

Management Plan 2011

Preface

The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve Management Plan was adopted by the Hurunui District Council on 3 November 2011.

This management plan has been prepared by the Hurunui District Council to facilitate the most appropriate use and continued management of the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve.

Along with the objective and policies, the plan contains a description and assessment of the reserve.

It is the intention that this document, in conjunction with the Reserves Act 1977, will provide guidelines for the reserve's development, planning and future use and be used as a working reference to ensure that decision making and administration is compatible with the stated management goals, objectives and policies.

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1. Introduction

This management plan outlines the resources of the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve and recognizes the reserve's significance from a local, regional, national and international perspective.

Environmental, social and land use issues have been considered as part of the plan process. As a result of these considerations a goal, with supporting objectives and policies, has been established to provide a framework for the future management of the reserve.

The end purpose of the plan is to provide an overall development concept for the reserve and provide for its future direction taking into account the unique values associated with it that act as the stimulus for attracting visitors to the site.

The town of Hanmer Springs is situated in the north-western portion of the Hurunui District inland from the Waiau Ferry Bridge. The reserve occupies an area of 2.0823 hectares of flat terrain. The legal descriptions of the area are Section 77 SO Plan 13856, Lot 1 DP 63973, Block II, Lyndon Survey District and Lot 1 DP 426562. The reserve has boundaries with the Queen Mary Hospital Historic Reserve, Amuri Avenue and Jacks Pass Road.

The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve was first gazetted as a recreation reserve in December 1990. The Hurunui District Council was appointed to control and manage the initial area of the reserve (Section 77, SO Plan 13856) in 1978 so when the reserve was classified it vested in Council pursuant to section 24A of the Reserves Act 1977. An additional area (Lot 1 DP 426562) of 0.66ha was vested in the Council on 10th August 2010, when the former Queen Mary Hospital site was subdivided by the Crown.

The Council recognizes the important indirect contribution the reserve makes to the district economy by attracting regional, national and international visitors to the area.

The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa Management Committee, a committee of the Council attends to the long term management of the pools complex and surrounds. The Hanmer Springs Community Board also contributes assistance in the form of local concern input. The day-to-day operation of the pools is undertaken by staff overseen by an appointed Manager.

Development of the initial complex is outlined in the background section of this plan.

The reserve has developed over the years into a complex with a number of different components providing relaxation and entertainment options to visitors. The complex is operated as a separate business unit of the Hurunui District Council under the name of the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa and includes:

- Twelve thermal pools
- Freshwater pool with lazy river
- Freshwater pool with children's slides
- Three waterslides
- Aqua play area
- Day spa offering massage, body and beauty treatments
- Café
- Food kiosk
- Extensive gardens, landscaping and picnic areas
- Two thermal water bores
- Methane gas well
- Disused historic gasometer

The Hanmer Springs i-Site is incorporated into the entranceway to the complex from Amuri Avenue.

It should be noted that some information is repeated throughout the document. This was done to provide a full understanding of all the management considerations to be given effect to and provide an in-depth overview of the importance placed on the reserve as a major local and overseas tourist attraction.

2. Legal description

Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve

| Legal description | Present status | Area |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|
| Section 77 Hanmer Town Area | Recreation reserve NZG 6 December 1990, page 4589 | 1.4008 ha |
| Lot 1 DP 63973 | Recreation reserve vested in Council on subdivision 1993 | 0.0215ha |
| Lot 1 DP 426562 | Recreation reserve NZG 12 August 2010, page 2643 | 0.6600ha |

3. Location

Access to the Hanmer Springs Thermal Reserve is via State Highway 7A which commences at the Hanmer Springs turnoff from State Highway 7 at Lochiel Station. The pools are situated approximately 9.2kms inland from the turnoff. The city of Christchurch is situated 135kms to the south and the West Coast town of Westport approximately 190kms to the west.

Neighbouring land uses include the former Queen Mary Hospital land which forms the southern, western and part of the northern boundaries of the reserve. This land has been vested in the Council as a historic reserve. Jacks Pass Road completes the northern boundary while the eastern boundary is formed by the continuation of Amuri Avenue.

