

Broken bottles, glass in Aranui Park, July 10 2017

My name is David Mitchell of 107 Aranui Rd Mapua. My phone number is 5402873. I am a retired journalist and one of my main activities is working with Year 7 and 8 pupils of Mapua School on a planting project in Aranui Park, known as 'Tāne's Ark'. The Tasman District Council is also a partner in the project.

Our organisation, Friends of Mapua Wetland Inc, has about 50 members and has been running an environmental education programme for Mapua School pupils for 10 years now, two years with teams of pupils working in Mapua Wetland and eight years working in Aranui Park. A week earlier, we had learned that Mapua School had won the 2017 Nelson-Tasman Trustpower Community Award with Tāne's Ark regarded as the best Conservation or Heritage Project for the Nelson-Tasman region.

At the end of May 2017, some of the children we work with on the Tāne's Ark planting project discovered two sodden sofas, just inside the western fence on the boundary of Aranui Park with former Mt Hope Orchard land. This property is now owned by a real estate group managed by Mr John Davies of Richmond.



The sofas found in late May just within the park with bottles strewn around.

It was obvious because of the number of empties strewn about that the sofas had been used for drinking sessions, presumably by young people. From memory, empty bottles there were a mix of beer and RTD stubby sized bottles. We removed the empty bottles and then contacted the park supervisor, Richard Hilton, at the TDC. We were grateful that Richard arranged for the sofas to be removed. We did not think to call the police at that stage, because we thought that once the sofas had gone, the people using them would be unlikely to come back. The sofas were located immediately below the house owned by Mrs Barbara Wells at Mapua Drive. We informed Barbara about the sofas and thought that the problem of what seemed to be teenaged drinking in the park had gone away.

We don't have a good map to show the location, apologies, but if you look at the park map on page 4 of this report, they were located at about the letter 'A' in the caption 'Area B'.

Several of us associated with Tāne's Ark project have been in the south-western corner of the park at least once a week since then, but had not noticed anything untoward in the area.

However, this week, on Monday July 10, in an area we call the Rangatira area, close to the fence with Mapua Wetland, I found about 6-8 broken Woodstock Bourbon and Coke RTD bottles that had presumably been drunk there. I was with a group of three former Mapua School pupils, now secondary students, and we were looking at aspects of the park. The three, Max and Luis Schneider and Mac Karalus, had all been members of the schools' Tāne's Ark Team when they attended the school and the day before they had been elected on to the committee of Friends of Mapua Wetland Inc, the organisation which organises Tāne's Ark planting for Mapua School.

An indication of the location of the sofas is that it was at about the point of the second letter 'a' in 'Rangatira' in the caption labelled 'Area C'. It is on a secondary track. I hope this is clear. I do apologise for the inadequate map.

There were two plastic 4 Square shopping bags there and we thought the RTD bottles might have been bought at the Mapua Store. There was no sign of any receipt in the bags. I checked with the wife of the manager at the Mapua Store and she said they did not stock RTDs and they had not sold the Woodstock RTDs.

The way the broken glass had been left in a muddy area and an area where school children were likely to be working and planting after the school holidays was a considerable concern for me.



The bottles had been shattered to that the bases of the bottles were intact, but jagged and dangerous.



Another example of the way the bottles had been broken



The neck of a broken bottle as it was found on the ground



The glass and bottle remains were collected in two plastic shopping bags and then packed in boxes for disposal.

Some of the bottles that had been smashed had been placed on top of a 90mm bamboo pole of the sort we use to mark plants. The bottles had been broken by un-known means so that some of the jagged necks were hanging on the top of the bamboo planting stakes.



Energy drink bottles were also smashed and left at the site.



Two apparently new Four Square shopping bags were immediately beside the broken bottles.

We will circulate this report to the school, some neighbours and also advise the Community Association. I am pretty sure that I have removed all the glass and Judy also checked it out separately. However, I will also go back and check the site again before we resume activities with the school children.

Thanks for looking at our report. We will advise you of any developments at our end. We would be very grateful for any help you can give to prevent a recurrence of what is clearly a dangerous activity by unknown people.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David Mitchell'.

David Mitchell
Friends of Mapua Wetland Inc

