

Ashburton Reserve Management Plan

Volume 3 – Reserves Managed by Reserve Boards

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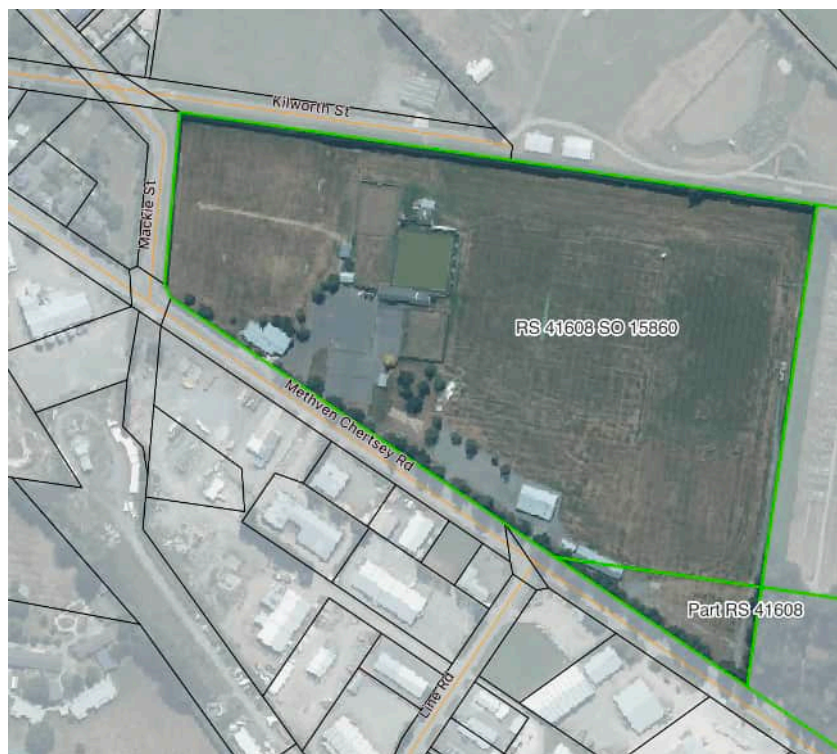
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10. Methven Domain

This reserve is managed by the Methven Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Methven Domain is located in the north-east of Methven, on the edge of Methven township, approximately 300m from the town centre. It is bordered by Kilworth Street to the north and Mackie Street in the west. Its longest road frontage is with Methven Chertsey Road to the south. Methven Cemetery abuts the reserve to the east.



Methven Domain is a significant open space and sport and recreation facility for Methven and the wider Ashburton District due to its scale and the variety of activities it caters for.

It is home to a range of clubs and societies and has sports fields for rugby, touch rugby, football, cricket oval and nets, indoor squash courts, multi-use courts for tennis, netball and hockey, as well as bowling and croquet greens.

It also features a small playground and some areas for passive recreation.

Club buildings are spaced out across the Domain, but predominantly along Methven Chertsey Road.

The stand-alone public toilet facility in the Domain is maintained by Ashburton District Council.

The Domain is largely flat and grassed. Existing vegetation is mostly exotic, with substantial hedges and windbreaks along the eastern, northern and western boundaries. None of the trees in the reserve are scheduled as protected trees under Section 12 of the Operative Ashburton District Plan.

The Domain regularly hosts events.

Address	Methven Chertsey Road, Methven
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	10.2926

Methven Domain is made up of two land parcels, which are classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Land Status
RS 41608 SO 15860	Recreation Reserve
Part RS 41608	Recreation Reserve

Appendix 1 and 2 contain a larger scale location map and detailed information about the land status, including NZ Gazette Notice references.

Background

In January 1885, 6.0702 hectares (15 acres) of Reserve 2026 was changed from Police purpose to recreation ground (gazetted 1885 page 165, Reserve 2613). Members of the Mt Hutt Road Board and the Mt Somers Road Board were appointed to constitute the Methven and operate the “Methven recreation grounds”.

The Board’s earliest work, from 1885, included extensive fencing, building gates, and planting trees.

In July 1897 a further 2.4281 hectares were added to the reserve from the adjacent Police Reserve (NZ Gazette 1897 p 1342, Reserve 3184).

A 1905 New Zealand Government publication on Public Domains¹ listed the following information for Methven Domain:

METHVEN DOMAIN, CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.
Reserves Nos. 3184 and part of 2026, Spaxton Survey District. Area, 21 acres.
Work done during year: Hedge-trimming, gorse-grubbing, and maintenance. Improvements now on domain: Fences, plantations, swimming-bath, and waterworks. Used for cricket, tennis, and other sports.

In September 1907 an additional 5058 square metres were added (NZ Gazette 1907, p 2387, Reserve 2613A).

In the same year a swimming pool was built in the Domain.

In the mid 1970’s the Methven Sporting Bodies requested for Council to acquire an additional portion of the Police Reserve to accommodate two hockey fields. This addition was formally completed in June 1983.

Past uses of the Domain include:

- Church of England Parsonage Fund Fete 1906,
- Methven Anglican Church Garden Party 1907,
- Methven Caledonian Society Close Day December 1912,
- Methven Swimming Club Close Day 1919 for swimming sports,
- Sports Clubs’ Gala Day 1922,
- Methven trotting club gatherings,
- Lawn tennis.

Occupation/Leases (as at April 2023)

The following occupation agreements apply to the reserve:

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Methven Rugby Club	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Methven Netball Club	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Methven Hockey Club	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Methven Bowling Club	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Methven Fire Brigade	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Methven Touch Rugby	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Mt Hutt College	Licence to Occupy	Pending

¹ PUBLIC DOMAINS, APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1905 SESSION I, C-10, Source: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1905-I.2.1.4.15>

Methven Croquet Club	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Methven Cricket Club	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Methven Squash Club	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Methven Football club	Licence to Occupy	Pending
Methven Tennis Club	Licence to Occupy	Pending

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- Growth of Touch Rugby at Methven Domain may require development of additional fields.
- The constitution of the Methven Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- Most occupancy agreements for the reserve have expired and are currently being renewed, pending finalisation.
- A number of the trees in the Domain are coming to the end of their useful life. Ongoing maintenance and management, as well as succession planting will be required to retain healthy specimen trees in the reserve.
- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance to standards expected by clubs, as well as legislative requirements. Examples for this are required compliance with Health and Safety legislation and compliance with current NZ

Playground Safety and other standards. In the case of playgrounds, Council has recently taken on maintenance of all playgrounds located on Domains.

- There are limited opportunities for the Reserve Board to generate income to support the ongoing maintenance of the reserve.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1:

1. Continue to support the Methven Reserve Board in the day to day management and operation of the reserve.
2. Support the Reserve Board in exploring opportunities to generate additional income that supports the upkeep and management of the reserve, where in line with the policies in Volume 1 of this plan and relevant legislation.
3. Contemplate leases and licences within existing footprints on recreation reserve land for organised sport and facilities, e.g., rugby, soccer, squash, bowling, croquet, netball, touch, tennis, cricket and hockey.
4. Continue to maintain, enhance and where necessary replace significant trees and plantings located in the Domain.

Development opportunities

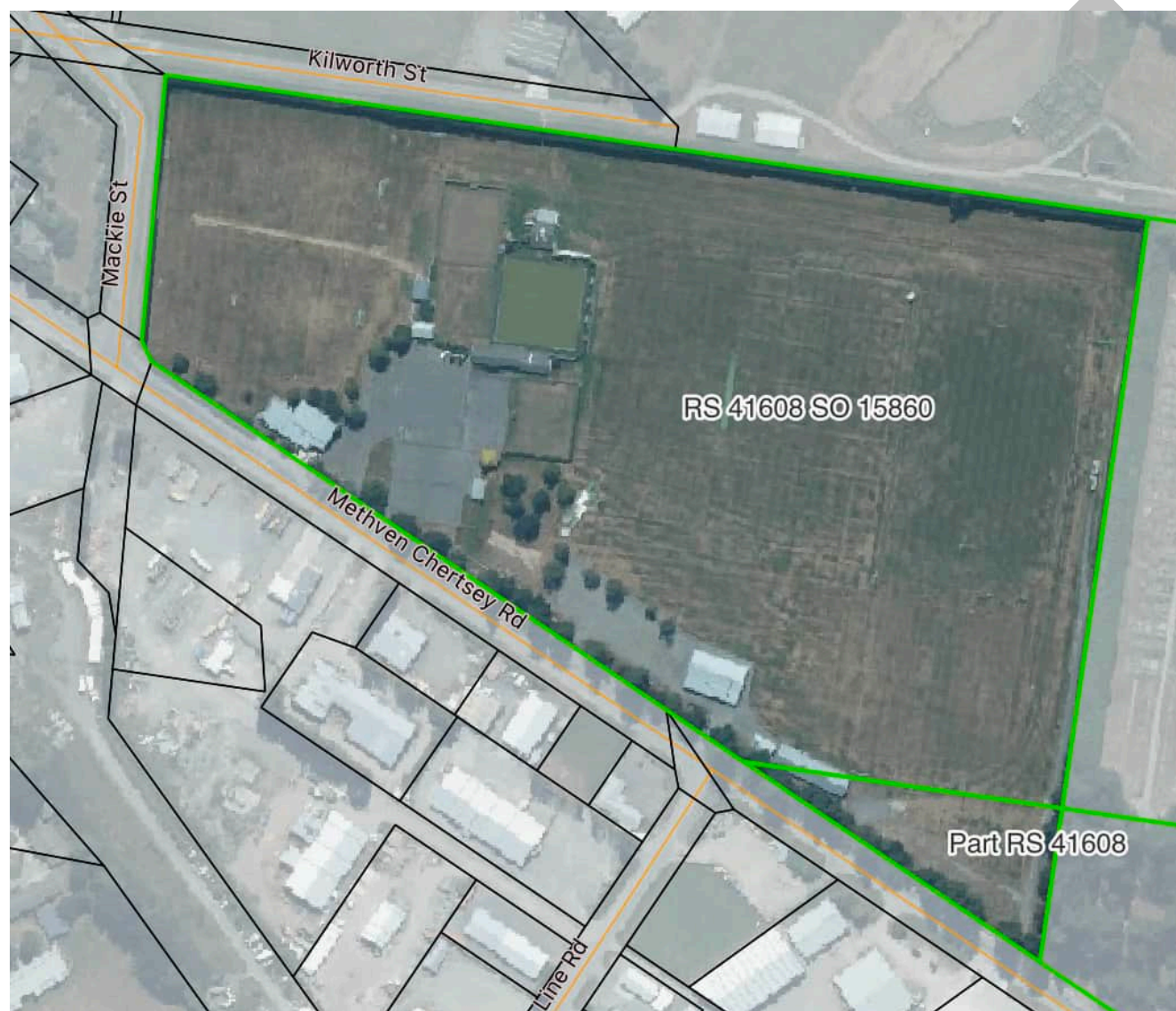
The following opportunities have been identified for the reserve:

- Consider upgrade of playground to provide for a wider range of age and abilities. Consider provision of shade.
- Engage with the community to identify the potential needs for development.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

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APPENDIX 1 – Land status map



Appendix 2 – Detailed land status information

The following land parcels make up Methven Domain:

Legal Description	Classification	Owner/ Administering Body	Title	Area (Ha)	New Zealand Gazette Reference
Part RS 41608 SO 15860 (was Res 2613, 3184, Pt Res 2026 and Stopped Road)	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council	No title issued	9.7867	1885 page 165 (Reserve 2026 change from police purpose to recreation ground) 1897 page 1342 (added 2.4281 hectares from the Police Reserve, Reserve 3184) 1982 p 4319 (adds 1646 square meters of Stopped Road to the reserve – ‘Y’ on SO 15615) 1983 p 1733 (classified reserve and vests in Ashburton County Council)
Part RS 41608 (was Res 2613A)	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council	CB251/62	0.5059	1907, page 2387 (added 5058 square metres to Methven Domain, Reserve 2613A) 1983 p 1733 (classified reserve and vests in Ashburton County Council)

24. Tinwald Domain

This reserve is managed by the Tinwald Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Tinwald Domain is located northwest of Tinwald, off State Highway 1. It has road frontages on Maronan Road, Frasers/Lagmhor Roads and Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road. The reserve is approximately 98.38 ha in size. It is divided into two sections by Frasers Road.



