

ALICE EAVES SCENIC RESERVE



CONTENTS

	Page
1.0 Location.....	1
2.0 Legal Description and Classification	1
3.0 Zoning (Resource Management Act 1991)	1
4.0 Natural Physical Features	1
5.0 Landscape Modification	2
6.0 Historical Background	3
7.0 Uses/Leases	4
8.0 Reserve Maintenance	4
9.0 Future Development.....	4
10.0 Development Controls.....	4
11.0 Reserve Promotions/Signage/Labelling	5
12.0 Reserve Promotion/Signage/Labelling	5
13.0 Review Procedures	5
14.0 Objectives and Policies	5
14.1 Objective 1	5
Policies	5
14.2 Objective 2	6
Policies	6
14.3 Objective 3	7
Policies	7
14.4 Objective 4	8
Policies	8
14.5 Objective 5	8
Policies	8
14.6 Objective 6	8
Policies	9

Maps

Locality Plan.....	Sheet 22A
Cadastral Map.....	Sheet 22B
Existing Features	Sheet 22C
Diagram of Pa Site.....	Sheet 22D

Appendices

Appendix A (photos)

ALICE EAVES SCENIC RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.0 Location

Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve is located at the northern end of Orewa, within the Hibiscus Coast Ward. It has frontage to Hillcrest and Old North Roads. The reserve's southern fringe is bounded by the Nukumea Stream. *North Orewa*

2.0 Legal Description and Classification

Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve comprises 16.0007 hectares and is made up of three parcels of land. The legal descriptions of these are: *Three parcels of land*

<u>Legal Description</u>	<u>Area</u>
Lot 10 DP 47677	0.0809 ha
Lot 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 DP 47676	0.4583 ha
Lot 1 DP 48277	<u>15.4615 ha</u>
TOTAL	<u>16.007 ha</u>

All of Alice Eaves Reserve is classified as "Scenic Reserve" under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977. *Scenic Reserve*

3.0 Zoning (Resource Management Act 1991)

Alice Eaves Reserve is zoned Recreation 2 (Passive) under the provisions of the Operative District Plan 1993. Concerns have been expressed about the appropriateness and effectiveness of the present zoning in protecting the natural and historic values of the reserve. *Recreation 2*

4.0 Natural Physical Features

The reserve is a very significant natural feature in the District containing many indigenous botanical species, notably a high quality kauri forest remnant and some rare and threatened species. *Significant natural qualities*

The reserve is approximately rectangular in shape with the western end being generally steep, sloping from north to south from the Hillcrest ridge. The eastern end is of much less severe contour and includes some flat lands. A number of minor streams traverse the reserve and feed the Nukumea Stream. *Mixed gradient, streams*

Parts of the west end of the reserve have been cleared of vegetation in the past but this is now regenerating. The reserve comprises a mixture of Kauri forest, mixed podocarps and a range of hardwoods. The Kauri are generally rickers but the east end includes examples of mature canopy trees, the oldest of which is estimated to be approximately 300 years old. *Podocarp forest*

The principal tree species represented in the bush are:

Example of tree species

Kauri	- Agathis australis
Totara	- Podocarpus totara
Matai	- Prumnopitys taxifolia
Kahikatea	- Dacrycarpus dacydiodes
Puriri	- Vitex lucens
Northern Rata	- Metrosideros robusta
Karaka	- Corynocarpus laevigatus
Rimu	- Dacydium cupressinum
Rewarewa	- Knightia excelsa
Nikau	- Rhopalostylis sapida
Taraire	- Beilschmiedia taraire

In addition to its trees, the reserve is important for its low growing and ground plants, including mosses, ferns and orchids.

Ground plants

Submissions made in the preparation of this management plan report that the reserve contains a number of threatened botanical species including:

Rare plant species

- Anogramma leptophylla
- Astellia grandis
- Pterostylis cardiostigma

The preservation of the natural qualities of this reserve, particularly in the vicinity of a growing urban area is an important issue.

Preservation of natural qualities

5.0 Landscape Modification

The main modification to the reserve is the network of pedestrian walkways that have been constructed through the reserve. These walkways are progressively being upgraded to a high standard with timber edging, shingle in most places and a number of bridges and wooden stairs. There is a wooden platform that creates a look out point over Orewa Beach that was built in 1997. The bridges were replaced in 1997.

Walkway network

A ringditch Pa is situated on the point of a narrow ridge a few metres from the Hillcrest boundary. The Pa extends over lots 11 to 15 in the subdivision. The ditches are about two metres wide and well preserved at either end across the ridge. On the south side a ditch is continuous for two thirds of the Pa's length.

