

Central Hawke's Bay District Council – Report

TO: Council
FROM: Utilities Manager
DATE: 25 March 2010
FILE REF: PRO7-302
SUBJECT: OUEPOTO RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.0 SUMMARY

In August 2004 a reserve management plan was completed for Ouepoto Reserve which is situated at Aramoana Beach, this plan with drawings is included with this report along with a proposal from the Aramoana Environmental and Educational Charitable Trust.

Council has not carried out any work in the Ouepoto Reserve since the completion of the reserve management plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

THAT

Council work with the Aramoana Environmental and Educational Charitable Trust to produce an updated reserve management plan for the Ouepoto Reserve, with a view of developing a long term agreement with the Aramoana Environmental and Educational Charitable Trust for managing the reserve on Councils behalf.

REASON

The objective of the decision will contribute to the following community outcomes:

- *A lifetime of good health and wellbeing – by contributing towards healthy living and meeting people's leisure needs.*
- *A strong prosperous and thriving economy – by providing facilities which attract residents, visitors and tourists.*
- *Safe and accessible recreational facilities to enhance healthy lifestyles by promoting physical exercise.*

3.0 BACKGROUND

In August 2004 a reserve management plan was completed for Ouepoto Reserve, Council has not completed any work in the Ouepoto Reserve since the completion of the reserve management plan and the reserve is currently left as an unmaintained area.

The Aramoana Environmental and Educational Charitable Trust wish to establish a park consisting of the Aramoana Woolshed, a water front camp site, the Ouepoto Reserve and the Te Angiangi Marine Reserve. Available for picnickers, day visitors and school groups, to enjoy the opportunities Aramoana has to offer.

Since Council completed the reserve management plan the rare New Zealand Dotterel has been found nesting in the dune area at the front of the reserve, so any work and management plan will need to consider these nesting areas as well as developing pest control programs in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

The Department of Conservation has agreed with the trust to provide a landscape architect to produce a concept plan for planting the reserve.

4.0 OPTIONS

Option 1

Council work with the Aramoana Environmental and Educational Charitable Trust to produce an updated reserve management plan for the Ouepoto Reserve, with a view of developing a long term agreement with the Aramoana Environmental and Educational Charitable Trust for managing the reserve on Councils behalf.

Option 2

Council considers the contents of the 2004 Ouepoto reserve management plan. Hold workshops to decide options for the Ouepoto reserve with an aim of presenting a reserve management plan to the community for consultation as part of the 2012 – 2022 LTCCP.

5.0 FINANCIAL

The 2009 – 2019 LTCCP has \$10,864.00 budgeted for work towards a car park for Ouepoto reserve.

6.0 CONSULTATION

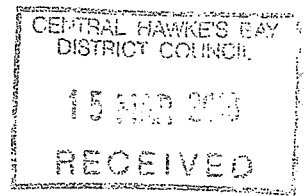
Internal

Chief Executive
Community Properties Manager

7.0 STRATEGIC LINKS

- LTCCP 2009 - 2016

Brett Way
Utilities Manager



Aramoana Environmental & Education Charitable Trust Project

Introduction

Aramoana Environmental & Education Trust are creating an environmental education centre at Aramoana Beach in Central Hawkes Bay. This will comprise of the historic Aramoana Woolshed, a water front camp site, the Ouepoto Reserve and the existing Te Angiangi Marine Reserve. The Trust plans to seek funding of approximately \$ 50,000.00 to help complete the establishment of the facilities and equipment needed to complete stage one of this project. Stage 2 will be to help upgrade the Ouepoto Reserve which will be landscaped in such a way as to protect and re-establish native vegetation, ecosystems and enhance the natural beauty of the area.

Location and History of Aramoana

The Central Hawkes Bay coastline is blessed with a series of picturesque beaches extending from Kairakau in the north to Whangaehu in the south. In the middle of the coastline is Aramoana beach, which is approximately an hour's drive from Hastings and 40 minutes from Waipukurau. Aramoana is a very special place with a wide coastline bordering a secluded bay of beaches and tidal rock pools. The beach has been home to the McHardy family for over 100 years and has been treasured by thousands of holiday makers who in the past 40 years have used the camping ground. The camping ground has since been removed and the land developed into 60 sections by Shoal Beach Development.

