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Domain. Which Domain?

Where did they come from?

The grassed area at the end of Omanu street is known locally as 'the domain.' Various maps record the area as having been a recreation reserve, a picnic area and it was a campground, but there is no information recording any official declaration of it being a 'Domain.' What we do know, is that it is not a part of Koitiata Domain Recreation Reserve. But let us come back to the Omanu street 'domain' further on.

Koitiata Domain was the name given to the reserve area established in 1915 as a new 'Seaside Resort'. In February 1917 it was officially titled as Koitiata Domain, and Koitiata Township was established within its boundaries. As from May 1917 Koitiata Domain, including the village area, was administrated by the Rangitikei County Council, acting as the Koitiata Domain Board.

The Koitiata village area, created within the reserve was Crown land, the individual sections being leased from the Crown. In May 2009, the name of the reserve area, less the area of the freeholded village, was officially amended by Government to be Koitiata Domain Recreation Reserve.

Now, back to the other 'domain' in Omanu street. In the early 1960's an area of fifteen acres (6Ha) was added to Koitiata Domain to allow for the eastern end of Wainui street to be developed. That area for that subdivision came from 6.5 acres of adjacent Crown land and 8.5 acres purchased from D.H.Simpson. When the village, including the residential sections, became freehold in the early 1980's, all Crown land within the village area became freehold, and Rangitikei County Council became the owners.

The area of 'the domain' south of Omanu street, had been within the boundaries of Koitiata Domain from the beginning in 1915. The area to the rear and south of the Wainui street sections, was 'left over' from that land which had been acquired for the Wainui extension in the early 1960's. When the freeholding happened in the 1980's, the Omanu 'domain' area became incorporated into the village, and the freehold title for that land area became owned by RCC, now Rangitikei District Council.

All settled then. No way. Cats' 'n' pigeons.

A 1974 report had predicted that further subdivisions for village expansion would be required, and in 1983, the RCC presented a proposal for a 55-section subdivision which included the 'domain'. Well, talk about lead balloons and cats and pigeons' stuff! After "an opportunity to discuss the repercussions" RCC changed the plans and elevated the Omanu 'domain' area to the bottom of the pile and the Rapaki street extension went to the top.

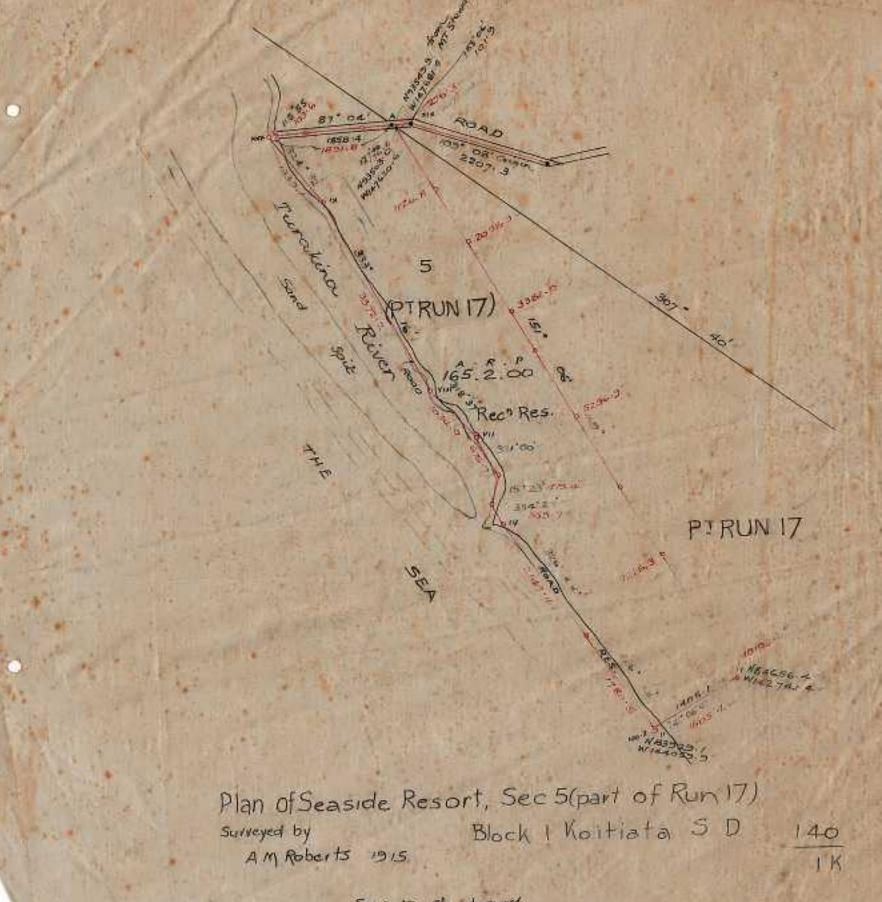
Warning: another village myth exposure! When the designs for the subdivisions were prepared, there were no sections surveyed off within the Omanu street 'domain' area. The 'Plan A' and 'Plan B' maps were proposals only.

