

Whakaraupō Reserve Triennial Goals & Operational Plan 2023-26

Whakaraupō Reserve covers 87 ha located to the north-west of the Lyttelton township, from the summit ridge extending across the tops of the hills to Cass Bay. The historic Bridle Path marks the eastern boundary and council reserves lie on three sides of the reserve. It is a public reserve owned by Christchurch City Council (CCC) providing recreation and connectivity for residents and visitors as well as providing habitat corridors for native flora and fauna.

Whakatauaakii na Rewi Couch and Kerepiti Poraone

Kahukura Kaitiaki, Kahukura Whakaakahu

Kahukura the caretaker, Kahukura who dresses the land.

The Lyttelton Reserves Committee (LRC) are responsible for the co-management and planning of activities within both Urumau Reserve and Whakaraupo Reserve. This committee is elected by the local community on a triennial basis to represent community views, thereby providing guidance for management of the reserve by CCC. As stated in the Terms of Reference 2022, the committee shall prepare a Triennial operational plan to identify priorities, goals and a work programme for the three years.

The purpose of this triennial operational plan is to clarify outcomes and guide priorities for work in Whakaraupo Reserve. The operational plan is non-statutory, however it serves as guidance for setting budget allocation and planning activities. The plan should be updated annually in line with budgeting for the reserve.

Whakaraupō Reserve provides opportunities for recreation and connectivity between Lyttelton, Cass Bay and Christchurch. The Bridle Path is a well established historic trail frequented by walkers and mountain bikers. The Stan Helms track is a narrow but well formed track that meets the top of the Bridle Path track at Summit Rd. Recently a route has been established with poles starting at Steadfast Reserve in Cass Bay, providing a link to Summit Rd.

Due to its large size and existing remnant vegetation, previous committees have taken a passive approach to management of the reserve. This triennial plan for Whakaraupō Reserve includes goals based on recommendations from a recent botanical survey (Hutchison, 2024) and aims to guide management for the future. Other plans and activities from adjacent landowners or wider catchment plans can be factored into decision-making, including the Whaka-Ora catchment plan and opportunities raised by neighbouring landowners and residents.

Although the present vegetation cover is dominated by exotic grasses, the reserve contains substantial areas of indigenous vegetation including secondary growth forest, flaxland, and rock outcrop vegetation. Indigenous woody vegetation is slowly regenerating on the steep slopes and rocky spurs following the exclusion of livestock more than 20 years ago. Indigenous plant diversity is high, with 154 species recorded in the current and previous botanical surveys. The reserve provides important habitat for a variety of nationally Threatened and At Risk plants, as well as species that are rare or uncommon on Banks Peninsula.

Whakaraupō Reserve is close to several other reserves and private land with indigenous forest, which will act as seed sources to aid the natural regeneration process. With targeted ongoing weed control, there is good potential for indigenous woody vegetation to regenerate in the reserve via natural succession. As the indigenous forest regenerates it will provide an increasing attraction for indigenous birds, and become a major ecological and recreational asset for Ōtautahi/Christchurch.

The focus areas for management within the reserve for the 2023-2026 triennium include allowing natural regeneration to occur, threatened species monitoring and management and pest animal and pest plant management. Native planting is considered to be a priority in a small number of select areas but not recommended in other areas due to the importance of natural regeneration of some habitats particularly rocky outcrops.

Whakaraupō Reserve Goals 2023-2025

Focus Area	Triennial Goals
Native vegetation	• To encourage native regeneration in the reserve • Targeted planting of ecologically sourced vegetation
Pest plants	• To reduce the threat of weeds in the reserve • To target the pest plants according to a prioritised list
Pest animals	• To reduce the numbers of pest animals within the reserve • To target the pest animals according to a prioritised list
Plant species of interest	• To identify and map plant species of interest in the reserve • To protect species of interest from weed incursion or damage
Track management and maintenance	• Map the existing tracks within the reserve • To ensure existing tracks are in safe and functional condition • To ensure surface flow through the reserve is adequately drained without increasing erosion
Fire prevention	• To reduce the risk of fire spread within the reserve through planting low flammability eco-sourced species along the southern boundary of the reserve adjacent to private landowners.
Rockfall management	• Ensure hazards of rockfall are assessed and mitigated while maintaining high integrity of rocky outcrop habitat
Signage	• To ensure track signage provides adequate information for safe access in the reserve
Pipeline infrastructure	• To maintain access and facilitate the use of land for oil pipeline.
Engagement	• To encourage participation of neighbours, the Lyttelton School and residents, and to regularly engage with interested groups and the wider community.

