

Hahei Beach Ratepayers Association

E-mail : chair@haheiratepayers.co.nz

Submission to Thames Coromandel District Council Expression of Interest in Whitianga Skate Park Half Pipe

3 December 2020

Thames Coromandel District Council
Private Bag
Thames

Attention: Heather Bruce

Thank you for your email 18 November 2020 inviting us to submit an Expression of Interest (EIO) in the soon to be surplus Half Pipe currently located in at the Whitianga Skate Park.

1. Introduction

Our community strongly believes that the best place to relocate the Half Pipe is Kotare Reserve, Hahei. At this location, it will benefit not only Hahei, but also the whole of South Mercury Bay. In addition, it will provide an added attraction for the many tourists that visit our area over the summer.

In the EOI we set out how we have consulted with our community, how we plan to work with TCDC to relocate the Half Pipe, and finally, why we think Kotare Reserve, Hahei is the best place for it.

2. Consultation with our Community

When we became aware that the Whitianga Skate Park Half Pipe may be available for communities in our area, a small group of enthusiastic skaters got together to consider options of locating it in Hahei. They were aware that many younger members in our community would welcome it, but they were aware of the need to be sensitive to the needs of the entire Hahei community. The group was led by Anna Bartlett, a HHRA committee member. She was assisted by Tim Stephens and Jonny Niclas, members of the Hahei Tennis and Sports Club. We also consulted with Jeremy Lomas, our local Mercury Bay community board representative.

2.1. Public Meeting.

Following informal local discussion, we sent an email to our community, inviting everyone to attend a public meeting at Hahei Community Centre. A copy of the email invitation is attached. It was sent to 740 email accounts and was opened by 483 separate accounts. We also posted an invitation on our local Facebook page (Hello Hahei). The meeting was held on Thursday 19 November 2020 and 76 people attended.

The vast majority of those attending the meeting enthusiastically supported the project. For details of the issues discussed at the meeting, please see the attached Minutes of Meeting. Key points were

- **Growing Diversified Community** – Hahei and the surrounding South Mercury Bay is moving from being a transient bach-owner area to a vibrant diversified community with a complete range of people from retirees to families with young children. A good example is the local Pre-School Centre, Whenuakite Country Kids. There is a waiting list of approx. 70 tamariki, all of whom live

in South Mercury Bay. No doubt, these tamariki will be the future skateboarders and scooter riders, sharing the ramp with the holiday-makers who will enjoy the ramp as an alternative play option for their children. We, as a community, have a responsibility to our youth to provide facilities, where possible, to keep them active and off electronic devices, and skate ramps do that successfully.

- ***Serves the South Mercury Bay Area*** – The meeting was attended by people from Hot Water Beach, Hahei and Cooks Beach. All expressed a strong interest in coming to Hahei to enjoy the Half Pipe. It is unlikely they would travel to Whitianga to use the new Skate Park regularly.
- ***Concerns and Mitigation Strategies*** – At the meeting, some concerns were expressed. These were
 - ***Noise, particularly related to Memorial Garden*** – There was concern that skaters would disturb visitors to the Hahei Memorial Garden. At the meeting, it was agreed that by planting trees between the Half Pipe and the Memorial Garden, noise would be reduced.
 - ***Vandalism and disrespectful behavior.*** This was generally considered an outdated view of skateboarders but was agreed that the local skaters would encourage respect be shown at all times to those in the Garden.
- ***Enthusiastic Support*** – There was strong support at the meeting which was attended by people from Hahei, Hot Water Beach and Cooks Beach and Coroglen.