In 1992 someone approached council about buying the 'domain' land, and again the cat was out of the bag and feathers were being ruffled. From the 1993 annual report of the KRC; "... meeting followed a February petition signed by 62 residents opposed to the sale and development of the area ... District Council shelved the matter."

The notes from that February 1993 meeting with RDC, and the other documents, are highly informative of the status of that block of land, and the protections in place relative to sale or development. But, not informative enough for some people! In 1998 something or someone was the catalyst for an exchange of letters between KRC and RDC, which appeared to be an attempt to get on record, a fixed undertaking by council to not develop or sell 'the domain'. It did not happen.

So locally the area will continue to be known as the 'domain.' Until it is used, maybe some time in the future, to expand our village.

Where the Koitiata Domain Recreation Reserve is adjacent to the seaward side of the village, it shares its boundary with those properties on the seaward side of Rapaki street. The playground and all the grassed public areas, including Teone street, are in the reserve. Refer to the map on page 24.



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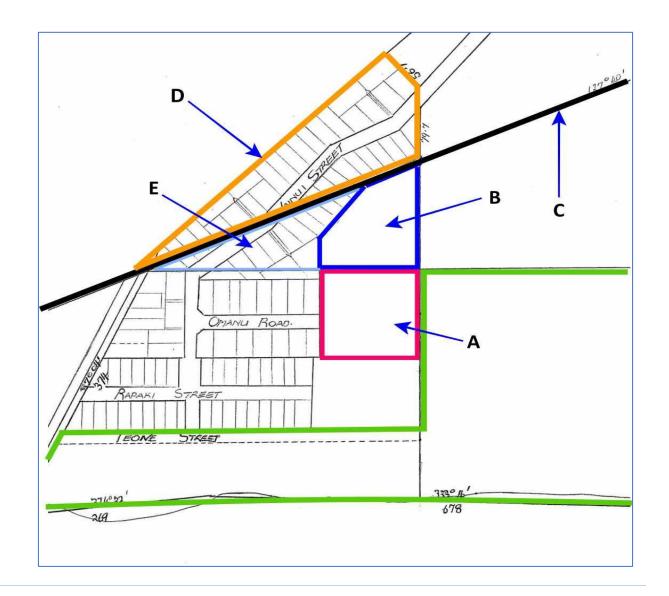
Extract from government Gazette 1917 authorising the leasing of sections and building in the Koitiata Domain 170

Authorizing the erection of seaside cottage on Koitiata Domain.

1917, No. 26.] Reserves and other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies Empowering.

[8 GEO. V ..

- 59. (1.) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section thirty four of the Public Reserves and Domains Act, 1908, the Governor-General may grant leases under that section over portions of Section 5, Block I, Koitiata Survey District, in the Land District of Wellington (being the Koitiata Domain), authorizing the lessees to erect buildings on the lands comprised in such leases.
- (2.) No such lease shall comprise an area exceeding one rood, and no such area shall at any point be less than one chain from high-water mark, and the aggregate area so leased for building purposes shall not exceed one-tenth part of the total area of the said domain.
- (3.) Every lease granted under this section shall provide for the erection of a house within a specified time on the land comprised in the lease in accordance with plans and specifications to be approved by the Koitiata Domain Board, and for the maintenance of the premises in good order to the satisfaction of the said Domain Board.



Map showing sources of the land that is now known locally as 'the domain' (A + B).

- This area was always within the Reserve and had been designated as being 'available for future village expansion'.
- This area was Crown land added to village when the Wainui street subdivision was carried out and 'available for future village expansion'.
- The heavy black line is the boundary between Crown Land on village side and the land of D.H.Simpson on the other side.
- This area added to the village from D.H.Simpson's land for the Wainui Street subdivision.
- This area was Crown Land added to the village for the Wainui Street subdivision, (together with area B).

