



NEWSLETTER 2

FEBRUARY 2005

Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan

Management Plan Review

Management Plans are agreements between the community and the council about how a regional park will be managed. A management plan is required under the Local Government Act 1974 and the Reserves Act 1977. The current management plan was written in 1993.

The review process is now well under way. Submissions were received from the community during October to December. We had an enormous response; over 300 submissions covering a variety of issues and suggestions for its future use!

During this initial planning phase we also had a public forum where people were asked to share their ideas and suggestions for the future use of the park. We collated the information gathered at this forum and put it to the council as a single submission. Thanks to all those people involved.

Submissions have been bound into two volumes which were given to the Landcare Committee of Council for consideration. All of these have been discussed in recent council workshops to assist us in the drafting of the plan.

The draft is being prepared at present and will be ready for the second phase of consultation later in the year. You will have another opportunity to make submissions and participate in this collaborative effort for Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP)'s future management. Watch this space for further information!

This is an exciting time for QEP and we hope you will continue to participate in the planning processes.

What you have said makes Queen Elizabeth Park special!

- The coast, beach and dune systems
- Wide open spaces
- Walking and cycling tracks
- Opportunities for horse riding
- Picnic tables and areas
- Ancient rolling dunes
- Remnant and regenerating native plants
- Native birds and fishes
- Maori history and pa sites
- Site of Camp Russell, where American troops were stationed during the second world war
- Tramways Museum
- Wetlands
- Peace and tranquillity

What's on at Queen Elizabeth Park?

As part of the Greater Wellington Regional Outdoors Programme there are several great (and free!) events coming up in the Park. First up is the Poetry at the Pickle Pot on Sunday 27 February. Several Kapiti Coast poets will be entertaining visitors, and there will be a guided sunset walk after the reading.

This is just one of several events in the park this summer. For more details refer to your copy of Greater Wellington's Regional Outdoors Programme or visit our website www.gw.govt.nz

Unfortunately the Give Kids A Ride Day planned for Sunday 13 March has been cancelled.

Key Dates for the Management Plan

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Oct - Dec 2004 | Initial consultation | May - July 2005 | Consultation on the draft plan |
| Dec - April 2005 | GWRC prepares draft plan | July - August 2005 | Hearing submissions |

News from QEP

There are new information boards at each of the entrance points to Queen Elizabeth Park. Those at Paekakariki, Whareroa and Raumati are housed in kiosks for durability and easy identification. The panel at MacKays Crossing entrance will be placed in a permanent site once the new ranger office is built.

The boards detail interesting information about the park, a map indicating walking tracks and a brief history of the park.

To give the panels that “Kapiti Coast feel” and celebrate the creativity on the coast, four poems were selected from several submitted to Greater Wellington, by local poets.

A different poem has been used on each panel. The Poetry in the Park event mentioned earlier has developed from this initial concept.

A verse from Three Paekakariki Fragments by Micheal O’Leary depicts the panel at the McKays Crossing entrance:

*moonlight shimmered brightly, dancing lightly
on the nighdark water*

*outside the cliff-descending train window
between*

*Muri and the taonga-filled memories of the
historic, present-day*

Paekakariki Station

*the railway could be travelling through any
exotic, romantic, love-enhanced landscape
in the world..... - and it is!*

Make sure you get to QEP to view the panels and here this, and other local poetry on Sunday 27 February, at the Pickle Pot from 4:30pm onwards

Did you know?

There have been trials undertaken in Queen Elizabeth Park to restore dune lands at the Raumati South end of the park using a combination of Pingao and Spinifex (sand binding native plants). It has proved a difficult exercise, particularly as Pingao is not easily re-established, however we will keep trying to bring it back into the park.

Pingao is a native sand-binding sedge, coloured a brilliant green and golden yellow or fiery yellow.

Pingao stands would have been found on almost every sandy beach from Northland to Rakiura. It is now limited to only a few remnant populations or where active replanting programmes have been established.

Pingao is only found in NZ and is one of our major native dune builders. Pingao stabilises the sandy coast by trapping wind blown sand between its leaves and around the base of the plant. The dunes that form are usually low and undulating, allowing the sand to move.

Pingao is also culturally significant because of its considerable weaving attributes. In many restoration projects local iwi and government bodies or organisations are working together to help re-establish this important plant. (For further reference www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/001~plants-and-animals/002~Native Plants/pingao)

Further Information

The following material provides more information about the Park and its values:

- The Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan
- The Queen Elizabeth Park Plan – Resource Information
- Regional Parks Network Plan (available in November).

You can find the information above at the Regional Council and Public libraries.

You can also visit our website www.gw.govt.nz or ring us on 04 381 7753.

If you do not want a copy of this newsletter sent in future please contact Eloise Page on 04 802 0327 or email eloise.page@gw.govt.nz.

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Publication date February 2005