The business area of Hanmer Springs is situated to the east and north of the reserve and encompasses normal urban services together with tourism-orientated business. Motel, hotel, holiday home and camping accommodation are available in the township.



AMURI AVENUE



**Hanmer Springs
Thermal Reserve**

Hurunui District Council does not guarantee that this map is without flaw of any kind and disclaims all liability for any errors, loss or other consequences which may arise from relying on any information depicted.

Produced by Scott Linton

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4. Management requirements

4.1 Reserves Act 1977

The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve is classified and vested in the Hurunui District Council as a recreational reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Section 17(1) of the Reserves Act states that the provisions of the Act have effect on classified recreation reserves:

“for the purpose of providing areas for recreational and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the recreational activities, including recreational tracks to the countryside.”

Section 40 of the Reserves Act charges the administering authority, in this case the Council, with the duty of administering, managing and controlling the reserve, so as to ensure the use, enjoyment, development, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require of the reserve, for the purpose for which it is classified.

The procedure for preparation of a reserve management plan is set out in section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. As the first step in this procedure, public notice of the first reserve management plan was given on 23 May, 1991, signalling the Council's intention to prepare a management plan in accord with section 41(5)(a) of the Act. Persons and organizations were invited to lodge written submissions on the proposed plan.

Section 41(6) provides that public notice be given of the draft plan, advising of its availability for public inspection and calling for persons or organizations interested to lodge written objections or submissions on the draft. At least two months from date of publication is allowed for this process. As this review is of the current plan is considered to be 'comprehensive' in terms of the Act, this draft revision is also being undertaken in accordance with Section 41(6).

An opportunity is provided for submitters to be heard in support of their objection or suggestion. Submissions may be allowed or disallowed, in part or in whole, with subsequent amendments to the draft plan being made accordingly. Following this process the administering authority may approve the amended draft plan as the "approved plan".

4.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The land contained in the reserve is within the Hanmer Springs Urban Management Area and is zoned partly Open Space and partly Business under the Hurunui District Plan. Reserves and recreational facilities managed under an operative reserve management plan are permitted activities within these zones, subject to meeting standards.

The reserve contains natural and historical features that are schedule for protection under the District Plan. These include notable trees, the springs, and the former Government tea kiosk (the Garden House Café).

The extraction and discharge of geothermal water is controlled by the Canterbury Regional Council through the provisions of the proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan. The Hurunui District Council holds current resource consents for these activities.

4.3 Historic Places Act 1993

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) is an autonomous Crown Entity with statutory responsibility under the Historic Places Act 1993 for the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of New Zealand's historical and cultural heritage. NZHPT is guided by the principles of the Act in assessing the potential effects on historic heritage values. The principles include 'taking account of material of cultural heritage value and involve the least possible alteration or loss of it' and 'safeguarding the options of present and future generations'.

The NZHPT is required, under the Historic Places Act 1993, to keep a Register of historic places, historic areas, wahi tapu and wahi tapu areas. The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve forms part of the Queen Mary Hospital (Former) and Hanmer Springs Thermal Reserve Historic Area (Record No. 7583), which includes: the former Government tea kiosk (1904); gasometer (1899); gardener's shed (c.1900), trees (substantial plantings having occurred c. 1890's being noted in 1914) and landscape.

5. History

5.1 Tangata whenua

The Ngāi Tahu name for Hanmer is Te Whakatakanga o te ngārahu o te ahi a Tamatea, which means “Where the ashes of Tamatea’s fire lay”. The name comes from the story of Tamatea Pokai Whenua’s travels to the South Island. His waka, the Takitimu, capsized in the south of the South Island. Tamatea Pokai Whenua and his followers had to walk up along the east coast of the South Island in blizzard like conditions. When they reached Banks Peninsula, Tamatea stood on the mountain now known as ‘Te Poho o Tamatea’ and recited karakia to North Island tohunga. The tohunga responded by sending large flames from volcanoes in the North Island, which reached Banks Peninsula and helped keep Tamatea and his followers warm. When the flames were travelling down the country some fragments fell off and formed the area that we know as Hanmer Springs.

