


TAIHAPE DOMAIN MASTER PLAN

Revision History

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Revision	Prepared By	Description	Date
A	Darroch Day & Rebecca Cray	Taihape Parks Master Plan - DRAFT	09/06/2023
B	Rebecca Cray	Minor revisions, issued as final	10/07/2023

Document Acceptance

Action	Name	Signed	Date
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on behalf of Beca Ltd.



Acknowledgements:

A special thanks to the community members that came along and gave us their time, shared their stories, passion and aspiration for their community and specifically Taihape Domain. We would also like to thank Councillors and Council officers for their time and input into the process.

We would also like to acknowledge tangata whenua, thank them for their initial conversations, and acknowledge there will be more conversations to come for the Taihape Domain.

This document should be printed double sided at A3.

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CONTEXT

The Taihape Domain is situated 200m east of main street (State Highway 1) and is directly connected to the town centre through Weka, Kuku and Tui Streets. The Domain is the town's largest recreational space, and includes a large predominantly flat open space, encircled by 18 buildings, and redwood groves and remnant native kahikatea forest east along the Hautapu River edge. More natural amenity areas and event overflow space are situated to the east, including various assets and infrastructure to support horse and shearing activities. It is set within a stunning natural environment, with views to Mount Ruapehu and the surrounding hill land.

Taihape is a town of approximately 2,000 people, and the Taihape Domain has formed a central part of community life, social interaction and physical activity for decades. It plays an important role in introducing kids to sport as well as keeping youth and adults engaged in physical activity, providing social connection and associated mental health benefits. Importantly, it services a much broader rural community that includes more isolated farms, Ohakune and Raetihi residents.

Importantly, the Domain also holds several events from regional rugby games, North Island horse events, and the celebrated Gumboot Day, attracting over 3,000 people. These events are the lifeblood of rural community living and provide economic uplift and other opportunities for the township of Taihape.

The community spirit, volunteer-hours, passion and love for Taihape Domain and all the activities it supports are the strength and central beating heart to life in Taihape. There is much to celebrate and be grateful for in this local treasure!

Urban Context

With its character-buildings, great cafes, second hand stores and convenience stops Taihape's Main Street is a popular stopover location for those heading north along the Desert Road, or south towards Palmerston North or Wellington.

The Local Community Board have investigated the economic contribution of the State Highway 1 to Taihape, with results finding that each carpark along the main street contributes \$800 of revenue per day. This is forecast to increase to \$900 per day (if in this case) a bike track was created within the Domain to extend the activity offering and overall visitor stopover time. Similarly it is likely that tour and bus services would undertake their stopovers at the Domain. Creating new connections, interest and the number of overlapping activities and attractions supports greater use, vibrancy and word-of-mouth "advertising" for stopping-over in Taihape.

The proximity of the Domain to main street provides huge potential to enhance recreational outcomes for visitors while improving the economic uplift of Taihape. Making these linkages obvious and appealing by celebrating existing Domain features and new assets is a key way in which investment can be leveraged for the benefit of the wider community.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The intent of this project is to form an integrated masterplan for the development, use and upgrade of Taihape Domain in a way that is resilient, adaptable and able to best support the community.

PURPOSE

As with any community, its sport and recreational needs change over time, and investment in the relevant infrastructure can cost a lot of time and money to achieve.

The purpose of this process and resulting masterplan document is to understand:

- The number of user groups currently utilising the Domain, their membership base and trends.
- The functional needs of each user group within the Domain; what is working well, and where there are conflicts or issues.
- What their aspirations are for future use, development, or expansion.
- What (if any) funding or grants and projects they already have underway.

These findings were then used to form the draft masterplan for the integrated development of Taihape Domain with the engagement informing user group needs, joint investment, and allocation of space in a way that supports the recreational needs of the Taihape community over the next decade.

THE PROCESS

Rangitikei District Council engaged landscape architects from Beca to investigate the current function, use, conflicts, and opportunities for integrated development at the Taihape Domain. Through this process, Council wanted to achieve an integrated masterplan that shows how user group function and investment can be aligned to support the ongoing recreational needs of the community.

The formation of this document involved the following process:

Information gathering

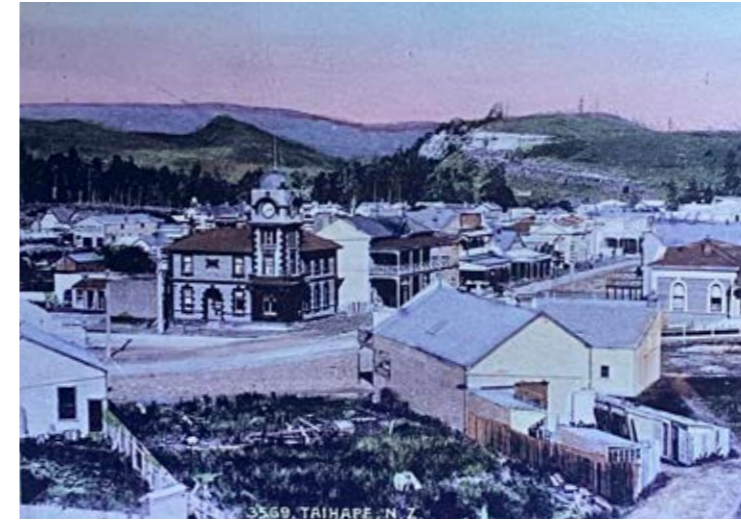
- The project began in July 2022 with an initial Council officer meeting, site walkover and meeting with Local Councillors.
- A community engagement strategy was then drafted. The project then went on hold for some time due to Council officer severe illness.
- In April 2023, Beca facilitated two days of community workshops on a per user group basis to understand the functional requirements and aspirations of each user group. A hand marked-up aerial plan was used to capture each groups thoughts and supplemented with note-taking.

Masterplan development

- Maps and notes from the engagement were taken back and processed into 10 user group maps demonstrating the current use and function within Taihape Domain.
- The key themes, ideas and conflict points were consolidated.
- A draft masterplan was then produced identifying potential opportunities for consolidated development.
- These graphic summaries were then combined into a full Taihape Domain engagement summary and masterplan document and concluded with a summary of recommendations.

Next steps:

- Council officers will then be presenting the proposed masterplan to elected members for inclusion in the current Annual Plan process.





TAIHAPE DOMAIN MASTER PLAN

USER GROUP ENGAGEMENT

RUGBY & TOUCH

General:

Current organisation numbers:

- Utiku Old Boys: 1 x rugby team.
- Taihape Rugby: 2 x rugby teams.
- Women's rugby team recently formed in Taihape.
- Junior Rugby: 80 – 100 kids every Saturday.
- Taihape Touch run over summer.