Ringditch Pa

Damage has occurred on the northern side of the Pa. Several patches of shell midden, dominated by pipi, are exposed within the Pa and smaller patches can be seen in the bush to the south of the Pa. The absence of pits, but a large quantity of midden suggests that the Pas may have been used as a living area and not a retreat. It is therefore likely that information is buried in the Pa.

Shell midden

(Information from Auckland Regional Council records, updated 7/94).

6.0 Historical Background

The area has a long history of both Maori and Pakeha settlement. Sub-tribes of the Kawerau first built defensive Pa in the area, including a substantial example in the Alice Eaves Reserve. The ringditch Pa is located on the ridge crest adjacent to Hillcrest Road. The likelihood is that the Pa was used for domestic purposes as opposed to defensive purposes. It is thought to have been occupied until as late as 1827 and to have been used as a dispersal point for tribes fishing on common fishing grounds around the Mahurangi Heads.

Maori settlement

The reserve was part of the original Mahurangi Block owned by the Ngai Paoa Tribe which was ceded to the Crown on 5 January 1854. As part of the Government policy of the time, the block comprising the reserve was offered under the free grant settlers policy to an Austrian, Captain Krippner, in 1860 who went on to become one of the founders of the Puhoi settlement. Captain Krippner and his wife settled on the land and made nikau huts on the piece of flat land adjacent to the Nukumea Stream and near its estuary. They did not clear the land for farming like the majority of other settlers in the area. Mrs Krippner started a small school on the land for the local people.

Settled through free grant settlers policy

Some time in the 1870's the neighbouring land owner, Major de Grut, took over the Krippner land. It remained in his family's care for three generations and any timber required during this period was taken with great care. In 1919 the land was sold to Mr and Mrs Edward Eaves. Throughout this time the forest provided time for buildings, including Orewa House, which was built as a holiday resort for Auckland families.

Land exchanged

Before Mrs Alice Caroline Eaves died in 1955 she had expressed a wish that the land be given to the nation. In 1960 her family carried out this wish and an area of approximately 15.5 hectares, (comprising most of the present reserve), was bequeathed to the nation. Prominent in making these arrangements was her son Mr Victor Eaves and a Waitemata County Council member, Mr Zoff Grant. In the following year the Waitemata County Council was appointed to control and manage the Scenic Reserve on behalf of the Crown.

Bequeathed by Eaves family

Five residential sections adjoining the northern boundary of the reserve, Lots 11-15 and together comprising 0.4583 hectares, were sold to the Waitemata County Council by Victor Eaves in 1973. These lots included the remains of the Maori Pa site.

Residential sections added

The Orewa County Town and Whangaparaoa Ridings of Waitemata County were amalgamated with the Rodney County in 1974. As a result the Hibiscus Coast Country Borough, which was to become the Hibiscus Coast District Community Council of the Rodney County, became the delegated administering authority for the reserve.

Rodney County Council

In 1978 the Pa site at Hillcrest Road, in spite of it having been mapped by the Auckland Museum and registered by the Historic Places Trust, was damaged when a water tank was installed as part of the Orewa town supply by the Hibiscus Coast District Community Council. The damage resulted in substantial controversy. Although no further damage has occurred, policies in the reserve management plan and appropriate District Plan provisions are required to ensure that such damage does not occur in the future.

Damage to the Pa site

In 1981 a further residential lot (Lot 10) which had previously been purchased as a residential section by the Waitemata County Council was added to the Reserve. *Lot 10 added*

The reserve is named after Alice Eaves. *Named after Alice Eaves*

7.0 Uses/Leases

The reserve is a scenic reserve, intended for the preservation of its natural and historical values and for the enjoyment of the public. There are no leases over the reserve and active use is confined to walking and to the appreciation of those values. *Preservation and use*

8.0 Reserve Maintenance

The Orewa Lions Club has played a principle role in developing walking tracks through the bush over a number of years. Much of the annual maintenance has also been carried out by the Lions with Council providing the materials. *Lions Club of Orewa*

In 1982 the Orewa Lions Club reviewed the club's involvement with the reserve following a reassessment of the parent organisation's general policy which is to build and complete projects before handing them over to the local authority to assume responsibility for their upkeep and maintenance. *Completed projects to Council*

The club felt that over-commitment may result if this 120 policy was not adhered to, however it did resolve to continue its involvement by providing a watching brief and organising an annual working bee to maintain the reserve at a suitable standard for public access and enjoyment. Following a joint meeting between the Orewa Lions Club and the Rodney County Council in 1984, a number of objectives were agreed to. These are included in Objectives 1 to 6 of this management plan. *Agreed objectives*

9.0 Future Development

Any future development of the reserve should be to enhance its function as a scenic reserve and bush walk.

