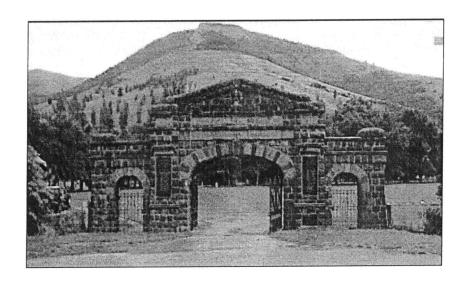
AWA-ITI DOMAIN

MANAGEMENT PLAN

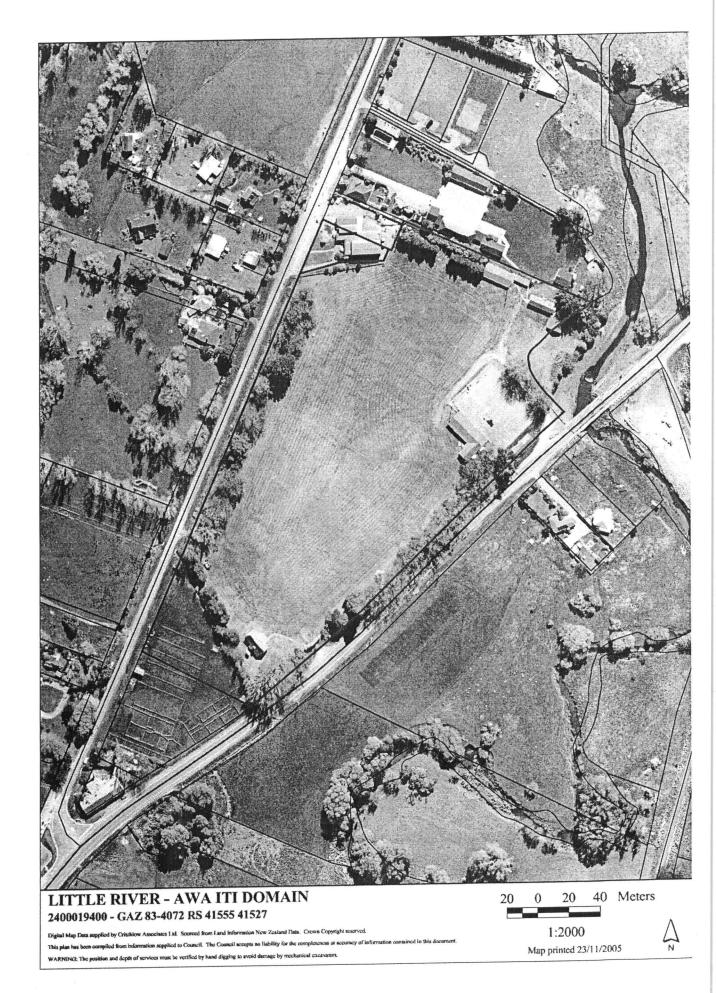


Banks Peninsula District Council 2006

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This management plan was prepared for the Banks Peninsula District Council by Chris Todd, with assistance from Nina Harrison. The General Policies were prepared by Rob Greenaway & Associates.



1 Summary

Awa-iti Domain is a much-valued community and regional resource for Banks Peninsula residents. It has a strong Reserve Committee representing all major interest groups. The recreational trends at Little River are more traditional than other Peninsula communities, with a higher proportion of people playing organised sport. However, this trend is changing with the influx of commuting residents and in recent years the clubs have struggled to maintain their facilities.

The Domain has high aesthetic values, due in large part to the avenues of mature deciduous trees surrounding the playing field and the stone war memorial archway at the entrance. These trees are requiring more resources to maintain as they age.

The reserve is generally well maintained, with most income derived from grazing leases and the annual ewe fair. However, many of the facilities are showing their age and Awa-iti Domain would benefit greatly from greater Council maintenance funding.

The chief issues in the reserve relate to maintenance. Administratively, the Committee are keen to amalgamate the adjacent Council-owned sale yards into the recreation reserve.

2 Background Information

2.1 Legal Classification

Gazette notice:

NZ Gaz 1983 p4072 & NZ Gaz 1983 p. 4008

Legal description:

RS 41555 & 41527 Blk XIII Pigeon Bay

Land area:

4.5173 ha

Classification and

Vested in the BPDC as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves

status:

Act 1977

2.2 Location & Access

The reserve is located off State Highway 75 at the Little River Township. The reserve can be accessed at four different points:

- 1. The formal entrance off SH 75 at the war memorial arch.
- 2. Through the sealed service / recreation entrance from the tennis courts just south of the road bridge over Okana Stream.
- 3. Through the show entrance off Port Levy Road through a farm gate.
- 4. Through a pedestrian access gate next to the Community Centre.