What Buildings and grounds do you currently use?

- Fields 1, 2 and 3 and grandstand changing rooms.
- Utiku Old Boys Club share with netball and host midgets and occasional travelling Junior teams after matches.
- Taihape Rugby Club (off-site).
- Internal laneway used for vehicle access to Utiku Old

Boys carpark space and northern side of grandstand.

- Junior rugby uses all three fields for six games/12 teams to play at once.

When? What times? Frequency or season per year?

- Rugby season is March until the end of July/August. Fields are used Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays for training, and Saturdays for games. Women's rugby play on Friday nights.
- Touch train over the summer and can use Utiku Clubrooms but often head home straight after games.
- Field 2 for weeknight training (lights are much better) and deliberately preserving field 1 for Saturday games, with field 3 used for warm/up pre-game.
- During rugby season there are 3 – 4 times a year where there will be three games on a Saturday,

attracting around 300 people. Occasionally there are also college games at 11am.

- Local derby Taihape versus Utiku competition twice each year 200 – 400 for big match, first game of the season for trophy.
- Utiku Clubrooms rented out on average once per month, including providing wakes for club affiliates.

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

- Changing room and shower quality and shortage; need 6 changing rooms when three teams are playing on a Saturday (occurs 3 – 4 times per season).
- Grandstand toilets, showers and changing rooms (x8) and power supply are poorly functioning.
- Turf quality conflicts post horse-use at times and

issues with grass not re-growing, uneven ground, improper (or no) reinstatement.

- Carparking is at a premium during games and sees cars all down Kokako and Kuku Streets.
- Gate-taking for games causes conflicts with swimming pool access.

Future vision, aspirations, or opportunities?

Renewals/Upgrades:

- Utiku would like to add showers into the adjoining derelict storage building (council-owned), using the same footprint and acquire funding to install showers.
- Upgrade/replace Kokako street toilets, particularly as midgets need them.
- Provide additional carparking.
- Upgrade grandstand toilets, showers and power.

Note that field lights are turned on from within the grandstand.

Management:

- Retention of Kokako Street fencing as it helps control people and direct towards gate-taking.
- Create a better system for when emergency access is required for ambulance access to the fields.
- Agreed standards with horse-event organisers for proper field reinstatement post-event. It was noted however, that Council's turf management has substantially improved over the last 4-5 years.
- Management/coordination of games across the region could reduce facility demand by only scheduling 1-2 games per Saturday.

Maintenance:

- A few tweaks to lights on number 1 field are needed.

Capital:

- Additional lights for field 1 to match the lighting on field 2 for training.
- Northern Whanganui RFU looking to purchase and provide a permanent digital scoreboard at the southern end between fields 1 and 2, somewhere near new Nga Awa block.

Any current strategy documents, grant funding, pending design or applications?

- Utiku just received a \$10,000 grant from the Rugby Union to upgrade their clubrooms.
- Gate-takings (approx. \$1,000 – \$1,500) per Saturday game(s) fund maintenance within the park or clubrooms from time-to-time.

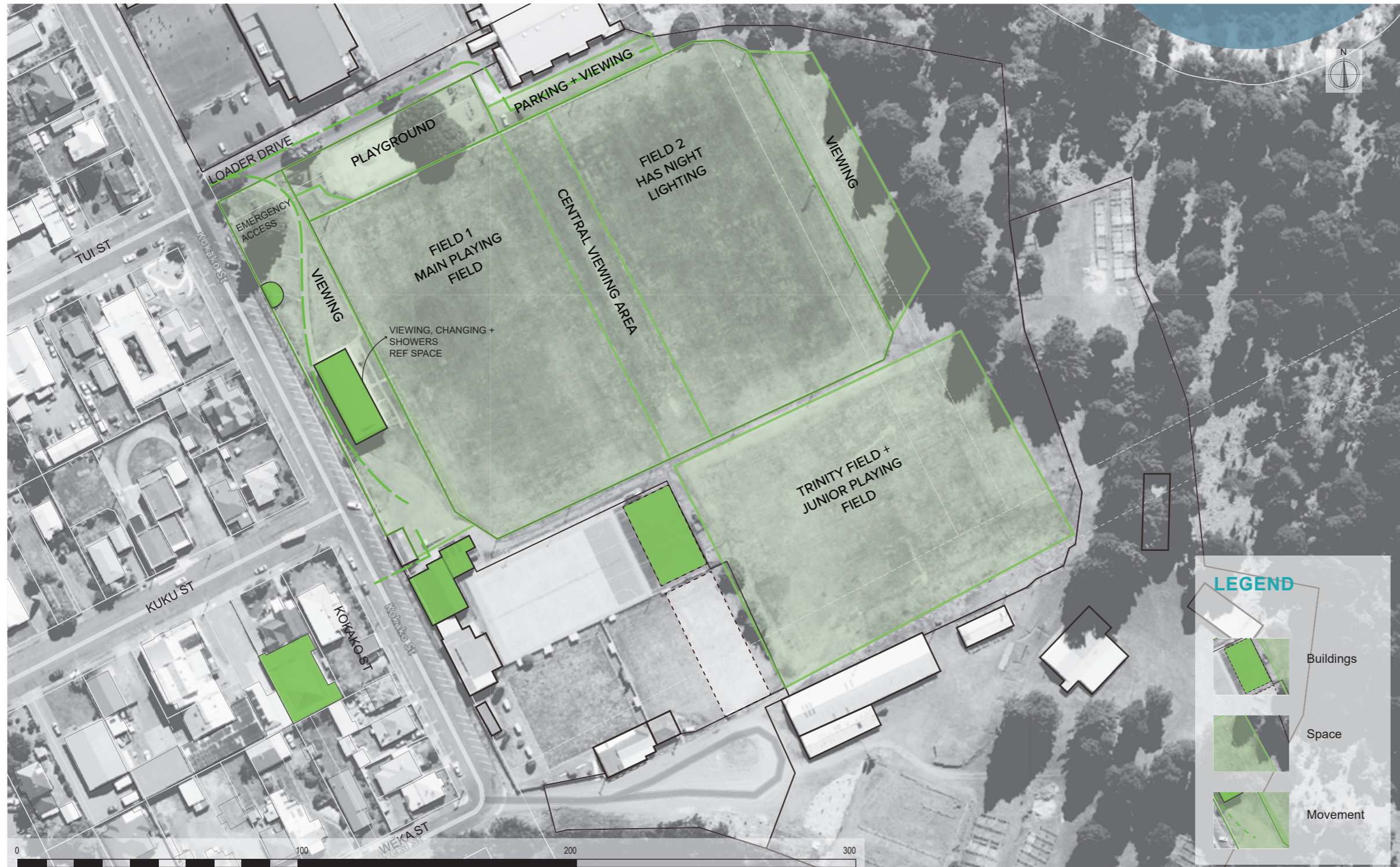


Figure 1 - Field 1.

