

2.0 Location Plans and Land Parcels

WAINUI BEACH RESERVE

Each separate land parcel has been numbered – see Annex 3 for legal status and full descriptions.



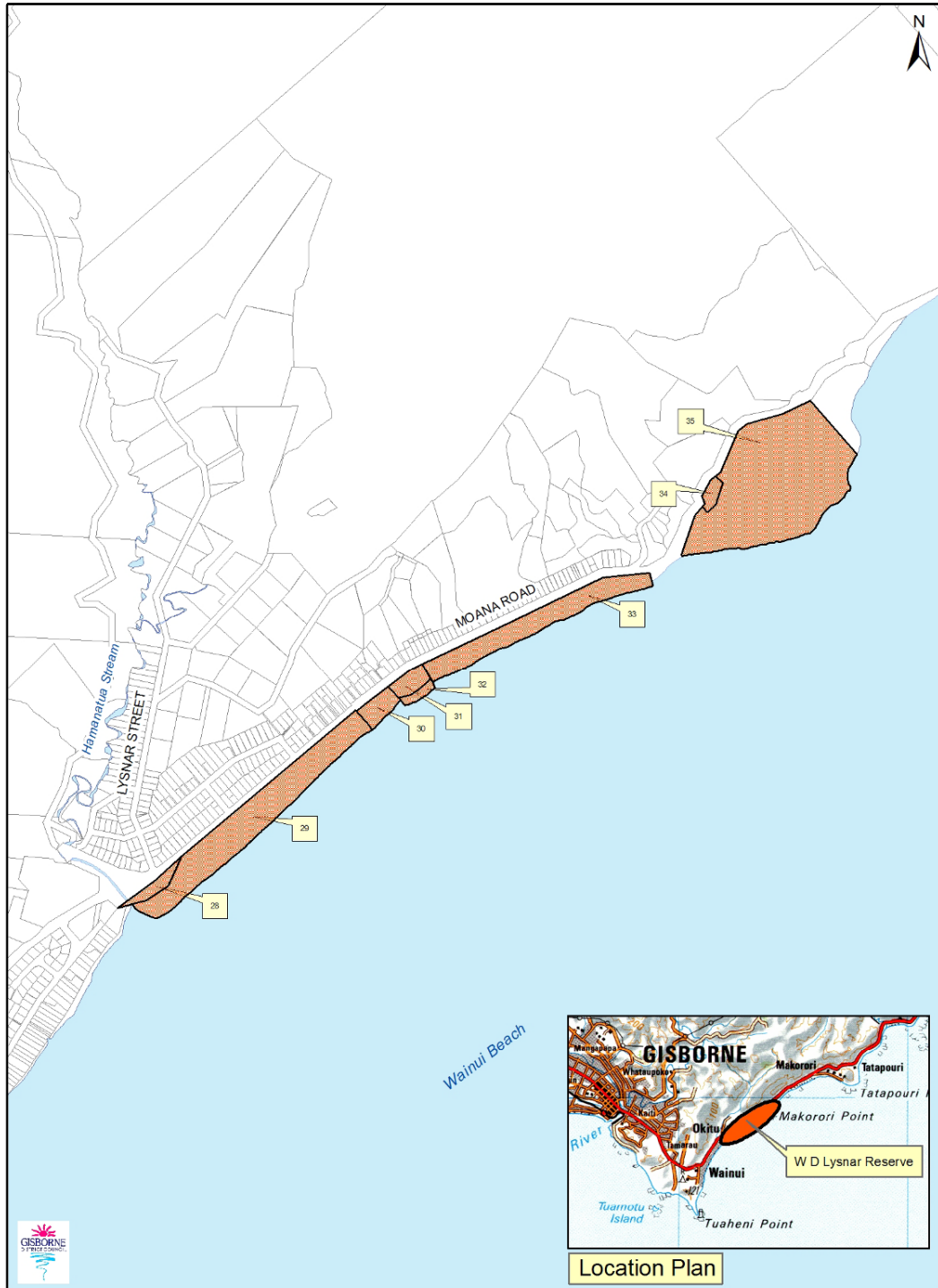
Wainui Beach Reserves
Land Parcels

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Plot Date - November 15 2007
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Scale 1:8,000

W.D LYSNAR RESERVE

Each separate land parcel has been numbered – see Annex 3 for legal status and full descriptions.



W D Lysnar Reserve
Land Parcels

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Plot Date - November 15 2007
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Scale 1:15,000

2.1 THE COASTAL LANDSCAPE

The coastal landscape is a result of interaction between natural and artificial forces and its dunes and foreshore are prone to erosion from high seas. The dune landscape has been built up from beach material. This factor, combined with waterways and sections of W.D. Lysnar Reserve being dug up to provide in-fill for the Whales Grave, has resulted in a hilly and hummocky landform. They are covered with a variety of vegetation including hard grasses, garden escapes, mosses, and indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs. Along the southern end of Wainui Beach where residential housing is a predominant coastal feature, some residents have planted trees such as Pohutakawa and erected fences, stairs and viewing platforms.