3. Hahei Community Group Support

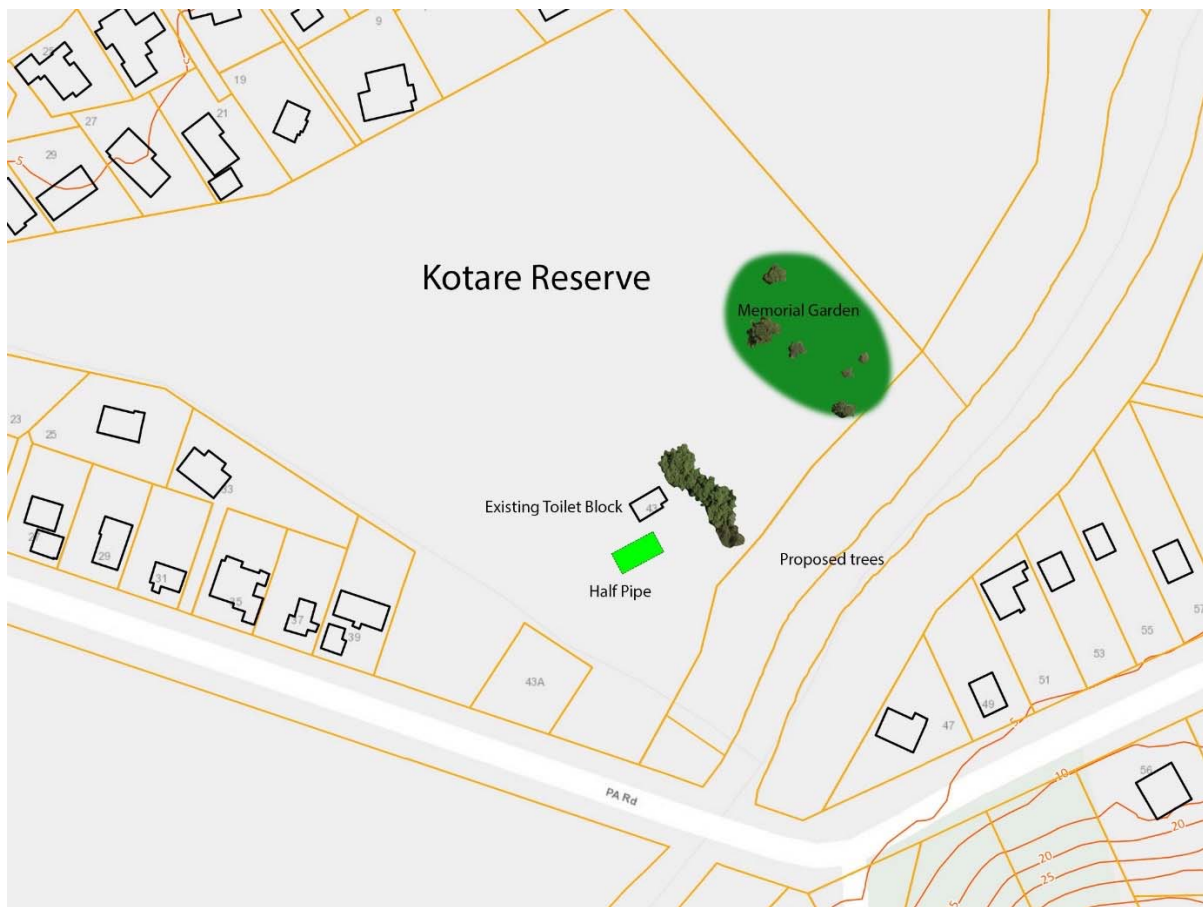
We have discussed the proposed Half Pipe with Hahei community groups and received support from the following

- St. Johns Hahei
- Hahei Fire Brigade,
- Hahei Business Association,
- Hahei Tennis and Sports Club,
- Hahei Reserves Group,
- The Hahei Memorial Garden Trust
- The Hahei Playgroup

4. Relocation Plan

4.1. Hahei Location

It is proposed that the Half Pipe will be located on Kotare Reserve near the existing toilet block, as shown in the attached illustration. If we are successful in our request for the Half Pipe, we will prepare appropriate drawings showing exactly where the Half Pipe will be located and more details of the proposed new plantings to shield the Memorial Garden from the Half Pipe.



4.2. Approvals

We understand that Kotare Reserve is currently classified as an Active Recreation Reserve and the location of a skateboard half pipe is a permitted activity. Accordingly, a resource consent should not be required.

4.3. Construction Plan

We understand that TCDC will arrange to transport the Half Pipe to Kotare Reserve, Hahei. Geoff Hick Builders Ltd, has agreed to donate the materials and labour as well as manage the installation in Hahei, taking responsibility for determining the appropriate foundations for it to rest on. Geoff Hick is a highly experienced builder, and we are confident he will reinstall it to a very high standard.

5. Long Term Management

If Hahei is successful as TCDC's preferred location for the Half Pipe, a group of enthusiastic skaters will form an organisation to manage and care for the Half Pipe. Details of the organisation structure and members will be provided following TCDC's decision.

