



**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Only Marlborough

Tirimoana Reserve Management Plan

October 2017

Tirimoana Reserve Management Plan

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Tēnā koe

Ngā mihi nui kia koe i runga i ngā āhuatanga o te wā.

Te Ātiawa are the manawhenua of Totaranui (Queen Charlotte Sound), Kura Te Au (Tory Channel) and environs. As such, Te Ātiawa are kaitiaki within this rohe and carry a responsibility for ensuring that the mauri or essential life principle of the natural world is maintained.

*Tamarau nō runga i Te Rangi heke iho ki raro ki te
whakamarimari te tari ai te hurahanga o te tapora o Rongo-u-eroa*

Taku kuia e! Taku kuia e!

Te Ara o taku tupuna o tohia ai au

Ko Te Ātiawa nō runga i Te Rangi

Te toki te tangatanga e te rā

Taringa mango, ko tō kete nge

Ue hā! Ue hā!

Tamarau from the heavens above came down
to make love and waited until he could have Rongo-u-eroa to wife

She is our Kuia! She is our Kuia!
This therefore is the consecrated pathway of my ancestors

Te Ātiawa from the heavens above

The adze (of Tamarau) which can remove the very sun from its axis

Tirimoana Reserve is located within Te Ātiawa rohe and is of deep cultural significance to Te Ātiawa.

Tēnā koe

GLOSSARY

Amenity	Amenity can broadly be understood to mean the pleasantness or desirability of a place or environment.
Amenity values	Means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes (as defined in the RMA).
DOC	Department of Conservation.
Kaitiaki	Means guardian or trustee, typically of an environmental area or resource.
Pou	Refers to a cultural marker, such as a post, pillar or pole.
RMA	Resource Management Act (1991).
Rohe	Tribal areas for iwi and hapū.
Rongoa plant species	Refers to indigenous plant species that have a medicinal use.

PREFACE

Located within the inner Marlborough Sounds, the Tirimoana Reserve (hereafter referred to as Tirimoana Reserve) exists as an asset to Tirimoana and Anakiwa residents, and the wider community. This reserve forms a part of the broader network of reserves within the Marlborough Sounds, which are managed by the Marlborough District Council for the public good of the community. This reserve management plan is important in this regard, as it provides guidance for the use, management and development of the Tirimoana Reserve going forward.

In summary, this management plan acknowledges the value of the Tirimoana Reserve area as a recreational and public access link between Department of Conservation (DOC) managed land and the coastal environment. The provisions that follow therefore provide for reserve activities that are consistent with the use and enjoyment of the reserve for recreational purposes. This plan also seeks to promote the recreational and ecological values within the reserve area, and recognises that the reserve should be managed in such a way that it supports and reinforces the amenity of the surrounding residential community. Accordingly, the Plan discourages reserve activities that will conflict with the recreational values of the reserve, and which have the potential to reduce the amenity value of the site and the surrounding environment.

This reserve management plan therefore provides a framework for guiding and informing the appropriate use of the Tirimoana Reserve for current and future generations.



Photo above: Tirimoana

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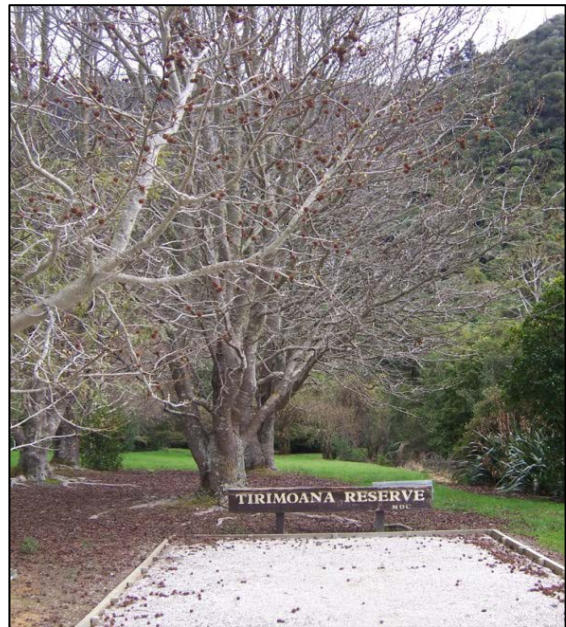
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1. Introduction