- control of exotic vegetation and plant and animal pests;
- erosion control measures within the waterways
- maintenance and improvement of existing walkways, bridges and lookouts, in particular the main tourist walkways
- blocking of informal tracks to allow them to return to the natural state
- improving public access to the reserve; and
- provision of information about the reserve and vegetation

10.0 Development Controls

The reserve is zoned Recreation 2, for passive recreation. Development on the reserve is limited to such things as boardwalks, viewing platforms and flood protection works. *Zoning*

The Reserves Act 1977 classification as a 'Scenic Reserve' requires that the reserve is not modified in a manner that will restrict the preservation of flora and fauna on the reserve or freedom of entry for the public. Historic features must be managed and protected as far as this is compatible with the primary purpose of protecting and preserving the area for its intrinsic worth.	<i>Protection of flora and fauna</i>
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11.0 Reserve Promotions/Signage/Labelling

The Orewa Lions Club has put out a very informative booklet that describes the reserve, the walkways and the vegetation on the reserve. They should be encouraged to review and re-issue it from time to time.	<i>Information booklet</i>
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The club has also identified and labelled a number of tree species along the walkway.	<i>Tree labelling</i>
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The Old North Road and Hillcrest Road entrances are clearly labelled with a map of the reserve and description of the walkways. The entrance at Old North Road also has an overhead sign. A sign is proposed to be erected at the Puriri Park entrance.	<i>Entranceway maps</i>
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There is a directional sign at the intersection of Old North Road and State Highway.	<i>SH1 sign</i>
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12.0 Reserve Promotion/Signage/Labelling

The reserve is managed directly by the Rodney District Council.	<i>Council</i>
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The Council should continue to consult regularly with the Orewa Lions Club in formulating future policies and action required to maintain the reserve at a standard appropriate to allow public access and enjoyment.	<i>Consult Lions Club</i>
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13.0 Review Procedures

In accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, Council is required to keep management plans under continuous review. The Council will review this plan regularly.	<i>Regular review</i>
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14.0 Objectives and Policies

14.1 Objective 1

The recognition of Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve as an important scenic, historical and visual amenity and an important landscape element.	<i>Preserve scenic qualities</i>
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Policies

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| (i) To minimise the disturbance to the natural features and native flora and fauna within the reserve. | <i>Protect plants and animals</i> |
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| (ii) | To recognise the historical significance of the Pa site and require that no work be done on the site without first obtaining permission from the Historic Places Trust. | <i>Pa site</i> |
| (iii) | To permit the formation of new tracks, bridges and walkways as shown on Sheet 22C. No new tracks shall be permitted other than that identified on Sheet 22C. | <i>New tracks and walkways</i> |
| (iv) | That no new walkway or bridge development take place without a detailed investigation being carried out of the effects on the natural and historical values of the reserve. | <i>Effects of new walkways</i> |
| (v) | That any new track, bridge or walkway constructed should preferably be of boardwalk type construction or of a type that will ensure the protection of natural values along the route. | <i>Boardwalks</i> |
| (vi) | To establish, in consultation with local Maori, the appropriate provision of signage and barriers to ensure protection of the Pa site. | <i>Maori consultation</i> |
| (vii) | In the review of the Operative Rodney District Plan, to pursue an appropriate zoning for the reserve or specific restrictions to ensure its protection against activities, including utility services both above ground and underground, that have the potential to adversely affect the significant values of the reserve. | <i>District Plan provisions to protect values</i> |

14.2 Objective 2

The Rodney District Council will continue to administer the reserve with assistance from the community. *Administration*

Policies

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|-------|--|---|
| (i) | To recognise that the Rodney District Council is the administering and controlling authority for the Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve. | <i>Administered by Council</i> |
| (ii) | That the Rodney District Council is responsible for the maintenance of all existing tracks, bridges, signs and seats that are contained within the Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve, including all amenities constructed and developed by community service groups and subsequently passed over to the Council. Alternatively, an agreement in writing may be entered into in which a community service group can maintain a part or whole of the amenity/facility for a stated period of time after its completion. | <i>Maintenance by Council or by written agreement</i> |
| (iii) | That the Rodney District Council is responsible for over-seeing and coordinating any future development and improvement of the reserve and that the Orewa Lions Club and other community service groups be invited to assist in achieving such a course of development as and when appropriate. | <i>Invite assistance from community groups</i> |

