbours.

3.1 Signs & Visitor Information

The domain is well signposted from the main road with an AA sign. Further signs will be required if more campervan use of the Reserve is promoted.

Objectives:

To minimize visual clutter while maximising useful information to reserve visitors.

To ensure consistent sign information, styles and types on reserve land throughout Banks Peninsula.

Policies:

- All signs shall be consistent with Council-adopted standards and/or in accordance with NZ Standards for Recreational Signs and outdoor Recreation symbols NZS 8603:2005.
- See General Policies 6.2 Promotion and 6.9 Signs for sign guidelines.

3.2 Access Roads & Car parks

The gravel internal access track from the gate to the old tennis pavilion is in reasonable condition. No other internal vehicle or pedestrian tracks or car parks are required with the current level of use.

Policy:

- Grade and re-gravel internal access track as necessary.

See General Policy 6.11 Vehicle Access and Car Parking

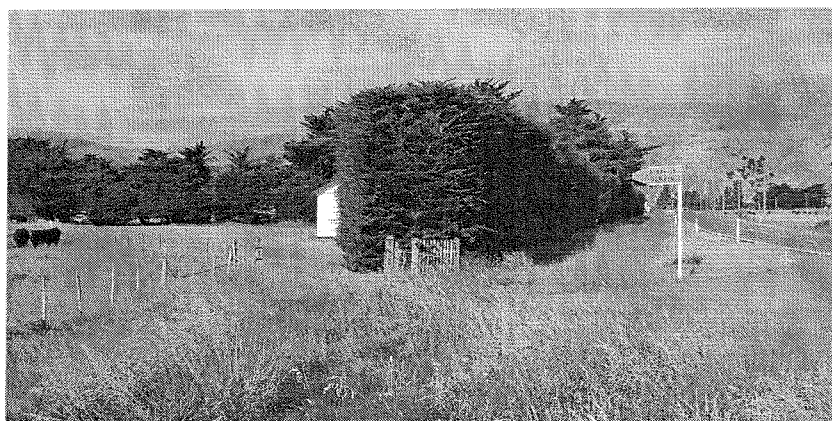


Figure 2: Reserve access and signpost from the Christchurch-Akaroa Road.

3.3 Tennis Courts

The asphalt of one tennis court is cracked and unplayable. The other is deteriorating and becoming unplayable. The fence surrounding the courts has sound posts but needs some netting replaced. The Committee wishes to renovate the courts when able to.

The back wall of the concrete block toilet near the pavilion serves as a volley board.

Policies:

1. Maintain the tennis courts and surrounding ball-fence in a safe and tidy condition.
2. Renovate the court surface and ball-fence as funds allow.

Actions:

- Repair the court surface. Until then periodically control weeds in cracks.
- Repair the netting ball-fence. In the interim remove any sections of netting that are neither serviceable nor repairable.

3.4 Kaituna Hall

The Ataahua School closed in 1931. The school building became the Kaituna Hall and was altered accordingly. It is used now for community and committee meetings, as a Civil Defense base and as a weekly playgroup venue. It is a weatherboard building with a corrugated iron roof comprised of a main hall, kitchen and toilets, with a total floor area of 176m². The hall was repainted in 2003.

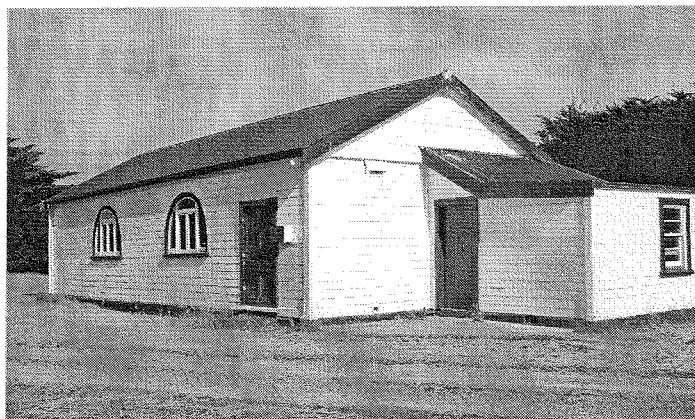


Figure 3: The Kaituna Hall with its distinctive semi-circular windows.

