

7 January 2003

63 Higgs Rd
Mapua
Nelson 7155

Tasman District Council
Private Bag 4
Richmond

Dear Mayor and Councillors

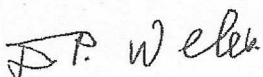
We write to confirm the purpose of our family's gift of Aranui Park to the nation. The purpose of the land is specifically defined in the certificate presented by the Minister of Lands to Bernard Wells [copy enclosed]. The purpose of the park, as stated in the certificate, is for "the preservation of New Zealand's natural heritage." It is to this that the "opportunity for recreational development" refers in the Minister's letter to Mr Wells [copy enclosed.] The development in question is the planting of the land with trees, particularly a native section, creating bush walkways, and includes the planning of grass areas for picnics and quiet activities where the natural environment may be enjoyed.

In order to ensure that this purpose would be fulfilled we did not gift the land to the local council, but to the Lands and Survey Department for the nation. The certificate and the Minister's letter both show that the recipients of the land are the people of New Zealand. We felt this option would give the park greater protection. We were assured in the Minister's letter that "Acceptance of the land under Reserves and Domains Act 1953 will ensure the protection and preservation of the area for future generations to enjoy." It should be clear that the enjoyment of this land is not confined to residents of this locality, but it is the responsibility of the residents of this locality to maintain the park for all future New Zealanders to enjoy.

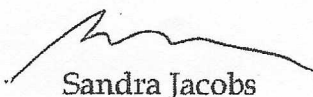
Times change, and the park now belongs to the Tasman District Council. With this advent, it's future has become predictably less secure, hence the necessity for this letter to remind the Council of their obligations in respect of the park. Their obligations are to preserve a natural environment in the midst of suburban/urban development. We bring to your attention that this function specifically excludes siting part of this development in the park, whether it be sportsgrounds, cafés, meeting halls, skateboard ramps etc. Nor should any part of the park be hired out or sold.

You will be aware that Mapua is planned as a residential centre and in twenty years will be built over. It is the intended function of the park to serve as a remnant of our natural heritage free from urban sprawl, which will help to foster appreciation of natural beauty and the value of conservation. We also hope there will be other areas spared to serve this purpose.

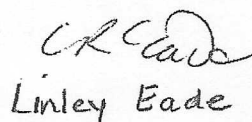
Yours sincerely



Dorothy Wells



Sandra Jacobs



Linley Eade