



Long Bay - Okura Great Park Society

NEWSLETTER * NOVEMBER 2009

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday - 19th November 2009 - 7.00pm

Agenda Includes..

- Feedback about the latest Court hearing
- Draft Long Bay Regional Park Management Plan
- ARC Parks and Heritage Committee Meeting
- Other general business

2nd floor, NSCC Area Office, Glen Road, Browns Bay at 7pm

CONVENOR'S REPORT

Dear Great Park members and supporters, friends,

The Court case is almost over. This has been one of New Zealand's longest running Environment Court cases, so congratulations to all who hung in there to keep the vision of protecting our Regional Park from encroaching residential development. Although the original vision had been for the '1000 Acre Great Park' on an awesome peninsula so close to the largest and ever increasing population in New Zealand, what we have gained has been recognized as a remarkable achievement. In all, we gained some significant buffer zone areas – about 75 acres in all.

The last days in Court were important in maintaining the intent of Judge Jackson's interim decision and defining some of the important rules of the Structure Plan. Bernard recollects how the story started and explains more about the last few days in court elsewhere in this newsletter.

Of course to have played such a sustained part in the Court has taken much work and ongoing funding. As I have said in earlier newsletters, we have been amazed at the generosity of 'the everyday people' with their kind donations. From \$10 up to one or two thousand dollars, each has been so appreciated. Your membership fees have been used primarily to cover the Society's running costs.

Even with all this generosity, we do have a shortfall to pay our final court costs. So we do appeal, once again, to your giving spirit in protecting this green legacy.

With the Court case almost behind us, the next challenge is raising funds for the purchase of Area D. If we are unable to protect the beautiful ridge you see as you approach the entrance to the Long Bay Regional Park from Torbay, some of the essential spirit of being in an open space oasis on the edge of suburbia will be diminished. For so many Aucklanders, it is the exhilarating feeling of leaving the city behind that makes this park so popular – a park by the beach so accessible to ALL the people of Auckland.

Thank you to all who came in support of the presentation to the Auckland Regional Council, requesting their support in the purchase of Area D. We were quite overwhelmed by the turnout at such short notice. It could not have failed to make an impression. As yet, we have not had an official response back from the Council, but the Parks and Heritage Committee has put our request on their agenda for their meeting at 9.30 am on Wednesday 2 December. This meeting is open to the public.

This is our very last chance of getting funding from the ARC towards the purchase of Area D.

We believe that our show of interest and passion makes a difference. Councillors themselves have told us it makes a difference. So again, we urge as many as you as possible attend. If you are able to assist with a telephone tree, or with transport, can you please contact one of the executive committee members, contact phone numbers are on the back page. ARC may have some parking available: ring ARC, ph 366 3000 to book at least two days beforehand.

This has been a very significant year for the Society with the latest Court hearing and lobbying for funds for the purchase of Area D, both of which we do not yet know the outcome. May we all have cause for further celebration in the New Year.

Best wishes to you all, and again, thank you for all your loyal support.

Chris Bettany

Convenor

ARC Draft Long Bay Regional Park Management Plan

The ARC has issued its draft Regional Parks Management Plan and has invited submissions. The Society will be making a submission in regards to the future management of Long Bay Regional Park. If you wish to contribute to the Society's submission, please contact Bernard Stanley (ph 473 8630). Submissions close 4 pm Wednesday 23 December.

Copies of the Management Plan are available through the ARC or on its website www.arc.govt.nz.

URGENT

\$

NEED

Ongoing court costs still to be met...
Please send large (! & small) donations

NOW

Direct Credit: 12-3053-0467134-00

Ref: Court costs

or post a cheque to

L.B.O.G.P.S, Box 35-348, Browns Bay

LAST CHANCE for FUNDING from ARC for 'AREA D'

Please come again and show your support

What? ARC Parks and Heritage Committee Meeting

When? 9.30 am Wednesday 2 December

Where? ARC Chambers, 21 Pitt Street, Auckland

This meeting is open to the public

Councillors have told us that your presence makes a difference.

Catch the city bus to Albert Street (stop D28). Change to the **GO WEST 049** bus which will take you to 156 Vincent Street (near YMCA) by Pitt Street. Get off and walk across Pitt St. to the ARC Building.

Call MAXX on **366 6400** for more information.



**2009 SUSCRPTION RENEWAL
AND MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**LONG BAY - OKURA GREAT PARK SOCIETY
PO BOX 35 348, BROWNS BAY**

Mr, Mrs, Ms _____ First Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Phone: _____ Mob: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2009: \$10 per member x () \$ _____

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We will forward a receipt with your next newsletter.

