

### 6.1 **Historical Analysis of the Adventure Playground**

Up until the late 1950's this area formed part of Gisborne's refuse disposal tip. In 1974 Gisborne Jaycees sent the initial project plan to the Gisborne City Council after the area was tentatively approved by the Gisborne City Council. The Gisborne Jaycee Project Plan suggested that the Adventure Playground *"should be planned as an attractive option in the recreational area it occupies - and as a stimulating and challenging area for children - designed with relatively simple but engaging play form and set in a carefully designed setting which creates a natural environment for children to enjoy"*.

The site was decided suitable for a playground although it had been used as a refuse tip. It was decided that although the area had been largely reclaimed in the past few years, the type of filling would, if anything, encourage growth of trees and shrubs. A man-made lake was made and the excavated soil was used to form contoured areas over the whole site. Gisborne Jaycees officially opened "Adventureland" on Saturday December 11th 1976. In 1978 a number of ducks were donated to the pond. Ducks have inhabited the Adventure Playground lake ever since.

1981 saw the miniature train hit the Adventure Playground. It was repaired and made operational by the Lions Club with the intentions of running it at the Adventure Playground. The miniature train has remained a popular facility of the Playground. In 1983 bumper boats were introduced to the Adventure Playground lake adding to the variety of play experiences available to children at the Adventure Playground. This lake (once full of nuisance weeds) is kept free of weeds through a Bio-Clear water treatment system.

### 6.2 **Site Characteristics of the Adventure Playground**

The coastal landscape of Centennial Marine Drive is a result of interaction between natural and cultural forces. The Adventure Playground is very much connected to this landscape but the site has been modified to cater for the purposes to which it has been allocated. A sewage plant lies adjacent to this reserve behind screening. The park has a gentle undulating landscape. This reflects its previous use as a rubbish dump.

It is covered in grass. Norfolk Island Pine trees are the most prominent form of vegetation.

A lake has been created in the western end of the reserve. This is not a natural feature of the reserve. The lake provides habitat for wildfowl and amphibians, and provides water recreation for the reserve users. The lake is also a natural progression of the surrounding aquatics (The Pacific Ocean and the Olympic Pools). The dune landscape has been heavily modified, although beach access from the Adventure Playground is only interrupted by Centennial Marine Drive and the sand dunes adjacent to the beach.

The reserve is strongly influenced by its beach environs from the Norfolk Pines to the sandy ground and the salty sea air. The geology of the Adventure Playground is younger than 10,000 years. The area is made up of Holocene dune and beach deposits. This is a typical soil type common to Gisborne city and the surrounding area where dunes up to three metres thick form prominent parallel ridges from Whataupoko to the coast.

There is a groundwater resource beneath the Adventure Playground. The area is part of an unconfined aquifer known as the Te Harpara Sand Aquifer. This was formed from the accumulation of beach sands and the sand dune deposits over the last 4,000 years as a result of coastal progradation and forms the present dry land surface on the Poverty Bay East Coast.

The groundwater flow for the aquifer runs towards the ocean. The aquifer is predominantly recharged by rainfall and there is an annual seasonal fluctuation of about one metre between the winter high and the summer low. The quality of the groundwater is variable with higher salinity, chloride concentrations are found near the coast. The aquifer is susceptible to chemical and bacteriological pollution from; industry, horticulture, poorly designed septic tanks, and leaking sewer lines. In the vicinity of the Adventure Playground the aquifer can also be susceptible to saline intrusion from the sea due to long dry periods during summer and pumping stress

### **Climate**

Rainfall is approximately 1250-1500 millimetres. It is not well distributed through the year. Wet winters (sometimes flooding) often followed by drought conditions in summer. Much of the rain comes in heavy falls which may last for several days.

The prevailing wind is north-west which is normally warm and dry after crossing the ranges to the west. Winds from the north-east and south-east are also common but the region is below average in the country for windiness. (Summer sea breeze from the south-east can be uncomfortable).

The area is warm in summer and mild in winter. Mean temperature for July is 9 deg.C with mean daily maximum of 14 deg.C. Sunshine is approximately 2200 hours per year. All these factors make the reserve extremely desirable for coastal recreation, especially during the summer months.

### Soils

The soil of the Adventure Playground is formed from the new beach bordering the coast, known as Opoutama Sand. This is formed from the beach deposits of the nearest shore line. This includes parts of the foredune along Waikanae Beach both of which have been built up by the sea within the last 65-75 years. In its natural state the land is hummocky and ridgy.

The sands are stabilised by a close cover of weeds, sand grasses and shrubs including harestail, sickle grass, yellow sand coprosma, evening primrose and pohuhue.

The soil on the foredune under natural cover has a mat of dead roots underlain by a horizon of pale brown sand held together by a strong fibrous mat of both living and dead roots. Underneath is loose grey sand in which roots penetrate to about 30 cm.

Opoutama sand dries out badly in the summer and productivity is limited by deficiencies of moisture than by mineral nutrients. In winter the solid drains freely and the consolidated sands provide a strong firm surface. The site's recent history as a refuse dump will have seen this soil profile modified.

