

A MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR VICTORIA DOMAIN
AND
ASSOCIATED RECREATION AREAS

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A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR VICTORIA DOMAIN
AND ASSOCIATED RECREATION AREAS

This plan is intended to assist with the future management of Victoria Domain and those associated areas which influence its use as a public recreation reserve.

The plan has been contributed to by local authorities, scientists, and recreational user groups and has been co-ordinated by the Department of Lands and Survey, Blenheim.

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Co-ordinator

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I INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Management planning - Its function and application
- 1.2 The need for a management plan
- 1.3 Management plan participants

1.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING - ITS FUNCTION AND APPLICATION

The Victoria Domain management plan has been prepared in terms of what is believed to be modern park and reserve planning practices. It is now accepted that management planning is concerned with the formulation of goals, objectives, and policies which are required to guide the management of a resource rather than with the preparation of a design plan which rigidly fixes and defines the direction and method of resource development.

In order to understand the nature of planning, one must attempt to reason why planning, as such, is needed. Invariably, planning is resorted to because problems have been encountered. These vary from minor ones, such as deciding whether or not to build fireplaces in certain areas, to larger ones such as whether or not to allow a certain sector of the community preferential use of an area of the domain.

Problems are relative things, that is to say, what one person may consider a problem is not necessarily seen as such by another. In effect, problems are related to goals. It is because of the ideal or goal held by each person that various things, events etc., are seen as problems. Thus, it would seem that to commence the planning process one must state outright what one's terms of reference are, that is what the goals, objectives, and related policies are.

If such goals, objectives, and policies can be identified and rationalised, then the task of problem solving and decision making is greatly facilitated.

This management plan is the result of an effort to identify the domain's overall natural, cultural, community, and recreational values and to formulate goals, objectives, and policies intended to enhance these values.

The task of decision making has not been taken from the Picton Borough Council nor has this been attempted. What has been attempted is the establishment of a sound foundation upon which decisions may be based.

This process then allows the council to consider each problem as and when it arises, against a background of policies. The effectiveness of these policies will be determined only with time and experience. There is no doubt that some will continue to prove effective and achieve the desired results while others will not. This then indicates whether or not policies must be changed or continue to be accepted. The revision of policies and objectives is of utmost importance if current trends and attitudes are to be reflected. The ability to reflect current trends is perhaps the greatest advantage held by the goals-objectives-policies approach over the old detailed-design-planning approach.

It must be realised that all aspects of reserve administration cannot be covered, and the council itself or its planning consultant must, with time and experience, make the necessary additions and alterations.

Appendix A illustrates the place of management plans in the decision-making planning process.

1.2 THE NEED FOR A MANAGEMENT PLAN

Victoria Domain and its associated recreation areas together represent a resource capable of providing a variety of recreation opportunities.

Their location in relation to Picton township and Picton Harbour greatly increases their visual and recreational importance.

Recent years have seen an increase in demand for public and private use of this resource. Some uses have been incompatible with each other and with general public recreational use, and others have detrimentally affected natural values contained within this resource.

In order to co-ordinate the use of this resource there is need for a management plan. Such a plan should identify the resource's natural, cultural, community, and recreational values and should formulate objectives and policies that will function as a planning framework upon which co-ordinated land-use decisions can be made while protecting and enhancing those values.

1.3 MANAGEMENT PLAN PARTICIPANTS

An element of land-use planning which is receiving greater emphasis is public participation. The public are often invited to participate at one of two stages:

- during the formulation stages of the plan;
- after a draft plan has been prepared.

Because of the domain's importance for public recreation a variety of groups and individuals were invited to forward submissions during the formulation stages of the plan so that their views could be considered for inclusion in the plan. Those invited to participate included (see appendix B):

- recreational clubs
- community groups
- service groups
- educational groups
- scientific-based groups
- land/water administrative groups and
- the general public.