Policies:

- Maintain and repair the Kaituna Hall as necessary.
- See General Policy 6.22 *Buildings and Structures*.

Actions:

- Repaint the hall within the 10 year life of the plan.

3.5 Tennis & Cricket Pavilion

The pavilion is a weatherboard structure with a corrugated iron roof and a large inverted verandah with a concrete surface. A concrete water tank is located on a low wooden stand at

the rear of the pavilion. The pavilion is in fair condition but has had an ongoing problem with vandalism.

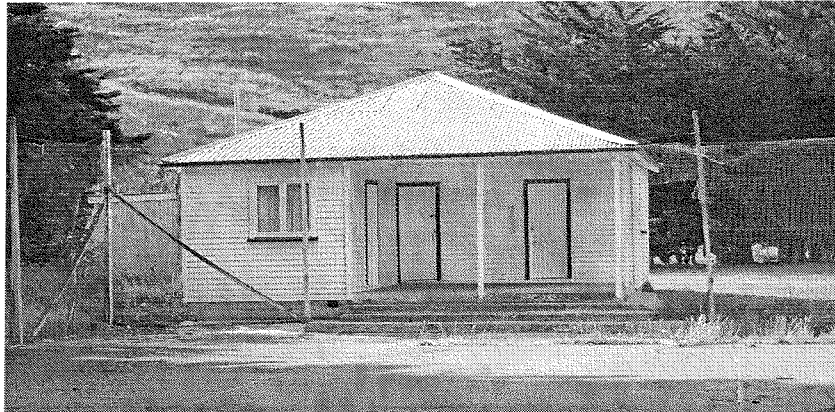


Figure 4: The tennis and cricket pavilion with tennis courts in the foreground

Policies:

Maintain the pavilion in a sound and presentable condition for cricket and future tennis use.

Actions:

Repaint the pavilion within the 10-year life of this plan.

3.6 Fences & Gates

The domain has adequate stock-proof fencing around the perimeter, with a cyclone gate at the reserve entrance. A post and chain barrier restricts vehicle access onto the playing field.

See General Policy 5.10 Fencing.

3.7 Cricket Pitch

The concrete pitch in the middle of the playing field is in good condition and well used over the summer months.

3.8 Toilet

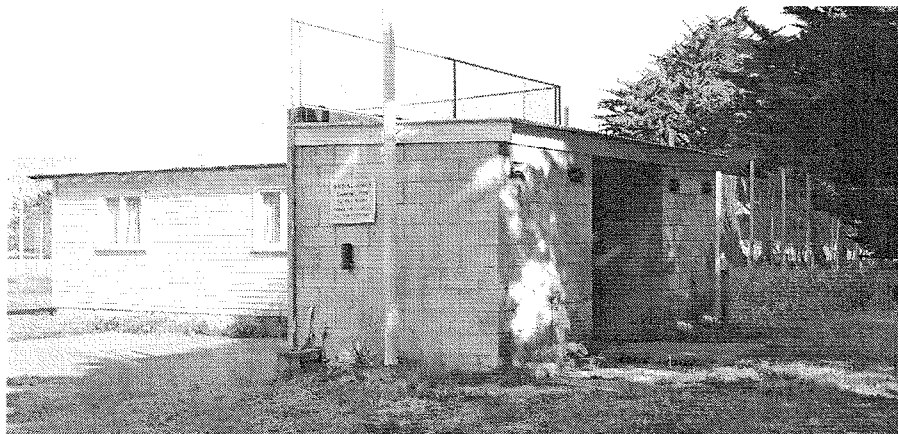


Figure 5: The concrete block toilet with tennis volley wall and pavilion at rear.