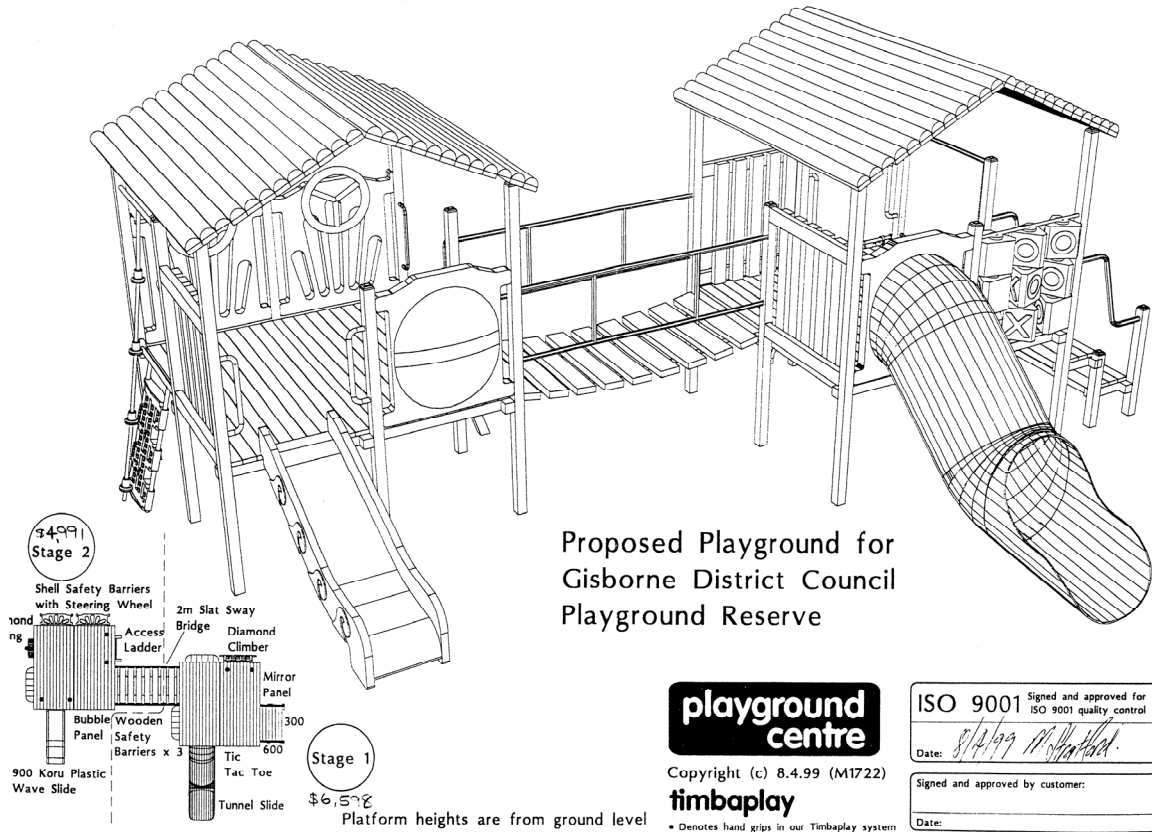
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### Vegetation

The Adventure Playground contains an abundance of mature tree species. These include;

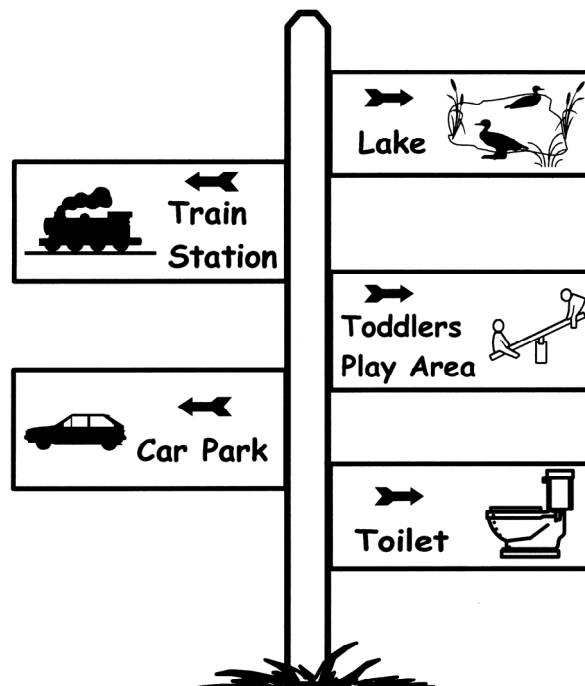
- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| - Oleaster        | - Norfolk Island Pine |
| - Ngaio           | - Tamarisk            |
| - Moreton Bay Fig | - Macrocarpa          |
| - Pine            | - Sheoke              |
| - Coprosma        | - Karo                |
| - Olearia         | - Pohutukawa          |
| - Cabbage Tree    | - Oleander            |

**6.3 Design Options for Early Childhood Play Equipment**



**6.4 Signage**

Below are examples of locational signage. These signs should be placed low in the ground, easily readable for children.



### 6.5 *Colour Scheme for Play Equipment*

A colour scheme has been developed by staff at Guthrie Bowron after suggestions were made by a Reserves Planner and the Reserves Supervisor. The colour scheme for the Adventure Playground play equipment comprise the following colours;

#### **Dulux Weathershield**

- Carnival Yellow
- Wildfire Red
- Ashley Blue      D      265
- Venice Blue      UD      332
- Perfect Purple      D      222