6. Hahei Residents and Ratepayers Support

The proposed Half Pipe was discussed at the monthly HHRA committee on Sunday, 29 November 2020. Our committee agreed to support the installation of the proposed Half Pipe on the following basis.

- It is located near the toilet block in Kotare Reserve.
- Ratepayer costs are minimal.

6. Recommendation

We recommend that TCDC relocate the Whitianga Skate Park Half Pipe to Hahei. We are ready to receive and install it, then maintain over the long term. We are sure it will be used extensively by families in Hahei and the whole South Mercury Bay Community.

If you have any questions, please call Anna Bartlett on 022154 9392

Yours faithfully,

<p>Catherine Baloghy</p>  <p>Chair of Hahei Residents and Ratepayers Association</p>	<p>Anna Bartlett</p>  <p>Committee Member</p>
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Attachments

- Minutes of Public Meeting for Half Pipe
- Email sent to Hahei Residents and Ratepayers.

Minutes of the Hahei Community Meeting

Purpose - Discuss the Relocation the Whitianga Skateboard Halfpipe to Kotare Reserve, Hahei

Date and time: Thursday 19th November 2020 at 5:30pm.

Location: The Hahei Community Hall, Hahei.

Meeting Opened: 5:45pm

Apologies: Mike Grogan Chair of the Hahei Business Association, Dave and Annabel Wharton, Ginney and Tyrell Brown, Alastair Sims and Jennifer Cook, Penne Clayton.

Present: Catherine Baloghy (Chair of the Hahei Residents and Ratepayers Association) Jeremy Lomas (representative of the Mercury Bay Community Board), Tim Stephens (representative of the Hahei Tennis and Sports Club), Anna Bartlett (representative of the Darkside Skateboard Halfpipe Facebook Group)

Christine Bannan (representative of the Memorial Garden Trust), Gilbert Bannan, Peter Hogg, Robyn Hogg, Jen Goldsworthy, Ben Wharton, Tossie Lockhart, John Jonassen, Barbara Holehouse, Mishka Banhidi, Justine Boyd, Lorne DePape, Carole DePape, Peter Harrison, Matt Harrison, Fleur Wiig, Tineke Hert, Robyn Harnett, Caroline Courtney, Hayden Gray, Sean Butler, Ryan Cochrane, Todd Herbert, Brayden Allen, Diane Tankaal, Andreas Eggmann, Louise Lomas, Kaitlyn Gooch, Aarron Harrison, Gemma Donovan, Martinus Sarangapany, Aliza Niclas, Sam Clark, Adam Clow, Melita Kohnston, Loisa Giesler, Henry Buchanan, Tim Bright, Ashe Pollock, Logan Carter, Garrick Courtney, Jemma Gregory, Rachel Clow, Margaret Green, Brian Green, Kym Trapski, Becs Wood, Tina Albach, Ana Keelly, Aleisha Crackett, Jonny Niclas, Julian Hansford, Tom Bromhead, Jess Harnett, Geoff Hick, Roxanne Dejoie, Jory Becker, Jacob Sims, Owen Sims, River Sims, Ewen Hick, Geordie Hick, Rewi Gemmel, Dave Kurth, Katerina Slimistinai, Josh Cochrane, Dave Paterson, Sam Gillespie. (Total 76)

Welcome.

The meeting facilitator Catherine Baloghy welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

Inward Correspondence:

There were 6 emails supporting the concept and 4 that expressed concerns

Keys issues identified were

- The Memorial Garden is a place of quiet contemplation and is should be protected from noise as much as possible.
- Kotare Reserve is a popular off leash dog area and the Half Pipe should not affect dog owners ability to exercise their dogs.

Another email, in support, said it would be a great asset for the town and great for the younger generation.

A short discussion of the correspondence was had.

Speakers.

Jeremy Lomas spoke as a member of the Hahei Community and noted he was our Mercury Bay South representative on the Mercury Bay Community Board. Jeremy gave a bit of background of the project. His points included: he lives here, has kids here and enjoys the community and in his time here he has seen more families, more young people moving to the area, and 80% absentee ratepayers. He mentioned the Half Pipe was surplus to requirements. It has been recently resurfaced and is in good condition. He mentioned the Kotare Reserve is an active recreation reserve and

therefore requires no resource consent to relocate the Half Pipe there. He thanked Geoff Hick for offering his time, labour, and building materials to install it. He expressed the need for a clear mandate from this meeting as to the direction the HRRA should take.