The larger southern part, has its southern boundary along Maronan Road and includes the main part of the Domain, including the Plains Historic Village, ponds and picnic areas, the camp ground and various community organisations. A remaining section of the Mt Somers-Tinwald railway line separates this part of the reserve from the golf club.

The smaller northern part of the Domain is situated on the north side of Lagmhor Road, bordering a residential area on George Street. This area is largely used by the Tinwald Pony Club.

Address	62 Maronan Road, Tinwald
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation Cultural Heritage Recreation and Ecological Linkage
Total Size (in ha)	98.3826

Tinwald Domain is made up of five land parcels, all of which are classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Land Status
RS 39930 SO 11474	Recreation Reserve
RS 41244 SO 15320	Recreation Reserve
RS 41245 SO 15320	Recreation Reserve
RS 41345 SO 15464	Recreation Reserve
RS 41347 (LT 457504, SO 15464)	Recreation Reserve

Appendix 1 and 2 contain a larger scale location map and detailed information about the land status, including NZ Gazette Notice references.

Cultural/heritage values

The reserve contains the Church of St Philip & St James, in the Plains Historic Village. The site is a scheduled Group B² heritage site in the Operative Ashburton District Plan (District Plan ID 116- Appendix 12 – Heritage Values and Protected Trees). It is part of the Plains Historic Village and is located on Part RS 41245 SO 15320. The church is operated by the Plains Vintage and Historical Museum. It is available for hire, along other facilities in the reserve, including the vintage trains.

Natural values

The lake within the reserve is man-made, excavated using horse and dredge around 1890. It is fed by the stock water race (the Mt Somers Willoughby Main Race) which runs through the reserve, with water derived from Lagmhor Creek (south of Sheates Road). The lake is stocked with trout and perch and fishing by juniors is permitted with an appropriate licence.

Tinwald Domain provides habitat for a range of birdlife. In particular the lake provides ideal conditions for a range of water fowl including ducks and wading birds such as blue heron.

The reserve also boasts numerous established trees, mostly exotics. None of the trees in the reserve are listed as protected trees under Section 12 of the Operative the Ashburton District Plan, but some, such as the Oaks planted for the royal visits in 1901 and 1920 commemorate special events and include plaques.

The reserve has several interesting vistas including views of the Southern Alps. To mark the centenary of Rotary International an international arboretum was planted in a wheel-and-spoke pattern in 2000. As the

² Group B heritage items are places of historical or cultural heritage significance or value to the District. Their ongoing conservation and protection of these items is highly desirable.

trees mature, the arboretum is becoming a notable site of interest within the reserve.

Recreational values

Tinwald Domain is a significant open space and sport and recreation facility for Ashburton and the wider Ashburton District due to its size and the variety of activities and community groups it caters for.

Organised sporting and active recreation activities and clubs, such as tennis, and rugby, are located here. The Domain also contains an outdoor swimming pool³.

A small children's play area is also be found in the reserve.

The Plains Historic Village features a number of organisations and facilities, including:

- Plains Museum Trust, who hold the head lease for the village area. The Trust undertake sub-leasing arrangements with the various users and are responsible for the ongoing development, maintenance and operation of the common areas within the village.
- Ashburton Railway and Preservation Society, which operates the Plains Historical and Vintage Railway, with its many historic locomotives and steam trains, a collection of traction engines and other vintage machinery.
- Lynn Woodwork Museum, which includes a world class collection of woodworking tools and machinery,

³ At the time of writing this plan, the pool at Tinwald Domain had been closed due to aging infrastructure, including water leaks.

- Fire Museum, with a vintage collection from the Ashburton Fire Brigade.
- Ashburton Woodworkers, undertake woodturning, furniture making, carving, etc
- Ashburton Model Engineers Society, which operates a miniature railway in the park.

Other community activity in the Domain include the Vintage Car Club and Museum, which houses a collection of vintage cars and the American Rod & Custom Club.

The Tinwald Golf Course, which operates as a Scheduled Activity under the Operative Ashburton District Plan (District Plan Schedule ID 20 – Tinwald Golf Club) is also located here.

Ashburton Holiday Park & Lodge, which includes camping facilities, and a lodge operates on the Domain. The holiday park is managed by independent contractors on behalf of Council and the Reserve Board.

The Domain is used regularly for events.

Other values/ activities

- In summer, some parts of the reserve are planted in crops and harvested for income. Income generated through this activity assists the operation of organisations and maintenance of the reserve. This use of the reserve also provides opportunities for practical use of historic agricultural machinery, which is kept by some of the organisations.
- The Plains Historic Village operates as a Scheduled Activity in the Ashburton District Plan (Appendix 8 – Scheduled Activities 8.4.12). Being a scheduled activity allows operation of the site and is intended to provide for a wide range of current and future activities that further develop the historic character of the site. The

Schedule includes a development plan for the Plains Historic Village.

- The reserve also contains public utility infrastructure including:
 - An Ashburton District Council water race
 - Electricity Ashburton electricity substation
 - Water supply wells
 - Caravan dump station (2).

Background

Tinwald Domain had its beginnings in 1878, when Ashburton County Council applied to the government for a recreation reserve of 59 acres. Instead, Council was granted an area of 239 acres, 2 roods and 18 1/2 perches (96.92 hectares), which was purchased under the Public Domains Act. A Domain Board was appointed, and the County Council granted 150 pounds for development purposes.

In 1881, the reserve took its present form, and in 1888, plans for a reservoir or ornamental water feature were made. The lake, with an island added in 1892, was stocked with perch.

Since 1884, various sports and recreation groups have used the reserve. Sports grounds, a racing track, a grandstand, and a judge's box were established.

In 1896, a running track was formed. Over the years, tennis courts, hockey, and rugby fields were added.



Figure 1 Tinwald Races, image not dated

Bathing facilities were moved to Lagmhor Creek near Frasers Road, from the lake. In 1911, plans were drawn up for an improved bathing facility. Later the baths were concreted.

Royal visits in 1901 by the Duke and Duchess of York (later to be crowned King George V and Queen Mary) and 1920 by the Prince of Wales were commemorated with oak plantings. These can be found at the entrance to the lake. Anecdotaly, a Boer War gun that had been presented to Tinwald Domain Board used to be mounted between the two commemorative tree plantings. It is said to have been sent away for



Figure 2 Tennis match at Tinwald Domain, photo not dated

restoration in the late 1990s/ early 2000s, but appears to have not returned from this.

A 1905 New Zealand Government publication on Public Domains⁴ listed the following information for Tinwald Domain:

TINWALD DOMAIN, CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.

Reserve No. 350, Block XVI., Westerfield Survey District. Area, 230 acres.

Work done during year: Improvement to intake of lake, construction of fords across water-race, eradication of noxious weeds, and tree-planting. Some ducks and swans were placed on the lake during the year. Improvements now on domain: Fences, drain, grandstand, booth, offices, and plantations. Used for sports, picnics and races. Proposed operations for ensuing year: Removal of *Pinus insignis* trees, and planting exotic trees, erection of building on cricket-ground, re-forming of drives, erection of fences, and further eradication of noxious weeds.

In 1918 the Ashburton Guardian reported “Tinwald is the possessor of an extensive domain which is becoming very popular for picnics, a number

⁴ PUBLIC DOMAINS, APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1905 SESSION I, C-10, Source: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1905-I.2.1.4.15>

having been held this season. In addition to the lake with its rowing boat there is a quarter mile running track, while its swimming bath is one of the largest in the colony. The grounds are under the control of a progressive board which is striving to do its best for the public”.

In the late 1950s, the swimming club collaborated with the Domain Board to remodel the baths and add play areas.

In 1967, land was allocated for the Tinwald Golf Club, expanding to 18 holes in 1969.

During the period between 1878 and 1989 the reserve was managed on behalf of the Crown by a Domain Board of locally elected people. In 1989 the ownership of Tinwald Domain was vested in the Ashburton District Council through the Local Government Reorganisation Order 1989 (NZ Gazette 1989 p 2315). Following Local Government Amalgamation the Tinwald Reserve Board was constituted to attend to the day to day operation of the reserve and to make recommendations to Council on all matters falling within the provisions of Section 53 of the Reserves Act 1977. Council remains the administering body of the reserve under the Reserves Act.

Four of the five land parcels that make up the Domain (RS 41244 SO 15320, RS 41245, RS 41345 SO 15464 and RS 41347 SO 15464) were classified as Recreation Reserve and vested in Ashburton District Council through NZ Gazette NZG 1999 p 3770.

The final expansion of the reserve occurred in 2006, when 2.3371 ha contained in RS 39930 SO 11474, which had been held in fee simple, were acquired as Recreation Reserve via a land exchange with land contained in RS 41346 (NZ Gazette 2006 p 205).

For more detailed information on the history of Tinwald Domain see Appendix 3.

Occupation/ leases (as at April 2023)

The following occupation agreements apply to the reserve:

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Ashburton Underwater Club	Deed of lease	31 July 2024
Americar Rod & Custom Club	Deed of lease	Expired
Mid Canterbury Four Wheel Drive Club	Licence to Occupy	Expired
Ashburton Vintage Car Club	Deed of Lease	Expired
The Plains Museum Trust	Deed of Lease – with the ability to issue Licences to Occupy to other organisations in the historic village	Pending
Tinwald Pony Club	Licence to Occupy	Expired
Tinwald Rugby Football Club	Deed of Lease	Expired
Tinwald Golf Club	Deed of Lease	February 2036
Farming operation	Deed of Lease	Current

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Tinwald Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to

ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.

- Most existing occupancy agreements for the reserve have expired, leading to uncertainty for occupiers.
- Some occupancy of the reserve by clubs and community organisations appears not to have been formalised.
- Playground equipment generally only provides for younger children.
- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance to standards expected by clubs, as well as legislative requirements. Examples for this are required compliance with Health and Safety legislation and water quality of swimming pools, as well as compliance with current NZ Playground Safety and other standards. In the case of playgrounds, Council has recently taken on maintenance of all playgrounds located on Domains.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1- General Policies⁵:

1. Continue to support the Tinwald Reserve Board in the day to day management and operation of the site.
2. Review occupancy agreements and if required, formalise the occupancy of activities currently operating without a formal agreement.

⁵ If in conflict, specific policies in this section override general policies in Volume 1 of this plan.

3. Contemplate leases and licences within existing footprints on recreation reserve land for:
 - Organised sport and facilities, e.g., rugby, pony club, tennis, water related activity and golf
 - Community-based activities and services, e.g., museum, car clubs, scouts, etc.
 - Farming, Grazing or Afforestation.
4. Retain the designated camp ground area, subject to site rules, relevant bylaws and legislation.
5. Recognise the heritage and recreational value of the Plains Museum and other vintage or heritage organisations in the reserve.
6. Develop Tinwald Domain in line with the Future Development Resource Document from June 2010 and subsequent update in 2018 and the provisions outlined in Section 8 of the Operative Ashburton District Plan.
7. Provide for the safe operation of the vintage railway within Tinwald Domain.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified for the reserve:

- Consider upgrade of playground to provide shade and play opportunities for a wider range of age and abilities.
- Development of additional pathways that provide connections to surrounding streets and new residential developments.
- Engage with the community to identify the further potential development needs and opportunities.