1.1 Reserve Management Plan Purpose

This reserve management plan promotes the use, enjoyment, maintenance and protection of the Tirimoana Reserve. It will act as a guide for Council Officers when making day to day operational decisions pertaining to the use and management of the reserve, and as a source of strategic guidance for decision makers when considering the future development and protection of the reserve. This plan has been prepared in accordance with Reserves Act 1977.

This plan contains objectives and policies that support the appropriate management, protection and future development of the Tirimoana Reserve. As part of this reserve has been classified as being a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act, this plan provides for the recreational use and enjoyment of the reserve area. The reserve management objectives and policies contained within this plan therefore collectively provide for, and seek to enhance and promote the use of the reserve for recreational purposes. Furthermore, the use of the reserve for activities that have the potential to conflict with public access expectations associated with the reserve, and which have the ability to compromise the amenity of the reserve or the surrounding community, have been actively discouraged.



2. Background

2.1 The Reserve Environment

The Tirimoana Reserve is located within a small coastal community located at the head of the Queen Charlotte Sound, which includes Tirimoana and Anakiwa. This area is estimated to contain approximately 140 dwellings, and is an area popular with tourists as it provides a key access point to the Queen Charlotte Track. The reserve itself is predominantly utilised by residents of the local area.

The reserve spans approximately 1.2ha in area. It includes a flat, predominately open area to the east, and a more sloping and tree clad area to the west. The sloped area to the west eventually adjoins the slopes of Mt Oliver, being land managed by the Department of Conservation. An unnamed stream (locally known as the Tirimoana Stream) runs down the flanks of Mt Oliver through the reserve. In effect, this stream creates a physical boundary between the dwellings that sit adjacent to the south, south-western boundary of the reserve,

and the primary flat open space area of reserve land. A footbridge over the stream provides a public access connection between these two areas (as illustrated within the photo below). The north-eastern reserve boundary also adjoins a series of established residential dwellings. The close proximity of the surrounding dwellings, in turn, creates a semi-urban reserve setting, where the urban-residential environment interfaces with the surrounding rural area.



Photo above: The reserve vista looking south towards the stream footbridge.

The main vehicle access point for the reserve is located at the end of Thompson Place. While other potential vehicle points exist off Tirimoana Terrace, Okiwa Place and Anakiwa Road, reserve topography, vegetation and the existence of the stream, practically limit the use of these alternate access points for vehicular use. The Tirimoana Terrace access point nevertheless connects with a portion of unformed road reserve, which runs through the reserve dividing the flatter area of the reserve to east, from the more vegetated and elevated area of the reserve to the west.



Photo above: The reserve vista looking west towards Oliver Place.

2.2 Recent History and Use

The Tirimoana Reserve previously formed a part of the Thompson farm. The reserve was subdivided from the farm in 1976 as part of a Transport Nelson development. Upon establishment, trees including blackwoods, gums and pines were planted mainly on the flatter part of the reserve. In the years that followed, some of these trees began to dominate the local landscape and were subsequently cut down. Whilst the flat area of the reserve remains open and sparsely vegetated, stands of trees remain on the fringes of the reserve and signal the transition of the reserve into the heavily vegetated areas of the Okiwa Bay Scenic Reserve and DOC managed land located to the north.