GUMBOOT DAY

General:

Gumboot Day has been combined with the A&P Show over the last few years, however the A&P Show is unlikely to continue.

What buildings and grounds do you currently use?

- The event is held on fields 1 and 2, with overflow parking on the southern field. Generators are brought in to power the rides and various event components.
- A stage is positioned between fields 1 and 2, adjacent to a 50 metre gumboot throwing lane.
- Rides are situated close to the power generators that are brought in from Marton, as the power from the grandstand is too unreliable.
- Stallholders park along the eastern edge of field 3.
- Visitors park along side streets, sometimes Tui Street

is closed and the event is signed from the State Highway.

- Two entrances are formed which the Maori wardens and Rotary collect a donation/koha for entry.

When? What times? Frequency or season per year?

Once a year event with approximately 3,000 people.

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

- Need more power along the eastern side of fields 1 and 3. and southern (3).

Future vision, aspirations, or opportunities?

Renewals/Upgrades:

- Upgrade the pavilion building with new plumbing and exterior paint. Recontour its surrounds and maintain track access.
- Paint all ancillary building exteriors within the forest area.
- Install additional power points onto existing poles around number 1, 2 and reserve fields.
- Improve the everyday amenity of the yard-forest area through additional seating/picnic tables and removal of tagging/vandalism.

Management:

- Plan of where water goes to/from and how to turn it off.
- Would like Council to take over the running and management of the irrigation system over summer, which is run twice per week from December.
- Recommend lease of yard area be reviewed and re-done, particularly as A&P Show discontinues.
- Hoping to utilise the new Nga Awa building for the next event but may still need additional toilets and showers brought in.

Maintenance:

- Removal of tagging on yard-area buildings and occasional vandalism.

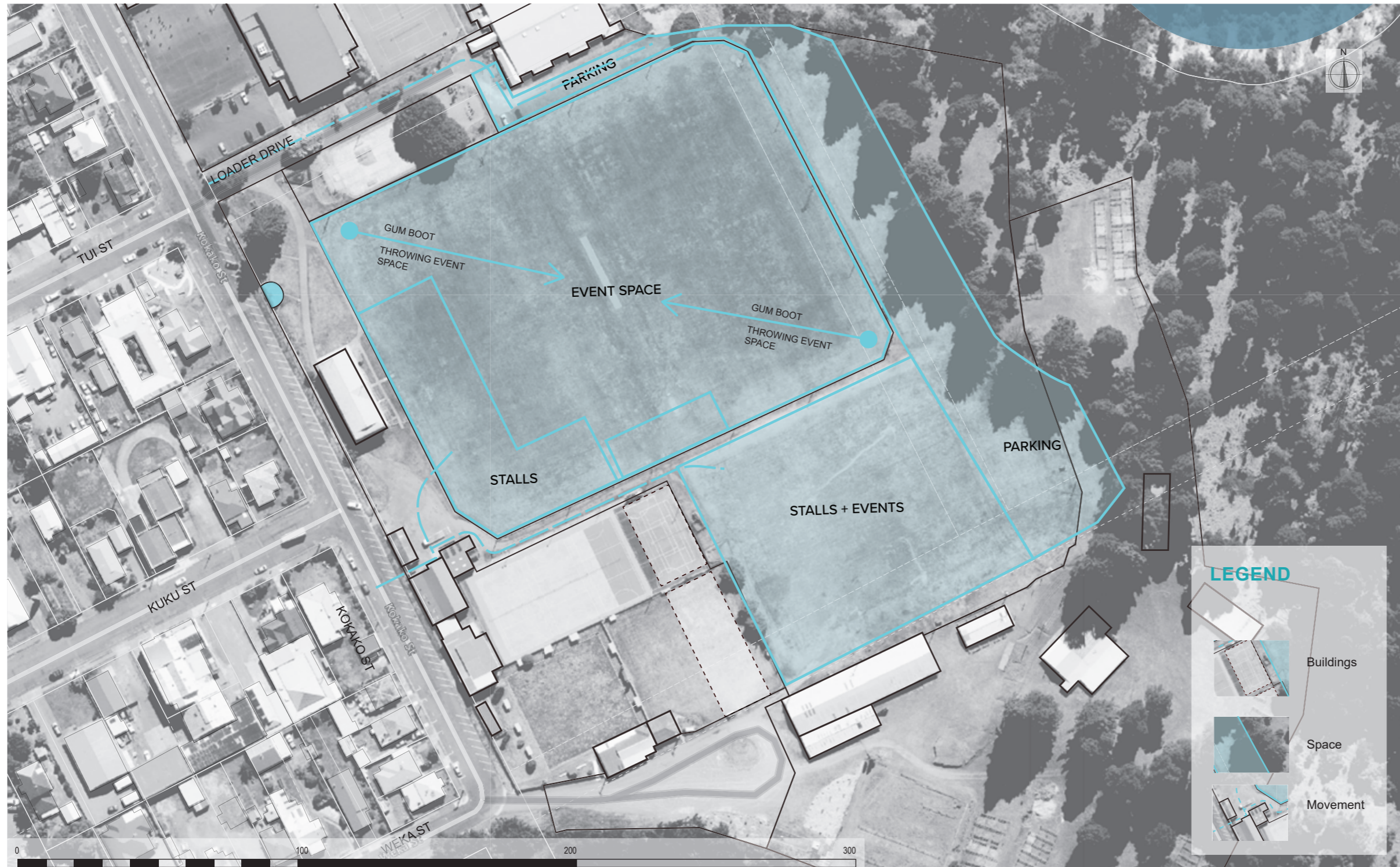


Figure 2 - Entrance point alongside Utiku Old Boys.



Figure 3 - Stall and event space on field 3, field 2 at rear of image.



Figure 4 - Main event space looking east.

SHOW JUMPING

General:

Dressage and show jumping lease the eastern yard-forest area off Council and pay to maintain the buildings and structures within it. They utilise most of the same infrastructure and grounds for their events, however in different configurations.

What buildings and grounds do you currently use?

- Shearing pavilion
- Forest toilet blocks x 2
- Admin 'Tui' building (has a mural) within the redwoods
- Fields 1,2, and 3 as reserve/training field.
- Northern vehicle access along Loader Drive
- Southern vehicle access track into yard area.
- Additional portable showers and toilets are bought in for the events.