Green lines indicate the current boundaries of Koitiata Domain Recreation Reserve adjacent to village.

NOTE: Map above is pre-Rapaki Street extension subdivision.



RANGITIKEI COUNTY COUNCIL

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE THIS REFERENCE

WFE:JA P84-0012

TELEPHONE 8174 (3 lines)

P.O. BOX 22, MARTON

22 December 1983

Cornish, Leonard H., 42 Rapaki Street, Koitiata, TURAKINA R.D.

Dear Sectionholder,

Re: Proposed Subdivision - Koitiata

At the last meeting of the Koitiata Community Council, it was resolved that we should report progress on the proposed subdivision at Koitiata.

Since then our Engineering Staff have prepared a three stage programme, which when completed, would provide a further fifty five sections. This proposal effectively utilises, for building purposes, all the remaining vacant land within the Township, apart from a small playground adjacent to Omanu Street Extension and a caravan park adjacent to the toilet/shower block. However, it should be borne in mind, that although there would be a high concentration of people within a relatively small area, there is ample open space for recreation purposes in the adjoining Koitiata Recreation Reserve. This area could be developed as and when the need arose.

You will be aware that the County, acting on the recommendation of the Koitiata Community Council, own the land and will be meeting the cost of the planning and development of the subdivision. No accurate estimate of the cost of each section has been made, although this will largely depend on the standard of subdivision that is finally approved. We would expect the standard to be appropriate to a beach settlement.

The attached plan allows for Omanu Street to be extended and loop around to rejoin Wainui Street at the eastern end of the Township. Access to those sections in Stage 2 of the proposed subdivision would be through New Zealand Forest Service land. This would have an added advantage, in that it would provide an effective fire-break.

The plan also provides for the relocation of the power points from their present site, to the proposed new caravan park adjacent to the toilet/shower block which is the more appropriate place.

While your Community Council anticipates some resistance to the proposal, it believes that the advantages more than outweigh any disadvantages. The Council would not anticipate that the life style of residents will be materially affected, firstly by the influx of more people or secondly, by the loss of any open space within the Township's boundaries because of the proximity of the Koitiata Recreation Reserve.

The main advantage seen are, that with a greatly increased number of ratepayers, the rates could be reduced in comparative terms. The Township would be compact and relatively cheaply serviced if in the future either or both a reticulated water supply and sewerage system was considered desirable.

While no proposal will be universally acceptable, we commend this plan to you. There does appear to be considerable interest in acquiring sections at Koitiata, although the extent of that need will only be realised as the subdivision proceeds.

All enquiries should be addressed to:

Mr W. F. Elgar, Administration Officer, Rangitikei County Council P.O. Box 22, MARTON.