The community has traditionally assisted in the maintenance of the reserve – planting (principally along the stream banks), undertaking weed control and carrying out vegetation maintenance. This has been carried out both by individuals, and as part of community working bees. At the time of preparing this plan, a local community based contractor undertook the reserve mowing and maintenance on behalf of the Council. Many property owners also actively maintain parts of the reserve immediately adjoining their own properties. Given invasive weed species exist as a significant ecological threat to the native vegetation within and surrounding the reserve, the Council has assisted the community with weed identification and control methods in support of the maintenance of the reserve. As a consequence of community and Council efforts, the flatter area of the reserve emits a park like feel and has created a high level of amenity within the immediate area.

The flatter area of the reserve is typically utilised for passive forms of recreation, such as walking, dog exercising, picnicking, and is an open space area that can be enjoyed by local residents as well as visitors to the area. A petanque pit and small structure

acting as a community library/book exchange have also been established on the reserve area adjacent to Tirimoana Terrace. Following past issues with camping on and vehicle access over the reserve, the vehicle access from Thompson Place has subsequently been blocked off with a locked chain as a means to discourage inappropriate reserve use.

The reserve has also previously been utilised as a public green waste disposal area, which was practice for a number of years.



Typically greenwaste was deposited on the flat area of the reserve (accessed by vehicle via Thompson Place), stockpiled and periodically burnt. However, as this activity breached the permitted activity performance standards for Local Recreation zoned land within the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan, this activity was appropriately ceased. A greenwaste stockpiling and periodic mulching operation was also subsequently trialled on the reserve, but was also soon after ceased.

Although public consultation undertaken as part of the preparation of this reserve management plan has signalled that there is both the desire for, and opposition to the reestablishment of a greenwaste disposal area within the reserve amongst community members, any application to establish such a facility would need to be formally considered by the Council via the resource consent process. As part of the consideration of any such resource consent, this reserve management plan would be considered.

3. Statutory Context

A number of statutory directives have informed the development of this reserve management plan. The core pieces of legislation that have informed the content of this plan, and the process in which it has been developed, include the Reserves Act 1977 and the Resource Management 1991. An overview of statutory directives emanating from the Reserves Act 1977 and the Resource Management Act 1991 is provided below. Also discussed, are the key reserve management considerations that emerge from these statutory directives.

3.1 The Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act is the key piece of legislation for administering public reserves. The Reserves Act sets out how reserves are to be managed by administering bodies. The purpose of the Reserves Act is to provide:

Section 3 *‘... for the preservation and management of areas for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand possessing –*

- a) *recreational use or potential, whether active or passive; or*
- b) *wildlife; or*
- c) *Indigenous flora or fauna; or*
- d) *environmental and landscape amenity or interest; or*
- e) *natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific, educational, community, or other special features or value”.*

It also seeks to ensure, as far as possible:

- the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna
- the preservation of access for the public to and along the sea and coast, and riverbanks
- the preservation of representative samples of all classes of natural ecosystems and landscape, and
- promote the preservation of natural character of the coastal environment and the margins of lakes and rivers.

Section 16 of the Reserves Act further stipulates that reserves be classified in accordance with their primary purpose, to ensure that the control, management, development, use, maintenance and preservation of a reserve is appropriate. It also mandates that a reserve be administered for the purpose for which it has been classified, and for no other purpose. Section 41 further stipulates that a reserve management plan be established to ensure the use, enjoyment and maintenance of a reserve in line with the purposes for which it has been classified.

As signalled on the aerial photograph below, the flat area of Tirimoana Reserve is classified as recreational reserve¹. The western, more vegetated and elevated area of the reserve is, in contrast, classified as a local purpose reserve.

¹ The area of Recreation Reserve signalled above, also incorporates areas of Esplanade Reserve immediately adjacent to the stream running through the site.



Photo above: An aerial photo overview illustrating primary reserve classification areas.

The Reserves Act specifies that recreation reserves are for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public. This includes the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreation activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside. In contrast, reserves classified as local purpose reserve are more generally intended for the purpose of providing and retaining areas for local purposes.

In the case of the Tirimoana Reserve, as it encompasses land classified for the purpose of recreation reserve, local purpose reserve and esplanade reserve, it is important that the area is holistically managed in a manner that promotes compatible land use activities across the wider reserve. This reserve management approach is outlined within the objectives and policies for the Tirimoana Reserve, contained in Section 4 of this Plan.