Any development will be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

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APPENDIX 1 – Land Status Map



Appendix 2 – Detailed land status information

The following land parcels make up Tinwald Domain:

Legal Description	Classification	Owner/ Administering Body	Title	Area (Ha)	New Zealand Gazette Reference
RS 39930 SO 11474	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council	CB10A/1211	2.3371	1968 p 1288 (declaring land not required for certain purpose Crown Land) 2006 p 205 (land exchange with RS 41346, Recreation Reserve classification transferred to RS 39930 SO 11474)
RS 41244 SO 15320 (was Pt R 2378 SO 3522)	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council	No title issued	27.89	1879 page 68 (declared domain and establishment of Domain Board) 1989 p 2315 (local government reorganisation) 1999 p 3770 (classification and vesting)
RS 41245 SO 15320 (was Pt RS 39929 SO 11474)	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council	No title issued	7.793	1879 page 68 (declared domain and establishment of Domain Board) 1968 p 1288 (declaring land not required for certain purpose Crown Land) 1970, page 1879 (reservation and declaring land to be part of Tinwald Domain) 1989 p 2315 (local government reorganisation) 1999 p 3770 (classification and vesting in Ashburton District Council)
RS 41345 SO 15464 (part was R2120)	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council	CT244/245	13.52	1878 p 1824 (declared recreation ground) 1879 page 68 (declared domain and establishment of Domain Board)

Legal Description	Classification	Owner/ Administering Body	Title	Area (Ha)	New Zealand Gazette Reference
					<p>1970 p 1879 (reservation and declaring land to be part of Tinwald Domain)</p> <p>1972 p 533 (R 2120 only – vesting in Ashburton County Council revoked and purpose changed to recreation reserve)</p> <p>1989 p 2315 (local government reorganisation)</p> <p>1999 p 3770 (classification and vesting in Ashburton District Council)</p>
RS 41347 SO 15464 (was Pt R2378 SO 3522, includes Pt RS 39929 SO 11474)	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council	CT244/245	46.8425	<p>1878 p 1824 (declared recreation ground)</p> <p>1879 page 68 (declared domain and establishment of Domain Board)</p> <p>1968 p 1288 (declaring land not required for certain purpose Crown Land)</p> <p>1970 p 1879 (reservation and declaring land to be part of Tinwald Domain)</p> <p>1972 p 533 (R 2120 only – vesting in Ashburton County Council revoked and purpose changed to recreation reserve)</p> <p>1989 p 2315 (local government reorganisation)</p> <p>1999 p 3770 (classification and vesting in Ashburton District Council) (classification and vesting)</p>

Appendix 3 – History of Tinwald Domain⁶

The Tinwald Domain began as a mere suggestion made by John Grigg to the Ashburton County Council, to apply to the Government for a fifty acre recreation reserve in 1878. Fifty acres were not acquired, instead the area granted was two hundred acres (230 acres in extent when surveyed!)

A Domain Board was pulled together to manage the reserve and the rest is history. What started out as a “quite dull and uninteresting” bit of land eventually evolved, with care and attention, into a multi-purpose recreation area and beauty spot, enjoyed by all.



Rowing in the Tinwald Domain pond, 1907.

First steps

The Tinwald Domain's first board of managers were William C Walker, Edward G Wright, John Carter (first chairman), Joseph Beswick and John

Grigg. The Board were granted an initial £150 of funding and quickly got down to business.

In 1881 under their second chairman Charles P Cox, steps were taken to lay out the Domain in its present form, contracts were let for clearing tussock and land not reserved for trees was offered for lease. Around 1888, a decision was made to provide a “Reservoir or Ornamental Piece of Water” at a cost of £100. The project ended up running over budget, but the Board considered “the excess judiciously spent.”

According to Emily Bayliss, “the lakelet was stocked with imported perch which grew to a good size in their new habitat. At one time a certain amount of illegal fishing took place, and even some Ashburton people came over to do some quiet angling.”

⁶ Source: Ashburton Museum Website:

<https://ashburtonmuseum.wordpress.com/2022/09/03/history-of-the-tinwald-domain/>



Two ladies by the pond, being approached by several ducks. Taken by Hooper, 30/11/1935.

At this point the Tinwald Domain was taking shape nicely. The pond island was placed in 1892 and iron gates were put in place on the Maronan Road entrance.

Sports and activities

The earliest application for sports grounds was in 1884, when the Tinwald Cricket Club applied and was allowed to rent ten acres. Five years later, the Tinwald Racing Club moved to a new track in the Domain, which was outfitted with a grandstand, enclosure and a three-roomed judge's box.

Subsequent developments for sport and recreation included a running track which was formed in 1896, courts for the Tinwald Tennis Club in 1900 and 1905 as well as hockey grounds and a football field. It's no wonder that, with all this buzz about sports, an association was formed in 1899 which worked with the Domain Board to improve the grounds and get a cycling track laid down. In 1911, the Sports Association became the Amateur Swimming and Athletics Club.

A big change came much later in 1967, when the Domain Board made forty acres on Fraser's Road available to the new Tinwald Golf Club and this was extended by a further fifty-eight acres in 1969.

Swimming in Tinwald had simple beginnings. The pond was used for bathing, with certain restrictions, until it was eventually prohibited. A designated swimming spot was appointed in the Lagmhor Creek, but it was not entirely fit-for-purpose and so in 1910 the chairman of the Board decided to act on the many requests he had received for a proper swimming bath.



View across the Tinwald swimming baths, taken by Miss Hooper on 30/11/1935.

In 1911 a pool was decided on. It was planned to be roughly 60 meters long and 14 meters wide, indeed no mere paddling pool. The buildings of the defunct Racing Club were dismantled to make dressing sheds, the banks were done up and over time the sides and bottom were concreted. The pool was remodelled in 1958 and ten years later it was properly reconstructed.

The Plains

On top of all the sporting areas, the Tinwald Domain is also home to the Plains Vintage Railway & Historical Museum, owned and operated by the Ashburton Railway & Preservation Society Inc. which was founded in 1971.

A section of the former Mt Somers Branch railway is kept in working order for running restored locomotives and the Plains also looks after a staggering number of machines and vehicles. Several rescued and

restored historic buildings grace the Plains, which include the Waterton church, the Chertsey railway station, a weatherboard cottage from Princes Street, a blacksmith's shop and replica shops housed in the old wool-classing room of Ashburton Intermediate School.



Locomotive W 192, during its brief stay at the Plains. It is one of two of its class built at Addington Railway Workshops by the Railways Department around 1889-1891. Photographed on 09/05/1992.

Also located at the Plains are the Lynn Woodwork Museum and the Ashburton Fire Museum. The Tinwald Domain really is packed with plenty of things to do.

The Tinwald Domain has earned a lot of praise throughout its 140 years. In 1918 the Guardian praised the grounds and boasted of its swimming bath,

which was "one of the largest in the colony." In 1968, Assistant Commissioner of Lands for Canterbury Mr H J Fitzgerald called it a "splendid reserve" and "an ornament to the district and a service to the community."



Oak planting ceremony, to commemorate the visit of Prince Edward of Wales, at the Tinwald Domain. 19/08/1920.

Emily Bayliss included a poem in her chapter talking about the Tinwald Domain, which goes as follows:

*We enter here; enchantment lies
Around us, to delight our eyes
With beauty inexpressible.
This fair Domain is our great pride*

Where wildfowl on the water glide,

And peace and loveliness abide.

Most of the information in this article came from Emily Bayliss' 1970 book *Tinwald: A Canterbury Plains Settlement*.

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79. Alford Forest Domain

This reserve is managed by the Alford Forest Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Alford Forest Domain sits just off the intersection of Alford Forest Settlement Road, Forks Road and Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road (Inland Scenic Route 72). It features tennis courts, picnic area, Alford Forest Hall, Alford Forest Fire Station, a public toilet (maintained by Ashburton District Council), and a large area of open grassed space. The Alford Forest Moa sculptures, interpretational signage and a commemorative plaque to commemorate the Foothills 125 year jubilee are also located here.

Whilst not in scope of this plan, the Alford Forest Domain Board, is also the caretaker of the Singletree Site, located approximately 800m to the east of the Domain, on Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road.



Address	4941 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road, Alford Forest
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	1.1733 ha

Alford Forest Domain is made up of 3 land parcels, all of which are classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Land Status
Res 5049 SO 9640	Recreation Reserve
RS 40013 SO 9640	Recreation Reserve
RS 40014 SO 11307	Recreation Reserve



Background

Alford Forest was named after Lord Alford, a member of the Canterbury Association, who was a local landowner.

The Alford Forest Hall, formerly the Alford Forest School, was opened in 1876 with a roll of 21 students. The school celebrated its 70th jubilee on 19 October 1946. It subsequently closed in 1948.

A meeting was called in the 1960s, and it was decided that the school would be used as a hall, and a committee was elected. Since then, the Alford Forest Hall has provided a valuable service to the area, having been used for a variety of meetings and gatherings. In 1982, consent was granted for a kitchen and toilet area to be added to the hall.

In 1979 the land was classified for recreation purposes (NZG 1979 p 1711) and in 1985 vested in the Ashburton County Council (NZG 1985 p 3737). The County was amalgamated with the Borough to form Ashburton District Council in 1989 and the reserve is now vested in Ashburton District Council.

In 1989, following Local Government Amalgamation, the Alford Forest Reserve Board was constituted to attend to the day to day operation of the reserve and to make recommendations to Council on all matters falling within the provisions of Section 53 of the Reserves Act 1977. Council remains the administering body of the reserve under the Reserves Act.

The Moa sculptures outside the hall were originally outside the Alford Forest store in 1989 and moved outside the Alford Forest Hall at the time of the Foothills 125th jubilee celebrations in 2001.

A commemorative 125th jubilee plaque and picnic area were also unveiled during the celebrations.

The Alford Forest Rural Fire Station was built on the reserve in 2014/15.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

The following occupation agreements apply to the reserve:

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Fire and Emergency New Zealand	Deed of Lease	Pending

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The Fire Station is partially located on Res 5049 SO 9640 and RS 40013 SO 9640, both recreation reserves. The Reserves Act 1977 does not provide a mechanism for leasing Recreation Reserve for emergency services. Parts of the reserve where the fire station is located will need to be reclassified to Local Purpose (Fire Station) Reserve.
- The Deed of Lease for the fire station has not been finalised and should be reviewed following classification.
- The constitution of the Alford Forest Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance due to aging volunteer base and legislative requirements.
- There are limited opportunities for the Reserve Board to generate income to support the ongoing maintenance of the reserve.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1⁷:

⁷ If in conflict, specific policies in this section override general policies in Volume 1 of this plan.

1. Continue to support the Alford Forest Reserve Board in the day to day management and operation of the site.
2. Support the Reserve Board in exploring opportunities to generate additional income that supports the upkeep and management of the reserve, where in line with the policies in Volume 1 of this plan and relevant legislation.
3. Permit self-contained camping in the reserve, in an area dedicated for this purpose and in line with the requirements of relevant legislation and bylaws.
4. Survey off the land the fire station is located on, part of Res 5049 SO 9640, and if required, part of RS 40013 SO 9640 and reclassify as Local Purpose (Fire Station) Reserve.
5. Review Deed of Lease for the fire station following reclassification of the land.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified for the reserve:

- Upgrade courts.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

83. Greenstreet Domain

This reserve is managed by the Greenstreet Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

The Domain is located on Ashburton Staveley Road, close to the intersection with Driscolls Road, to the north west of Greenstreet. There is no public signage identifying Greenstreet Domain as a reserve.



Greenstreet and Ashburton Forks Hall, which the former Greenstreet and Ashburton Forks school building, is located in the reserve. Adjacent to the hall is a small playground and tennis courts.

The reserve is located within the Ōpihaka, Makawatai and Ihi Kāpuka kāinga mahinga kai⁸ (food gathering places).

Address	749 Ashburton Staveley Road, Greenstreet
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	0.801

Greenstreet Domain is made up of two land parcels, both are held under the Reserves Act 1977 as classified Recreation Reserves.

Legal Description	Classification
Res 4893 SO 9152	Recreation Reserve
Lot 1 DP 11740	Recreation Reserve

Background

From 1876 to 1936, Greenstreet School served the Forks community well until its closure and conversion into a hall for the community.

In 1962, the Greenstreet Ashburton Forks Domain Board negotiated purchase of land adjoining to the Greenstreet Domain, adjacent to the Greenstreet Hall, which extended the area and allowed for the tennis court to come to fruition.

⁸ Mahinga kai properly refers to Ngāi Tahu interests in traditional food and other natural resources and the places where those resources are obtained,

<https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/ngai-tahu/the-settlement/settlement-offer/cultural-redress/ownership-and-control/mahinga-kai/>

NZ Gazette 1981 p 1130 declares the land to be Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. The land is vested in Trust in Ashburton District Council (NZ Gazette 1985 p 3737).

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

No formal occupation.