5.2 European

The hot springs at Hanmer were first reported to pakeha in April 1859 by William Jones, Manager of St. Leonards Station. He discovered seven circular pools that were filled with water of temperatures varying from milk-warm to almost boiling with the largest being seven to eight yards (6.4-7.3m) in diameter and the smallest about three feet (0.9m) in diameter.

Jones remarked on the singularity of the springs having remained undiscovered till now, though lying so close to the track by which number of people have been passing and re-passing for several years back.

Hanmer Springs was lauded as a potential site for a new health resort and in February 1860 the Nelson Provincial Government proclaimed a reserve of 2560 acres round the springs. Edgar Jones reported in late 1860 that *visitors bathed in one circular pool about seven yards across, of a bluish coloured water and a very liquid kind of blue clay below, which easily became stirred up and the water soon got muddy.*

The government lost interest in the area when it became obvious that little of the money spent on the springs would return to Nelson, and the pools lay undeveloped, mainly due to poor access. The popularity of the springs increased following the completion of the railway from Christchurch to Culverden, the building of a bridge over the Waiau River at the gorge and the introduction of a regular coach service to Hanmer from Culverden.

In 1883 the springs were officially opened when a shelter was built around the main pool. One year later, 2,000 visitors paid to bathe in the pools. A second pool was opened in 1894. The government-built Sanatorium opened in 1897 and during this same year, the “Lodge” hotel was made operational and the township of Hanmer Springs began to develop.

A gasometer was erected in the Sanatorium grounds in 1898 to replace two 400 gallon (3636 litre) tanks that stored gas from No. 3 Spring, for use in lighting. The Fountain House was erected in the Sanatorium grounds in 1899. It is recorded that 15,891 people used the baths this same year.

On 1 April 1901, the Tourist Department took over control of the Sanatorium and the development of the springs from the Lands and Survey Department. By 1910 the supply of hot mineral water from the springs was becoming inadequate and new wells were drilled to augment the supply in 1911.

In 1921 all Tourist Department activities in Hanmer Springs were taken over by the Department of Health. A new bath-house was built in 1929 and the original bath house demolished in 1933. Patronage of the pools had increased to 45,451 per annum by 1929.

The original springs and two wells have supplied hot water to the baths to the present day and although several surveys have been made into the possibility of extending the baths by obtaining

additional hot water by drilling, no evidence has been found to suggest that the thermal area extends outside the reserve.

Hanmer Township and Hanmer Town Area were proclaimed a Thermal-water Area in the New Zealand Gazette on 20 April 1961. This effectively prevents the uncontrolled sinking of wells in thermal water at Hanmer Springs and is designed to protect the existing supply from depletion through over withdrawal.

The Amuri County Council administered the Thermal Pools Reserve from 1970 to 1989 until the County became part of Hurunui District through local authority amalgamation. Although the reserve is administered by the Hurunui District Council, a separate management committee has been put in place to attend to the long term management of the thermal pools complex.

5.3 Thermal pools complex development

The original thermal pools complex was purchased by the local community in 1960 and gifted to the (then) Amuri County Council. The existing three hexagonal pools and original freshwater pool were added to the complex in 1978. This was increased with the construction of four rock pools, associated streams and landscaping in 1993. The Garden House Café was relocated to its current position at the same time.

Further expansion followed over 1998/1999 with the construction of three sulphur pools, two waterslides and a children's activity pool complete with waterfall and slides. Additional changing rooms, toilets and plant were constructed at this time as well. In 2004, two additional thermal pools were added to the complex along with a substantial picnic area. 2007 saw the construction of The Spa at Hanmer Springs, a new information centre and entranceway.

The most recent expansion in 2010 added three aqua therapy pools, a new freshwater pool with lazy river, a children's aqua play area, a superbowl waterslide and extensive picnic areas.

6. Natural Resources

6.1 Geology

The Hanmer hot springs are one of a series found adjacent to the Southern Alps of the South Island. These arise from the fractures and faulting that dislocate the greywacke basement or crystal rocks. Movement of the fault creates friction that in turn heats the rock associated with the fault. Where ground water seeps down through the crush zone of the fault it is heated through contact with this zone of heated rock. Meteoric water (rainfall) and water from local rivers also infiltrate through the alluvial deposits of the Hanmer Plains and come into contact with the heat source in the fault zone. Once heated, the water rises through the alluvium by conduction and convection currents to eventually form the Hanmer thermal springs.