2.3 Description & Landscape Character

The Awa-iti Domain is roughly triangular and sits on a flat valley-bottom surrounded by high and in places dramatic hills. The reserve has good views of the surrounding landscape.

The site is dominated by avenues of mature deciduous English trees, planted c1910, which line both long boundaries of the Domain. The most distinctive structures and buildings in the reserve are the historic War Memorial Gate and Coronation Library. Nearby are small stone memorials and plaques to past residents H.D. Buchanan and T. Quealy.

Other structures include a collection of sheds used for storing equipment for the annual show, a clubroom building, a concrete toilet block, and a cricket pavilion beside the three tennis courts. The playing field contains two rugby fields (one floodlit for practices) and a concrete artificial cricket pitch. The buildings within the reserve are maintained by the organizations that use them. The Domain is fenced around its perimeter.

A sales yard sits adjacent to the Domain on the southern boundary. This site is 4046 square meters and contains stock yards, a water tank and a disused wooden agents' building. The land is owned by the Banks Peninsula District Council. The Community Centre and Fire Brigade rooms are separated from the northern end of the Domain by a low picket fence.

2.4 History

In 1906 the search began for a piece of land central to Little River to be used for recreational purposes. By 1908 an agreement was made to purchase 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land from Mrs. Robinson. The transaction was carried out in 1910, with an additional 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of adjoining land transferred to the domain in 1914.

The historic Coronation Library was built at the entrance to the reserve as a memorial to WW1. The avenues of tree were planted around 1910, with the cricket pitch and tennis courts laid down between 1911 and 1923. Control of the reserve was appointed to the Domains Board in 1918.

In 1945 the Memorial Gate on State Highway 75 was erected in memory of soldiers who fell during WWII. There are two other stone memorials situated near the memorial gate, one to the memory of Hugh Duncanson Buchanan and a stone plaque (erected in 1930) in honour of Thomas Quealy, a long-term resident.

In 1980 the domain was gazetted as a Recreation Reserve. The Awa-iti Reserve Board was dissolved in 1983 and administration transferred to the Wairewa County Council, which made RS 41527 (1.023 ha) into a local purpose (community buildings) reserve. In 1989 the Wairewa County Council purchased the sale yards from Wrightsons, with the development and construction of the facilities paid for by the local community.

The Reserve Management Committee has informal control over this Council-owned freehold property, anticipating that it will be amalgamated eventually with the Awa-iti Domain. This area is included for practical purposes in this plan.

2.5 Administration & Management

The Awa-iti Reserves Committee, an elected committee of Council, is responsible for the day to day running of the reserve. Board members include appointed representatives from netball, cricket, rugby, pony club, tennis, the A&P Show Association and the Library as well as three elected members of the public.

2.6 Regional Context

This reserve is significant as the Little River community is a gateway to the Peninsula. The reserve services the sporting needs of Akaroa and Wairewa Wards. Little River is a rural based community and is unique in Banks Peninsula in being situated inland rather than on the coast. The open space is well utilised, and the Domain is the main active and passive recreational area for the Little River community. It is the setting for the large annual show and other public events. The use of this reserve is more traditional and community based than reserves in surrounding areas.

One third of the Little River population is aged between 30-50 years. There are few teenagers and elderly. Twenty-two percent of the community plays team sports. Almost 50% of residents

would like more recreation facilities in the area and of this group 26% would like squash courts. Walking is one of the most popular recreational activities¹.

3 Management of Reserve Environment

3.1 Vegetation Management

The rows of large mature deciduous trees running along the reserve boundaries are a very attractive feature of the reserve. These trees were planted in approximately 1910 and need to be maintained. Some young trees have been planted under the mature trees as part of a gradual replacement programme. An arborist carried out form pruning in 2003, with more planned in and 2004.

The black poplars behind the library are leaning over the road and need to be pruned back. There is also a dead silver birch on the roadside that should be removed and replaced.

The turf is maintained by voluntary mowing. It is in very good condition and playable throughout the winter since the community installed field drains. The mowing tractor at the reserve is due for replacement.

There are no significant weeds problems in the reserve.



Figure 1: An avenue of deciduous exotic trees lines the Reserve

Objectives:

To maximise the benefits of trees in the reserve while addressing any adverse effects on reserve neighbours.

Policies

See General Policy 5.8 Tree Management.

- Maintain mature avenues of large deciduous trees along the eastern and western boundaries of the domain in a healthy condition.
- Maintain the turf in a condition suitable for cricket in summer and rugby in winter.