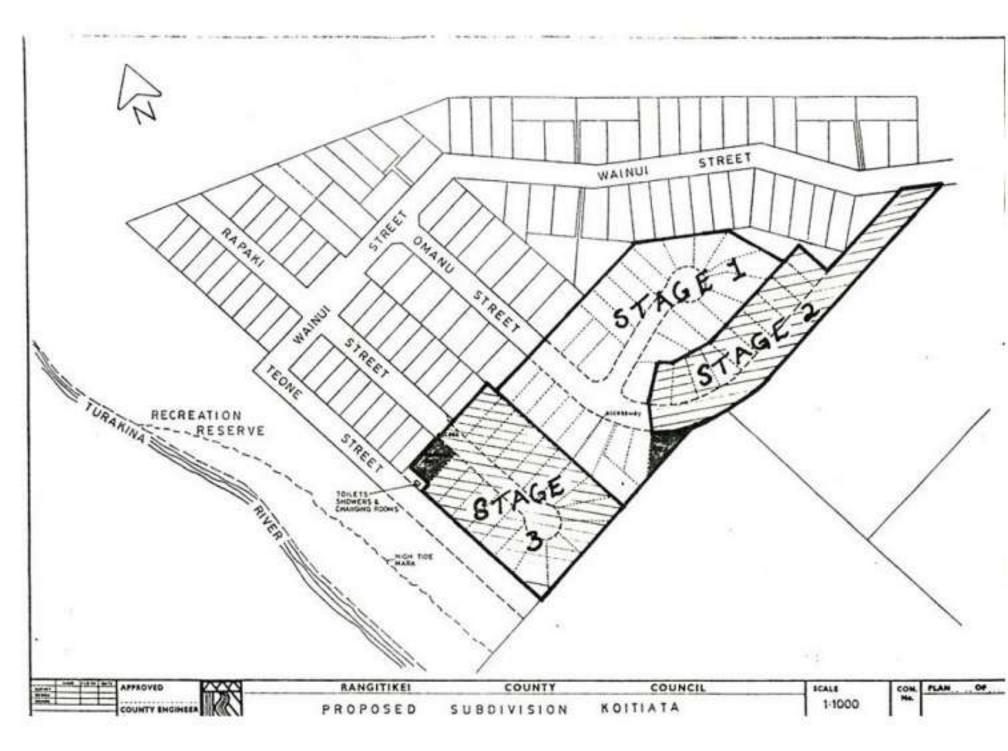
Yours faithfully,

M. C. Griffiths

for the Koitiata Community Council and the Rangitikei County Council

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RANGITIKEI COUNTY COUNCIL

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE THIS REFERENCE

WFE: JA P84-0012

TELEPHONE 8174 (3 lines)

P.O. BOX 22, MARTON

9 April 1984

Cornish, Leonard H., 42 Rapaki Street, Koitiata, TURAKINA R.D.

Dear Sectionholder,

Re: Proposed Subdivision - Koitiata

Further to my letter to all sectionholders dated 22 December 1983, I can now advise that the Koitiata Community Council have had a further opportunity to discuss the repercussions of the proposed subdivision and have made certain recommendations which I propose to outline.

It is apparent that there is some concern within the Community that the original proposal would deny residents the use of virtually all the open space within the boundaries of the Township, although it has been pointed out previously, that there is ample open space in the adjoining Koitiata Recreation Reserve.

Having conceded that point, at least in the meantime, the Koitiata Community Council resolved that the County's Engineering Staff should produce a revised subdivisional plan.

Attached are plans of both the original proposal (Plan A) and the revised version (Plan B). The comments that follow relate only to Plan B.

For obvious economic reasons, the Rangitikei County Council intends to develop the whole area eventually. The subdivision is planned to provide fifty five residential sections.

Two minor amendments to the original plan are the enlargement of the caravan park and the provision of a vehicle access from the cul-de-sac in Rapaki Street to the beach frontage.

The development will involve quite extensive earthworks. This will mean the levelling of the area shown as Stage 1 and part of the area in Stage 2 and the road formation of Rapaki Street Extension and the Omanu Street loop roads.

Because the subdivision will need to be financially self supporting, it will be developed in three stages. As soon as the earthworks have been completed sections 3-18 in Stage 1 will be offered for sale. Rapaki Street Extension will be kerbed and sealed and underground power will be installed.

Accurate costings have not yet been done so at this stage section prices have not been considered.

The Community Council is anxious to see the subdivision proceed and provision will be made in the County's 1984/85 estimates for the earthworks and development of Stage 1.

Before giving its final approval to the revised concept, the Community Council would appreciate comment from all sectionholders prior to its next meeting on Tuesday, 1 May 1984.

Would you therefore complete the attached questionnaire and return to this office by Friday, 27 April 1984. The result of the questionnaire will not be binding on the Community Council but will assist in its deliberations.

Yours faithfully, M. C. Griffiths County Clerk

for the Koitiata Community Council and the Rangitikei County Council per

W. F. Elgar ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Encl.

0835E



Ms Pamela Taylor
Director of Corporate Spending
Ran itikei District Council
Private Bag
Marton
16/09/92

Dear Ms Taylor,

"KOITIATA SUB DIVISION DEVELOPMENTS"

It has come to our notice that your council is currently considering a proposal to sell the "Old Domain " (stage 2 and 3 of the proposed sub division) as a "life style block " to a single buyer.

We are alarmed that such a proposal could be considered by R.D.C. unless built in safeguards, to ensure this area is reserved for future residental developments, are in place.

We believe this was the primary reason for the original purchase and reallocation of the Domain/Playground area. Your Council would also be aware that the loss of this area from residential status would prohibit any further development for Koitiata, as it is our understanding that no land immediately surrounding the township bounderies would be available for future development due to ownership by Trusts, D.O.C., and or Forestry.