Show jumping event setup:

- Runs the event out of the 'Tui' building within the yard-forest area.
- Use a generator to run the PA system.
- Horse truck campers provide additional accommodation across the southern fields and redwoods area for visiting competitors and their supporters.

When? What times? Frequency or season per year?

Showjumping is a 3-day event each year including 300 horses, at least 600 people.

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

- Power demand for horse truck overnights and PA system.
- Running and management of irrigation system.
- Conflicts with other event users not repairing or reinstating the unsealed steep vehicle track into the yard area. The National Showjumping Championships were cancelled due to the condition of the access.
- Water access and reliability of supply near pavilion.
- Power access and connection point availability.
- Grandstand facilities are not suitable for visitors and have not had hot showers in years.

Future vision, aspirations, or opportunities?

Renewals/Upgrades:

- Upgrade the pavilion building with new plumbing, guttering and paint.
- Fixing all the tracks and parking.
- Recontour pavilion surrounds and tidy up exterior to maintain track access.
- Paint all ancillary building exteriors within the forest area.
- Install additional power points onto existing poles around number 1, 2 and reserve fields. Additional power needed for horse truck overnights (would pay for power use).
- Improve the everyday amenity of the yard-forest area through additional seating and picnic tables.
- Kokako Street toilets need to stay in that location and

be upgraded.

- Upgrade the grandstand facilities to provide toilet facilities and hot showers.

Management:

- Plan of where water goes to/from and how to turn it off.
- Would like Council to take over the running and management of the irrigation system over summer, which is run twice per week from December.
- Recommend lease of yard area be reviewed and redone, particularly is A&P Show discontinues.
- Hoping to utilise the new Nga Awa building for the next events but may still need additional toilets and showers brought in.

Maintenance:

- Removal of tagging on yard-area buildings and occasional vandalism.

Capital:

- Sealing of northern access along Loader Drive with formed carparking would provide better control of parking and access for events, particularly given weight and size of horse vehicles.



Figure 5 - Show jumping pens.

DRESSAGE

General:

Dressage and showjumping jointly lease the eastern yard-forest area off Council and pay to maintain the buildings and structures within it. They utilise most of the same infrastructure and grounds for their events, however in different configurations.

What buildings and grounds do you currently use?

- Shearing pavilion.
- Forest toilet blocks x 2.
- 1,2, and reserve/training fields.
- Northern vehicle access along Loader Drive.
- Southern vehicle access track into yard area.
- Additional portable showers and toilets are bought in for the events.

Dressage-specific event setup:

- Rents the Utiku Clubrooms to run the event and cater for judges/aprox 30 people.
- 6 dressage arenas setup on northern fields, warmup on southern field with gypsy parking around south.
- Use battery powered speaker systems to run announcements (lack of power).
- Showjumping-specific event setup.
- Runs the event out of the 'Tui' building within the yard-forest area.
- Use a generator to run the PA system (lack of power).

When? What times? Frequency or season per year?

Events attract approximately 150 horses over two days of competition in December each year.

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

- Need more powered sites for horse truck overnights (would pay to use) and PA system.
- Running and management of irrigation system.
- Conflicts with other event users not repairing or reinstating the unsealed steep vehicle track into the yard area.
- Water access and reliability of supply.
- Power access and connection point availability.

Future vision, aspirations, or opportunities?

Renewals/Upgrades:

- Install a second washpad within the yard area.
- Improve drainage and stability of the steep vehicle

track into the yard area.

- Replace/upgrade the water line around the northern side of the shearing building.

Management:

- Would like Council to take over the running and management of the irrigation system over summer, which is run twice per week from December.
- Recommend lease of yard area be reviewed and re-done, particularly if the A&P Show discontinues.
- Hoping to utilise the new Ngā Awa building for the next events, but may still need the Kokako Hall to run the event due to catering requirements for 30+ people.

Maintenance:

- Removal of tagging on yard-area buildings and occasional vandalism.

Capital:

- Would like a Darby course out around trees down bank and back onto the field. Have looked at a cross country track previously.



Figure 6 - Important access point for dressage, from the Kokako/Weka street corner.



Figure 7 - Main viewing area to the east.

TAIHAPE AREA SCHOOL

General:

The school has a number of sport and activity relationships with the Domain as the school grounds themselves are heavily constrained for space.

When? What times? Frequency or season per year?

The playground, skatepark, and fields are used for lunchtime breaks all year round.

The Domain is also used for athletics training during summer months, and cross-country during winter.

The school hockey courts are utilised by the tennis club (and associated asphalt area used for overflow parking) on Thursdays between March-October.

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

Older students tend to dominate the play and skate facilities during lunchbreaks, deterring smaller children from wanting to engage in play. Providing tailored and separated older youth versus smaller children play facilities would enable equality in accessibility of play to all. Managing student safety with the Loader Drive access to the Swim Centre is an ongoing issue.

Future vision, aspirations, or opportunities?

Management:

Changes to the Loader Drive access to increase pedestrian safety and slow car speeds.

Capital:

The school is very constrained in terms of outdoor space and is set to be demolished and rebuilt by the Ministry of Education.

Redesign should more carefully consider the connection, orientation and safety of students crossing/connecting to the Domain over Loader Drive, and how the school could better integrate this "borrowed" outdoor space for the benefit of students and increased community safety.

Any current strategy documents, grant funding, pending design or applications?

The proposed school rebuild plans have not been sighted or shared as part of the Taihape Domain masterplan.



Figure 8 - Loader Drive vehicle access between school and play.



Figure 9 - Fields used for sports day.



Figure 10 - Shared public and school playground.

NETBALL

General:

Last year netball had 250 members, with a team coming from Hunterville and a few from Raetihi. There is no secondary school netball as they go to Palmerston or Whanganui.

What buildings and grounds do you currently use?

- The clubroom space is accessed between the Squash Club and the Utiku Old Boys Rugby Club.
- All the courts in front of the squash/netball building.
- Runs from 4pm – 8.30pm starting with the young kids and proceeding to adults.

When? What times? Frequency or season per year?

- They use three courts for six months of the year.
- Netball play and train on weekday nights as Saturday's are not favourable.
- Squash provide meals on Thursdays and netball often use/share clubrooms when the Squash Club are open.

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

- Conflicts between Tennis and netball court use, and design requirements requirements, especially resolving the specification for lighting upgrade and additional lamp posts.
- Courts get heavy dew and ice in winter.
- No issues currently with clubrooms as they will utilise the new Ngā Awa building toilet and changing rooms.