It is probable that the hot springs existed before the intermontane depression was filled with alluvium to form the Hanmer Basin. Logs available from wells drilled in the vicinity of the springs indicate that the heat source in the underlying greywacke basement is around 200 feet deep (60.96 metres).

6.2 Thermal water

Two bores supply water to the thermal pool area. The first was installed in 1975, and the second in 2009. Modifications to the existing bore, including re-sleeving and screening were carried out during September 1992.

The temperature of the water varies between 52-60 degrees Celsius.

Current draw-off quantities of thermal water are set at a maximum average of 17.5 litres per second until the year 2039.

6.3 Fresh Water

Fresh water is reticulated to the service areas of the reserve from the Hurunui District Council water scheme. The water source is located at the Rogerson River west of the Hanmer Springs village. The fresh water baths in the reserve are filled from water from the town supply.

6.4 Vegetation

The reserve is dominated by mature exotic trees in the 'park' landscape tradition prevalent during the earliest development of the springs. *Sequoia gigantea*, *Pinus ponderosa*, douglas fir and lawson cypress were planted in the open lawn area at the time of the first bore being drilled in 1911. Other tree plantings contained within the reserve include weeping elm, holm oak, dawn redwood, yew, and common beech. Apart from the lawn areas, the remaining amenity plantings are mostly of indigenous species that have been progressively extended as the thermal pools complex has been developed. The Management Committee planted sequoias in 2004 and will continue planting as required.

Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa Complex as at December 2010



- 1 Entrance
- 2 i-SITE Visitor Centre
- 3 The Spa
- 4 Hexagonal pools
- 5 Aqua therapy pools
- 6 Sulphur pools
- 7 Disused historic gasometer
- 8 Thermal bore
- 9 Rainbow and rock pools
- 10 Garden House Café
- 11 Freshwater pool with lazy river
- 12 Food kiosk
- 13 Aqua play area
- 14 Three waterslides (including the Superbowl)
- 15 Freshwater pool with children's slides

7. Management considerations

7.1 Management control and administration

The long term management of the reserve has been delegated from the Council to the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa Management Committee. The Committee is responsible for administering the reserve under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and in accordance with the management plan.

The funds generated by the business operations on the reserve are used to augment the maintenance, development and promotion of this reserve, as well as the District-wide reserve network. All commercial operations on the reserve are limited to those activities under the direction and authority of the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa Management Committee.

7.2 Historical

The main historical points of interest in the reserve are:

- (a) the location of the present thermal bore
- (b) the sites of the original bores
- (c) the gasometer
- (d) the Garden House Café (former Government tea kiosk)
- (e) the gardener's shed

7.3 Landscape

The reserve landscape comprises three main areas:

- (a) the thermal pools complex.
- (b) the planted and landscaped area around the active water recreation area.
- (c) the planted perimeters.

The large *Sequoia gigantea* trees on the boundaries of the reserve were planted to commemorate the opening of the first commercial thermal bore and have a significant historical value to the area. They offer protection from the prevailing northerly winds in association with other notably ancient exotic plantings including redwoods in the north-eastern section of the reserve. As well as providing windbreaks these trees give the pools area an enclosed and private atmosphere which is in keeping with the reserve.

As part of development of the reserve in 1993, the internal area of the pools complex was extensively landscaped with indigenous plantings. This trend has been continued with subsequent development of the complex.

7.4 Thermal pools complex

The thermal pools complex has a number of different components providing relaxation and entertainment options to visitors including:

- Twelve thermal pools
- Freshwater pool with lazy river
- Freshwater pool with children's slides
- Three waterslides
- Aqua play area
- Day spa offering massage, body and beauty treatments
- Café
- Food kiosk
- Substantial gardens, landscaping and picnic areas
- Two thermal water bores
- Methane gas well
- Disused historic gasometer

The complex is also supported by changing rooms, plant rooms, offices, reception areas and an information centre.