Whakaraupō Reserve Operational Plan 2023-2025

Focus Area	Targets FY2024	Targets FY2025	Targets FY2026
Native vegetation	Allow natural regeneration to occur	- Identify planting areas with a focus on fire risk mitigation and source plants - Aerial imagery and analysis of the reserve to determine extent of native cover for tracking	- Planting of native trees depending on available space & sourcing - Plant maintenance to involve community, CCC staff and volunteer groups
Pest plants	- To target the pest plants listed in Table 5 of the 2024 botanical survey report in order of priority where feasible. - To control pest plants by the following methods: Hand removal, Cut n Paste herbicide application, targeted spraying - To be guided by CCC on methods of management for the target species. - Pest plant management to involve community, CCC staff and volunteers	- To target the pest plants listed in Table 5 of the 2024 botanical survey report in order of priority where feasible. - To control pest plants by the following methods: Hand removal, Cut n Paste herbicide application, targeted spraying - To be guided by CCC on methods of management for the target species. - Pest plant management to involve community, CCC staff and volunteer groups	- To target the pest plants listed in Table 5 of the 2024 botanical survey report in order of priority where feasible. - To control pest plants by the following methods: Hand removal, Cut n Paste herbicide application, targeted spraying (if required) - To be guided by CCC on methods of management for the target species. - Pest plant management to involve community, CCC staff and volunteer groups
Pest animals	- Establish a trap network and bait stations - Actively manage pest animals	- Increase the trap network and bait stations - Undertake monitoring to	- Increase the trap network and bait stations - Undertake monitoring to

	through trapping and baiting • To target the following species: possums, rats, mice, hedgehogs and mustelid species • Pest animal management to involve community, contractors, CCC staff, and volunteers	inform the trapping plan • Actively manage pest animals through trapping and baiting • To target the following species: possums, rats, mice, hedgehogs and mustelid species • Pest animal management to involve community, contractors, CCC staff and volunteers	inform the trapping plan • Actively manage pest animals through trapping and baiting • To target the following species: possums, rats, mice, hedgehogs and mustelid species • Pest animal management to involve community, contractors, CCC staff and volunteers
Plant species of interest	• Collate a list of threatened, rare and notable plant species • Record locations of species where known	• Identify potential threats to plant species of interest and develop mitigation plan	• Monitor plant species of interest in the reserve
Track management and maintenance	• Map existing tracks • Ensure tracks are in safe and functional condition • Ensure surface flow through the reserve does not increase erosion • CCC to inspect tracks with regards to overgrowth, drainage and culverts, surface condition and track structures • Plan and implement maintenance as required	• Ensure tracks are in safe and functional condition • Ensure surface flow through the reserve does not increase erosion • CCC to inspect tracks with regards to overgrowth, drainage and culverts, surface condition and track structures • Plan and implement maintenance as required	• Ensure tracks are in safe and functional condition • Ensure surface flow through the reserve does not increase erosion • CCC to inspect tracks with regards to overgrowth, drainage and culverts, surface condition and track structures • Plan and implement maintenance as required
Fire prevention	• CCC and FENZ to inform best practice for fire management and prevention • Align low flammability species with planting plan in high risk	• CCC and FENZ to inform best practice for fire management and prevention • Align low flammability	• CCC and FENZ to inform best practice for fire management and prevention • Align low flammability

	areas • Work with adjacent residents on boundary fire management	species with planting plan in high risk areas • Work with adjacent residents on boundary fire management	species with planting plan in high risk areas • Work with adjacent residents on boundary fire management
Rockfall management	• Map rocky outcrop areas • Identify high risk rockfall areas	• Maintain safe access with regards to rockfall hazards and maintain high integrity habitat	• Maintain safe access with regards to rockfall hazards and maintain high integrity habitat
Signage	• Identify where signs exist and gaps where signs needed for existing tracks • Request new signs.	• Maintain existing signs	• Maintain existing signs
Pipeline infrastructure	• Maintain access for pipeline infrastructure maintenance and emergency works	• Maintain access for pipeline infrastructure maintenance and emergency works	• Maintain access for pipeline infrastructure maintenance and emergency works
Engagement	• Share Reserve Committee goals and operational plan as per communications plan • Contribute to community education of target weeds and planting of eco-sourced plants.	• Communications to follow Communications Plan and include: ○ Communicate with immediate neighbours, Lyttelton Primary School and the wider Lyttelton community ○ Community engagement through letterbox drops, CCC communication	• Communications to follow Communications Plan and include: ○ Communicate with immediate neighbours, Lyttelton Primary School and the wider Lyttelton community ○ Community engagement through letterbox drops, CCC communication

		channels and the Bay Harbour News • Seek out volunteers who wish to contribute to the implementation of the operational plan	channels and the Bay Harbour News • Seek out volunteers who wish to contribute to the implementation of the operational plan
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