We would appreciate your comments on the above, and also those points listed below: (a) Was this land purchased under a local bodies act designated for subdivsion?

- (b) If so ... would such a purchase prohibit sale other than guaranteed development for residential?
- (c) Would a change in zoning be necessary to alter the status of this land, and if so, would objections be called for by advertisement to the public?

We await your reply.

Yours Faithfully

P.L. Fraser Secretary. Koitiata Residents Committee

The Rangitikei Mail

January 21, 1993

Residents against land sale

by Glynnis Harding

KOITIATA residents will hold a public meeting in the community centre on February 7 to try to block the sale of land referred to as the Koitiata Domain.

The meeting will start at 7.30pm and involves Rangitikei District Council personnel.

Council director of corporate services Pamela Taylor said an approach was made last year to the council by a private individual interested in buying a lifestyle block and inquiring about the availability of land at Turakina.

Ms Taylor said the council looked at the files and felt the only block which may have been suitable was at Koitiata. She said the council has a subdivision there, with two sections left.

The former Rangitikei County Council created the subdivision before local body amalgamation. Its intention was to subdivide the area in two stages. Stage one and two were completed with stage three covering the area of interest to the land buyer.

The interested buyer approached the district council, however elections and a change of council stopped proceedings.

Ms Taylor said, "I did clarify that the expression of interest was a firm one and considered I should put it back to the new council to consider. The recommendation that came out of the last round of meetings was that we (council) go through the public consultation process in terms of the Local Government Act to ascertain the community's thoughts on the proposal."

Ms Taylor said the district council would at no time sell the land without the community's full

support.

PHT:JA 5618:CORPS

NOTES FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN KOITIATA ON SATURDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 1993 AT 7.35 P.M.

Councillor Tim Lethbridge assumed the Chair and it was noted there were approximately 50 people in attendance.

Apologies were received and sustained from His Worship the Mayor, Mr J. P. Wilson, Mrs Vogelaar, Ian Perry, Mrs Aitken, Mrs Newman, Mrs N. Bostock and Mrs H. Bostock and Family, Arnold Nation and Rex Price.

Councillor Lethbridge put up a map of the area which was to be discussed and noted the following points:-

If the land was not sold it would of course stay with the District Council. If the land was sold the funds would go to the District Council and not to the community itself. The policy concerning the rural-southern rates situation was also explained. It was confirmed that presently Koitiata had approximately \$17,000 in Reserves Funds. No rates had been collected on the land to date however next year it would be rated. Council's current policy with respect to surplus land and property was explained to the attendees of the Public Meeting. Councillor Lethbridge indicated that in his opinion the Rangitikei District Council would not be interested in continuing with the development of the subdivision. The proposal for private ownership was explained in detail.

The written submissions which had been received from Mr P. L. Fraser, B. T. Attwell and C. Fraser, and Mr N. Bostock were all read to the meeting.

Mr Fraser's submission set out the history to the development and he stressed that the land was owned by the Rangitikei District Council and in actual fact they could do whatever they wished with it. General comments were:-

- The settlement was growing and it may be that as a result of this growth a larger recreational reserve should be set aside for the young people.
- The land should be retained by the Council for future recreational development.
- If the land was sold to private enterprise the community had no control over what happened to it in the future.
- The land should be retained for the community of Koitiata to develop.
- It would be helpful for the community to have a Business Plan for Koitiata covering the next five to ten years.
- Concern about losing access to existing properties should private ownership of the site proceed.
- This was the only land available in Koitiata for future development and compelling reasons would need to be given for not allowing its development.

It was moved and seconded:-

- That any sale of such land must be for urban development only and on a time performance basis.
- That if the development failed the time performance requirement the land must be sold back to the Rangitikei District Council to enable alternative urban development opportunities.
- That until such development took place recreational use by residents be continued on the land under existing agreed conditions.

Considerable discussion ensued on the motion. Most of the points referred to above were covered again. The Director of Corporate Services explained the background to the original approach to purchase the site. The current valuation of the property was also discussed. There was a feeling that the second and third stages of the proposed development should be proceeded with by the Council. It was reiterated that the present Council policies precluded this action being taken. It was also pointed out that the original first stage of the development had taken some considerable years to sell - in fact the majority of sections had only been sold in the last two to two and a half years. Development of subdivisions had been a loss making concern for the former Rangitikei County Council and subsequently the Rangitikei District Council.

