

5.1 Reserve Linkages

Waikirikiri Reserve is part of a Recreation Reserve system within the Gisborne District. There are three other Recreation Reserves in the Kaiti area. Most reserves quickly attract a sports code affiliation to the reserve. Gisborne is fortunate to have a number of recreation reserves to cater for a range of sporting activities.

Waikirikiri Reserve is in outer Kaiti surrounded by Neighbourhood Reserves and Recreation Reserves used for informal active recreation. Neighbourhood reserves and recreation reserves offer different recreation opportunities. Recreation Reserves provide for passive and formal/informal active recreation. The purpose of the recreation reserve zone is to enable the community to provide for its sports and leisure needs in such a way that the scale and organised nature of such activities does not create adverse effects. Where as Neighbourhood Reserves tend to be rather limited in size with landscaping and play equipment key facilities in providing for the surrounding neighbourhoods needs. The Neighbourhood Reserve zone provides for those reserves generally of limited size which contribute to neighbourhood amenity and provide openspace relief in the built environment. Passive recreation is provided for with an emphasis on children's play equipment, seating and landscaping. The purpose of this zone is to maintain and enhance amenity in the residential environment.

Martin Road Reserve is a Neighbourhood Reserve opposite Waikirikiri Reserve. This reserve has play equipment and provides a play area for children in the neighbourhood. Waikirikiri Reserve also has an area with a new play module and basketball hoop.

5.1a Reserve Linkages Map

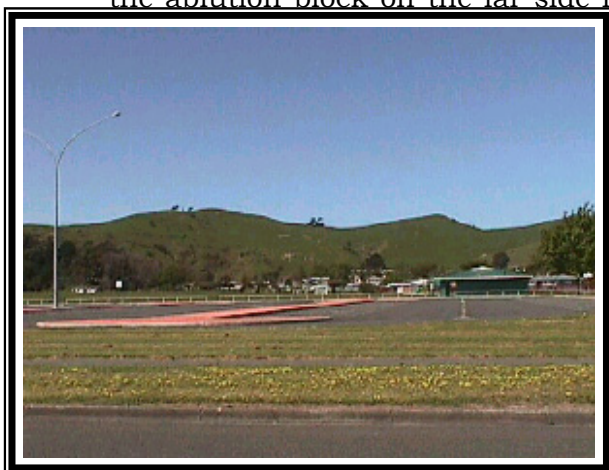
Waikirikiri Reserve and Other Reserves in Kaiti, Gisborne



5.2 Landscape Work

The area known as Waikirikiri Reserve was once a swamp. Council drained the reserve. Field tiles were laid (under the playing fields surface) to relieve the reserve of excess water, and the surface was mole ploughed. Unfortunately the ploughing (normally successful) had adverse effects. The reserve's soil (clay based), once ploughed the cracks in the surface grew rather than rejoining. These cracks had to be filled with sand. The four playing fields have since returned to quality sports fields.

A number of trees have been planted around the perimeter of the reserve. Trees planted are; Butia Palms along Dalton Street frontage , Titoki near the ablution block on the far side from Dalton Street, and Prunus trees



around the perimeter of the sports fields and at the corners of the car park. A small boxed garden has also been planted near the play equipment.

A carpark has also been provided with access off Tyndall Road. The carpark accommodates 140 carpark spaces including disability carpark spaces.

5.3 Tree Management

New trees have been planted at Waikirikiri Reserve. These trees should receive good management practices and will need to be pruned in an effective manner with correct pruning methods. Trees that have been planted are appropriate for the reserve and they should not need to be heavily pruned.

Picnic tables should be placed under these trees. As the summer months are very hot, there needs to be seating placed under the trees so that there is a shaded seating area for reserve users to sit.

The control of tree management is best exercised through tree policies (see 3.2.9 and 3.2.10). Trees are arguably the most significant form of vegetation used in the urban landscape, and can generate great benefits for urban dwellers and make reserves a much more pleasant area to recreate.

5.4 Vehicle Restraints

Council vehicles and other vehicles authorised by Council shall have access to all parts of the reserve. Other vehicles should park in the designated carpark area.

5.5 Use of Facilities

Waikirikiri Reserve is a recreation reserve with a number of facilities providing for the sports needs of the larger Gisborne community and facilities and furniture typical of a neighbourhood reserve catering more for the immediate community.

As already mentioned Waikirikiri Reserve has four sports fields. These are used by a number of different sports codes for formal sports programmes. The ablution blocks are normally locked (as when



unlocked they are mistreated, i.e. graffiti and vandalism), though different sports codes using the reserve are given keys to the block to open whilst their teams are utilising the sports fields. Furniture such as

seating and picnic tables are provided by the play equipment. The provision of furniture allows caregivers the opportunity to sit whilst watching their children play. Furniture is also comforting for reserve users partaking in passive recreation who wish to read, or simply rest and enjoy the open space away from the built environment of the residential area. Picnic tables are also a popular piece of reserve furniture. The play equipment area is used by members of the local community and spectators and their children.