7.5 Garden House Café

The former Government tea kiosk has been relocated within the reserve and operates as the Garden House Café.

7.6 Administration Building

A refurbished house located on the north-western boundary of the reserve is used as the administration building.

7.7 Carparking

Public carparking is provided on either side of Amuri Avenue and Jacks Pass Road. A number of carparks are also leased from the Hurunui District Council, including those in the 'triangle' car park at the bottom of Amuri Avenue.

7.8 Conservation of water resource

Protection of the thermal water resource in the reserve is vital for the future of the thermal pools area. The bore supplying the necessary hot water receives constant and accurate monitoring to ensure that the water levels do not drop to a level that would render the complex inoperable.

7.9 Recreation

The reserve enables visitors to enjoy a combination of passive and active recreational pursuits. Available activities include the thermal pools, spas, sauna, freshwater swimming pool, water slides, interactive play pool, and picnic area.

7.10 Tourism

The thermal pools and the reserve have attracted thousands of tourists over recent years. Hanmer Springs is now recognized as a major tourist attraction and is advertised extensively regionally, nationally and internationally. Patronage of the pools has steadily increased over the years, to over 500,000 visitors annually.

7.11 Education

Swimming classes are held in the fresh water pool along with school swimming sports, water safety exercises and occasional canoeing lessons. School groups also learn about the hot pools and geothermal systems on their visits.

7.12 Social

The residents of Hanmer Springs and tourists to the reserve derive a great deal of social benefit from the reserve. The fresh water pools provide opportunities to swim for improved fitness and health. The therapeutic properties of the thermal pools give relief to people suffering from a variety of medical problems including rheumatism and muscular pains.

7.13 Future development

The Hanmer Springs Thermal Reserve has been created primarily as a leisure resort. It is appropriate that the management plan signals the direction of development and future use of the reserve.

All future development must be in keeping with the existing goals, objectives and policies for the reserve. These concepts are detailed in section 9 of this document.

8. Reserve concept

The emphasis of past management of the reserve has been on promoting both active and passive recreational activities. This focus will continue in the future.

The gradual development of the reserve over the years has seen the establishment of several pools supplied with thermal water from the original bore. Associated buildings have been constructed on the site to accommodate the activities of the thermal pools. The establishment of a health and beauty facility, along with the day spa, private pools, and saunas has added a new dimension to the thermal pools area of the reserve.

Lawn areas and exotic tree plantings have been established and provide an alpine backdrop to the reserve. Care will be taken to preserve those points of historical and visual significance that exist within the reserve. The recent development of the reserve has incorporated the characteristics of the surrounding forested alpine environment. It is important that any future development of the reserve promotes and enhances this quality in its landscaping direction.

It is proposed that the ongoing management of the reserve will focus on reinforcing the existing concept of making the reserve and the facilities on it available to as wide a cross section of the community as commercially possible while ensuring the protection of those resources which draw visitors to the site.

9. Management goal

To manage, develop and promote the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve as a recreation reserve for the purpose of providing areas of both passive and active recreation for the public's enjoyment, whilst ensuring the scenic, geothermal, landscape and historical attributes contained within the reserve are protected and enhanced.

The goal for the reserve provides an all encompassing statement of what is desired to be achieved on the reserve; establishing its purpose, destination and objectives for future effort in relation to its ongoing management.

The objectives for the reserve that follow outline what is to be achieved in each policy statement of action.

The policy statements for the reserve are divided into three sections and describe how and what action will be undertaken in working towards achieving the respective objectives and goal:

- (i) The policy statement;
- (ii) The explanation -
the reason for adopting the policy including background information and considerations taken into account while formulating the policy; and
- (iii) Implementation -
explains how the policy will be implemented and managed.

9.1 Management objectives

- (i) To manage the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve for active and passive recreation in accordance with the principles set out in the Reserves Act 1977.
- (ii) To manage the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve for the benefit and enjoyment of the public through an ongoing development programme while maintaining and improving the character of the reserve.
- (iii) To protect and maintain those features of scenic, geological, geothermal, historical, and landscape importance found in the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve.
- (iv) To maintain and develop the geothermal resource for the enjoyment of the visitors to the area while ensuring protection of the resource for future generations.

