

3.0 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

3.1 Landscape Work

The Oval is a highly modified site. From its early origins the reserve has been used for a number of different recreational activities. Over the last fifty years the predominant usage of the reserve has been that of rugby and cricket.

As previously mentioned touch rugby has also become a recreational code played on the Oval. Played during the summer months, along with cricket, this has created an added pressure on the reserve. Combined with the ongoing problem of lay time (reserve resting time between codes) and the lack of a suitable irrigation system, the reserve has deteriorated over a period of time, making it unsuitable for its intended recreational use.

To rectify this situation, remedial earthworks and recontouring is needed to relevel the existing site. The feasibility of a suitable irrigation system needs to be explored if this problem is to be controlled in the future.

The construction of suitable seating is also a requirement at the Oval. With the popularity of the recreational codes who utilise the reserve, seating has become a concern, especially where older people and spectators are concerned. Seating would be beneficial from both a passive and active recreational perspective. Many people actively use the reserve as a short cut between Anzac Street and Stanley Road, seating around the edges of the playing fields could well be used as a resting point for passive recreation.

3.2 Vehicle Restraints

Vehicle access to the Oval Reserve is controlled by a locked gate. No vehicles will be permitted to enter the reserve unless carrying out maintenance or emergency services, or with the written consent of the Reserves Supervisor.

Any proposed development regarding vehicle access to the reserve must be accompanied with a detailed site plan set in the context of a landscape design plan for the whole reserve.

3.3 Tree Establishment

As previously discussed, the Oval Reserve has a number of tree species situated around the boundary of the reserve. The harsh environmental conditions during the summer months in the district, combined with the lack of water availability in the reserve make conditions unfavourable for plant growth. A planning strategy needs to be developed that will address this problem and work towards solving it on a permanent basis

3.0 Management Issues

3.4 Use of Facilities

At present the Oval Reserve has only one Council owned facility, that of the dressing sheds and toilet facilities. These facilities require constant upkeep and maintenance. All other buildings and their associated amenities surrounding the reserve are privately owned by ratepayers and sporting organisations. As with any reserve the amount of space and facilities is finite. As the Oval is classified as a Recreational Reserve, Council recognises the importance of maintaining the reserve as a multiple use reserve under which the community has the full right of access. Pirates Rugby Football Club also has a close association with the Oval. The Pirates Rugby Club Room is located on the Anzac Street boundary of the Reserve.

Presently, the Poverty Bay Rugby Union has the exclusive lease of the Oval grounds. This lease entitles the union to the use of the two major sports fields which are used by the major rugby and cricket clubs for both practise and scheduled games. Gisborne High School Old Boys has shown an interest in leasing part of the Oval for its development proposals which includes the establishment of tennis and netball courts. The exclusive lease that the Poverty Bay Rugby Union currently has on the reserve is due to expire in September 1996. With the completion of this Management Plan releasing arrangements with the Poverty Bay Rugby Union, Gisborne High School Old Boy's Rugby Club and Gisborne Old Boys – Marist Rugby Club will be initiated.

3.5 Reserve Users

The Oval Reserve is growing in popularity as a multi purpose sporting facility. As previously mentioned, cricket and rugby are the predominant codes which utilise the reserve along with the summer touch rugby module which runs from October through to March.

Although Council only owns one structural facility on the reserve, that of the toilet and changing blocks, a number of sporting organisations have club rooms located around the boundary of the reserve. Since 1948 Gisborne High School Old Boys Rugby Club (HSOB) have been based at 21 Anzac Street. In 1975 the club purchased an adjoining property, 23 Anzac Street. This purchase allowed the club to extend their current club rooms and provide for the establishment of a kitchen and bar facilities. Squash Courts were added to the club rooms in 1971 and currently the club boast a membership of 140 players. Along with Gisborne High School Old Boys two other major clubs are also situated on the Anzac Street boundary of the Oval Reserve, that being the Gisborne Old Boys – Marist Football Club and the Pirates Rugby Football Club which also is located within the immediate vicinity of the reserve. As previously mentioned the Oval Reserve is also used for junior and senior mercantile cricket during the summer months.

One of the prominent neighbours of the Oval Reserve is that of the Victoria Childcare Centre. The Oval is utilised by the centre as an outdoor recreational area, where children under the appropriate supervision are free to play and enjoy the open nature of the reserve. Gisborne Intermediate is also a user group which utilises the reserve on a regular basis, largely as an area for outdoor education based programmes.

3.0 Management Issues

3.6 Vandalism

In the past there have been major problems concerning vandalism within the boundaries of the reserve. The toilet blocks and the fences surrounding the Oval have been regular targets. While Council recognises that vandalism is an ongoing social problem which needs to be addressed at both a local and national level, we also recognise that the problem is hard to combat within the confines of a Management Plan. However, Council does recognise that there is a need to encourage local residents to play a more active role in reporting and discouraging any undesirable behaviour that they witness within Council reserves.