The basic concrete block toilet is well-maintained and was upgraded in 2004. An honesty box on the wall requests a small donation from campers.

Policies:

- Upgrade in response to demand.
- Maintain toilets in a clean and tidy condition.

Actions:

- Pump out septic tank annually or as necessary for the level of use.

4 Reserve Use

4.1 Camping

The reserve is used occasionally by campervans for overnight camping. There are no designated camping areas within the reserve but dispersed camping is not a problem due to the low level of use it receives and the barrier preventing vehicles from driving on the playing field. The provision of an effluent disposal depot on site for campervans may draw more overnight visitors to use the reserve, necessitating more active management. This service could also justify a review of the nominal overnight fee.

The reserve is less suitable for tent-camping, having no kitchen, shower, or washing up facilities.

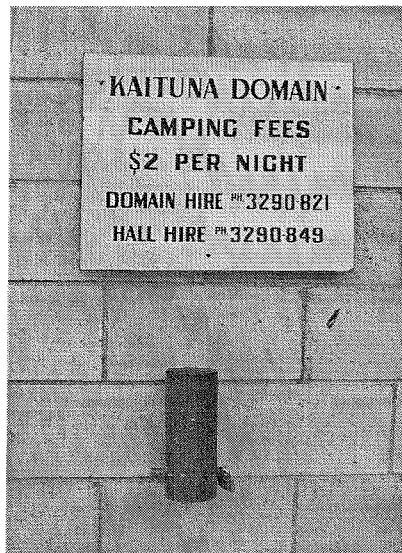


Figure 6: The honesty box for campers

Objective:

To allow campervans to stay provided that the adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Policy:

1. Encourage campervan users to stay overnight at the reserve, with a maximum stay of three nights provided that campervans do not discharge any waste.

2. Limit overnight parking to the area defined by the tennis court fence, playing field barrier and boundary hedge.
3. Comply with relevant health, safety and fire regulations.

See also General Policy 6.18 Camping.

4.2 Other Recreational Use

The cricket club uses the fields and clubrooms fortnightly in summer.

The sports fields are rented once a year to the 'River Rally' motorcycle club for four days from Thursday to Sunday, which is a useful source of revenue for the reserve.

Objectives:

To allow and encourage public use of the reserve that is compatible with the Reserves Act 1977 and this management plan.

Policies:

Encourage the use of the reserve for cricket, tennis and organised camping groups.

See also General Policies 6.1 Use of Reserves, 7.1 Dog Control and 6.4 Commercial Use.

5 Fire Prevention

Fire is a real threat in the district. It is important to keep grass within the reserve short and to maintain cooperation with neighbours to keep adjoining paddocks grazed short before summer if possible.

Objectives:

Minimise fire risk.

Provide adequate access for fire appliances.

Cooperate with local fire groups in the prevention and control of fire in and around the reserve.

Policies:

1. Maintain short grass sward throughout the reserve during times of high fire risk.
2. Cooperate with adjoining owners in limiting the summer fuel load and in controlling any fires.
3. Ensure any campers or users of the domain comply with seasonal fire bans.

See also General Policy 5.12 Fire.

6 Schedule of Works

Action	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Future
Mow turf												
Trim hedges												
Periodically control weeds on tennis court surface.												
Repair court surface.												
Renew the netting ball-fence.												
Paint hall												
Maintain hall												
Service toilets												
Pump out septic tank.												
Grade internal access track and re-gravel as necessary.												
Estimated Annual Cost												

7 Purpose & Scope of Reserve Management Plans

The Banks Peninsula District Council, as an administering body under the *Reserves Act 1977*, is required to prepare management plans for the reserves under its control. A management plan outlines the Council's general intentions for use, development and maintenance of a reserve. The *Reserves Act* (and subsequent amendments) is the main legislation that determines how reserves should be managed. It covers issues such as the classification and purpose of reserves, revocation, management planning, leasing of reserves and public consultation. Section 3 of the Act states that reserves will be administered for the purpose of:

(a) Providing for the preservation and management for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand possessing-

- (i) Recreational use or potential, whether active or passive; or*
- (ii) Wildlife; or*
- (iii) Indigenous flora or fauna; or*
- (iv) Environmental and landscape amenity or interest; or*
- (v) Natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific, educational, community, or other special features or value:*

(b) Ensuring, as far as possible, the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna, both rare and commonplace, in their natural communities and habitats, and the preservation of representative samples of all classes of natural ecosystems and lands which in the aggregate originally gave New Zealand its own recognisable character:

(c) Ensuring, as far as possible, the preservation of access for the public to and along the sea coast, its bays and inlets and offshore islands, lakeshores, and riverbanks, and fostering and promoting the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and of the margins of lakes and rivers and the protection of them from unnecessary subdivision and development.

The management plan and policies set out how the Banks Peninsula District Council intends to achieve this purpose.

7.1 Management Planning Requirement

Section 41 of the *Reserves Act* requires that every recreation reserve has an operative management plan. The purpose of these is described in Section 41(3), which stipulates that:

"The management plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified."

If a reserve does not have a management plan, no part of that reserve can be leased without public consultation. In practice this means that every time a recreational organisation makes an application to lease part of a reserve, that proposal must be publicly advertised for submissions. The production of a management plan can avoid the repeated public notification process, provided the management plan specifies which areas are to be available for lease.

Part I of this plan is reserve-specific. Part II sets out district-wide reserve policies which apply unless superseded by a specific policy in Part I.

7.2 Management Planning Procedure

- a) The public is consulted on what future use they would like their reserves put to.
- b) The public response is combined with general objectives and policies and further background information into a draft management plan document.
- c) This document is made available to the public for further comment. This is the opportunity for fine-tuning of policies to produce a final document that accurately spells out how the reserve will be managed in the future.
- d) After hearings (if required) the draft management plan is amended accordingly and is then put before Council for approval in its final form. Once approved by Council it becomes the operative management plan.
- e) The Reserves Act provides for the management plan to be reviewed continuously so that it is adapted to changing circumstances. However, if the review involves major changes, it must again be opened for public input and comment.

Section 120(3) of the Reserves Act allows Council to determine its own procedure for hearing submissions received as a result of public consultation. However, Council is required by Section 120(1)d to give full consideration to every objection or submission received before deciding to proceed with the proposal.

The Reserves Act requires that full public consultation take place whenever land is declared to be reserve, whenever a reserve is classified, reclassified or revoked, whenever a management plan is prepared for a reserve, and whenever a reserve that has no management plan is leased.

The statutory minimum level of consultation is that a notice of the intended action be published once in the local daily paper, and a period of one month be given in which submissions may be made in response. The exception to this is the notification of draft management plans which requires a two month period for submissions.

7.3 Reserve Classification

Section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977 requires that reserves are classified according to their principal or primary purpose, and sets out 7 kinds of classification. This Reserve is classified as a Recreation Reserve, created:

"For the purpose of providing areas for the 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." (S. 17 Reserves Act 1977)

More specifically, Recreation Reserves are to provide for (S.17[2]):

"Freedom of entry and access by the public;

Management and protection of scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological or other features or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife;

Conservation of the qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to its better use and enjoyment; and

Maintenance of soil, water and forest conservation values.

8 General Reserve Policies

The *General Policies for Reserve Management* prepared by Rob Greenaway and Associates are in a separate document. They are integral to reserve management and are intended to be read with management plans.

Where any issue on a reserve is addressed by both the *General Policies* and a management plan specific to a reserve, then the specific policy takes precedence. Conversely, where a management plan is silent or incomplete on an area of policy, the general policy shall apply.