Project Aim

To establish a park like environment consisting of the Aramoana woolshed and nearby Mc Hardy family campsite (stage 1), The Ouepoto Reserve (stage 2) and the existing Te Angiangi Marine Reserve. This planned development would recognise the need for good public access to the beach front, and provide continued access for Tangata Whenua and local people who have enjoyed the Aramoana coastline for centuries, while welcoming new visitors to enjoy what Aramoana has to offer. It is public space that the trust would like to have as widely used as possible by groups who feel a sense of kinship with the area. The trust would like to see it used by picnickers, day visitors, school groups, families and people who like to enjoy the passive and active opportunities that are on offer at Aramoana.

Project components

- 1- Campsite
- 2- Aramoana Woolshed
- 3- Te Angiangi Marine Reserve
- 4- Ouepoto Reserve

Campsite

The McHardy family own a small campsite just to the south of the Aramoana woolshed which is sited on the water front of the Te Angiangi Marine Reserve, this campsite has a shower block containing two male and two female showers, a toilet block and kitchen/ cooking facilities. Next to the campsite is a public picnic area which also has toilets. This campsite is ideally suited for groups of up to thirty school children at a time to camp and as such the Aramoana Environmental Charitable Trust has entered into a user arrangement with the McHardy family for school camping during school terms. The trust intends to buy tents and equipment so children can learn to camp and cook in the outdoors, it is not the intention to open the area up as a public camping ground but rather to provide an educational camp for school groups and youth clubs which funding from Government Departments and agencies is unavailable.

Aramoana Woolshed

Aramoana woolshed was built soon after September 1906 and is a large L shape building of heart kauri timber and weatherboards with a lantern light and ventilation on both ridges. It is an impressive structure sited closely to the beach and set against the steeply towering but eroded hillsides. The gables have three-light windows, an unusual arrangement reflecting the influence of the architect, Ludolf Georg West. There eight stands on the shearing board and in the wool room there is an old hydraulic wool press, one of only three in New Zealand. The building is built on two levels. On the first level are the sheep holding pens and shearing stands and on the second level which opens onto the beach, is the loading area. The woolshed has a Historic Places Trust classification 2.

The woolshed is an historic building that provides a unique opportunity for the community to develop a wonderful asset. The woolshed lends itself to be redeveloped as a multipurpose visitor/education centre and has recently undergone an \$180,000.00 upgrade.

Te Angiangi Marine Reserve

Te Angiangi Marine Reserve was established in August 1997 and is managed by the Department of Conservation, it is the only Marine Reserve located in Hawkes Bay. It covers an area of about 1.3 square nautical miles (446 hectares), extending 1 nautical mile offshore from the mean high water mark between Blackhead and Aramoana beaches. The reserve protects a typical piece of Central Hawkes Bay Coast. At low tide a broad rock platform is exposed, giving access to a fascinating variety of marine life. Distinctive plants and animals include the golden limpet, and large beds of Neptune's necklace, pink coralline seaweeds and eel grass. Small fish, crabs, juvenile paua and kina inhabit the rock pools.

The woolshed will be the gateway to the Marine Reserve. It will be the place where visitors can access further information on the Reserve and it will include major interpretation of the reserve. The actual Reserve does not require any further development; however, it is beneficial to link it to the wider park like concept including the Ouepoto Reserve and the Aramoana Woolshed and campsite.

Ouepoto Reserve

Douglas and Mary McHardy offered the crown an area of beachfront land that adjoined their property "Ouepoto Station" at Aramoana beach. The area was offered to the Crown with the intention that in time it be established as a Reserve for public use. At that time there was no legal public access south of the Ouepoto stream. There were conditions of gift, namely no buildings on the land other than for public utility, i.e toilets, and no camping be allowed at any time.

The land known as the Ouepoto Reserve is a long strip of land adjacent to the northern end of Aramoana beach. It is 933 meters long on the beachfront boundary and covers some 4.9573 hectares in area. The area is generally flat in contour, and is close to the Ouepoto stream at the southern end of the Reserve. Most of the reserve consists of dunes covered in marram grass, with a small wetland. The rare New Zealand Dotterel (rarer than Kokako or Kiwi) has been found nesting in the dune area at the front of the reserve in the last two years. Central Hawkes Bay District Council formally adopted a Reserve Management Plan in August 2004, which sets out options for the enhancement of Ouepoto Reserve.

The Ouepoto Reserve will be developed in such a way that access for day visitors is provided while protecting and re-establishing native vegetation, protecting ecosystems and enhancing the natural beauty of the area. The planting of native trees, flax and grasses appropriate to the area, such as northern rata, ngiao, taupata, titoki, cabbage tree, flax, pingao ect will enhance the environment and provide safe breeding environments for both wetland and sea birds and other wildlife. Nesting areas will need to be studied, and pest control programmes established in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and the Hawkes Bay Regional Council. Access to the Reserve will be in selected areas for pedestrians off the beach. A manmade track will be established through the reserve to preserve both the wetlands and the fragile sand dunes from harm and encourage pedestrian access to view the natural environments.