3.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The Resource Management Act (1991) is the key piece of legislation for managing environmental resources in New Zealand. The purpose of the RMA is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The Council, as an administering body and owner of reserve land, is required to comply with provisions of the RMA, as well as the documents prepared under it, including Regional and District Plans. At the time of preparing this Reserve Management Plan, two resource management plans were applicable to the Tirimoana Reserve: (1) The Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan, and (2) The Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan.

Under the operative Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan, the area of the reserve classified as a recreation reserve, has been zoned to allow for recreational use. In

contrast, the portion of the reserve classified as a local purpose reserve is zoned to allow for more rural forms of use.

The Council has also recently released the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan. Although, at the time of preparing this reserve management plan, the Marlborough Environment Plan remained subject to formal plan making processes under the Resource Management Act, it is recognised that the new zoning proposed for the reserve area similarly anticipates providing for recreational activity within the area classified as recreational reserve. It also allows for more rural forms of land use activity on the area classified as a local purpose reserve. It is nevertheless noted that both the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan and the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan, allow for passive forms of recreational activity across the Tirimoana Reserve (in its entirety) as a permitted activity, and therefore without the need for resource consent.

In summary, the statutory provisions discussed above provide the foundation for this reserve management plan.

4. Reserve Management Approach

4.1 Reserve Management Issues

In addition to legislative requirements and considerations, a range of other factors have informed the development of this reserve management plan, including historic reserve management practices, community aspirations and expectations, and practical operational reserve management considerations. When considered together, these factors highlight two key reserve management issues that need to be reconciled through the provisions of this Plan. The first issue concerns the potential disposal and stockpiling of community greenwaste within the reserve, and the second issue concerns the need to provide for reserve activities that will maintain the amenity of the reserve and surrounding residential community.

Greenwaste Disposal

Greenwaste disposal remains an issue with the Tirimoana and Anakiwa community, and the Marlborough Sounds more generally. Where small pockets of increased residential density are situated within the rural environment, they have the potential to result in residents having reduced access to core community services in close proximity to their homes. At the time of preparing this plan, the lack of local greenwaste disposal facilities for the Tirimoana and Anakiwa community existed as an example of this.

Given the historic use of the Tirimoana Reserve for community greenwaste disposal in the form of stock piling and burning, and more recently stock piling and greenwaste mulching, and given the lack of communal greenwaste disposal alternatives, a number of local residents have expressed a desire to establish a community greenwaste stockpiling and composting area within the reserve area. Visual evidence also suggests that practice of

small scale greenwaste dumping within the bush area of the reserve, and on the banks of the stream that runs through the reserve, remains an issue within the reserve.

The use of the Tirimoana Reserve as a communal greenwaste disposal area exists as an issue for reserve management as it has the potential to sit in tension with existing and potential recreational use and public access values attributed to the site. It also has the potential to sit in tension with the potential ecological enhancement of the reserve by leading to the spread of weeds that may inhibit indigenous plant regeneration within the reserve area. The potential for adverse amenity impacts should also be acknowledged, with the establishment of a community greenwaste disposal area having the ability to threaten the amenity of the site, as well as the surrounding residential environment.

The Protection of Reserve and Community Amenity

Amenity can broadly be understood to mean the pleasantness or desirability of a place or environment. Reference to amenity values therefore refers to those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes. In the case of the Tirimoana Reserve, the reserve itself, the dwellings which adjoin the reserve, and the community more broadly, all have a level of amenity that needs to be recognised. While Council zoning standards set standards and rules to ensure that amenity values are protected, it is also important that this reserve management plan protects the amenity of the reserve and the associated amenity enjoyed by surrounding residents.