Actions

¹ Banks Peninsula District Council Recreation Plan 1997).

- 1. Employ qualified arborists to evaluate tree health, develop a maintenance programme and carry out form-pruning and tree maintenance work in the reserve.
- 2. Replace the mowing tractor.
- 3. Remove and replace the dead silver birch tree from the roadside.
- 4. Fell or prune the poplars where they create a traffic hazard.

4 Management of Services, Structures & Facilities

The following overall objective applies to all development taking place at Awa-iti Domain. Subsequent objectives and policies in this section refer to specific structures, services or facilities.

Objectives

To manage the built environment to high aesthetic, functional and safety standards.

Policies

- 1. To design new structures and/or repair existing structures in a manner sympathetic to the visual amenity and historical values of the reserve.
- 2. Locate buildings in a manner that does not intrude on the domain's open space.

4.1 Access Roads & Car parks

The reserve can be accessed from:

- The formal entrance off SH 75 at the war memorial arch.
- Through the sealed service / recreation entrance from the tennis courts just south of the road bridge over Okana Stream.
- Through the show entrance off Port Levy Road through a farm gate.
- Through a pedestrian access gate next to the Community Centre.

The Play-centre uses the service entrance to gain access to the facilities on the reserve, accelerating wear and tear on the driveway.

Objectives

- 1. Manage the impacts of vehicles on the reserve.
- 2. Provide and maintain access roads to a level that is adequate for the level of activity on the reserve.

Policies

- 1. See General Policy 6.11 Vehicle Access and Parking
- 2. Manage vehicle access to avoid damage to the playing field and the domain surrounds.

Action

Reseal the service entrance through to the public toilets.

4.2 Signs & Visitor Information

There are no current issues regarding signs and visitor information.

Policies:

Refer to General Policy 6.9 Signs.

- Develop a consistent image and sign hierarchy throughout the reserve in keeping with Banks Peninsula District Council sign standards and styles and/or in accordance with NZ Standards for Recreational Signs and Outdoor Recreation Symbols NZS 8603: 2005.
- 2. Keep the number of signs within the reserve to a necessary minimum.

4.3 Memorial Gate

The Memorial Gate on State Highway 75 was constructed in memory of fallen soldiers from WWII and is classified as a heritage site by the Historic Places Trust. The Council has a conservation plan for the gate, which is a defining feature of the reserve.

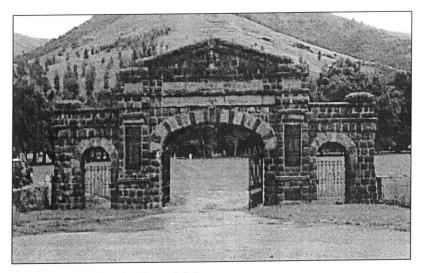


Figure 2: The historic Memorial Gate.

Objective

Ensure that any development in this section of the reserve is sympathetic to the heritage values of the Memorial Gate.

Policy

Carry out the Council's Conservation Plan for the Memorial Gate.

4.4 Coronation Library

The Coronation Library was built in 1911 and is in fairly good condition. It has some architectural significance and is classified as an historic building. It is currently used for committee meetings, the toy library and by the show secretary on show days. The toy library, which is open on a fortnightly basis, is very popular with the local community. The exterior could be enhanced with sympathetic planting of native shrubs.

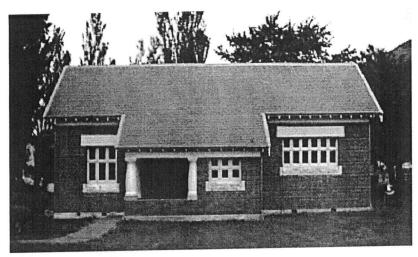


Figure 3: The historic Coronation Library building

Policies:

- Refer to General Policy 5.13 Heritage Conservation
- Maintain Coronation Library and its environs with respect for its historic integrity and aesthetic appeal.

Action:

Continue to apply for grants to maintain the library.

4.5 Wooden Storage Shed

The wooden storage shed contains a storage area, changing room and shower and a toilet with external access. The building used to be used during rugby training but is now used mainly by the Show Association.

Objective

Remove redundant structures where they have no significant historic value, foreseeable usefulness or have become unsafe.

Action

Demolish and remove the building from site within the life of the plan.

4.6 Toilets

The concrete toilet block has a utilitarian appearance. It contains three toilets and one stainless steel hand basin in the women's section and two toilets, a urinal and a hand basin. The toilets are in good condition. A water tank sits on a stand behind the toilet block.

