

## Waterfront Park Proposal

The Waterfront Park and Mapua Wharf area have had a singular and special history. From the earlier iwi enjoyment of this fine corner of the bay to today's busy hub of relaxed hospitality, the estuary entrance has been a great place to sit and enjoy quality time and good food, a place of plenty. Now there is a new plan to add to this with a community development project.

The Waterfront Park is owned by Tasman District Council and has already been landscaped and developed as part of the site remediation plan. The Community Association is launching a proposal to upgrade the Waterfront Park so that it has a family and health focus, as well as including cooking and eating facilities. This is an ambitious project and one that will need a great deal of support and funding help.

The vision is to have several children's play areas, a free barbecue, exercise stations, a petanque piste and picnic tables added to the Park. A small team from the community and Council has been working up this proposal over the past few months.

Exercise stations, where low impact structures are built into the Park, will be welcomed by many who have used these sorts of facilities in other places. A circuit of about ten activities around the Park will encourage us all to take care of our bodies and enjoy the view!

For those who want to play, a piste or petanque square is planned.

A free gas barbecue and picnic tables will add some sizzle to the equation and include some shelter from the elements.

The group also sought the views of children about what kind of play areas and what kind of park they would like. Enthusiastic responses from more than fifty children from pre-school through primary age groups clearly focused on a sea theme, shipwreck playground, ropes and ladders, bridges, mounds and tunnels with fishes and sea-life decorations.

A welcoming entry, plus good information signs are needed.

An interpretative panel covering the iwi story, the chemical site, clean-up and later development will help to tell the history of this area.

Safe pedestrian linkage from the Wharf area to the Waterfront Park is also a high priority for the Community Association's safety requirements.

Once the proposal has been properly aired and tweaked, the elements will go to design, funding and procurement stages. As the money comes in we can get on with this exciting phase of the Waterfront Park developments.

This is a Community Association proposal and is run by volunteers. The help you can bring may be donation, offers of labour or materials, or joining the Association. The doors are always open. This community is only as good as it is because of the energy and commitment of us all to make it so.

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