9.2 Management control and administration

Policy

To manage the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve as a recreation reserve under the Reserve Act 1977 in accordance with the provisions of the management plan.

Explanation

The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve has been gazetted as a recreation reserve and vested in the Council under provisions of the Reserves Act 1977. The Hurunui District Council has delegated the management and the operations of the reserve to the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa Management Committee. The Council appoints all members to the Management Committee including elected Council members, Council management and independent persons (directors) as appropriate.

Implementation

The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve will be administered by the Hurunui District Council in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977, the objectives and policies outlined in this management plan, local bylaws and the Hurunui District Plan.

The day to day management of the reserve will be the responsibility of the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa Management Committee.

Any activity or development not provided for under the policies of this management plan will require a policy decision to be taken by Council and will be open to public comment through a review of the management plan.

To ensure that any operating surplus generated through the commercial activities carried out on the reserve are transferred to the Council to be used at its discretion and direction for distribution towards capital development, maintenance and enhancement of reserves throughout the district.

9.3 Historical

Policy

To ensure that the historical features on the reserve which include the thermal bores, gasometer, the Garden House Café and existing *Sequoia gigantea* are recognized and that any redevelopment ensures these features are retained.

Explanation

The thermal springs were discovered approximately 130 years ago and have been used continuously in various forms since 1859. The pools have been recognized nationally for their therapeutic qualities. Plaques indicating points of significance have been installed within the reserve.

The gasometer, plantings established at the commissioning of the original bore and the Government tea kiosk still exist within the bounds of the reserve. Their retention is seen as important in retaining the historical character of the reserve.

Implementation

Any redevelopment programme will ensure the integrity of the historical features in the reserve is preserved.

The Garden House Café is scheduled in the Hurunui District Plan as a heritage building, and is currently used as a restaurant.

The gasometer has a maintenance programme that was prepared by the Management Committee.

The gardener's shed is located in the maintenance area outside the main public area of the pools. The shed is in a state of disrepair as it was built between two sequoias, which are gradually crushing the building as the trunks expand.

For provisions for tree protection - see section 9.5 below.

9.4 Landscape

Policy

To maintain and enhance the landscape character of Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve.

To ensure that any future development that occurs within the reserve does not detract from the existing landscape features which draw visitors to the area.

Explanation

The landscape character of the reserve is important to the area's appeal to the public. The reserve must be attractive to visit so that the public will enjoy using it. The character of the landscape could be altered significantly if future development in the reserve is not carefully planned to take into account the existing features within it.

Implementation

That any future development promoted within the reserve will have regard to the existing landscape features and be designed so as to be sympathetic and in harmony with them.

The design and erection of any new buildings within the reserve will be consistent with those already established and take into account the alpine environment within which the reserve is located.

Any landscaping undertaken in the reserve shall be designed to complement existing plantings.

9.5 Vegetation and tree protection

Policy

To provide shade and shelter, and provide aesthetic value and diversity within the reserve through the planting of representative vegetation in appropriate areas.

To protect those existing tree plantings in the reserve which have recognized historical value or provide a visual backdrop to the reserve.

To only remove trees of the cypress and beech species from the reserve where they become a danger to the public through disease, wind damage or other phenomenon and cannot be saved by tree surgery.

Explanation

The intent of vegetation management within the reserve is to ensure that the majority of the existing tree plantings within the reserve are protected from any future development that may occur. It further seeks to ensure future plantings undertaken in the reserve blend and enhance the existing landscape.

Many of the trees have historical significance and at the same time provide a magnificent visual backdrop to the activities undertaken in the pools complex and reserve generally. It is recognised that the general health of these trees requires close monitoring.

Implementation

That the removal of cypress, or beech species be kept to a minimum. In the event that trees are removed, the Management Committee will replace trees as required.

That in the event of the need for any tree maintenance being identified by the Management Committee a report will be commissioned from a suitable tree specialist and his/her recommendations shall be implemented by a suitably qualified tree surgeon.