It was also confirmed that should the site not be sold or developed for urban use, the status quo would remain. In other words Council would not spend anymore money on it but would continue to mow the area twice a year.

Some members of the meeting wondered why, if the land belonged to the Council and it could therefore do with it whatever it wished, the community was being consulted. Council's policies in this regard were explained - in particular the partnership Council felt existed between itself and its various communities.

Councillor Lethbridge summed up the discussions by asking residents and ratepayers what they actually wanted to see happen with the land. Did they want it subdivided in the future for urban development or did they wish to retain it in its present form?

The resolution was then put and lost - with the voting being 15 for and 25 against.

It was then moved and seconded:-

That the area under discussion be not sold but be retained as a Domain in its existing state, and that current Rangitikei District Council maintenance arrangements continue.

The resolution was then put and carried - with the voting being 25 for and 11 against.

Councillor Carmichael reminded the meeting that using the Annual Planning Process would ensure the community's thoughts regarding Koitiata and its future would be noted by the Council and she urged all those present to attend the Public Meetings when they were held.

Councillors Lethbridge and Carmichael and the Director of Corporate Services were sincerely thanked for attending the meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.15 p.m.

Another well-attended special meeting followed a February petition signed by 62 residents and ratepayers opposed to the sale and development of the Domain area. At the meeting, which was chaired by Counciller Tim Lethbridge a further vote declared to the RDC the firm opposition of Koitiata residents to commercial initiatives regarding the Domain. For the present the District Council has shelved the matter.



46 High Street
Private Bag 1102
Marton
Telephone (06) 327-8174
Facsimile (06) 327-6970

PR2-0001

2 March 1998

The Secretary
Koitiata Residents Committee
Mrs J Nation
50 Wainui Street
Koitiata
R.D.11
Wanganui

Dear Mrs Nation

Koitiata Domain

Following the request form the Residents Meeting held on 18 February 1998, I checked the status of the land on the Koitiata Domain. The land is held in Certificate of Title 25B/787 and is described as 4.6858 hectares more or less situate in Block I Koitiata Survey District being Sections 506, 507 and 508 Rangitikei District, approximately 11 acres. There is no entry on the title that the land should be held as a green area for the benefit of the Community at large.

The way to correct this is to send a letter to Council requesting that the land be held as a Recreational Reserve per section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977. This would ensure that the land is held for recreation and sporting activities, the physical welfare, the enjoyment of the public, and the protection of the natural environment of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside. A report would then be placed before the Council and an entry probably by caveat holding the Koitiata Domain for the purpose noted above.

I am prepared to discuss this matter if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

Barry Mortimer Property Officer

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KOITIATA RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE

(TURAKINA BEACH)

Mrs J. Nation, Secretary, 50 Wainui Street, Koitiata, R.D. 11, WANGANUI.

To Mrs Pamela Taylor, Community Services Manager, Rangitikei District Council, MARTON. 10-5-98. Dear Mrs Taylor,

Following an enquiry to council re Koitiata Domain, it was found that contrary to popular local belief, the Domain area was and is not, held as green area, for the community at large.

We now want to have some of this land, legally held as a Recreational Reserve per section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977. We then understand that recreational activities, ie. sport, leisure walks, physical welfare, and the natural environment open spaces, and outdoor pleasures would be ours to enjoy on this area of land.

We would not require the total area of approx. Il acres to be held for our community, to use for leisure pursuits, but we envisage enough land mass for youth to enjoy rugby, cricket, and other sport requiring a larger area. The ideal area, we feel, would be from immediately forward of Omanu Street, giving easy access to the land.

We understand that a probable entry by caveat would be put on the area, holding it as perpetual green area, We also understand that no cost will be passed on to residents, as in rates, upkeep etc.

We thank you in anticipation of hearing from you, letting us know of the legalities etc.

Yours faithfully,

.L. Nation. (MRS)

Secretary Koitiata Residents Committee.



46 High Street
Private Bag | 102
Marton
Telephone (06) 327-8174
Facsimile (06) 327-6970

27 July 1998

CO2-0003

Mrs J Nation Secretary Koitiata Residents Committee 50 Wainui Street Kioitiata RD 11 Wanganui

Dear Mrs Nation

Koitiata Domain

I refer to your letter dated 10 May 1998, in which you request that action be taken by the Council to preserve the Koitiata Domain as a green area for the use of the Koitiata at large.