Tim Stephens drew a map of the proposed location on Kotare Reserve, between the changing room toilet block and the Ambulance station. Tim had recently measured out the site with Sue Costello, Operations Manager Reserves, for Mercury Bay. He mentioned it was a great site for a really great piece of skate equipment which can be used by differing abilities.

Chairperson Catherine Baloghy thanked the speakers and mentioned the the TCDC had sent out invitation to express interest in the Half Pipe to all communities in the district which need to be in by the 4th December.

Discussion:

Christine Bannan spoke as a representative of the Memorial Garden Trust. She said it was a great idea, but that there will be some noise when it is being used. She mentioned the Memorial Garden was a place of quiet contemplation, all ages use the garden, and it has received huge community support. The Memorial Garden Trust seeks assurances that respect be shown to those using the garden for contemplation and quiet. She mentioned a proposed walkway to the garden was planned and could also be to the Half Pipe. She suggested planting might help mitigate the noise.

A question from Kaitlyn Gooch to Christine Bannan asked What that respect would look like? How would it be shown? Christine indicated being respectful to those in the garden was enough.

John Jonassen is a neighbour, who supports it, loves it and is happy to plant the plants himself.

Brian Green: How does the Hahei Camp feel about it? Answered by a representative, Tossie Lockhart, they're really excited about the proposal and 100% on board.

Jeremy: There is no appetite for lights but there is budget for planting.

Mishka: Lights become a larger planning issue.

John Jonassen: Has put in lights professionally in his career and if done well wouldn't affect the neighbours at all.

Gilbert Bannan: Asked if there would be any costs to the ratepayers? Jeremy answered that Hahei doesn't have many TCDC sports facilities and we are unique that the Tennis courts are privately owned.

Louise Lomas pointed out that the Half Pipe is TCDC funded so our rates would be paying for it wherever it was so what not have it here in Hahei where we can benefit from it.

Brian Green: Toilets will need to be unlocked.

Tim Stephens: He believes they will be open in the daytime, and then locked at night.

Caroline Courtney spoke about the Village Green and the Draft Reserves Management Plan which mentions the possibility of relocating the Whitianga skateboard halfpipe there instead. She was very concerned that it was going to go in the already busy village green.

The Chair Catherine Baloghy explained that this meeting was solely for the purpose of gauging community support or otherwise for a Half Pipe in the Kotare Reserve only. Anna Bartlett thanked

Caroline for her interest in the Reserves Management Plan and assured her the ramp was not going on the Village Green. Anna encouraged her to make a Reserves submission in any case.

Hayden Gray mentioned he has had a sHalf Pipe outside his house for a year now and lets people use it. He said he has not had one bit of trouble and it's a really positive thing to see and for teenagers to do.

The Vote:

The facilitator, Catherine Baloghy then proposed we have a show of hands for all those in support of the relocation of the Whitianga skateboard Half Pipe to Kotare Reserve. The hands up in support were over 90% of the room so there was no need to ask for those against. It was agreed that there is strong support in Hahei of the Half Pipe.

Catherine Baloghy then thanked everyone again for coming and declared the meeting closed.

Meeting closed at 6:05pm.

Photos of Meeting





***Vote –
Showing
most people
support Half
Pipe***



Have your Say: Half Pipe

Proposed Half-Pipe skate ramp for Hahei

A Community Meeting regarding the proposed installation of a half-pipe on Kotare Reserve will be held at 5.30pm this Thursday (19th November) at the Community Hall. This reserve is classified active recreational, so this activity is permitted.

This is an opportunity for all residents and property owners in Hahei to express their views and have a discussion prior to a decision being made.

A facilitator and community board member will be in attendance.

 **Follow us on Facebook**

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Visit our website:

<http://www.haheicommunity.co.nz/>

Email us on:

news@haheiratepayers.co.nz

Our mailing address is:

The Secretary, 3 Grange Road, RD1, Whitianga 3591

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Our monthly committee meetings are held at 3pm on the last Sunday of every month at the Hahei Community Hall. Covid 19 restrictions apply.

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