Objective:

To provide safe, hygienic and adequate toilet facilities.

Policy:

 Maintain the toilets in a safe and hygienic condition, with regular cleaning and maintenance. 2. Ensure that the design of any new toilet structure is aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the Reserve and the locality.

4.7 Clubrooms

The clubroom building is a Lockwood-style structure with a corrugated iron roof. It has a verandah around the outside and a disabled-accessible access ramp. The building contains a bar, kitchen, furniture and toilets, with a cold-store built onto the back of the clubrooms. The building is maintained by the clubs that use it. It receives an annual warrant of fitness from the council. With the decrease in organised sport the clubs may not be able to cope with maintenance responsibilities. In that case the committee may need to take greater responsibility for the clubrooms.

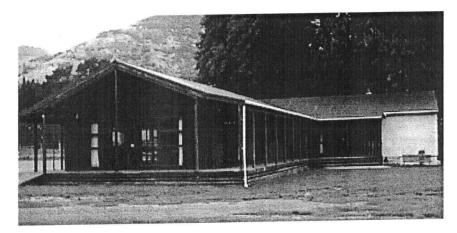


Figure 4: The sports clubrooms

Policy

Maintain the clubrooms in sound condition.

4.8 Tennis Pavilion

The tennis pavilion is a weatherboard structure with a corrugated iron roof and a courtside verandah. Although it is currently unused, the committee does not see any value in disposing of it. The building needs to be repainted.

Policy

Maintain the building in a safe and sound condition, repainting as necessary.

4.9 Tennis Courts

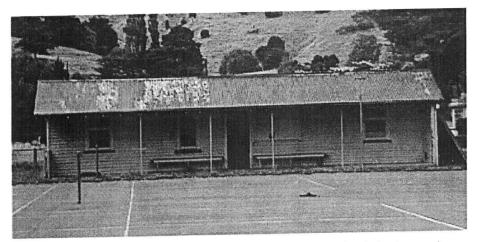


Figure 5: The tennis courts with the tennis pavilion building in background

There are three tennis courts on the reserve. The surface is in fair condition but the lines need to be repainted. The nets are removed in winter when the courts are used for netball. The netting fence along the northern side needs repairing. Local youth also use the tennis courts for skateboarding.

Policy

Maintain the tennis courts in a playable condition

Actions

- Repair the fence along the northern boundary of the courts.
- 2. Repaint the court lines.
- 3. Re-surface the courts.

4.10 Floodlights

The three floodlights are used to light one of the rugby fields during evening training.

Refer to General Policy 6.13 Sports Field Lighting

4.11 Fences & Gates

The boundary fence running along the eastern boundary parallel to State Highway 75 needs to be replaced. The fence along Port Levy Road is also in poor condition. The Board has been quoted \$3000 for its repair.

Objectives

- To erect barriers or fences where necessary to protect reserve values.
- 2. To erect fences or barriers to ensure that the reserve can be used safely.
- To erect fences or barriers where necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of reserve use on neighbours.

Policies

See General Policy 5.10 Fencing

 Maintain fences throughout the reserve in sound condition, painting wooden fences where necessary.

Action:

1. Approach the Council for the costs of re-fencing SH 75.

4.12 Stock Sales Yards

An annual Ewe Fair held on the sale yard site is one of the main sources of income for the Reserve Management Committee. The stock yards are grazed under lease for the rest of the year.

Policy:

- 1. Maintain the current grazing lease.
- Maintain the old wooden building in the sales yards in a safe and weatherproof condition.

Action:

Amalgamate the stock yards into the Recreation Reserve.

4.13 Outdoor Furniture

There are three wooden outdoor picnic table / seat sets and 3-4 garden seats near the sports pavilion.

Policy

1. Maintain outdoor furniture in a safe and attractive condition.



Figure 6: Shady picnic table.

4.14 Rubbish management

There are Council rubbish bins on site. The Council is moving toward a 'carry in – carry out' approach for rubbish in reserves.

Objectives:

To limit disposal by the public of rubbish at the reserve.

2. To preserve the reserve's values through the necessary collection and disposal of waste.

Action

- 1. Phase out the rubbish bins and encourage a 'carry-in carry out' policy.
- 2. Where the reserve is used for events, organizers are to be responsible for the collection and disposal of the rubbish their events generate.

4.15 Show Buildings

The concrete block show buildings are used to store equipment for the annual A & P Shows. They are maintained by the Show Association.

4.16 Playground

The former play equipment was removed because it did not comply with safety standards. There is local support for a playground in the Domain with a priority on providing for older children.