- Tennis run their courts the opposite way and are seeking an additional two courts. Netball do not feel there is a need for additional courts as management and splitting training days can address availability as/ if needed.
- Courts are getting resurfaced with plexisurface.

Future vision, aspirations, or opportunities?

Renewals/Upgrades:

- Lighting (netball offering \$7.5k to partially co-fund with tennis).
- Plexisurface upgrade was meant to occur in April (already commissioned) but will now be undertaken when better weather arrives in Spring.
- Hoping to put in an indoor hoop and utilise the extra width area down Kokako Street end.

Management:

- Netball are assuming they will have some space in the new Ngā Awa building for storage.

Capital:

- Need the new Ngā Awa building opened and running to test functionality. Its completion has been significantly behind the promised schedule.



Figure 11 - Netball access, toilet and storage.



Figure 12 - Courts and new sports hub building.



Figure 13 - Level change between courts and bowls area.

PLAY

General:

The Taihape Playground Group was established in 2019. Their core interest is in developing, extending and increasing the play offerings at the Taihape Domain and increasing the play offerings at the Taihape Domain to suit a wide range of ages, abilities and activity.

This group undertook a survey across the Taihape community four years ago to get their ideas and feedback on play opportunities at Taihape Domain. The results indicated the community wanted split play opportunities for younger versus older children.

The survey results went into the Long Term Plan and Council have allocated \$50,000 towards the playground.

The Group want to make the playground an asset for the whole community – like Margaret Mahy playground in Christchurch, and include fitness equipment for adults.

What buildings and grounds do you currently use?

- Existing playground and skatepark
- Kokako Street toilets and Aquatic Centre toilets
- Have been collaborating with the Taihape Heritage Group that maintains the Grandstand.

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

- The existing playground and skatepark do not have enough space, or diversity in play offerings to cater for different play age groups and abilities. There is a need to separate older versus younger kids play as current arrangement is intimidating for youngsters.
- The school utilises the Domain, its playground and skatepark for older kids breakout space during lunch breaks as it doesn't have onsite facilities.

- The condition and function of the Kokako Street toilets are not suitable or safe. Still need toilets in this general location however.
- Interface with current playground and Loaders Drive is a concern for parents, particularly those of little kids whom run onto the road. Smaller kids space needs to be fenced in.
- Existing skatepark is well utilised but small and has not been upgraded since its establishment in 1994.

Future vision, aspirations, or opportunities?

Current status:

- Ready to design the younger kids play space.
- Need money to pay for the playground design.
- Need land location confirmed so they can apply for additional funding and engage a designer.

Renewals/Upgrades:

- Upgrade skate park and existing playground.
- Improve interface/co-use with Loader Drive to make it safer for pedestrians.
- Refurbish the existing car play equipment as it is a much-loved feature of the existing playground.

Management:

- The Group need the play location approved to be able to apply for further funding.

Capital:

- Creation of a two new play spaces; one for younger kids and one for youth/young adults. \$50,000 allocated by Council within the Long-Term Plan.

- Signage and increased view corridors along the Kokako Street/Loader Drive axis would assist visibility, wayfinding and locating the play areas from outside of the park e.g. from Taihape Main Street.
- A number of local playground companies and business are interested in donating money or in-kind equipment.
- Have proposed a new smaller kids skate/bike area between the grandstand and Kokako Street toilets.
- A shared space between the school and the domain would assist in creating a pedestrian-friendly environment and more connected overlapping use of facilities.
- New toilets to replace Kokako Street toilets, either in/ around existing Kokako Street toilets, or integrated with the Grandstand upgrade and ideally accessed from the northern face of the building.



Figure 14 - Playground being used during sport event.

TAIHAPE SWIM CENTRE

General:

The pool facility is leased off Council by a facility management company.

What buildings and grounds do you currently use?

The pool, outdoor carparking and Loader Drive access for customer and staff carparking. Outdoor space between pool and the school courts.

When? What times? Frequency or season per year?

Currently open 7 months of the year and closed during winter months.

The Swim Centre caters for:

- Approximately 200 kids enrolled in swimming lessons each season.
- 30-40 people in aqua aerobics
- Just general/casual swimming.

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

- The main gates and vehicle access being shut on Saturday's during rugby games is an issue for the Swim Centre.
- Carparking on the wet grass gets wet, muddy and annoying.
- Not enough carparks during peak times.
- Conflicts with tennis training times (using the school courts) whom park all down the sides of the lane,

making it very narrow and also unlikely to cater for emergency vehicles. The school asphalt area is used for overflow carparking during these times too.

- The historical memorial gates are in the way of a visual connection to the pools along Tui Street.
- Current BBQ area only really able to cater for one group at a time.
- Current Kokako Stret toilets are not signposted so people walk down and use the pool facilities.
- Flooding of Loader Drive and pools entrance area during heavy rain, sometimes running all the way down the side of the pools to the back door.

Future vision, aspirations, or opportunities?

Renewals/Upgrades:

- The pool needs a new roof.
- To be open year-round the building would need upgrading to be suitable for winter use.
- Change exterior appearance to make it more vibrant an inviting, including getting a local artist to paint a mural.
- Upgrade vehicle access, add additional carparks along/around southern side of the pool building.
- There used to be mountain bike tracks down and along the river edge that would be good to see how they could be revitalised and reconnected to the pool area.

Management:

- Ideally have the pool open year-round, noting that people from Raetihi and Waiouru travel to use this facility and are likely to travel over winter too.
- Being open year-round would change the perception of the Swim Centre.
- Talk to school about using their outdoor spaces outside of school hours more.

Maintenance:

- Council maintenance to Loader Drive drains to avoid flooding pools.

Capital:

- Need signage out front of the pools and park gate to encourage people to stop there. Ideally a sign (or digital sign with multi-uses for other activities) on the Main Street of Taihape to direct people towards the pool and park, rugby games that are on etc.
- Would like to upgrade and create a mezzanine floor towards the western end of the building for a gym to attract people for daily fitness and leisure.
- Create 2 x controlled outdoor picnic/bbq spaces – 1 at the northwest corner (facing school) and the other out the east end, overlooking the valley and park. Including shade sails, picnic tables to host birthday parties, family bbq's, have an outdoor breakout space etc. Two locations to maximise use based on based on prevailing wind/weather direction.



Figure 15 - Possible outdoor area for events and BBQ's.

TENNIS

General:

Approximately 120+ members; made up of 90 senior and 30 junior members.

What buildings and grounds do you currently use?

- Courts
- Area school courts
- Share squash facilities when open
- Parking along Kokako Street

When? What times? Frequency or season per year?