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Greenstreet Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- Site does not have signage to identify it as a reserve.
- The tennis court is in very poor condition and not usable.
- The playground is coming to the end of its useful life.
- There are limited opportunities for the Reserve Board to generate income to support the ongoing maintenance of the reserve.
- Provision of safe drinking water in compliance with relevant legislation and the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand.
- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance due to aging volunteer base and legislative requirements. Examples for this are required compliance with Health and Safety legislation and Standards such as the NZ Playground Safety. In the case of playgrounds, Council has

recently taken on maintenance of all playgrounds located on Domains.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1⁹:

Continue to support the Greenstreet Reserve Board in the management of the site.

1. Work with the Reserve Board to explore opportunities to enhance the use of the reserve.
2. Work with the Reserve Board to ensure the provision of safe drinking water at the Greenstreet/ Ashburton Forks Hall.
3. Work with the Reserve Board to explore opportunities to generate income to support the upkeep and management of the reserve.
4. Consider removing the tennis court and grassing the area.
5. Work with mana whenua to investigate opportunities to educate the public about the cultural values of the land and surrounding areas.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities for development have been identified:

- Renew playground.
- Renew hall, including wiring and connection to mains power.
- Install signage to identify the site as a reserve.
- Plant some additional trees for shade, especially around the playground.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

⁹ If in conflict, specific policies in this section override general policies in Volume 1 of this plan.

85. Highbank Domain

This reserve is managed by the Highbank Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

The Highbank Domain is located on the corner of Highbank Cairnbrae and Highbank School Roads, approximately 10km to the east of Methven. The Domain is made up of two land parcels, only Res 3198 SO 1428 is formally part of Highbank Domain, however Res 3188 SO 1429, where Highbank Hall is located, has been included in this Plan for the ease of reference.



The developed part of Highbank Domain features two full sized tennis courts, a small tennis pavilion, a basketball halfcourt, a seating area and mature trees. Much of the Domain is undeveloped and either grazed or cropped.

There is a stone memorial located in the reserve directly on the corner of Highbank School Road and Highbank Cairnbrae Road. This was erected by Highbank residents to commemorate 100 years of European settlement of the district.

Highbank Hall is located on a neighbouring site on the opposite side of Highbank Cairnbrae Road. The hall has toilets and a kitchen.

Address	166 Highbank Cairnbrae Road, Highbank
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	6.0703 ha

Both land parcels that make up Highbank Domain are classified reserves under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Classification
Res 3198 SO 1428	Recreation Reserve
Res 3188 SO 1429	Local Purpose (Hall) Reserve

Background

Res 3198 SO 1428 , referred to initially as Highbank Recreation Ground, was established in December 1897 and brought under the Public Domains Act 1881 with management delegated to the Highbank Domain Board.

Early on, the Highbank Domain was praised as being a “splendid piece of land, has a nice large stream of water running through it, and a large plantation on the nor’ west side, and is in the centre of the settlement, near the school.”

Throughout the later months of 1903, the Board appealed to the council for a concrete swimming bath, but when the request went to council it was not entertained largely due to water usage concerns during the summer months.

A 1905 New Zealand Government publication¹⁰ on Public Domains listed the following information for Highbank Domain:

HIGHBANK DOMAIN, CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.
Reserve No. 3198, Block II., Corwar Survey District. Area, 10 acres.
Improvements now on domain : Fences (out of repair) and plantations.

In 1918, the order appointing the Domain Board was revoked and the Mt Hutt Road Board was appointed to control the Highbank Domain.

In October 1921, a concrete cricket pitch was laid in the Domain by the cricket club. In May 1937, the Highbank Women’s Institute celebrated its second birthday at the schoolroom and an adjournment was made to the Domain where a tree was planted by the president in commemoration.

In 1939 the Mt Hutt Road Board was disestablished and its responsibilities were taken over by the Ashburton County Council (NZ Gazette 1939 p 1581).

In 1979 the Highbank Domain (Res 3198 SO 1428) was classified for recreation purposes (NZ Gazette 1979 p 2814). Through local government

reorganisation in 1989 the Highbank Domain has been vested in Ashburton District Council.

Res 3188 was set out as a school reserve on SO 1429 as part of the subdivision of part of Highbank Settlement. The survey is dated 1896.

Initially the land was vested in the Canterbury Education Board, but this vesting was revoked in 1971 and the land was vested in Her Majesty the Queen (NZ Gazette 1971 page 1808).

It was later set apart as Local Purpose (public hall) reserve by Gazette 1976 page 1068. In a separate notice on the same Gazette page the Ashburton County Council was appointed to control and manage the reserve.

Gazette 2005 page 2153 vested Res 3188 in the Ashburton District Council, in trust for recreation purposes.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

There appears to be currently no formal occupation for the land, though a licence to occupy used to be in place for the Hall.

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Highbank Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- Some use appears to occur on the reserve without a formal occupancy agreement.

¹⁰ PUBLIC DOMAINS, APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1905 SESSION I, C-10, Source: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1905-I.2.1.4.15>

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1:

1. Continue to support the Highbank Reserve Board in the management of the site.
2. Review occupancy of the reserve and whether these need to be formalised through an occupancy agreement.
3. Contemplated leases and licences within existing footprints on recreation reserve land for:
 - Farming, Grazing or Afforestation.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified to revitalise the Domain:

- Renew basketball halfcourt.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan and as resources permit.

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87. Mayfield Domain

This reserve is managed by the Mayfield Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Mayfield Domain is located the north east of Mayfield on Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road (Inland Scenic Route 72). The Mayfield A&P showgrounds adjoin the Domain to the west and south. The generally flat Domain features some mature plantings, but is largely open grass.



Much of the Domain is used for sport and active recreation. It features tennis/netball courts, a swimming pool, rugby and touch rugby fields and a rifle range. Other community uses include the Mayfield Playcentre.

The Mayfield War Memorial Hall and Mayfield Squash Club are located on a separate land parcel, which is surrounded on three sides by the Domain. Though not formally part of the Domain, this land parcel has been included in this plan for ease of reference.

A small playground, largely designed for preschool-aged children is located adjacent to the playcentre.

The toilet block in the reserve was replaced in 2023 and is maintained by Ashburton District Council. Income generated through different activities such as self-contained camping (in the area adjacent to the toilet block) is used to assist with the maintenance of the reserve.

None of the trees in the reserve are scheduled as protected trees under Section 12 of the Operative Ashburton District Plan.

Address	2016 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road, Mayfield
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	6.4733

Mayfield Domain is made up of two land parcels, which are classified reserves under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Land Status
RS 41225 SO 15246	Recreation Reserve
RS 41309 SO 7962	Local Purpose (Community Facilities) Reserve

Background

The Mayfield Domain's history dates back to 1926, marked by the appointment of the first Domain Board. Initial efforts of the Board

focused on fencing and installing a 'stock-proof' turnstile gate. Various community events and sports clubs, such as the A&P Show, football, tennis, swimming, hockey, polo, cricket, and athletics, began utilizing the grounds.

The Domain Board swiftly worked to enhance the Domain, levelling the grounds in 1927, clearing gorse in 1928, constructing toilets in 1929. A pavilion with dressing sheds was built in 1930. Lighting for the football fields followed, funded over two years.

Beautification efforts included tree planting, bulb planting by the Country Women's Institute, and the construction of the entrance made from Ruapuna stone.

Funds for improvements were sourced from the local community and grants from the Anama Roads Board, Ashburton County Council, and the Minister of Lands.

In 1937, the Domain Board sought assistance from the Minister of Public Works to upgrade the swimming pool, using the machines from the Rangitata Diversion Race. This request was granted.

World War Two posed challenges, leading the Domain Board to reduce rentals for organizations using the Domain.

Post-war, activities increased, with requests for a Memorial Hall in 1947, the use of the old bakehouse oven bricks around the pool in 1949-50, laying of bowling greens in 1951, and establishing clubrooms and a rifle range for the Miniature Rifle Club in 1955.

New rugby dressing sheds were built in 1957, and the swimming pool underwent reconstruction and upgrades in 1969. Judder bars were added in 1976 to control traffic speed.

More recently, the main land parcel (RS 41225 SO 15246) was classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 (NZ Gazette 1980 p 3004).

The land parcel, which contains the hall (RS 41309 SO 7962) was classified as Local purpose (community facilities) reserve (NZ Gazette 1982 p 2434). Both land parcels were vested in Ashburton County Council (NZG 1985 p 3737/3738) and subsequently, through the reorganisation of local government in 1989, in Ashburton District Council.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

No formal occupation.

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Mayfield Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance due to aging volunteer base, as well as legislative requirements. Examples for this are required compliance with Health and Safety legislation, water quality of swimming pools and drinking water, as well as compliance with the NZ Playground Safety and other standards. In the case of playgrounds, Council has recently taken on maintenance of all playgrounds located on Domains.
- There are limited opportunities for the Reserve Board to generate income to support the ongoing maintenance of the reserve.

- The tennis and netball courts have very low use and the tennis club at the reserve has recently folded.
- A number of clubs and community organisations appear to operate on the reserve without a formal occupancy agreement.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1¹¹:

1. Continue to support the Mayfield Reserve Board in the day to day management and operation of the site.
2. Support the Reserve Board in exploring opportunities to generate additional income that supports the upkeep and management of the reserve, where in line with the policies in Volume 1 of this plan and relevant legislation.
3. Permit self-contained vehicle camping in the vicinity of the toilet block, subject to site rules, relevant bylaws and legislation.
4. Consider future of the tennis/ netball courts, including options to revive use or whether it should be retained.
5. Review occupancy and use of the site and where required, formalise this.
6. Contemplate leases and licences on recreation reserve land for:
 - Organised sport and facilities, e.g., rugby, rugby league, touch rugby, tennis, netball, rifle range, swimming pool.
 - Community-based activities and services, e.g., play centre.

7. Allow for a site maintenance building to be erected to support activities of the Reserve Board.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified for the reserve:

- Upgrade playground to provide for wider age range.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

¹¹ If in conflict, specific policies in this section override general policies in Volume 1 of this plan.

89. Mount Somers Domain

This reserve is managed by the Mount Somers Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

The gently sloping Mount Somers Domain has a total area of 52.7085 hectares and consists of two main areas, across three land parcels.



The part of the Domain used by the public is located on the western side of Hoods Road, on the western side of the village of Mount Somers, with Mount Somers cemetery to the south and Mount Somers Holiday Park to the north.

The second area, a large rural block on the southern side of Tramway Road, off Old Gig Road, is located to the south east of Mount Somers. This area, known as the 'Racecourse Block', is leased for farming. Income generated from farming activities here and adjacent to the reserve area on Hoods Road assists in the maintenance of the Domain.

The Domain area on Hood Roads provides for active sport and recreation and other community based activities. It features sportsfields and club rooms for rugby, a community swimming pool, netball and tennis courts, a rifle range and indoor bowls. The Mount Somers Memorial Hall, Mount Somers Domain Camping Ground and Mount Somers Museum are located here. The historic dental building from Mount Somers School has recently been moved to the site, with the view to expand the museum.

A playground is located adjacent to the museum buildings to the south of the rugby fields.

The designated camp ground area is located between the pool, sports fields and hall. It provides powered and non-powered sites for campervans and tents. Toilet and shower facilities, as well as a waste water dump station are provided and maintained by Ashburton District Council. A kitchen area for campers is provided at the back of the hall.

Vegetation in the Domain consists of open grass areas and mature plantings including a substantial hedging/shelter belt along the western boundary. There are a number of specimen trees on the Domain, particularly in close proximity to the camping and hall area. None of the trees in the reserve are scheduled as protected trees under Section 12 of the Operative Ashburton District Plan.

The northern most land parcel (Res 1632 SO 15369) is held as a closed cemetery. Burials are known to only have been undertaken on the small most eastern part of the parcel. A fence still marks the boundary of the burial sites. In addition to some remaining historic gravestones, the site also features a monument with names of those buried at the site. The cemetery was formally closed in 1962. The larger, western part of this land parcel has traditionally been used for recreation. This is where the junior sports fields are located.

Mount Somers has regularly been used to host events, dating back as early as the 1908 inaugural Mt Somers Athletics Club annual event, and the community galas in the 1960s.