I have investigate this matter and spoken to a number of Council Officers about it also. It is felt that their is sufficient protection for the area to be used as a green area contained in the Rangitikei District Plan.

I refer to Part 17.1 Rules: Rural Settlement Zone, Permitted Activities. This section of the Plan classifies the Koitiata Domain as Rural Settlement Zone. Paragraph 17.1 (g) notes that Community activities within existing community or educational facilities, and I have attached a copy of the page for your information.

Council owns the freehold of this land and would have to go through an extensive Community consultation Process before any sale of the land could proceed.

I hope this letter has allayed any concerns that the Koitiata Residents Committee may have.

Yours faithfully

Barry Mortimer

PROPERTY OFFICER

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- KOITIATA RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE

(TURAKINA BEACH)

To
The Community Services Manager,
Pamela Taylor,
Rangitikei District Council,
Marton.

From
Koitiata Residents cte.
c/- 50 Wainui St,
Koitiata,
R.D. 11,
Wanganui.
Secretary Mrs J. Nation.
9-9-98.

Dear Pamela,

In May, we wrote to council re the Koitiata Domain being preservered as a green area for the area, which was in responce to a discussion at one of our meetings attended by Barry Mortimer and also Councillor Strugnell. The reply we received (of which I enclose a copy) does'nt really tell us that legally this land will be for all time, held as a green space for the citizens of Koitiata.

We are concerned that council policies can change and wonder if perhaps we require a deed of some kind, showing that the area will never be sold. Would it be a cost against us to ask that there be a legal document of "how and why"? Boundaries would need to be shown as well, as we are talking about a rather large area, and in fact we did ask for an area big enough for a rugby feild, or at least goalposts for the youth of our area to exert their energy, maybe even a cricket pitch, but it would not have to be the whole area of the domain.

We appreciate the reply from Barry, but it does'nt really "pin it down enough" for us, and Councillor Strugnell suggested we write to you, for further information.

This is another subject, the lawn mowing of the areas of R.D.C. controlled land. Because we were concerned that the grassed areas out here were not being mowed very often, we asked if it was possible to have the playground areas mowed prior holiday times, and especially Christmas, and the reply we received from Mr Frank Heath was detailed as to the contract for grass mowing, but he suggested that a resident mowed the playground area, (he says that he was advised by those who have been around for a while) but that is about five years out of date, as R.D.C. have been seeing to it for at least all that time. (Their contractors) We have such a lovely area at the playground now, and volunteers ensure it is kept in a tidy condition as far as planting trees, and weeding goes, but not the grass mowing. Works Civil did it last about two months ago, and did an

excellent job, and I feel Mr Heath misunderstood my letter to him. We are not really asking the contract finer details, rather the number of times allowed per annum, for each mow. We are not asking for more expens to be allocated, but that instead of the cutting being left for sometime in the past, six months, that it be seen to on a more regular basis, and as suggested, prior holiday times. The hall and fire station he quotes in his reply, are not done by the contractors at all, but by the residen who lives behind the hall, and have been for several years. The three adjoining sections (which in fact do not adjoin) have always been mown by the farmer over the fence, but since the farm changed hands, R.D.C. contractors have mown them once, to our knowledge, and they don't need mowing very often, except when it's really dry weather, as a fire hazard deterrent. Mr Heath in his reply to our letter states that" the domain to be mown on request to 50mm twice a year on request, the hall and fire station and three adjoining sections to be mown 12 times a year to a gra-4 height, and mowing of scheduled roadside verges to grade 4 on a month! basis."This is not how the mowings have been done at all, and his suggestions in his reply are that we require something that is going to cost much more money for the residents to find, when in fact, if the mowings were to be carried out as his letter suggests the contract is then there would be no complaints, but of course it would need to include the playground, and certainly once a month is not necessary, but a more regular than now , system, is all we require. I hope you can understand our concerns, we are not wanting any more than we are allocate just that it be done prior holiday times, when our little village grows greatly, and that our lovely assets look tidy and mown, at all times. Thankyou for reading this long letter, we are really grateful for the few things we have out here, but it would be nice if they could be more regularly kept.

Yours faithfully,

akio (Mrs J. Nation.

secretary.