Figure 3: Wainui Beach with Makorori Headland in the distance

The Reserves are currently home to a range of introduced plants such as Norfolk Pines, Canary Island Palms, agapanthus, ginger and aloe plants. Dr. Singer, Dr. Brown and a third party planted Pohutakawa trees at the southern end of the beach over 50 years ago for 'beautification' purposes⁹. In 1977, Wainui Lions Club also planted Pohutakawa trees on the beachfront from 40 Moana Road to the Chalet¹⁰. Other residents removed many of these trees while young. In the late 1980's, Project Crimson planted Pohutakawa trees further northward, along the rest of the foreshore. Over the years, Cook County and the Gisborne District Council have also planted a variety of vegetation, particularly several species of pine trees. This vegetation was planted to provide some relief to the dune landscapes, while providing shelter and pleasant places for recreation. The vegetation also contributed to stabilising slopes and controlling erosion. The dune-care programme being conducted at various sites along W.D. Lysnar Reserve which includes the planting of Pingao and Spinifex grasses is one of the more recent Council erosion control measures¹¹.

⁹ Personal Communication, Joan Coates, Okitu resident since the 1950's.

¹⁰ Submission by long-time resident G. Collier, who was a member of Wainui Lion's Club.

¹¹ Personal communication with Reserve Management staff during 2007.

The northern-most part of the Reserve, Makorori Headland, plays an important role visually whilst traveling north along State Highway 35. The Headland dominates the view and serves to close the road. The sharp jagged outline of the Headland provides an interesting contrast with the Tatapouri Headland further north.

2.2 VEGETATION

The Council manages plant pests in Reserves according to the Gisborne District Regional Pest Management Strategy 2004-2009. The Reserves are part of wider regional species-led management programme, however, the Reserves are also subject to site-led management. This is where the emphasis is on the control of all pests that threaten values in a particular area. The sites may be specific places such as areas of bush, or may be wider habitats such as coastal dunes or wetlands. Site-led pest management is primarily in support of natural heritage (biodiversity) and is appropriate for the foreshore ecosystem comprising these reserves.

The sand dune vegetation includes a variety of exotic and indigenous species including sand grasses, weeds, horsetail, sicklegrass, *Coprosma acerosa* (sand-dune coprosma), *Oenothera* (evening primrose), *Muehlenbeckia complexa* (pohuehue), moss Bryden, *Coprosma repens* (taupata), *Genista monospermum*, *Pinus radiata*, *Pinus pinaster*, *Metrosideros excelsa* (pohutukawa), *Laqunaria pattersonii* (Norfolk Island hibiscus), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island palm), *Myoporum laetum* (ngaio), as well as many garden escapes including freesia, canna lily, *Tropaeolum* (nasturtium), agapanthus and *Oestospermum*.

The Headland includes introduced grasses, *Macrocarpa*, *Phormium colensoi* (mountain flax), Norfolk pine, *Cassinia leptophylla* (tauhinu), *Coriaria sarmentosa* (tutu), *Pimelea prostrata* (pinatoro) and *Muehlenbeckia complexa* (pohueue). The Tasmanian Blackwood plantation in the northern part of the reserve has a number of indigenous species growing in the under-storey. The under-storey is dominated by inkweed but indigenous species including kawakawa, karo (*Pittosporum cornifolium*) and karamu are present. The gum plantation adjacent to the Blackwoods also has some indigenous species present in the under storey including karamu, red matipo (*Myrsine australis*), kawakawa, hook grass, mahoe, karaka and puriri. Exotic tree species present include wattle, Blackwood and Blackberry. Indigenous species are present in the under-storey but are not yet growing in very high densities. On the cliffs and steeper parts of the Reserve, tutu, wharaki, kawakawa, karo, tauhinu and *Muehlenbeckia complexa* are present. A south-facing gully on the southern part of the headland contains a grove of Pohutakawa. Pampas plants are scattered through the exotic grassland on the coastal side of the Headland. Probably at least half of the

reserve is covered in exotic grass (rank grass)¹². Because of the exposure to strong salt laden winds, the effect on plant growth is severe on the seaward side.

2.3 WILDLIFE

Generally, fauna is low in number and species. A small black-backed gull colony is resident on the Makorori Headland. Their breeding area has been modified by erosion and it is not known if a colony still resides there. Seals and little blue penguins have been known to come onto the shore and whales have been stranded along the beach in the past. Birds such as black shag roost in the Pine and Macrocarpa trees on the northern most part of the Headland (outside of the Reserve), oystercatchers and kingfisher have also been noted in the Reserve.

With increased planting of indigenous vegetation, as well as the creation of ecological corridors from residents also planting appropriate indigenous species, it is likely that native birds and other flora and fauna will return to the area¹³. Rabbits are the main animal pests in the Reserves at this time and are controlled by Council according to the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2004-2009.



**Figure 4: Makorori Headland view north to Tatapouri Headland.
PHOTO BY: IAN TRAFFORD**

2.4 RESERVE USE

Since colonial times, W. D. Lysnar Reserve has mainly been used for recreation. Similarly, Wainui Beach Reserve has been used for public beach access, picnics and coastal view shafts. The following section describes the types of activities undertaken on the Reserves.