Address	Hoods Road, Mount Somers
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation Cultural Heritage
Total Size (in ha)	52.7085

Mount Somers Domain is made up of three land parcels, all of which are held as classified Recreation Reserves under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Land Status
Pt Res 2639 SO 4341	Recreation Reserve
RS 41262 SO 15369	Recreation Reserve
Res 1632 SO 15369	Recreation Reserve

Appendix 1 and 2 contain a larger scale location map and detailed information about the land status, including NZ Gazette Notice references.

Background

¹² PUBLIC DOMAINS, APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1905 SESSION I, C-10, Source: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1905-I.2.1.4.15>

In 1878, land was purchased for a recreation ground in accordance with the Public Domains Act 1860, following a request from Mr Walker in 1874. Powers to administer the land were delegated to the Mount Somers Domain Board. Development of the land was unlikely to have taken place prior to 1894, when a new domain board was appointed.

Initial activities focused on tree planting and fencing.

A 1905 report to Parliament¹² outlined that improvements on the Domain now included fences, plantation, swimming pool, a race course and buildings. The Domain was being used for cricket, rugby football, tennis, bathing, racing sports and buildings.

MOUNT SOMERS DOMAIN, CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.
Reserve No. 1633, Ashburton Survey District. Area, 30 acres.
Work done during year: Erection of new gates, and maintenance. Improvements now on domain: Fences, plantation, swimming-pool, grassing, racecourse, and buildings. Used for cricket, football, lawn-tennis, bathing, racing, sports, and picnics.

In 1908, the inaugural Mt Somers Athletics Club annual event was held, which occurred annually for many years.

Early records also show that rifle range shooting, hockey and basketball (later transformed into netball) were all activities associated with Mount Somers Domain. The Miniature Rifle Club had been formed in the 1920s and a rifle range built in the 1930s. The Mt Somers Netball Club opened its doors in 1953.

The Mount Somers Memorial Hall was opened in 1922 and handed over to the Domain Board in 1927. A supper room was added to the hall in the 1950's. This made the original supper room, which had been created in

the Mount Somers School building and library (built in 1876) and moved onto the Domain in 1922, redundant.

A range of indoor sports including indoor bowls, badminton and table tennis, as well as the popular dances and balls, were introduced to the Domain follow the building of the Memorial Hall and the formation of the Indoor Sports Club in the 1950's.

In the 1970s, an ablution block led to the creation of the Mt Somers Domain Camping Ground.

The Mt Somers Racecourse operated on the leasehold land, accessed from Tramway Road (Pt Res 2639 SO 4341), from 1889 to 1914. In 1904 the Domain Board took over the land.

For more detailed information on the history of Mount Somers Domain see Appendix 3.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

The following occupation agreements apply:

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Grazing licence	Licence to Occupy	December 2026
Grazing licence	Licence to Occupy	August 2024

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Mount Somers Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to

ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.

- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance due to aging volunteer base and legislative requirements. Examples for this are required compliance with Health and Safety legislation, water quality of swimming pools and drinking water, as well as compliance with NZ Playground Safety and other standards. In the case of playgrounds, Council has recently taken on maintenance of all playgrounds located on Domains.
- A number of clubs and community organisations appear to operate on the park without a formal occupancy agreement.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1¹³:

1. Continue to support the Mount Somers Reserve Board in the day to day management and operation of the site.
2. Review occupancy of the reserve and, if required, formalise this through appropriate occupancy agreements.
3. Permit camping in the designated area, subject to site rules, relevant bylaws and legislation.
4. Contemplate leases and licences on recreation reserve land for:
 - Organised sport and facilities, e.g., rugby, rugby league, touch rugby, tennis, netball, rifle range, swimming pool, indoor bowls.
 - Community-based activities and services, e.g., museum.

¹³ If in conflict, specific policies in this section override general policies in Volume 1 of this plan.

- Operation of camp ground.
 - Farming, Grazing or Afforestation.
5. Consider opportunities for the efficient provision of toilet and other facilities that support use of the site for camping and self-contained vehicles.
 6. Acknowledge the rugby club's aspiration to develop a new facility within the park that extends beyond their current footprint.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified:

- Upgrade courts and playground.
- Improve landscaping.
- Upgrade ablution blocks.

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Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

Appendix 1 – Land Status Map



Appendix 2 – Detailed land status information

The following land parcels make up Mount Somers Domain:

Legal Description	Classification	Owner/ Administering Body	Title	Area (ha)	New Zealand Gazette Reference
Pt Res 2639 SO 4341	Recreation Reserve*	Ashburton District Council	CT 633031	37.1299	1885 p 273 (brought Mt Somers Recreation Ground under the Public Domains Act 1881) 1985 p 3737 (vested land in Ashburton County Council in trust for recreation purposes)
RS 41262 SO 15369 (formerly reserves 1633 and 4192)	Recreation Reserve*	Ashburton District Council	CT 633031	13.5552	1878 p 1706 (created Domain); 1927 p 3493 (added closed road to Mt Somers Domain) 1985 p 3737 (vested land in Ashburton County Council in trust for recreation purposes)
Res 1632 SO 15369 (formerly Res 1632 – closed cemetery)	Recreation Reserve*	Ashburton District Council	CT 633031	2.0234	1962 p 1376 (closed cemetery and vested land in Mount Somers Reserve Board as public reserve) 1985 p 3737 (vested land in Ashburton County Council in trust for recreation purposes)

Appendix 3 – History of Mount Somers Domain¹⁴

In 1874 Mr Walker, Chairman of the Mt Somers Roads Board, wrote to the Secretary of Public Works requesting a reserve for Road Board and Recreation purposes. Following this, in 1878, the recreation ground was purchased in accordance with the Public Domains Act 1960 and powers were delegated to the Mount Somers Domain Board under the same Act. The overall resulting reserves from the request were the Roads Board Reserve (which is now the holiday park and closed cemetery) and the Mt Somers Domain.

In relation to the leasehold land accessed from Tramway Road, historical records dated August 15 1888 refer to the 'Racecourse Reserve. On the 29 October 1889 the Ashburton Guardian reported on the Mt Somers & Springburn Sports & Races Club including that "The gathering will be held for the first time this year on the racecourse reserve, which is now under preparation". "All the stones are now being picked off the ground, and when this is finished it will be ploughed, harrowed, and rolled; after the (committee) meeting it will be sown down with grass, so that by next gathering (Boxing Day) the residents of Mt Somers will possess a recreation ground with a course, of which any country district may be proud". The programme included 8 horse races and a number of athletic races and events.

This land was known as the Mt Somers Racecourse and is still referred to as the 'Racecourse Block'. It is accessed via an unnamed road off Tramway Road. The Mt Somers School Jubilee Booklet – States that (in reference to the Racecourse block Res. 2369), "as a result of a

rearrangement of licenses the Sports Club lost its permit and so the Domain Board took over the land in 1904".

Later records of the leasehold/racecourse land include in the Ashburton Guardian on 23 December 1905 with Public Notice regarding the Mt Somers & Springburn Sports & Race Meeting on Domain Reserve 2369. On 22 September 1911 the Ashburton Guardian referred to a racecourse with buildings and railings.

Alford Forest Racing Club used the racecourse from 1905 to 1912 for its St Patricks Day races.

The last recorded Mt Somers and Springburn race meeting was in 1914, though there was an unsuccessful attempt to revive the Mount Somers and Springburn Sports & Races meeting in 1921. This land has been leased for farming ever since and provides additional income for the Reserve Board.

The Mount Somers Domain was purchased in 1874 and later gazetted in 1889 at a size of thirty acres. A Domain Board was established at the time of purchase but it is unlikely much activity was undertaken until the reappointment of a Board in 1894. The first records of the Board, in 1894, include that five Board Members were appointed to manage the Domain. Early members of the Mt Somers Reserve Board were Edward Peache, Richard Morgan, John Hood and Isaac Taylor. John Hood was Chairman for nearly 40 years. The initial work of the Board focused on preparing the land for use by the community with extensive planting of trees and fencing taking place.

A report to Parliament by the Lands Department in 1907 outlined that the fences had been repaired and the gorse grubbed, with improvements on

¹⁴ Source: Mt Somers Domain Reserve Management Plan, 2012

the Domain now consisting of fences, plantation, swimming pool, a race course and buildings. The Domain was being used for cricket, rugby football, tennis, bathing, racing sports and buildings.

The inaugural Mt Somers Athletics Club annual event was held in 1908 and included running races, pillow fighting competitions and 'guess the sheep weight' competitions. The event was held on Easter Monday for many years.

In Easter of 1909; the local community was treated to an extraordinary use of their local Domain, when the Volunteer Forces Canterbury Battalion used the area for a regional training weekend. More than 1600 men stayed and practised military attack and defence drills over the course of two days, before catching trains back to their homes.

A second report to Parliament by the Lands Department in 1911 states that the Domain had a gate and fences, plantations, grassing, a running track, tennis courts, rugby football ground, tennis courts, race course and a swimming pool. The area was used for races, rugby football, sports, tennis and picnics.

Like many other Domains throughout the District, tennis was one of the initial sports played there. The first grass tennis court was laid in 1894 and the first hard courts were put down in 1913. The Mount Somers Tennis Club opened its doors in 1933. Concrete tennis courts were later laid in 1963.

Rugby football also has a long association with the Domain, with the first recorded match played in 1907 between 'Married Men' and the Springburn Football Club. The Mount Somers Rugby Football Club as it is now known began in 1953.

A swimming pool has always been a feature of the Domain. According to the Ashburton Guardian on the 2 February 1895 the County Council

granted a running water supply for the swimming bath at the Mt Somers Domain. The existing pool was initially dug in 1932. In 1968 the swimming baths were remodelled, this remains the pool used by the community and school today.

Early records also show that rifle range shooting, hockey and basketball (later transformed into netball) were all activities associated with the Mount Somers Domain. The Miniature Rifle Club was formed in 1923 and a rifle range was built at the Domain in 1935 and enclosed in 1965. The Mt Somers Netball Club opened its doors in 1953.

After World War One the community decided to build a soldiers memorial hall, at an estimated cost of 1400 pounds. The Domain Board of the time pledged to donate 700 pounds towards the cost of the build, however, it took a change of legislation by the government of the day before the gift was validated and authorised. The Mount Somers Memorial Hall was officially opened in 1922. In 1927 the Soldiers Memorial Hall was handed over to the Domain Board.

From 1922 to the mid 1950's the original Mount Somers School building and library (built in 1876) was moved onto the Domain as a supper room. This became redundant though when post-World War Two the community again decided to commemorate local soldiers and added a community and supper room to the existing hall in 1954.

The addition of the Memorial Hall to the Domain broadened the range and diversity of activity occurring there. An Indoor Sports Club formed in the 1950's saw a range of sports introduced to the area including indoor bowls, badminton and table tennis, as well as the popular dances and balls of the era.

The 1960's saw community gala events held on an annual basis. These days typically consisted of a full day event of activities such as running

races, maypole dancing and limestone cutting competitions. The galas were a major fundraiser for local community groups and organisations.

The building of a new ablution block on the Domain in the 1970's was the driver behind the establishment of the Mount Somers Domain Camping Ground.

The Domain has continued to develop and keep pace with the demands of the community with events such as the Mt Somers Classic Mountain Bike race beginning and ending in the Domain for the last seven years, showcasing the reserve to competitors and their supporters. The Domain was also the venue for the successful 'Minerals to Art' show for many years. While Ashburton District Council is the administering body for the Domain, the Mt Somers Reserve Board remains responsible for the daily management of the land.

91. Ruapuna Domain

This reserve is managed by the Ruapuna Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Ruapuna Domain is located on the corner of Ross Road and Ruapuna School Road, south-east of Ruapuna.



The Domain features tennis courts, a community swimming pool and an open grassed area. The Domain also features a building, which can be hired for events. A number of trees were planted at the entrance to the

Domain on Ross Road to commemorate the 75th and 100th anniversary, as well as the closure of Ruapuna School.

A tree and stone monument with a plaque at the entrance to the Domain commemorates James and Mary Ann McLauchlan, Pioneers of the Ashburton District.

Large sheltering hedges surround the Domain on all sides, though none of the trees in the reserve are listed as protected trees under Section 12 of the Operative Ashburton District Plan.