4.2 Objectives & Policies for the Tirimoana Reserve

The following objectives and policies for the Tirimoana Reserve, respond to the reserve management issues signalled above. They also provide a suite of objectives and policies that collectively provide for, and seek to enhance and promote the use of the reserve for recreational purposes. Further, the use of the reserve for activities that have the potential to conflict with public access expectations associated with the reserve, and which have the ability to compromise the amenity of the reserve or the surrounding community, have been actively discouraged. Together, these objectives and policies will guide and inform the appropriate use of the reserve for current and future generations.

Objective 1 – Maintain the amenity of the Tirimoana Reserve environment.

Policies:

- To control and limit reserve activities, and reserve use, that has the potential to reduce the amenity of the reserve area.
- To control and limit reserve activities, and reserve use, that has the potential to reduce the residential amenity of surrounding dwellings.
- To control and limit the extent of public vehicle access within the reserve area.
- Ensure that any signage established within the reserve area is sympathetic to the amenity of the reserve, as well as the surrounding environment.

These policies recognise that the use and development of the reserve area has the potential to affect the amenity of the reserve, as well as the surrounding environment.

It is therefore important that any activities that occur within the reserve area do not diminish the existing amenity enjoyed by visitors to the reserve, and the residents of the surrounding community.

Objective 2 – Enhance the amenity of the Tirimoana Reserve environment.

Policies:

- Enable reserve activities, reserve use, structures and/or developments that have the potential to increase the amenity of the reserve area, and the surrounding the environment.

This policy recognises that some activities and developments within the reserve area have the potential to improve the amenity of the reserve, as well as the surrounding environment. It is therefore important to support activities and developments that enhance the existing amenity enjoyed by visitors to the reserve, and the residents of the surrounding community.

Objective 3 – Encourage the use of the reserve for passive and active forms of recreation.

Policies:

- Recognise the value of the site as a publicly accessible recreational link between land managed by the Department of Conservation and the Coastal Marine Area.
- Maintain public access to the reserve area.
- Restrict activities that would result in a reduction of public access to the reserve area.
- Provide for facilities on the reserve to support recreational use, where appropriate.
- Restrict reserve activities where they will detract from the use of the reserve for recreational purposes for extended periods.

The Council will encourage the use of the Tirimoana Reserve for both passive and active forms of recreational activity. Broadly, passive recreation refers to a range of voluntary and unstructured recreational activities. In contrast, active recreation generally refers to more co-ordinated or organised recreational activities. Providing for recreational activity on the Tirimoana Reserve may potentially result in the Council investing in the development of the reserve to support recreational use (e.g. in the form of landscaping, public toilets, car parking, and play equipment). However, whenever considering and/or planning such development, supporting reserve management policies recognise that there is a need to consider the amenity values enjoyed by the surrounding community.

Objective 4 – Enhance ecological values within the reserve.

Policies:

- Recognise the value of the site as an ecological link between land managed by the Department of Conservation and the Coastal Marine Area.
- Actively discourage the unmanaged disposal of greenwaste within the reserve to reduce weed spread.

- Support and allow for an indigenous planting policy for the Tirimoana Reserve and promote weed eradication.
- Allow for the ecological enhancement of the riparian edge through the introduction of a Riparian Margin Planting Plan.
- Ensure that any riparian planting is consistent with the Riparian Planting Plan contained in the North Marlborough Planting Guide (2011).

By managing and controlling the establishment of weeds on the reserve, and by planting native plants and restoring areas of existing native vegetation, it will promote the enhancement of natural character and ecological values within the reserve. In turn, this will attract native birds and insects of the reserve, and enrich the local ecosystem. Appropriate planting along the riparian margins of the stream at Tirimoana Reserve has the potential to further enhance the ecology of the stream. Such planting provides shading for the stream and helps to keep the water cool. This is important as many of our native aquatic insects cannot tolerate temperatures above 19°C. The cooler temperatures and lack of direct sunlight also inhibits the growth of filamentous algae, which reduces habitat availability when present. Many indigenous fish species, including those that are present in small streams around the Marlborough Sounds, rely on terrestrial insects as a food source. Having an indigenous riparian vegetation stream boundary provides a habitat for insects which become a food source for fish. In turn, by having indigenous vegetation planted along the riparian margins, it completes the natural food web.