On Thursdays from October to March each year.

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

- Having a clubhouse or space for tennis club members; hopefully new Ngā Awa building will help with this.
- Parking availability on tennis training/gaming days.
- Lighting; currently tennis use existing lights which are not fit for purpose, and/or the spill light when rugby lights are on.
- Not enough courts; currently using privately owned courts within Taihape in addition to Domain and school courts.
- Lease a small administration and storage room within the Squash Club, which is not large enough or suitable.
- One tennis court has been decommissioned to provide

the space for the new Ngā Awa amenity building.

- In the 2020/2021 some members had to be turned away due to the lack of appropriate tennis court facilities.

Future vision, aspirations, or opportunities?

Renewals/Upgrades:

- Courts to be resealed later this year. Already commissioned but delayed until suitable weather arrives.

Capital:

- New lighting that is appropriate for playing tennis has been costed at over \$100k, seeking funding and joint solution with netball.

- Would like to upgrade and repurpose the Kokako Street Hall to serve as the tennis clubrooms, in addition to other community functions, and add two new tennis courts in front of the hall, to give seven courts in total.

Any current strategy documents, grant funding, pending design or applications?

Refer to the Taihape Tennis Club - Submission to Rangitikei District Council LTP 2021 and the Taihape Tennis Strategy for further information and site plan demonstrating the upgrades and additional courts described.



Figure 16 - Loader Drive vehicle access between the school and skatepark.



Figure 17 - Tennis uses courts within Taihape Area School.



Figure 18 - Tennis shares court space with netball.

SQUASH

General:

Approximately 180 members with a strong and growing club at present. People travel from smaller towns in the district to use the facilities and get coaching.

What buildings and grounds do you currently use?

- Squash club
- Kokako Street carparking

What conflicts and issues are there with the current function?

- Kokako Street carparking (72 spaces) is currently an issue on squash days.

Future visions/aspirations?

Management:

- Additional carparking is needed, however the Ngā Awa carpark may help resolve this if a pedestrian connection through the bowling area is created.

Capital:

- The Squash Club are at Building Consent stage for the extension and upgrade of their clubhouse facilities towards the south of their current footprint.
- The upgrade will include a new kitchen, bar, dining, and outlook area upstairs that will be available for functions and other codes e.g. netball and tennis that train on the same days as squash. Downstairs will include two

new courts and a digital squash court training facility, upgraded bathrooms and a lift for second floor access. Exterior stairs on the eastern (park) facing side will provide external cover and viewing areas even when the clubrooms themselves are closed.

- In addition, Squash are keen to support the development and provision of a small picnic area and tree/gardens to the southern corner of the building extension for the community to use and enjoy.



Figure 19 - Club entrance located off Kokako Street.



Figure 20 - Proposed squash building expansion into bowling area.



Figure 21 - Provides facilities for other clubs.



TAIHAPE DOMAIN MASTER PLAN

MASTER PLAN SPACE ANALYSIS

To analyse the collective use of the Taihape Domain, the user group analysis maps have been overlaid to create a build-up or “heat map” effect. Essentially what this process and resulting map show are the highest-use areas are the central fields and their peripheral access areas. Conversely, the bowling club greens, to the southern corner of the Domain are now defunct and this is reflected by a lack of use (no orange).

Key observations:

- Fields 1 and 2 are important sports and event areas used for a multitude of activities throughout the year.
- The Loaders Drive access and southern vehicle access off the corner of Kokako and Weka Streets are very important movement corridors in supporting these events and activities.



Figure 22 - Fields 1 and 2 are well utilised throughout the year.



Figure 23 - The Loader Drive access is a key corridor in supporting the Domain's activities.



Figure 24 - The eastern slope adjoining field 2 provides great amenity for spectators and visitors.

MASTER PLAN MOVEMENT ANALYSIS

To understand the key access points and routes through the Domain, the movement analysis from each user group was overlaid to show the key corridors utilised by multiple groups.

Key observations:

- Loader Drive is a key corridor, providing access to the school, Swim Centre, playground, fields and the eastern balance of the park. It also provides informal accesses south along the grandstand and eastern edge of field 2.
- South of fields 1 and 2 (from the end of Kuku Street) and the southern access aligned with Kokako/Weka Street corner are also key access points for other groups, with the southern access being critical for providing access for large shearing and horse events in particular.



Figure 25 - Gate access, eastern end of Loader Drive, adjacent to Swim Centre.



Figure 26 - Unsealed access at the southern end of the park.



Figure 27 - Key accessway and gate for horse and shearing events, as well as Gumboot Day.

MASTER PLAN

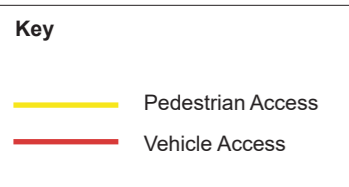


CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

MASTER PLAN KEY

- 1 More prominent Taihape Domain signage from the State Highway directs travellers down Kuku Street to the domain activities. It could be integrated into the existing town hall historical façade to create a unique and highly visible landmark sign with the aim of holding travellers within Taihape, the main street area and domain for longer with the associated financial benefits for the town. Refer to figure 36.
- 2 Loader Drive, the Swim Centre accessway could be narrowed down to slow the traffic movement beside the existing playground. This might include two raised platforms across the road that are painted in colourful patterns. This allows the platforms to be play items while vehicles are not using the space. Refer to figure 35.
- 3 The additional space created by narrowing the driveway could be used for rain gardens with integrated play and educational items. This approach helps to manage stormwater that is currently impacting the swimming pool and creates an educational/play opportunity. Refer to figure 35.
- 4 The existing preschool playground could be relocated and integrated into the newly proposed playground closer to the grandstand. This area remains a playground but is redeveloped and focused on providing more challenging play for older school-aged children. Could be the main central playground space for Taihape and a visitor drawcard. The new playground design could integrate the existing trees and stake park and would support the area school's student amenity. Refer to figure 29.
- 5 A newly proposed preschool playground could be developed in this location which integrates the matures trees and existing grandstand access path as play items. This would require the removal of the existing public toilet and a new public toilet created nearby, possibility integrated into the interior of the grandstand with exterior access.
- 6 A proposed raised grass mound area that wraps around the corner of field one and integrates into the stake park platform. This would create an excellent sports and event viewing platform for field one and a green play mound for the stake park area. This design approach would be an improvement on the existing concrete slope and could be created from the new playground or driveway excavations. Refer to figure 31.
- 7 A hardstand area that doubles as a half basketball court/play space also provides an important all-weather surface link to the pool car parking and viewing area south of the pool building. Refer to figure 29.
- 8 All-weather event access to car parking and the viewing area West of field two and wider rural event space beyond.
- 9 Proposed reinforced grass paving car parking area that provides all-weather car parking without increasing impervious surfaces.
- 10 Swim Centre landscape event and gathering space for BBQs and picnics which could connect to the river walkway.
- 11 Small landscape event space for pool users and school students.
- 12 The existing path is retained for emergency and sports vehicle access and pedestrian use. Could be part of a domain walkway system for visitors.
- 13 The grandstand remains the centre focus point of the domain and an important viewing platform for sports and events. An upgrade might include showers, changing rooms and a toilet that can be accessed externally as a replacement for the one removed by the domain entrance. A new toilet in this space would support families using the new playground and visitors using the domain amenities and walkways.
- 14 New public art could strengthen the visual connections from Hautapu Street to the Domain. This may be a chance to acknowledge pre-European history and environment and could be part of a wider arts approach to the domain that includes murals and art pieces along the street and domain walkways.
- 15 New bold signage on the Hautapu/Kuku corner should be focused on capturing southbound travellers and directing them to the domain amenities and pool.
- 16 A new landscape space that replaces the existing gravel field, creating a new entrance into the domain that visually aligns with Kuku Street entrance off the State Highway. The park might include shade, picnic tables, domain interpretation, maps and activity directions. It could be the start of the domain walkway. Refer to figure 30 and 36.
- 17 New entrance to event space, rugby club and field 3/event space. Refer to figure 30.

