

From: Melanie Drewery melaniedrewerystudio@gmail.com
Subject: Disc golf in Aranui Park
Date: 3 June 2025 at 10:06 AM
To: secretary@ourmapua.org



Hello,

I am unable to attend Monday night's MDCA meeting as I am away caring for a friend, post surgery.
I would like this letter read out in my absence please.

Dear MDCA members,

I am very concerned about the proposal to establish a permanent disc golf course in Aranui Park after the recent pop up day. It has been bandied about on Facebook that this pop up was part of the consultation. I understand that the Nelson disc golf club approached MDCA for approval, but I do not think it is right for this to have been granted by the exec without proper consultation with the community.

I am sure that most of you are well aware of the Wells family wishes for Aranui Park- especially since there is a wealth of information on these wishes on MDCA's own webpage. This land was gifted to the Crown for the peaceful enjoyment of nature that they imagined people would come to need as Mapua became more developed. Their specific aim was to make a natural space with an abundance of trees. They also clearly stated that they did not want the park to be used for sports. The reason they gifted the land to the Crown and not the Council was because they suspected that the Council would not honour their wishes in future. They must have been great at reading the tea leaves because here we are.

There have been several attempts to introduce sports to the park over the years since TDC gained control of it. Dorothy Wells had to personally defend the park, and she made it very clear in her letters. If she opposed a petanque court, which she did, I am fairly certain she would have also opposed a disc golf course. To wait until Dorothy has passed away and then ignore history (and a family's generous legacy) is quite frankly disgusting.

Some people say that the park is underutilized- I suggest that they are not users of the park themselves or they would know that it is very popular and well used. I am there regularly and I always see, at the very least, two or three other people in there at the same time as me, at all hours of the day.

Please leave the park as it is. With the provision for occasional events, like the pop up disc golf day, school cross country etc. but mostly for quiet enjoyment as was intended by the Wells family.

Below are the links to several letters from the Wells family, and a very well written article by David Mitchell. I suggest that people take the time to have a look and understand the history of this park before deciding that it's too boring for the next generation. It is not. It is beautiful and loved as it is.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Drewery

either click the link or paste the address:

[CNMar06](#)

<https://www.mapua.gen.nz/DecCN.pdf>

[Aranui ParkAranui Park](#)