Pruning and extraction of trees, where necessary, shall be undertaken in order to ensure minimal visual impact on the reserve and its surrounds. The removal, extensive pruning or works within the vicinity of a protected tree shall require a resource consent.

Fertility, water supply, drainage and general conditions of the soil within the reserve shall be managed to ensure that plant life is sustained in good health.

That a long-term plan for planting be developed and implemented including a requirement for tree replacement so as to ensure continuity of plantings on the reserve.

9.6 Thermal pools

Policy

To provide, at a cost approved by the Council, a thermal and fresh water pools complex in the reserve for the enjoyment and relaxation of the public.

Explanation

The thermal pools complex has been developed to an international quality standard which is enjoyed by more than 500,000 visitors per annum and is the leading attraction for visitors to Hanmer Springs.

Implementation

The Council, in conjunction with the advice given by the Management Committee and outside professional agencies, will ensure that the thermal pools complex is maintained and upgraded as demand requires.

Any future development of the site will take into account and be carried out in accordance with the other management criteria identified in this plan.

9.7 Conservation of thermal water resource

Policy

To ensure that the extraction of the natural resource of thermal water is maintained at a sustainable level.

Explanation

The prosperity of Hanmer Springs as a visitor destination is dependent largely upon the existence of the thermal pools. The vast majority of visitors who come to the area do so because of the thermal pools for either relaxation or the therapeutic qualities associated with the water.

Thermal water draw-off has been set by condition of the resource consent issued by the Canterbury Regional Council at a rate of 17.5 litres per second until the year 2039. This is subject to monitoring requirements to ensure the current level of extraction can be maintained.

Implementation

The Management Committee shall ensure that the draw-off of thermal water in the reserve does not exceed the level approved by the Canterbury Regional Council on the basis that this is the maximum amount of thermal water that can be extracted on a sustainable level.

Daily monitoring of the thermal water draw-off and weekly recordings of the bore levels will be maintained by the Management Committee and any continued drop-off in flow or drop in bore levels will be noted and reported to the Canterbury Regional Council.

If the thermal water flow in the bore drops the draw-off will be reduced accordingly by the Management Committee to a level where the resource is stabilized.

Regular maintenance of the production well will be undertaken by the Management Committee.

9.8 Recreational facilities

Policy

To provide safe facilities and recreational equipment in the reserve that are in keeping with the reserve's concept of promoting both active and passive recreation.

Explanation

There are a wide range of recreational facilities based on the thermal and fresh water resources on the reserve catering for both passive and active recreation activities.

Implementation

The thermal pools are used primarily for recreational purposes and any play equipment located in this area will be of a high safety standard. Maintenance of the recreational equipment on the reserve will be undertaken as required.

Other recreational equipment and facilities in keeping with the concept of the reserve may be provided if demand is sufficient and funding can be arranged.

9.9 Public utility facilities

Policy

To provide and maintain adequate public utility services for the efficient management and public enjoyment of the reserve.

Explanation

At present services such as power, telephone, sewage and water are provided on the reserve. Some services may have to be extended and/or upgraded as developments occur within the reserve area.

Implementation

Where provision of utility services is deemed necessary they shall be designed and located so that their impact on the visual attributes and recreational values of the reserve are minimized.

Services placement shall be underground and sited with regard to the existing facilities in the reserve.

Where services are required or need to be upgraded to provide lessees or licensees in the reserve with services, the lessee or licensee will be required to cover the costs of providing the service.

9.10 Public health and safety

Policy

To promote public health and safety within the reserve.

Explanation

There are several potentially dangerous points on the reserve, such as water slides and wet surfaces. The boarded area covering the main bore and the iron fence that surrounds the area also require monitoring and regular maintenance.

The water supply used by the pools requires monitoring to ensure no public health risk exists.

Implementation

The geothermally heated extrusion has been safety fenced and will continue to be monitored.

Signs are erected warning the public of any dangers that exist in the reserve.

The Management Committee will ensure compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1992; and the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987.

The Management Committee will continually monitor the water supplies used in the reserve, and comply with the requirements of New Zealand Standard number NZS 5826:2010 to protect public health.