The Department of Conservation has agreed to provide a landscape architect to produce a concept plan for planting the Reserve.

Schools will be encouraged to plant the native seedlings they have propagated in their Regional Council shade houses as part of their curriculum in the Reserve.

Governance Structure

A Charitable Trust has been established to govern the Aramoana project and the Trust Deed states there will be no less than 5 and no more than seven Trustees, six Trustees have signed the Trust Deed on the 26 September 2009 and have had the Trust registered.

The Trustees are as follows:

- Richard Lee- Chairman
- Rod Hansen- Sectary/ Treasurer
- John Roil
- Garth Cassidy
- Mark Williams
- Garth Eyles

A function of the trust will be to develop and fund educational packages in conjunction with government agencies and other organisations on coastal marine life, surf life-saving, first aid, beach safety, coastal environment, east coast farming history, and Maori history. The Trust will also be responsible for funding the ongoing operational costs of the woolshed and camping area.

Benefits to Hawkes Bay Region

Each year there are an increasing number of children and families visiting the Te Angiangi Marine Reserve and a significant number of schools from throughout Hawkes Bay currently use the Marine Reserve for educational purposes. During the summer period it is common for up to three schools to visit Te Angiangi Marine Reserve each day. The growing increase in visitors and interest in the Reserve has prompted the need to establish an educational centre and camp adjacent to the Reserve. The educational centre and camp will add to the experience of visiting the Reserve as further educational material will be displayed in the woolshed and will be made available on DVD's for school groups and individuals to enjoy. The woolshed will also ensure that information is accessible on Te Angiangi Marine Reserve regardless of weather conditions and it will provide a place of shelter in the often unpredictable coastal environment.

The woolshed will also allow children to access information on a variety of other topics. In particular there will be significant emphasis on early east coast farming which has had a large impact on how our region functions today. Despite Hawkes Bay being a rural province, our research shows that many children have not experienced the workings of a woolshed nor do they have an understanding of the history of farming. In addition, there is significant Maori history at Aramoana that needs to be told and passed down through the generations. Educational information will be displayed on the history and planting of the Ouepoto Reserve and wider coastal environment. The Police have also committed to using the centre to educate individuals and school groups on beach safety.

The woolshed will also provide a physical location that can be used as an emergency centre for a central operational base where rescue teams can be established and families can wait during a rescue emergency, the Aramoana Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade has a 4wd machine based at the location and the Department of Conservation has a surveyed vessel and qualified operator at Aramoana that can be used for rescue operations.

Once developed, Ouepoto Reserve will provide visitors to the beach an opportunity to take a walk through the track to view native plantings. It will also allow for native vegetation to be re-established, ecosystems to be protected and the natural beauty of the area to be enhanced. A major benefit of Te Angiangi is the opportunity to study marine life in a near natural state and observe the changes that take place once fishing has stopped.

Conclusion

The Trustees of the newly formed Aramoana Environmental & Education Charitable Trust are committed to establishing this venue at Aramoana. The Trustees believe that it is vital for the historic woolshed to be redeveloped into a Community Educational Centre for the residents of our region and beyond. It is also important that school children have areas of affordable lost cost camping as research released by ECOED recently showed school camps costing between \$30.00 and \$90.00 per child per day which is unsustainable. In Central Hawkes Bay we have a magical and pristine coastline which we want to share with the wider region and visitors to Hawkes Bay as well as local schools. There is every reason to believe that this project will become a destination where visitors can participate in truly educational experiences whilst at the same time enjoying the recreational activities Aramoana has to offer. Therefore Aramoana Environmental & Education Trust seeks \$50,000.00 for the establishment of this project for the future social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of our district.

Rod Hansen

General Manager
Aramoana Environmental & Educational Trust.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

**ARAMOANA ENVIRONMENTAL & EDUCATION CHARITABLE
TRUST
2338046**

This is to certify that ARAMOANA ENVIRONMENTAL & EDUCATION CHARITABLE TRUST was incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 on the 7th day of October 2009.

Neville Harris

Registrar of Incorporated Societies
15th day of February 2010





Certificate of Registration

Aramoana Environmental & Education Charitable Trust

This is to certify that Aramoana Environmental & Education Charitable Trust was registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005 on 24 February 2010.

Registration number: CC43682

Sid Ashton
Chair

Trevor Garrett
Chief Executive