



MBKRA SEAT & TREE PROJECT – A BRIEF OVERVIEW

WHY DO WE NEED A SEAT & TREE PROJECT?

The Seat & Tree project was an initiative introduced by the MBKRA in 2022 and is featured on our association's website. In part this initiative was introduced to address major issues raised from community feedback we received in relation to Tagalad Reserve, Selwyn Reserve and increasing densification issues. There was also the consideration of making the few green spaces we have in our area more attractive places the community can, and want, to use.

OUR AIMS FOR THE SEAT & TREE PROJECT

- To create a 'usable' community green space in an area not used at present
- Plant trees to add to green canopy (fast decreasing due to intensification)
- Encourage birds/bees back to area with trees/blossom/berries
- Create a green space that can be used by all ages and abilities, including those with mobility issues
- Provide a usable green space for the local community, visitors to the bay from all over AKL/tourists, and future apartment dwellers
- To help address increased overland flow paths that have resulted from new densification in single dwelling gardens and in valleys that historically provided a medium for flow and permeation
- To help reduce flooding within Mission Bay and Kohi flood plains
- To create a healthier environment for our suburbs and provide a necessary cooling element

WHY HAVE A SEAT & TREE PROJECT AT RONAKI RESERVE

- To create a 'usable' community green space on a reserve currently not used
- To highlight the significance of historical monuments sited there

- To beautify a central highly visible grass reserve – this is the hub of the Mission Bay village
- To provide a green space for community members to use when Selwyn Reserve is overcrowded
- To offer a shady restful spot to view our waterfront and local activity
- To undertake the removal of noxious plants along Ronaki Road strip to allow for footpath use again, and replant with suitable low maintenance plants. (This is something P. & R. could address independently, or The Gift a Garden team may wish to undertake)
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PROPOSED INITIATIVE FOR RONAKI RESERVE

- To provide a practical, attractive, and achievable concept with consideration for budget constraints
- To instal three seats (with appropriate fixing) for community use near the centre/rear of this reserve
- We propose the seats would be arranged in a U-shape to create a sociable design and to appreciate the view of the waterfront they would face
- To plant three trees around rear and sides of seats to provide some shady respite in hot summer months – trees to be of small to medium height
- To instal a small area of permeable access paving from the Ronaki Road footpath to the seating (and under the seating) to provide dry footing and accommodate those with mobility issues
- Careful use of trees, instead of shrubs, has been chosen for an open design to allow passive surveillance to occur from all sides of this reserve, as required by Auckland Council
- The positioning of seats/trees at the centre/rear of the reserve has been considered so no sight blockage for motorists at road intersections
- Auckland Council currently mows the grass and plants the small flowerbed on this reserve – we do not envisage any change to the scope of their work as our enhancement would not impede these activities or increase their workload.
- NB: There is a pedestrian crossing over Patterson Ave and a crossing with median refuge over Marau Crescent already provided to allow access to this reserve.

OF NOTE

Ronaki Reserve houses an attractive stone plinth with marble plaque dedicated to 17 Melanesian missionaries who died at the Missionary College during the years 1860-1866. This is a notable historic feature that should be as prominent as the Stone House on our waterfront, but few know it is there. This simple seat and tree initiative would highlight the location and importance of this memorial. It would also enable community members to enjoy a closer view of Ida Livingston's memorial flower garden.