The western part of the Domain is leased for grazing/ plantation purposes. The income generated from this is used to help with the maintenance of the Domain.

Address	4 George Ross Road, Ruapuna
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	12.9297

Ruapuna Domain is made up of one land parcel, a classified Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Land Status
Res 3034 SO 3177	Recreation Reserve

Background

In 1895, the Ruapuna Domain Board took charge of the 27acre Reserve 3034 in the Shepherd's Bush Survey District (NZ Gazette 1895 p 765). Initially, the reserve was not entirely open to the public and was leased.

By 1905, reported¹⁵ improvements included plantations and fencing.

RUAPUNA DOMAIN, CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.
Reserve No. 3034, Block X., Shepherd's Bush Survey District. Area, 27 acres.
Leased on improvement conditions. Improvements now on domain: Plantation, fences, and
grassing. Not used by the public. Proposed operations for ensuing year: Planting trees where
others have failed.

In 1908, the Ruapuna Domain expanded to 31 acres, 3 roads, and 32 perches. By then, the Domain featured a football field and cricket grounds, leased to respective clubs.

Activities such as swimming carnivals and ladies' hockey gained popularity in the late 1910s and early 1920s. In 1931, the Ruapuna Tennis Club sought grants for new courts, and concrete work for this began in 1939.

In 1933, the Ruapuna Cemetery became the responsibility of the County Council, with the Ruapuna Domain Board chosen as appropriate trustees.

Significant events in the following decades included the Ruapuna and Carew patriotic gymkhana, the war workers' victory fair, and the Women's Division of Federated Farmers' children's Christmas party.

In 1945, Mr. Thomas Bennett received recognition for his fifty years of dedicated service to the Ruapuna Domain Board.

In 1979, the reserve was formally declared to be a classified Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 (New Zealand Gazette 1979 p 2524).

As part of the reorganisation of local government in 1989 the land vested in Ashburton District Council.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

The following occupation agreements apply to the reserve:

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Grazing licence	Licence to Occupy	August 2024

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Ruapuna Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance such as mowing due to aging volunteer base and legislative requirements, such as compliance with Health and Safety legislation, water quality of swimming pools and other standards.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1¹⁶:

1. Continue to support the Ruapuna Reserve Board in the day-to-day management and operation of the site.
2. Review occupancy of the reserve and, if required, formalise this through appropriate occupancy agreements.
3. Contemplate leases and licences within existing footprints on recreation reserve land for:
 - Organised sport and facilities, e.g., tennis, swimming pool
 - Farming, Grazing or Afforestation.

Development opportunities

¹⁵ PUBLIC DOMAINS, APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1905 SESSION I, C-10, Source: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1905-I.2.1.4.15>

The following opportunities have been identified for the reserve:

- Renewal of toilet and changing rooms.
- Consider opportunities for additional tree plantings to provide shade.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

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98. Chertsey Domain

This reserve is managed by the Chertsey Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Chertsey Domain is situated between Wilkinsons and Doigs Roads on the western side of SH 1 / Rakaia Highway. The Domain is dominated by trotting and greyhound racing tracks, with limited additional recreational facilities currently provided for the public and no obvious access for the public. Three discussed tennis courts are in the centre of the Domain. An area in the west of the reserve is covered in plantation forestry.



Chertsey Domain is made up of one land parcels, which is held as a classified Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Address	5 Doigs Road, Chertsey
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	11.9331 ha
Legal Description	Reserve 2376, SO 1222
Land Status	Recreation Reserve

Background

The Chertsey Domain Board was established on 22 July 1879 and powers delegated to the Board in 1881. The intentions were for the Board to “brighten the appearance of the dreary plains” by planting about five acres with the choicest evergreens and trees.

In October 1896, it was reported that a new swimming bath, including dressing rooms, had been completed in the Chertsey Domain.

In September 1905 it was reported¹⁷ that a cycle track in the Chertsey Domain was being made, using a traction engine and road grader, but the build was facing difficulties due to the weather.

CHERTSEY DOMAIN, CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.
Reserve No. 2376, Ashburton Survey District, and Reserve No. 3057, Town of Chertsey. Area, 32 acres 2 roods 27 perches.

Leased for grazing. Work done during year: Gorse and tussocks grubbed, 50 chains hedges trimmed, fifty trees planted, trotting-track formed, trees branched to form an avenue 40 chains in length. Improvements now on domain: Eighty chains fences, 10 acres plantation, 10 chains water-race, swimming-bath, dressing-room, trotting-track, and avenue. It is proposed to plough the land during the winter with a view to renewing the grass. Used for picnics, cricket, football, trotting-races, and general recreation.

The Domain suffered severely during the high winds of October 1914. It was reported that three or four rows of large pines were “cut clean out.”

¹⁷ PUBLIC DOMAINS, APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1905 SESSION I, C-10, Source: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1905-1.2.1.4.15>

In 1963, the Chertsey Domain Board was appointed to control the Chertsey Domain subject to the Reserves and Domains Act 1953. The reserve was classified for recreation purposes in 1980 (NZ Gazette 1980 p 756), and vested in Ashburton District Council in Trust for recreation purposes in 1985 (NZ Gazette 1985 p 3737).

Past uses of the Domain have included:

- Chertsey Annual Sports and Races held in the Chertsey Domain from about 1890.
- Chertsey School Committee's annual school treat, 1900s.
- Football matches e.g. Chertsey vs Rakaia July 1906, and many others.
- Easter Monday Chertsey Gymkhana.
- Chertsey Sports and Racing Club annual gatherings.
- Various cycling, sports, entertainments.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

No formal occupation.

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Chertsey Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- The Chertsey Domain is being used for trotting and greyhound racing but there appears to be no current formal agreement to permit this activity.

- Some use and occupancy of the reserve appears to not have been formalised.
- The reserve appears to currently have limited public use with no signage or obvious access point.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1:

1. Support the Chertsey Reserve Board in the day to day management and operation of the site.
2. Review occupancy of the reserve and, if required, formalise this through appropriate occupancy agreements.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified to revitalise the Domain:

- Engage with the community to identify the potential needs and opportunities for development.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

101. Dorie Domain

This reserve is managed by the Dorie Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council

Description

Dorie Domain is located on the corner of Mainwarings Road and McCrorys Road, adjacent to Ardamine Hall, which is on a separate piece of land (not included in the scope of this plan).

Dorie Domain includes two tennis courts and a volley wall, as well as two large areas of green space, which are used for cropping and grazing.

Income generated from farming goes towards the upkeep of the reserve.



Address	1356 Mainwarings Road, Dorie
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NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	4.4515 ha

Dorie Domain is made up of two land parcels. Both are classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and vested in Trust in Ashburton District Council.

Legal Description	Classification
Lot 1 DP 17862	Recreation Reserve
RES 3568 SO 2419	Recreation Reserve

Background

The eastern part of Dorie Domain was the original domain area and was previously a gravel reserve (NZ Gazette 1878, p. 400), before the purpose was changed to public domain in the New Zealand Gazette on the 21 August 1902 (NZ Gazette 1902 p 1729).

The NZ Gazette Notice from 20 November 1908 appointed the members of the South Rakaia Road Board to be the Dorie Domain Board. The same Gazette Notice appointed the Dorie Domain Board to control the Dorie Domain.

Fencing was priority number one for the Domain Board, and by 1909 fences and trees had been put up and planted on the land.

In August 1955, a tennis club was formed in Dorie and they approached the Domain Board requesting the construction of two tennis courts. An additional 2.8 hectares was acquired on the west side of Mainwarings Road and this was declared to be part of the Dorie Domain in 1956.

New trees and various plants for the Domain were purchased from Millichamps's Nursery to spruce up the now enlarged Domain.

Swings were installed in 1958 at a cost of 10 pounds 5 shillings, and a shelter fence was put up for the tennis club at a cost of ten pounds to the Board.

In 1979, the land was classified for recreation reserve (NZ Gazette 1979 p 3029). In 1989, the Dorie Domain Board was amalgamated with the Ashburton County and Borough Councils to form the Ashburton District Council. This vested Dorie Domain in the Ashburton District Council. The vesting was again undertaken in 2005 (NZ Gazette 2005 p 2153).

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

The following occupation agreements apply to the reserve:

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Farming purposes	Licence to Occupy	June 2027

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Dorie Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- Some uses and occupancy of the reserve appear not to have been formalised.
- The reserve appears to currently have limited use by the public.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1¹⁸:

1. Continue to support the Dorie Reserve Board in the management of the site.
2. Review occupancy of the reserve and, if required, formalise through occupancy agreements.
3. Contemplate leases and licences within existing footprints on recreation reserve land for:
 - Organised sport and facilities, e.g., tennis.
 - Farming, Grazing or Afforestation.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified to revitalise the Domain:

- Improve tennis courts.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

¹⁸ If in conflict, specific policies in this section override general policies in Volume 1 of this plan.

102. Ealing Domain

This reserve is managed by the Ealing Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Ealing Domain is located at the corner of Ealing Road and State Highway 1 Rangitata Highway, close to the western boundary of the district. It is surrounded by a shelter belt on all sides.



There is no signage to identify the site as a public reserve.

The Ealing Reserve Board also manages Ealing Hall, which is located on a separate land parcel, Lot 1 DP 5389, at 18 Maronan Ealing Road. Though not formally part of the Domain, this land has been included in the scope of this plan for ease of reference.

The reserve is in close proximity to Te Pari Whakatau, a kāinga mahinga kai¹⁹ (food gathering area) located on the Rangitata River, which is of significance to Ngāi Tahu.

Address	34 Ealing Road, Ealing
NZRA Reserve Category	Recreation and Ecological Linkage
Total Size (in ha)	3.8673

Ealing Domain is made up of one land parcel, which is held as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. Ealing Hall has been declared reserve and classified as Local Purpose (Hall) Reserve in 2024.

Legal Description	Classification
Res 4840 SO 8999 (formerly Res 3112)	Recreation Reserve
Lot 1 DP 5389	Local Purpose (Hall) Reserve

Background

Ealing Domain Board was established in September 1900 and nominated by the Government to manage Reserve 3112, which was 10 acres in size.

¹⁹ Mahinga kai properly refers to Ngāi Tahu interests in traditional food and other natural resources and the places where those resources are obtained,

<https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/ngai-tahu/the-settlement/settlement-offer/cultural-redress/ownership-and-control/mahinga-kai/>

A social function was held in the Ealing railway goods shed on Friday 30 August 1901, with all proceeds in aid of the Ealing Domain establishment fund.

In 1904, it was proposed by the County Council to plant eight acres of the Ealing Domain. The Domain was encircled by a thick belt of pine trees, and used for general recreation gatherings.

A 1905, New Zealand Government publication²⁰ on Public Domains listed the following information for Ealing Domain:

EALING DOMAIN, CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.
Reserve No. 3112, Rangitata Survey District. Area, 10 acres.
Three thousand young trees planted during year. The domain is now fenced and well planted.
It is not used by the public.

During the First World War, the Ealing Domain was the site of the South Canterbury Territorial encampment from March 1916 onwards.

During the Second World War, when the people of Mid-Canterbury feared a coastal invasion by the Japanese, there were large concrete roadblocks standing by ready to be rolled onto the roads in case of attack.

One such concrete roadblock can be found in a nearby picnic area. It was unveiled in place with a commemorative plaque in 2009 and weighs 11.6 tonnes.

Full day parades of the Ashburton Battalion Home Guard were held in June 1943.

The NZ Gazette 1979 p 3244 declares and classifies the land as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. NZ Gazette 2005 p 2153 vests the reserve in trust in Ashburton District Council.

²⁰ PUBLIC DOMAINS, APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1905 SESSION I, C-10, Source: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1905-I.2.1.4.15>

The land at Ealing Hall, Lot 1 DP 5389, was declared reserve and classified as Local Purpose (hall) reserve in 2024.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

Ealing Domain is currently fully leased and farmed. There is no public use of this land.