- 18 Existing vehicle improved with all-weather access to the south to access the field 3/event space.
- 19 Netball and tennis court surfaces upgraded.
- 20 Existing Squash Club building extension.
- 21 Fencing around the bowling greens could be removed and a new community green space created. It may include a picnic space, community orchard and open green space for passive games/running around. Steps from this space to the netball court could be created as viewing seats and access to the netball courts. This green space allows the community to access the Domain from the Weka/Kokako Street corner. Refer to figure 33.
- 22 Future development space if needed, this area could be redeveloped without impacting the current domain open space use values. This would require the upgrade or removal of the existing building which would only occur if they were no longer fit for purpose in their current state. Refer to figure 33.
- 23 Formalise existing gravel access and create new car parking bays with an all-weather surface. This area creates access to the rural event space and field 3/event and camping space.
- 24 Extend kōwhai planting into the centre car parking island to tie in with the existing kōwhai planting.
- 25 All weather access to field 3/event space which might include a control arm if it is to be used in the future for public camping.
- 26 All weather access for rural event space. Refer to figure 32.
- 27 Field 3/event space remains but with new investment in water and power facilities around the edges to support events and camping. The power and water in addition to the new Ngā Awa building might support visitor camping during certain times of the year which might help fund future domain investment.
- 28 The existing rural event space should remain as is but with future building, water and power infrastructure upgrades to support future events. A visitor walking track should connect through this rural event area giving the public access to this landscape during non-event periods. The existing landscape and treescape has a high amenity value.
- 29 The existing native forest is in good condition and would benefit from further management and planting. This area could be part of not only the domain visitor trail system but a wider Taihape river walkway connection that connects back to the Taihape main streets. These native forest tracks and domain walkway could form part of the school's cross-country route and have educational interpretation signage identifying forest history and flora and fauna.
- 30 The existing mature trees with an open understory for events creates an excellent arboretum area. The existing significant trees, picnic and event viewing area creates an interesting area for visitors and the local to use. This area would benefit from more tree planting of rare and interesting trees, picnic tables, pathway connections and signage identifying significant trees. This area would benefit from a planting and management strategy that would ensure it's value as an arboretum and native bush lot is retained. It was noted that the trees in this area show up in historical photos of the area and are probably older than the grandstand.
- 31 This important raised area overlooking Field 2 should remain a clear viewing area for sports and events. Keep the lower slope beside the fence clear for car parking but the upper slopes would benefit from additional picnic tables under the shade of the trees.
- 32 The proposed bridge connections across the river and pathway should connect into the proposed domain path system. This would be an excellent visitor experience that would bring people to the domain and surrounding Taihape areas. It would give access to a range of landscape experiences from river landscape, fishing, arboretum, native bush, playgrounds, skatepark and event spaces. The domain and these connections are important investments into the future health of the local community and tourism economy.
- 33 Existing rugby club future development space if needed. This space would be used for club parking until there is a need for future expansion. Refer to figure 30.
- 34 Possible location for additional netball and tennis court if needed in the future. Easy access to car park. Refer to figure 33.



MASTER PLAN SPATIAL CONCEPTS



Figure 28 - Location 3 and 6 on the masterplan illustrating the potential shared space between the Swim centre and playground at the end of Loader Drive.



Figure 29 - New central gateway area with potential artwork to celebrate local culture and visually connect the Kuku Street corridor with the State Highway.



Figure 30 - Location 5 on masterplan.



Figure 31 - Seal and formalise access for large vehicles during events and training.



Figure 32 - New community green space and tennis court in front of the Kokako Hall.