9.11 Signage

Policy

To ensure that the public is aware of the features of the reserve and surrounding area, and that direction is given to the points of interest.

Explanation

Due to the open nature of the reserve, direction is required at those entranceways to the area, indicating the locality of each point of interest.

Cultural interpretation signage may also be appropriate to provide the public with information regarding the history of the site and the wider area.

Implementation

That the Management Committee erect signs within the reserve as required to highlight points of interest, and to provide information regarding the reserve and its history.

The signs will be constructed in a manner and material to minimize vandalism.

Signs erected within the reserve will be of a uniform design and format and be of shape, size and colour, which is in harmony with the surrounding environment.

All signs erected are to conform to the requirements of the Hurunui District Plan and appropriate consents must be obtained if necessary.

9.12 Vandalism

Policy

To prosecute anyone found to be undertaking a material offence on the reserve as listed in Section 94 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Explanation

The Council may bring a prosecution against anyone found undertaking a material offence on the reserve. Vandalism can threaten both the features and amenities associated with the reserve. This leads to costs to the Council and its ratepayers.

Implementation

The Council pursue a prosecution against any person found undertaking a material offence on the reserve.

9.13 Architectural controls

Policy

To ensure that all buildings and structures located on the reserve are in harmony with the physical environment of the reserve.

Explanation

The visual harmony of buildings and other structures within the reserve's physical environment is important to its character. It is, therefore, necessary to control the design, colour and materials of new buildings.

Implementation

All buildings constructed in the reserve will be designed so as to be compatible with the existing environment and to comply with the Hanmer Springs design standards.

Natural building materials shall be used where possible.

The colour of the buildings and structures will be such that they blend into the existing reserve area.

The historic character and value of the Garden House Café is acknowledged and every attempt has been made to retain these attributes. Any future maintenance must acknowledge this and be in sympathy with these values.

9.14 Future development

Policy

To continue to develop the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Reserve for both passive and active recreation with a focus on the thermal waters and ancillary activities.

To provide for the extension of the pools complex and the upgrading of other facilities.

Explanation

The reserve is recognized as a significant recreational resource within the Hurunui District as are the therapeutic qualities associated with the thermal waters.

It is considered appropriate that the area continue to be developed to provide additional areas for recreational activities, public enjoyment and education within the confines of the existing reserve.

Implementation

Future development and upgrading will take into account the recreational requirements of reserve users. It will be compatible with the other management considerations and policy identified within the management plan.

9.15 Queen Mary Hospital Historic Reserve interface

Policy

To ensure that any development adjacent to the Queen Mary Hospital Historic Reserve is mindful of the interface between the two sites and acknowledges the reserve's context within this wider area.

Explanation

The reserve is adjacent to an important heritage site. In particular, the most recent expansion of the pools complex extended towards the Soldier's Block to the south which is a listed heritage building, and the avenue of lime trees to the west, which are scheduled notable trees. The future of the

Queen Mary Hospital Historic Reserve has not been determined yet and therefore it is important that the interface between the two sites is mindful of the character of the wider area and does not preclude any future uses of this adjacent area.

Implementation

Hard fencing will be limited along the western boundaries of the site to only that required for operational reasons, for example to protect the plant room.

Any development of the pools site will be 'future proofed' to take into account the potential for the development of, and increased public usage of the Queen Mary Hospital Historic Reserve, and allow for an appropriate interface between the two areas.

10. Plan review

This management plan will be kept under continuous review as circumstances affecting the management of the reserve change. This will ensure that the Plan continues to be relevant to the management of the reserve.

A complete plan review will generally be undertaken at 10 yearly intervals to ensure its continued relevance to management and public requirements.

Acknowledgements

(i) L J Brown

- *New Zealand Geological Survey*
- *Thermal Water Resources of the Hanmer Basin*

(ii) Mrs R Ensor

- *Much Ado (Hanmer Springs 1883 – 1983)*

(iii) W J Gardner

- *The Amuri – A County History*

(iv) Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura (2007)

- *Te Poha o Tohu Raumati - Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura Environmental Management Plan*