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Grazing Licence	Licence to Occupy	Expired

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- There is currently no public access to the Domain and the site is not identified as a reserve through signage.
- The constitution of the Ealing Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- The current licence to occupy has expired.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1:

1. Continue to support the Ealing Reserve Board in the management of the reserve and Ealing Hall.

2. Work with mana whenua to investigate opportunities to educate the public about the cultural values of the land and surrounding areas.
3. Contemplate leases and licences within existing footprints on recreation reserve land for:
 - Farming, Grazing or Afforestation.
4. In future, consider whether the land may be required for recreational uses.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified to revitalise the Domain:

- Install signage to identify the site as a reserve.

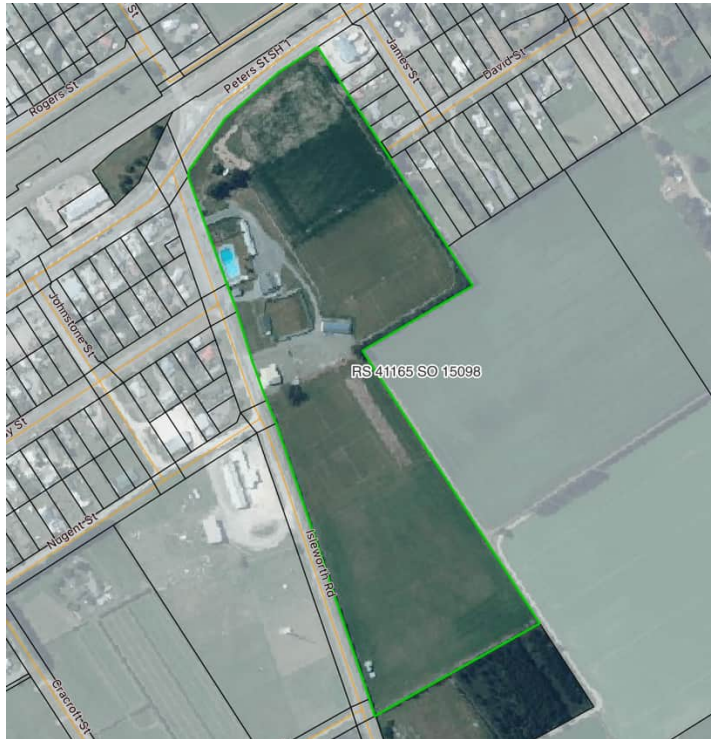
Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

105. Hinds Domain

This reserve is managed by the Hinds Reserve Board²¹ and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Hinds Domain is centrally located in the village of Hinds, at the corner Isleworth Road and State Highway 1/ Peters Street.



²¹ The Hinds Reserve Board also manages the Maronan Recreation Reserve and Lynnford Recreation Reserve. Information and policies specific to those reserves are included in Volume 5 of this plan.

Hinds Cemetery abuts the reserve to the south (see Volume 5 of the plan for information about Hinds Cemetery).

The Domain features extensive facilities for active sports and recreation facilities, including sport fields and changing rooms, bowling greens, an outdoor pool, a rifle range, as well as public toilet facilities. The stand-alone public toilet facility in the Domain is maintained by Ashburton District Council.

A playground is located in the northern part of the reserve, adjacent to Peters Street.

The reserve is also home to the Hinds Fire Station, which is located on Isleworth Road, to the south of the bowling green.

The reserve features a large limestone sculpture, visible from State Highway 1/ Peters Street, which was erected as part of the millennium celebrations. It depicts a family and animals on either side.



The southern end of the reserve is used for grazing or cropping.

Address	3 Isleworth Road, Hinds
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	11.662

Hinds Domain is made up of two land parcel. Part RS 41165 SO 15098 is a classified Recreation Reserve subject to the Reserves Act 1977. Section 1 SO 480632 was surveyed off from Part RS 4165 SO 15098 and reclassified as Local Purpose (Fire Station) Reserve in 2024. This was to align its classification with the primary use and purpose of the site as a rural fire station.

Legal Description	Classification
Part RS 41165 SO 15098 (Section 2 SO 480632)	Recreation Reserve
Part RS 41165 SO 15098 (Section 1 SO 480632)	Local Purpose (Fire Station) Reserve

Background

The earliest records of the Hinds Domain dates back to 1898, when the first Board was appointed. The initial work of the Board focused on preparing the land for use by the community with extensive planting of trees and fencing taking place.

The land parcels that made up the Domain were amalgamated into Rural Section 41165 (SO 15098) which has two underlying titles.

A block of land, known as the 'Hinds Domain Number Two' (Reserve 1262, Block VI, Hinds Survey District; 9 acres 2 roods 33 perches) was noted in an early report as being situated close to the Hinds railway station and comprising of level, stony ground. Picnics were held

sporadically in the Domain, with the major draw card being the tennis courts which were well utilised by local tennis players.

A 1905, New Zealand Government publication²² on Public Domains listed the following information for Hinds Domain:

HINDS DOMAIN, CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.
Reserve No. 2281, Block III., Hinds Survey District. Area, 22 acres 2 roods 7 perches.
Nil report furnished.

By 1911, the Board had become known as the Hinds Number Two Domain Board. In line with coronation memorials throughout the country, a request was made to Council by the Board for assistance to build a swimming bath. Council agreed to this request and decided to match 'dollar for dollar' funds raised by the Domain Board to build the concrete lined swimming pool. The community swimming pool was opened in 1912, with a total build cost of thirty-eight pounds.

A second report to Parliament by the Lands Department in 1911 states that the Domain (Hinds Number Two Domain) had fences, plantation, water race, asphalt tennis courts and pavilion amenities located on it. Tennis was still the main attraction to the Domain, with picnics being the second recreation use of the area. Funds were raised by the Board through grazing and cropping.

The Hinds Athletics Club held their inaugural event at the Domain in 1912. This was followed by a Community Ball in the evening. The earliest records of a cricket match are also from 1912 when a match was played between Hinds and Lismore. Two years later the first recorded rugby match was played, again between Hinds and Lismore.

²² PUBLIC DOMAINS, APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1905 SESSION I, C-10, Source: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1905-I.2.1.4.15>

The land was classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 (NZG 1980 p1216) and vested in trust in Ashburton District Council in 2005 (NZG 2005 p 2153).

A separate land parcel was created through surveying off the land where the fire station is located. This was reclassified in 2024 as Local Purpose (fire station) reserve*. The remainder of the site remains classified as Recreation Reserve.

While the Ashburton District Council is the administering body for the Domain, the Hinds Reserve Board remains responsible for the day-to-day management of the reserve.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

The following occupation agreements apply to the reserve:

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Hinds Bowling Club	Deed of Lease	June 2053
Southern Rugby Club	Deed of Lease	June 2053
Fire and Emergency New Zealand	Deed of Lease	Pending

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Hinds Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- The Deed of Lease for the fire station has not been finalised.

- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance due to aging volunteer base and legislative requirements. Examples for this are required compliance with Health and Safety legislation, water quality of swimming pools and drinking water, as well as compliance with current NZ Playground Safety and other standards. In the case of playgrounds, Council has recently taken on maintenance of all playgrounds located on Domains.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1:

1. Continue to support the Hinds Reserve Board in the management of the Domain.
2. Review occupancy of the Domain and, if required, formalise this through appropriate occupancy agreements.
3. Contemplate leases and licences within existing footprints on recreation reserve land for:
 - Organised sport and facilities, e.g., rugby, bowling, rifle range, etc
 - Farming, Grazing or Afforestation.
4. Review Deed of Lease for the fire station.
5. Develop a landscape plan for the reserve which should consider potential replacement of mature plantings nearing the end of their lifespan. The landscape plan should be prepared in line with the general policies for parks development in Volume 1 of this plan.

Development opportunities

No development opportunities identified.

113. Pendarves Domain

This reserve is managed by the Pendarves Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Pendarves Domain is located at the corner of Chertsey Kyle and Christys Roads, just across from the historic Pendarves Hall (not in scope of this plan).



The majority of the reserve is available for recreation. It features tennis courts, a volley wall and open grassed areas, with some hedging surrounding the tennis courts and the southern boundary of the Domain.

The reserve is also home to the local rural fire station which was given a new tanker shed in December 2003. This was later expanded with better facilities.

A community recycling centre is located in the reserve, just south east of the fire station.

Address	1032 Chertsey Kyle Road, Pendarves
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	2.059

Pendarves Domain is made up of one land parcels, which is classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Land Status
Res 4729 SO 8734	Recreation Reserve

Background

In 1929, the first tennis courts were built at Pendarves for the new Pendarves Tennis Club. The first match here was played against the Rokeby B Representatives.

In August 1958 funds for the development of goal posts at the Domain were made available.

In 1979, the reserve was declared to be classified Recreation Reserve (NZ Gazette 1979 p 2524) and later vested in Ashburton District Council in 2005 (NZ Gazette 2005 p 2153).

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

The following occupation agreements apply to the reserve:

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Fire and Emergency New Zealand	Deed of Lease	Pending

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Pendarves Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- The Fire Station is located partially on Res 4729 SO 8734, a Recreation Reserve. The Reserves Act 1977 does not provide a mechanism for leasing recreation reserve for emergency services. The part of the reserve where the fire station is located will need to be reclassified to Local Purpose (Fire Station) Reserve.
- The Deed of Lease for the fire station has not been finalised.
- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance due to aging volunteer base, as well as legislative requirements.
- The reserve appears to have limited public use.
- There are limited opportunities for the Reserve Board to generate income to support the ongoing maintenance of the reserve.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1:

1. Continue to support the Pendarves Reserve Board in the day-to-day management and operation of the site.

2. Survey off the land the fire station is located on (Res 4729 SO 8734) and re-classify as Local Purpose (fire station) reserve.
3. Review Deed of Lease for the fire station following re-classification.
4. Consider how the domain could be activated to encourage greater public use.
5. Support the Reserve Board in exploring opportunities to generate additional income that supports the upkeep and management of the reserve, where in line with the policies in Volume 1 of this plan and relevant legislation.
6. Consider removing the community recycling station from the reserve. A potential site could be the council owned former quarry opposite the fire station.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified for the reserve:

- Upgrade courts.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

115. Rakaia Domain

This reserve is managed by the Rakaia Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Rakaia Domain is situated in the north-west of the township of Rakaia. The Domain is comprised of three separate areas.

The main part of the Domain is located on the northern side of Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road and south of Normanby Road. It is 19.8296 hectares in size and generally of flat topography.



A large forestry plantation of 40.8732 hectares is located on the northern side of Normanby Road (Res 25 SO 853,854).

This area is vegetated in pine plantings and the 3.2km long Rakaia River Terrace Walkway traverses through this. Just north of the pine plantation is the Rakaia River, an Outstanding Natural Landscape. Also to the north is an Area of Significant Conservation Value (ASCV ID 67) and a Geoconservation Areas (ID 18). These sites and areas are protected in the Operative Ashburton District Plan.

Also associated with the Domain is an area of land on Michael Street on the other side of State Highway 1 (Res 2986 SO 851) of just over 2 hectares. This part of the reserve is bordered by Tancred Street to the

west, Michael Street in the south and Pitt Street to the east. An unformed section of Dunford Street forms the northern boundary. This part of the reserve has in the past been leased for grazing and cropping.

Proceeds from the plantation and farming are used to assist with the maintenance and development of the Domain.

Address	24 Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road, Rakaia & Michael Street
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	62.7262

The main part of the Domain contains a mix of active recreation and areas for community groups. Active recreation activities include sports fields used for hockey, soccer and rugby, tennis and netball courts, bowling greens, pony club activity, including a dressage arena, as well as indoor sports facility for squash.

A number of club and changing room facilities are located in the reserve, as are public toilets.

A small playground, largely for preschool aged children is located just south of the tennis and netball courts.

Vegetation at the main part of the Domain consists of open grass areas and mature plantings including substantial hedging along all boundaries. There are also internal belts of trees which tend to create a physical separation between the various recreational activities. There are no trees within the Rakaia Domain that are protected under Schedule 12 in the Operative Ashburton District Plan.

The three land parcels which make up Rakaia Domain are classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Land Status
RES 4638	Recreation Reserve
Res 2537 SO 853,854	Recreation Reserve
Res 2986 SO 851	Recreation Reserve

Appendix 1 and 2 contains a larger scale location map and detailed information about the land status, including NZ Gazette Notice references.

Background

The Domain was established via New Zealand Gazette on 1 July 1880 and the South Rakaia Domain Board was appointed to manage initially 50 acres of reserve land.