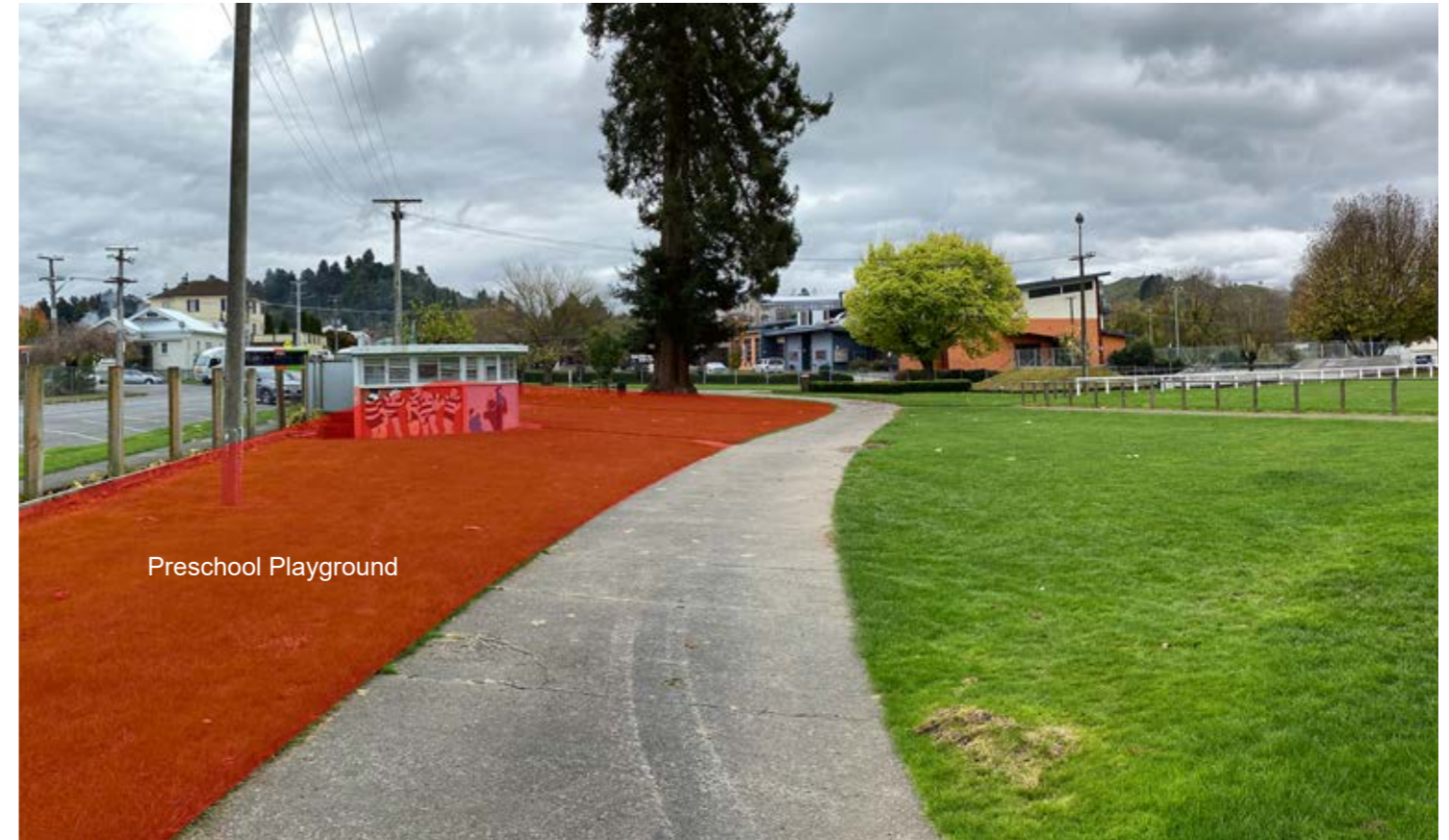


Figure 33 - New playground location, parallel to Kokako Street between Loader Drive and the playground.

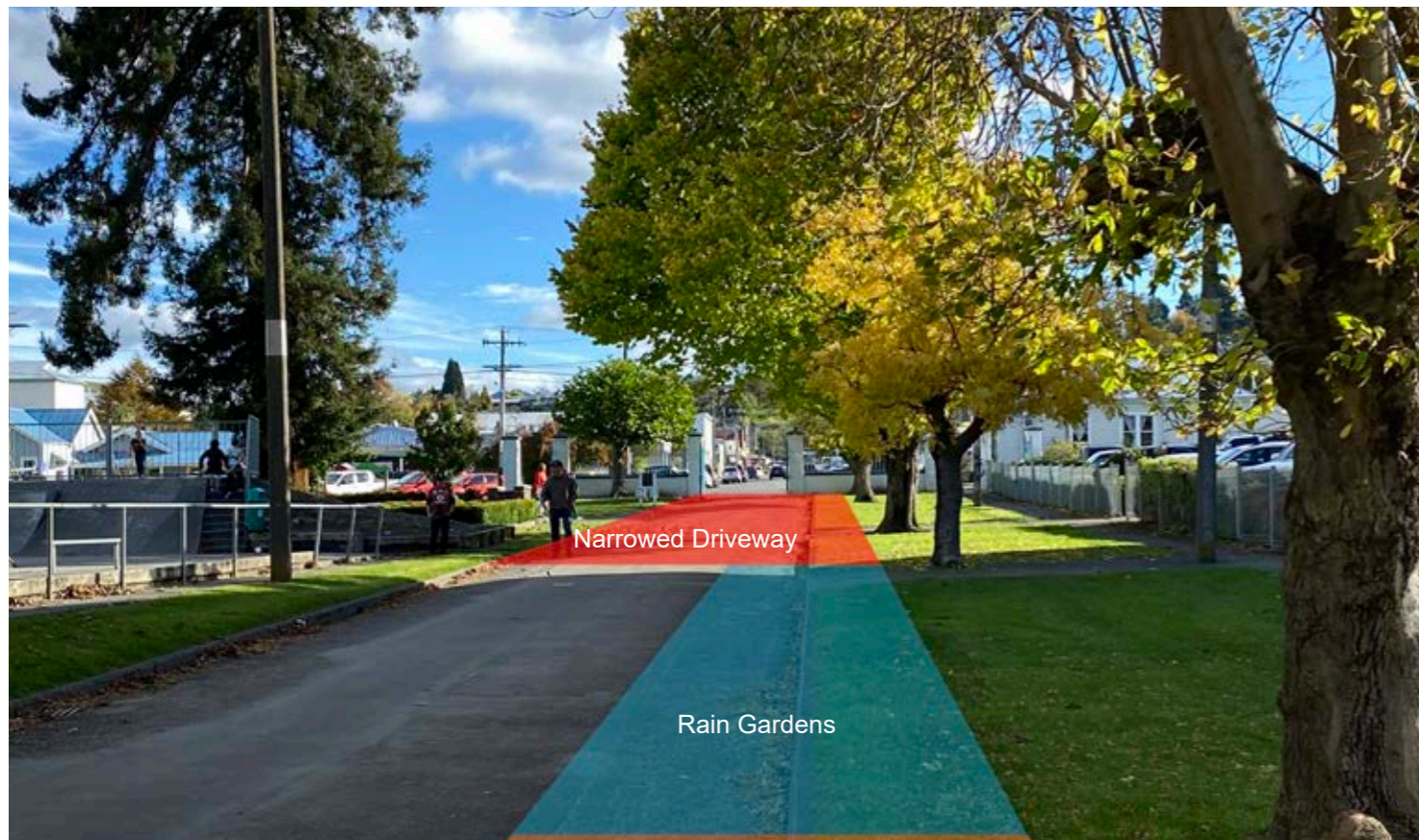


Figure 34 - Creation of a new shared space between the domain and Taihape Area School, supported by raingardens to manage stormwater and narrow the vehicle passage (to slow vehicles).



Figure 35 - The Town Hall building provides a great anchor and could help connect with a gateway feature at the end of Kuku Street to attract visitors off the State Highway to the Taihape Domain.