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| (iv) | That as part of the on-going administration of this reserve that consideration be given to the possible extension of the reserve to the west by the purchase of additional land should the opportunity arise and subject to funds being made available. | <i>Further land purchases</i> |
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14.3 Objective 3

To establish appropriate controls and standards for all landscape modification having regard to the landscape, historical and scenic amenity of the reserve.	<i>Landscape modification</i>
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Policies

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| (i) | That all official tracks be progressively upgraded and maintained to an all weather standard with formed steps, metal or other appropriate material provided where necessary. | <i>Upgrading and maintenance</i> |
| (ii) | To focus upgrading and maintenance effort in a phased approach on the main tracks being: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Hillcrest Road entrance and the lookout;• the circular track through the Nikau Grove to the hollow Kauri tree;• the track from the Nikau Grove to near the bridge on the Nukumea Stream;• the track between the main entrance and the lookout; and• the track along the Nukumea Stream | <i>Main tracks - phased upgrading</i> |
| (iii) | That unofficial and/or duplicated tracks be left to revert to their natural state. The erection of temporary <u>barriers</u> may be necessary initially where such tracks intercept official tracks, to assist with vegetation regrowth. All <u>barriers</u> to be removed once the objective is achieved. | <i>Unofficial tracks to natural state</i> |
| (iv) | That all free-standing and directional signs be of appropriate colour and construction to blend in with the scenic surroundings. Where it is practical and feasible, international symbols should be used in association with signs. | <i>Signs to blend with environment</i> |
| (v) | That materials used in constructing works, shall wherever possible, be of natural materials, neutral colours and be maintenance free. | <i>Boardwalks</i> |
| (vi) | That platforms and boardwalks be built as and where appropriate to protect the roots of the trees alongside the official tracks. | <i>Root protection</i> |
| (vii) | That signs be erected, or incorporated with existing signs, to prohibit a range of undesirable activities such as cycling, camping, lighting of fires, the release of dogs and walking outside of formal tracks. | <i>Prohibited activities</i> |

14.4 Objective 4

To encourage the use of the reserve and educate users to respect and learn about the natural flora and fauna found in the reserve. *Use and education*

Policies

- (i) To increase and improve access to the reserve by the improved maintenance of tracks and construction of platforms as and when finance permits. *Improve and maintain*
- (ii) That where tree labels are employed they should record family, botanical name and Maori name and particular features as appropriate. *Tree labels*
- (iii) To permit the use of the reserve by tour parties. *Tour parties*
- (iv) To encourage better interpretation of the fauna in the bush to users of the Reserve. *Fauna information*
- (v) To acknowledge the possibility of including the walkway along the Nukumea Stream within the proposed Orewa "O" Route but to indicate that unless suitable protection of the reserve from access by mountain bikes can be ensured that they be restricted from using this part of the "O" Route or appropriate measures be taken to ensure such protection. *Orewa "O" Route*

14.5 Objective 5

To eradicate exotic flora and fauna from the reserve where it is clearly inappropriate to the management of the reserve. *Remove exotic flora and fauna*

Policies

- (i) That all exotic vegetation be progressively eradicated from Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve providing that the existing native flora is not disturbed excessively. Pests including cats, rats, hedgehogs, stoats and possums should be controlled. *Remove plant and animal pests*
- (ii) That the boundaries adjoining the private residential lots are checked periodically for the establishment of exotic plants and other activities that may be prejudicial to the preservation of the reserve. *Check adjoining boundaries*
- (iii) That the owners of the residential lots backing onto the reserve be asked to assist in the preservation of the native vegetation in the reserve by preserving existing native trees and shrubs growing on their own properties, destroying exotic vegetation of an invasive nature and not accumulating garden rubbish next to their boundaries adjoining the reserve. *Assistance of adjoining landowner*

14.6 Objective 6

To minimise the erosion impact of stormwater flows through stream tributaries. *Erosion impact*

Policies

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| (i) | That wherever possible stormwater generated from adjoining residential sections be diverted away from stream tributaries to reduce undermining and slipping of the stream banks. | <i>Divert residential stormwater</i> |
| (ii) | That erosion control options be kept under continuous review. | <i>Review options</i> |