Policy

Provide for the construction of play equipment in the Domain subject to compliance with current NZ safety standards for equipment and fall areas, adequate shade, child-safe visibility and sufficient funding.

5 Reserve Use

5.1 Camping

Camping is not generally allowed at the reserve but the board will consider camping on a case by case basis for groups such as campervans and clubs, but not for individuals.

Objectives

Allow limited camping provided adverse effects can be addressed.

Policy

Refer to General Policy 6.18 Group Camping.

5.2 Passive recreation

Several groups use the reserve for picnics during most weekends and some Christchurch businesses use it for end of year social functions.

Objectives:

Continue to encourage passive recreation at the reserve

5.3 Sports

The senior cricket team plays at the reserve throughout summer, with touch rugby also a summer sport. Soccer is increasing in popularity, with netball and tennis gradually declining. The reserve is used for school sport during the week and for annual school sports days. The reserve has two rugby fields, used by five junior teams (up to and including the U13 age

group) and a Senior B team. The Rugby Club pays \$300 per year to contribute to the maintenance costs of the turf and facilities.

Objective

Allow and encourage sporting activity in Awa-iti Domain

Policy

Continue the arrangements made with existing sporting codes and the local school, subject to demand.



Figure 7: The sports fields at Awa-iti Domain

5.4 Events

The reserve is used for a variety of events on both a regular and one-off basis, with the main annual event the A & P Show. The reserve is also the base for an annual cycle race, vintage car club event and occasionally a circus.

Objectives

Continue to encourage the use of the reserve for public events

Refer to General Policy 6.0 Use of Reserves and 6.3 Exclusive Use

5.5 Leases

The committee gains revenue by leasing other reserves that it administers. The only lease within the reserve itself is a grazing lease of the stockyards.

6 Schedule of Works

Action	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Future
Maintain turf		.:				ě.						
Remove dead or hazardous trees												
Employ qualified arborists to develop a tree-maintenance programme.												
Employ an aborist to maintain the trees in the avenues in keeping with the maintenance plan.												
Maintain toilets in a clean and hygienic condition.												
Remove wooden storage shed									,			
Seal service entrance												
Maintain buildings												
Repair tennis court fence												
Repaint lines on tennis courts												
Repair gate at Port Levy entrance								12				*
Re-fence SH 65	~											
Amalgamate sales yards with reserve												
Estimated Annual Cost								V-F				

7 Purpose & Scope of Reserve Management Plans

The Banks Peninsula District Council, as an administering body under the *Reserves Act* 1977, is required under section 41, to prepare and keep operative management plans for all Recreation Reserves under its control. A management plan outlines the Council's general intentions for use, development and maintenance of a reserve. The purpose of management plans 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, then 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 this repeated public notification process, provided that the management plan specifies which areas are to be available for lease. The same applies to any development proposed within Recreation Reserves.

The procedure for preparing management plans is as follows:

- 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.

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 values:
- (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.

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".

Under the BPDC District Plan, the 'anticipated environmental results' for Recreation Reserves are:

- The maintenance and enhancement of the recreational and natural amenity values of reserves;
- The control of development and the impacts of public use of reserves, in a manner that ensures that their character is enhanced or remains substantially unchanged;
- That development and activities in recreation reserves do not create significant adverse effects on the amenity values of adjoining sites.

The BPDC Reserves Strategy² further identifies five key values that should be provided for in

² Rob Greenaway and Associates 2002

the management of reserves. These values, identified also by the *Reserves Act 1977*, are recreation, landscape, heritage, ecology, and culture. The weight given to each depends on the degree to which each is present or can be provided for in a reserve.

The overall objectives for the Reserve are therefore:

- To provide suitable amenities to enable the proper use and enjoyment and of the reserve.
- To identify, preserve and where appropriate enhance the existing recreational, landscape, heritage, ecological, and cultural values and features of the reserve.
- To preserve and enhance the scenic and spatial values which contribute to the reserve's attractiveness.
- To ensure that any new activities in the reserve do not unduly compromise the
 existing use, enjoyment and amenity of the reserves.
- To ensure that any development on the reserve, such as buildings, facilities and car
 parks, should not be located or be of a design or scale that detracts from any
 recognised use, values or amenity of the land or of adjoining sites.

This management plan sets out how the Banks Peninsula District Council intends to achieve the intended purposes of its Recreation Reserves. Management plans are normally subject to ongoing review and regular, comprehensive reconsideration at ten-yearly intervals. Public comment will be sought on each management plan each time it is reviewed.

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 specific reserve management plans and are intended to be read with those 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.

For any issue on a reserve in Banks Peninsula District that is not classified as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, the *General Policies* apply.