The carpark allows for the parking of 140 vehicles. The carpark can full up during sports seasons.

The proposed fitness trail will also be a heavily utilised recreation facility. This facility will be popular with the local community and with sports team which have practices at the reserve.

5.6 Reserve Users

Gisborne reserves are most commonly utilised by members of the immediate surrounding neighbourhood. Neighbourhood Reserves are very popular. Even if members of the community are not physically using the reserve their presence is often appreciated as retaining openspace in the built environment.

Waikirikiri Reserve is a relatively new recreation reserve in Gisborne. This reserve has not yet been adopted by a specific sports code (most recreation reserves are, i.e Harry Barker Reserve has been adopted by Hockey and Cricket clubs). This can be attributed to the fact that the reserve is relatively new, and initially there were issues with the quality of the sports fields due to open cracks especially during the summer months of 1997/1998 (since have largely been resolved).

Council wish to encourage the adoption of the reserve by at least two sports code (one sports code for summer use and another for winter use of the reserve) for two main reasons. Firstly to encourage the frequent and continual use of the reserve. Secondly, adoption of the reserve by a sports code would hopefully discourage graffiti of the reserve because the reserve is being frequently used (as currently the reserve looks derelict, encouraging bad behaviour) and out of respect for the affiliated sports code and its members.

Waikirikiri Reserve has an area with play equipment and picnic tables. This encourages the immediate neighbourhood to utilise the reserve as a Neighbourhood Reserve, not just as a recreation reserve for formal active recreation (i.e. Rugby/ Soccer). Members of the immediate community also use the reserve as a thoroughfare to the opposite corners of the reserve, as a dog exercise area and to play golf etc.

Waikirikiri Reserve provides a large area of well maintained and landscaped open space providing relief from the built and densely populated residential area of Kaiti.

5.7 Vandalism

Waikirikiri Reserve suffers from constant vandalism. It is one of the worst hit reserves in the Gisborne District. Council recognises that vandalism is an on-going social problem, and this behaviour can expect to heighten in areas with social-economic concerns. Graffiti-ism can be seen as a youth subculture resistance to mainstream culture. A popular form of rebelling against society. Vandalism at Waikirikiri Reserve is an almost daily event.

The most prolific form of vandalism is graffiti or 'tagging'. The ablution block, picnic tables, and the play equipment is covered from top to bottom in graffiti. It is virtually impossible to remove the graffiti from the play equipment. The ablution block has recently been painted in 'anti-graffiti' paint. This painted surface makes the removal of graffiti easy (wipes off) and the colouring also deters graffiti (as it is difficult to see graffiti over the coloured paint). Unfortunately less than 24 hours after painting the ablution block the tagging started again.

Neighbours of the reserve have a rather neutral response to the graffiti. Reserves Planning was hoping to encourage neighbours to report to Council or to the Police when these offences were occurring. There was no interest from the neighbours to get involved. Many of the surrounding community did not believe that the graffiti affected their enjoyment of the reserve. Some members of the community did not notice the graffiti anymore as it is "everywhere" (graffiti is common around the Waikirikiri neighbourhood and the Kaiti area).



Photo 1 : The ablution block is always covered in graffiti.

Other forms of vandalism at Waikirikiri Reserve have been the attack of newly planted trees, breaking the ablution block locks and chains (the ablution block was originally left unlocked for reserve users to utilise, after misuse they remain locked until the reserve is used for organised sport), broken glass over the carpark and around the ablution block, and the scattering of rubbish.

Graffiti and broken glass at the reserve remains the main concerns for Council. Unfortunately the continual concerns with mistreatment and abuse of Waikirikiri Reserve facilities and furniture results in a lack of enthusiasm for future development and improvements for the reserve. A lot of money was spent by Council to develop the reserve, a lot is still unnecessarily being spent to maintain it.

Mitigation Practices to Control Graffiti

It has been found that the fast removal of graffiti discourages others vying for the space with their signatory tag. Lack of visibility reduces the incentive to tag, whereas graffiti that endures proliferates the quantity and so called esteem or recognition gained from it.

The best method for containing graffiti at Waikirikiri Reserve identified by Council is to paint out the graffiti. Educating teenagers and young children in the area is another method, or controlled access to tagging equipment such as responsible retailing of spray paint. Sting operations are another method, this is using newly painted walls to catch offenders. The paint out option has been identified as the least taxing on Council resources and achieves immediate results.



Photo 2 : Newly planted trees vandalised within 24 hours.

5.8 Maintenance Costs

Maintaining reserves at a high quality encourages reserve users and allows for quality recreation experiences. The quality of the experience is very important. Maintaining recreation reserves used for organised sport, especially ones such as Waikirikiri Reserve which suffer from constant vandalism and graffiti can be very expensive.

Below are the approximate annual costs to Council to maintain Waikirikiri Reserve:



5.0 Management Issues

1996	\$38,000
1997	\$32,000
1998	\$30,000
1999	\$30,000

From these figures Reserves Planning estimates an average of \$30,000 will be spent maintaining this reserve in the following years as well.