Objective 5 – Work collaboratively with the Tirimoana and Anakiwa community to establish a weed free reserve environment.

Policies:

- Recognise the importance of the Tirimoana and Anakiwa Residents Association in establishing a weed free reserve environment.
- Realise opportunities to support community efforts to control and management weeds within the Tirimoana Reserve area.

The support of the Tirimoana and Anakiwa community will be essential if the Tirimoana Reserve is to become weed free. Where opportunities exist to support community driven weed management initiatives within the reserve, the Council will collaborate with the community to support the success of weed control and weed management interventions.

Objective 6 – Recognise the role of Te Ātiawa as kaitiaki of the Tirimoana Reserve.

Policies:

- Realise opportunities, where they exist, to work in partnership with Te Ātiawa as guardians of Tirimoana Reserve.
- Actively support Te Ātiawa by managing the Tirimoana Reserve in a manner that provides for the appropriate use of the reserve for current and future generations.

- Allow for the establishment/erection of pou and/or interpretation panels that recognise the cultural significance of the reserve to Te Ātiawa and/or the profile of Te Ātiawa.
- Allow for the planting of rongoa species within the reserve.

Māori have a deep commitment to the protection, management and use of the Reserves within their Rohe. For Māori, whenua (land) is life itself, it unites kinship and individual identity and provides a link between the past, present and future. Land is therefore an integral part of Māori culture and is the basis of tribal territory and mana. As a consequence it is important the reserve be managed in an appropriate manner.

Objective 7 – Recognise the Tirimoana/Anakiwa Residents Association as a key stakeholder in the future use and potential development of the Tirimoana Reserve.

Policies:

- Provide opportunities for Tirimoana/Anakiwa Residents' involvement in activities and projects centred in the Reserve.
- Support the Tirimoana and Anakiwa Residents Association where their actions will advance the objectives of this Reserve Management Plan.

The Council recognise that the Tirimoana and Anakiwa Residents Association are key stakeholders in the reserve, and therefore commit to supporting them where community actions promote the appropriate use and development of the reserve.

Objective 8 – Prohibit activities from occurring that would have a significant adverse impact on the amenity, ecological, cultural and/or recreational values of the Tirimoana Reserve.

Policy:

- Prohibit the lighting of fires within the Tirimoana Reserve.

Where an activity or the use of reserve land is recognised as being inconsistent with the intended purpose of a reserve, and contrary to the objectives and policies that guide the appropriate management of a reserve, such an activity will be considered inappropriate. In the case of the Tirimoana Reserve, given the Council's intent to protect ongoing public access to and within the reserve, to promote the site for recreational use, and to enhance the amenity of the reserve and the surrounding environment, the lighting of fires is considered to be contrary to the objectives and policies of this plan and considered to be an inappropriate activity with the reserve.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, this reserve management plan provides guidance for Council officers, resource management decision makers and reserve users, and is intended to ensure the appropriate use and management of the Tirimoana Reserve for current and future generations. The reserve management objectives and policies that form the basis of this management framework recognise the value of the reserve as a recreational and ecological link between the Coastal Marine Area and DOC managed land, and provide for the use, enjoyment, maintenance and protection of the reserve in a manner consistent with these values.

This Plan also advances a holistic approach to the management of the Tirimoana Reserve. It does this by connecting the management of the primarily open space area of recreation reserve, with the management of the more inland and vegetated area of local purpose reserve. This management approach aligns with the guidance provided by the Council's resource management planning provisions, which allows for passive forms of recreational activity to occur across the entire Tirimoana Reserve area.

In accordance with section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977, this reserve management plan will remain in a state of continuous review in order to ensure that the plan can be adapted to changing circumstances and increased/evolving knowledge.