¹² Personal Communication, Don McLean and Andy Bassett, Department of Conservation, East Cape Conservancy.

¹³ As above and GDC, May 2007, Wainui/Okitu: *Landscape & Planning Assessment*

Descriptions of Use

The main recreation nodes within the Reserves are Access F (Stockroute), Access J (Hamanatua Stream), Access K (Wainui Surf Club), Access L (Pines), Access P (Chalet), and Access T (Northern Carpark).

The main part of the Reserve accessed from State Highway 35 (Lot 1 DP 2702 and Section 1-4, Block VIII Turanganui Survey) provides carparking, picnic spots, view points, walking tracks, and access for swimming, sunbathing, surfing, horse-riding and jogging opportunities. Informal tracks zigzag the dunes. Some of the tracks lead from the road or carparks, down to the beach. There is also an informal track running parallel to the beach, along the length of the dunes. This track is broken, with some areas requiring pedestrians to walk over dune-faces, across waterways and along the beach, before reconnecting with the track. Further, several waterways are present which also make the track difficult to traverse in places. The waterways can be muddy all year but particularly in the winter months.

The reserve land off Tuahine Crescent, Wairere, Murphy, Lloyd George, Oneroa and Pare Roads main function is to provide pedestrian access to the beach. Limited numbers of people recreate on these reserves themselves other than to watch the surf, or use the play equipment provided at 'Access G' off Wairere Road.

A small local population use the beach year round, however during the summer months there is a large influx of visitors. Makorori Headland and easily accessible dune and beach areas are becoming increasingly popular locations for wedding ceremonies.

Good surf can be found along most of the beach throughout the year with the numbers of local, national and international surfers at Wainui and other beaches on the East Cape growing each year. The term 'surfers' includes: short-board riders, long-board riders, body-boarders, body-surfers and sea/white-water kayaks.

The only patrolled area of the beach is located near the Wainui Surf Lifesaving Club (Inc.) which is busy during the summer with surfing, picnicking, sunbathing, swimmers and Surf Lifesaving associated activities. This area is also popular for children who wade in the nearby Hamanatua Stream. The water quality of the Stream is poor and does not meet New Zealand Recreation Water Quality Standards. Families also use the two children's playgrounds located north of the Stream.

One boat launch ramp is provided at the end of Pare Street. Vehicles must use the most direct route between the ramp and the sea for launching activities.

W. D. Lysnar Reserve and Wainui Beach have a long history as an area for horse riding. Historically, horse riding was popular when the Reserve was part of the Winifred Lysnar Riding School, before the land was given to the public as a Reserve. Today, riding horses along the beach at low tide is a regular feature and horse access to the beach is recommended at Access C (on the southern side of Wainui Stream), Access P (Chalet), and Access T (Northern carpark).



Figure 5: Horses on Wainui Beach seen from Wairere Road Access G.

With the increasing popularity of recreational activities such as 4-Wheel Driving and motorbikes, these groups have seen the opportunity to use areas of the Reserves accessed from State Highway 35, as off-road terrain. As their popularity has increased, Council has provided suitable sites within the District to safely use motorized vehicles/bikes. Unfortunately, motorised vehicles/bikes cause damage to fragile dune environments and can be a safety hazard to other reserve users.

Makorori Headland provides sweeping views of Wainui and Makorori Beaches as well as views south to Mahia Peninsula when weather permits. Car parking is provided at the base of the headland (the same carparking and facilities noted for parking at Northern Carpark in Annex 1). At the northern-most end of the Headland, along State Highway 35, is another closed vehicle access which is used by Council to access the top of the Headland for maintenance purposes. Reserve users are also crossing private property, located on W.D. Lysnar Reserves northern boundary, in order to access Makorori Beach from the Reserve.

Twenty metres north of the Headland track entrance, across State Highway 35, is Okitu Bush, which is managed by the Department of Conservation. The native bush found at Okitu Bush is of high quality and provides a good example of species which should be used to regenerate Makorori Headland.

2.5 Recreation Leases

The Wainui Surf Life Saving Club (Inc.) was established in 1937 when Winifred Lysnar approved the Club to use some existing sheds, and then later build clubrooms on the northern side of Hamanatua Stream¹⁴. The Club has a permit from the Council in terms of Section 32(1)(h) of the Reserves and Domains Act 1953. The permit covers an area of 130m² and was granted for the purpose of establishing clubrooms and water storage tanks. The lease was renegotiated in June 2006. It also included extensions to the Clubrooms and the option of relocating them to the south side of the Stream, if necessary, due to erosion, natural disasters or flooding. Leasing processes will be in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

The Club has a reciprocal arrangement with Council and is a pivotal institution within the Wainui community. The Clubrooms house public toilets that are maintained by Council. The Club maintains the exterior of the toilets as well as providing water to all public toilets within W. D. Lysnar Reserve. The Club shares electricity costs with Council.



Figure 6: Wainui Surf-Lifesaving Club from Access J (Hamanatua Stream) before the recent carpark upgrade.

¹⁴ Personal communication, Murray Robertson.