The Domain quickly grew in popularity as a sports centre for Rakaia, and by 1887 the outside track had been adopted as a horse racing track.

Community events became commonplace at the Domain and included the inaugural 1885 Boxing Day sports competition, football, athletics, and much more.

A 1905 New Zealand Government publication²³ on Public Domains listed the following information for South Rakaia Domain:

²³ PUBLIC DOMAINS, APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1905 SESSION I, C-10, Source: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1905-I.2.1.4.15>

SOUTH RAKAIA DOMAIN, CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.
 Reserve No. 2442, Town of South Rakaia. Area, 50 acres.
 Work done during year: Construction of running-track, culvert, and general maintenance. Improvements now on domain: Boundary-fences, well and pump, horse-yard, swimming-pond, two dressing-sheds, building, concrete cricket-pitch, racecourse, running-track, rustic seats, and 130 acres plantation. Used for sports, picnics, races, swimming, cricket, hockey, football, and general recreation. Proposed operations for ensuing year: Erection of fences and seats, extension of running-track, deepening swimming-pool, tree-planting, reforming racecourse, and general maintenance.

Around 1921-1922, an Act of Parliament enabled the Ashburton Hospital Board to purchase land from the South Rakaia Domain and build a cottage hospital to serve Rakaia.

Over the years, land was also added to the Domain, such as the reserve located at Michael Street (Res 2986 SO 851), which was reserved in 1893 (NZ Gazette 1893 p 891 – 892) and added to the Domain through NZ Gazette 1907 p 3214. Further land at Michael Street was added in 1911 (NZ Gazette 1911 p 2050).

In 1959, the South Rakaia Domain became known as the Rakaia Domain under the Reserves and Domains Act 1957 (NZ Gazette 1959 p 870).

The New Zealand Gazette 1985 p 3737-3738 vested the reserve in Ashburton County Council. It was subsequently transferred to Ashburton District Council through the Local Government Reorganisation Order 1989.

For more detailed information on the history of Rakaia Domain see Appendix 3.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

The following occupation agreements apply to the reserve:

Occupier	Instrument	Final Expiry
Grazing Licence (Michael Street)	Licence to Occupy	Annual Review

Rakaia Football Club	Licence to Occupy	Expired
Rakaia Pony Club	Licence to Occupy	Expired
Rakaia Netball Club	Licence to Occupy	May 2024
Rakaia Squash Club	Licence to Occupy	Expired
Rakaia Hockey	Licence to Occupy	May 2024
Rakaia Bowling Club Inc	Deed of Lease	October 2050
Rakaia Rugby Club	Deed of Lease	October 2053

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of the Rakaia Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- Most occupancy agreements for the reserve have expired and or will expire in 2024, leading to uncertainties for occupants.
- It is becoming more difficult for reserve boards to undertake maintenance to standards expected by clubs, as well as legislative requirements. Examples for this are required compliance with Health and Safety legislation and compliance with NZ Playground Safety and other standards. In the case of playgrounds, Council has recently taken on maintenance of all playgrounds located on Domains.
- Facilities in the Domain are coming to the end of their useful life and require funding for renewals and upgrades.

- Work is currently underway to demolish the Rakaia Rugby Club changing rooms and replace with a new Recreation Centre. This work is led by the Rakaia Rugby Club and largely funded through community fund raising. Council is funding the construction and operation of new public toilets at the end of the new Recreation Centre.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1:

1. Continue to support the Rakaia Reserve Board in the day-to-day management and operation of the site.
2. Review the occupancy and use of the reserve and, if required, formalise occupancy agreements for contemplated activities and update agreements e.g. where footprints of buildings have been altered.
3. Contemplate leases and licences within existing footprints on recreation reserve land for:
 - Organised sport and facilities, e.g., hockey, soccer, rugby, tennis, netball, bowling green, pony club and squash.
 - Farming, Grazing or Afforestation.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified for the reserve:

- Upgrade courts.
- Renew bowling club building, when required.
- Upgrade playground and provide accessible and inclusive play for a range of ages.

Appendix 1 – Land Status Maps



Appendix 2 – Detailed land status information

The following land parcels make up Rakaia Domain:

Legal Description	Classification	Owner/ Administering Body	Title	Area (ha)	New Zealand Gazette Reference
RES 4638 (formerly Pt Res 2442)	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council		19.8296	<p>1880 p 953 (establishes reserve for public recreation under Public Reserves Act 1877 to be known as South Rakaia Recreation Ground, gazette notice on the same pages delegates powers to and appoints the South Rakaia Domain Board)</p> <p>1959 p 870 (change of name from South Rakaia Domain to Rakaia Domain)</p> <p>1979 p 2815 (classifies land as Recreation Reserve)</p> <p>1985 p 3737 (vested land in Ashburton County Council in trust for recreation purposes)</p>
Res 2537 SO 853, 854	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council		40.8732	<p>1959 p 870 (change of name from South Rakaia Domain to Rakaia Domain)</p> <p>1979 p 2815 (classifies land as Recreation Reserve)</p> <p>1985 p 3737 (vested land in Ashburton County Council in trust for recreation purposes)</p>
Res 2986 SO 851	Recreation Reserve	Ashburton District Council		2.0234	<p>1893 p 891 – 892 (permanently establishes part of this land as reserve)</p> <p>1907 p 3214 (appoints South Rakaia Domain Board to control the land)</p> <p>1911 p 2050 (adds land to the reserve)</p>

Legal Description	Classification	Owner/ Administering Body	Title	Area (ha)	New Zealand Gazette Reference
					1959 p 870 (change of name from South Rakaia Domain to Rakaia Domain) 1979 p 2815 (classifies land as Recreation Reserve) 1985 p 3737 (vested land in Ashburton County Council in trust for recreation purposes)

Appendix 3 – History of Rakaia Domain²⁴

On 12 June 1848, the land comprising what is now Rakaia Domain was purchased by Crown from Ngāi Tahu. It was generally termed the “Kemp Purchase” or “Canterbury Purchase” comprising around 40% of the South Island.

The deed of sale for this gross area of 13,551,400 acres (5,484,057 hectares) shows a purchase price of £2,000.

The boundaries of the area were poorly defined which remained a point of contention between Ngāi Tahu and the Crown.

Historical plans were prepared around the 1860's in the vicinity of the subject land (available through the Heritage Maps New Zealand database). These show the parent Crown land from which Rakaia Township and the Rakaia Domain land were derived.

The early records of the Rakaia Domain, known until 1959 as the South Rakaia Domain, can be dated back to 1880, when the first South Rakaia Domain Board was appointed to manage 50 acres of reserve land. The initial work of the Board focused on preparing the land for use by the community with ploughing, extensive planting of trees and fencing taking place.

From the outset the Domain has grown and harvested trees for income to enhance and improve the Domain for the community. This practise continues today.

The Domain quickly established itself as a central location for meeting the sport and recreation needs of the community. From the beginning it was

used for a range of sport and recreation, such as athletics and team sports like football, and by 1887 the domain board granted permission for the outside of the track to be used as a training track for horses.

In 1885 the inaugural Boxing Day sports competition was held. This became an annual event at the Domain and included horse racing and athletic events.

A swimming pond was built in the Domain in 1892. The depth of the pond transitioned from two feet at one end through to eight and a half feet at the other, with the deep water separated by sheep netting. The hours were fixed so men and women could swim at separate hours, with men being allowed to swim between 6pm and 10am, while woman could swim during the day. The Rakaia Amateur Swimming Club was subsequently formed and held swimming competitions from as early as 1894.

Over the years, land was added to the Domain, such as the reserve located at Michael Street (Res 2986 SO 851), which was added through NZ Gazette 1907 p 3214 and land added to in 1911 (NZ Gazette 1911 p 2050).

In a report to Parliament by the Lands Department in 1911 it was recorded that the improvements on the Domain consisted of; fences, well, pump, horse-yards, saddling paddock, swimming pond, two dressing sheds, office, concrete cricket pitch, racecourse, running track, rustic seats, water race and about 130 acres of tree plantations.

By the 1920's the Domain had firmly established itself as the sport and recreation centre of the area with horse racing, hockey, football, tennis,

²⁴ Source: Rakaia Domain Reserve Management Plan, 2012 and Our History by Janine Irvine and the Rakaia History Group.

athletics, cycling, cricket, croquet, lawn bowls and swimming all occurring at the Domain.

In 1921 the Domain Board received a request from Ashburton Hospital for an acre of land from the Board to establish a cottage hospital for the area. The Board granted permission for the Rakaia Cottage Hospital to be built on the south-east corner of the Domain. The Rakaia Cottage Hospital opened on the 26th of May 1923, and cost a total of £2888, 15 shillings and sixpence. It went on to serve as the maternity centre for the area for many years.

During World War Two, an army camp for military personnel was based at the Domain.

In 1959, the South Rakaia Domain became known as the Rakaia Domain under the Reserves and Domains Act (1957). The land was formally classified as a recreation reserve in 1979 under the Reserves Act (1977).

Since the 1980's the Domain has continued to develop and keep pace with the demands of the community. Clubs located on the Domain have also altered their approach to meeting their members' needs, with some clubs investing significantly in buildings located on the Domain. While Ashburton District Council is the administering body for the Domain, the Rakaia Domain Board remains responsible for the daily management of the land.

118. Seafield Domain

This reserve is managed by the Seafield Reserve Board and administered by Ashburton District Council.

Description

Seafield Domain is situated to the east of Seafield Road to the south-east of Seafield. It includes the Seafield Hall and a large open grassed area, surrounded by large hedges. The Seafield Rifle Range is located partially in the reserve.

The hall has served as a place for meetings and functions for decades. Memorials to the eleven Seafield men who served in World War I, and to the twelve district men who went to World War II are located in the hall.



Address	1673 Seafield Road, Pendarves
NZRA Reserve Category	Sport and Recreation
Total Size (in ha)	2.0234

Seafield Domain is made up of one land parcel, which is a classified Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Legal Description	Land Status
RES 4961 (formerly Lot 9 DP 147, Pt RS 25224)	Recreation Reserve

Background

The reserve is the former site of the old Seafield School (closed in 1936). The old school building later became the community hall until the existing building was built in 1970.

New Zealand Gazette 1958 p 845 declares the land to be a reserve for recreation purposes, subject to the Reserves and Domains Act 1953 and appoints members to the Seafield Domain Board.

In 1980, the reserve was classified as a Recreation Reserve (Seafield Recreation Reserve, NZ Gazette 1980 p 3004). Subsequently in 2005, the land was vested in Ashburton District Council (NZ Gazette 2005 p 2153).

In June 2008, the local community voted on whether the hall should stay where it is or move to a new site. The result was that the hall would remain on the old school site, where it stands to this day.

Occupation/ Leases (as at April 2023)

No formal occupation.

Key issues

The following key issues are identified:

- The constitution of Seafield Reserve Board was adopted in 2016. The constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains legally compliant and promotes effective governance to meet evolving community needs.
- It was previously thought that the rifle range was on private property, however, the club building appears to straddle the boundary between the domain and adjacent private property. The occupancy of the rifle range may need to be formalised.
- The site is not identified through signage.
- The hall and reserve appear to be underutilised and there appear to be limited opportunities for the Reserve Board to generate income to support the ongoing maintenance of the reserve.
- Provision of safe drinking water at the hall, in compliance with relevant legislation and the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand.

Specific policies

The following specific policies apply in addition to the policies outlined in Volume 1²⁵:

1. Support the Seafield Reserve Board in the management of the site.
2. Consider how the domain could be activated.
3. Support the Reserve Board in exploring opportunities to generate additional income that supports the upkeep and management of the reserve, where in line with the policies in Volume 1 of this plan and relevant legislation.
4. If required, formalise the occupancy agreement for the rifle range.

²⁵ If in conflict, specific policies in this section override general policies in Volume 1 of this plan.

5. Work with the Reserve Board to ensure the provision of safe drinking water at Seafield Hall.

Development opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified for the reserve:

- Mark the site as a reserve through signage,
- Consider undertaking tree planting at the site.

Any development is to be carried out in line with the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies outlined in Volume 1 of this plan, the Ashburton District Plan, and as resources permit.