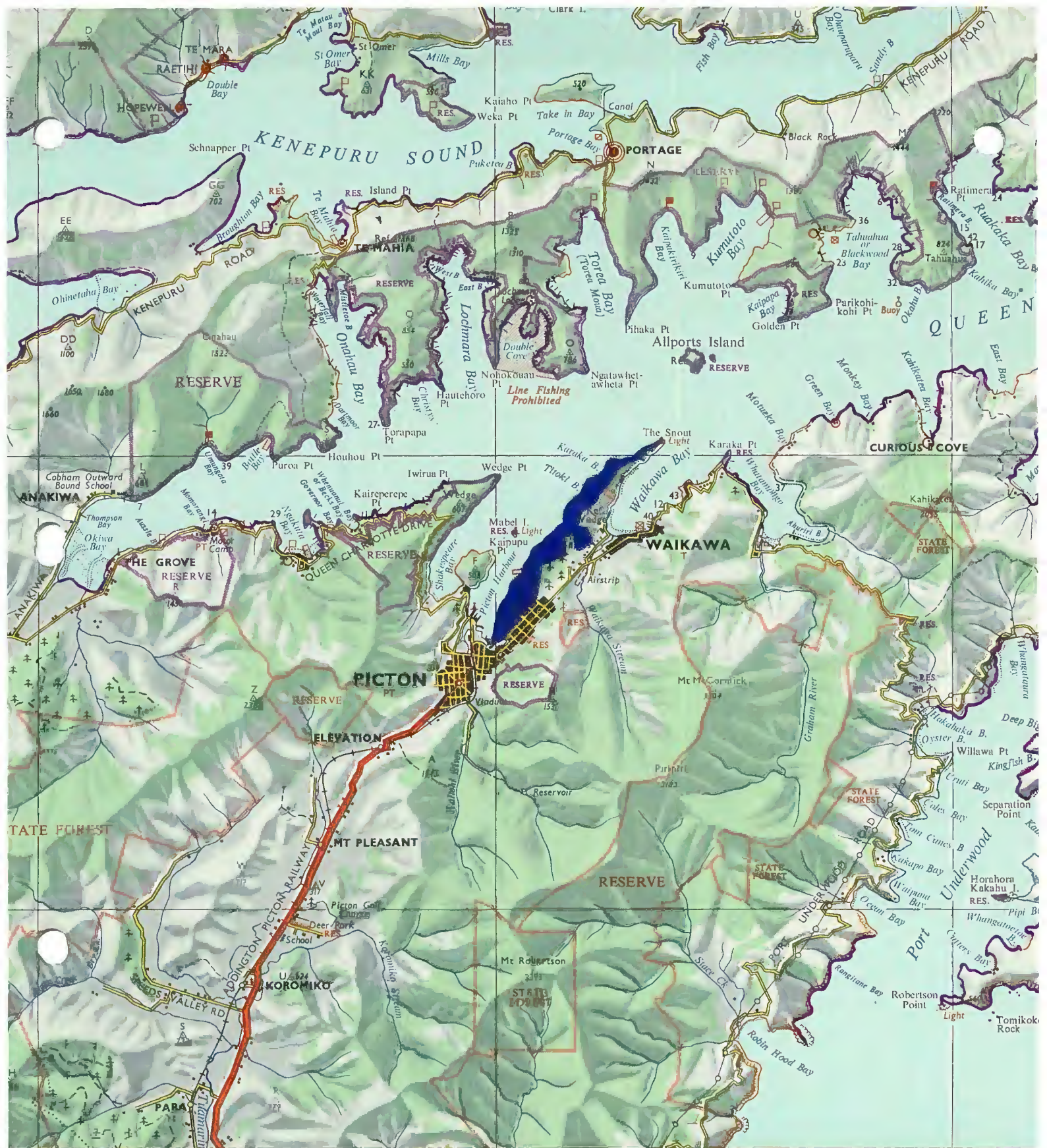
Essentially, these participants were invited to express their views as to the type of values occurring in the domain and the development and management they considered necessary to enable enjoyment of these values. Many of the policy statements contained in this plan represent the views expressed by invited participants.

2 THE RESOURCE

- 2.1 Location
- 2.2 Area under study
- 2.3 Establishment of status
- 2.4 District scheme provisions
- 2.5 Access
- 2.6 Climate
- 2.7 Topography
- 2.8 Geology
- 2.9 Vegetation
- 2.10 Noxious weeds
- 2.11 Fauna
- 2.12 Supply of recreational settings
- 2.13 Demand for recreational opportunity
- 2.14 Recreational significance of area under study

2.1 LOCATION

The study area covers 185 hectares and consists of hill country, beaches, and sports grounds. It lies adjacent to the township of Picton and extends for some 5 kilometres along the eastern side of Picton Harbour.



Victoria Domain & Associated Recreation Areas

LOCATION

2.2 AREA UNDER STUDY

The area under study, referred to as Victoria Domain and associated recreation areas, contains land of varying status and vestings. The areas are:

- Victoria Domain
- Waikawa Recreation Reserve
- Memorial Park
- Picton Marina
- Crown Land.

VICTORIA DOMAIN

Victoria Domain is a recreation reserve of 167.3603 hectares, control of which is vested in the Picton Borough Council. Its legal description is Part Section 117 Queen Charlotte Sound Registration District, situated in Blocks VIII and XII Linkwater Survey District. The name Victoria Domain was given to the reserve in 1897 by the council in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The reserve is administered in terms of the Picton Recreation Reserves Act 1896 and the Reserves and Domains Act 1953.

WAIKAWA RECREATION RESERVE

This reserve covers 11.8977 hectares and is vested in the Picton Borough Council for recreation purposes (New Zealand Gazette 1962, page 1729). It is managed in conjunction with Victoria Domain and is administered in terms of the Reserves and Domains Act 1953. Its legal description is Lot 38 D.P. 2806 situated in Block VIII Linkwater Survey District.

MEMORIAL PARK

Memorial Park is made up of three recreation reserves which together total 2.6201 hectares. The larger proportion, 2.3737 hectares, is legally described as Part Lagoon, and is administered in terms of the Picton Recreation Reserves Act 1896, and the Reserves and Domains Act 1953. The other reserves are Section 1136, Town of Picton, having an area of 759 square metres, and Part Section 132, Town of Picton, having an area of 1705 square metres. These latter reserves are administered in terms of

the Reserves and Domains Act 1953; all three reserves are vested in the Picton Borough Council, for recreation purposes.

PICTON MARINA

Land included in the study and forming part of the Picton Marina consists of:

- Marlborough Harbour Board Freehold;
- land vested in the Marlborough Harbour Board.

The freehold lands held by the harbour board total 4650 square metres and are administered subject to the provisions of the Marlborough Harbour Act 1958 and the Harbours Act 1950. They are:

1. Section 1247, Town of Picton being 705 square metres in area and contained in certificate of title 2D/823; and Section 160, Queen Charlotte Registration District, being 1795 square metres in area and contained in certificate of title 2D/819. These lands are subject to section 8 of the Mining Act 1971 and section 168A of the Coal Mines Act 1925.
2. Section 157 Queen Charlotte Registration District, being 2150 square metres in area and contained in certificate of title 1B/617.

Lands vested in the harbour board are described as:

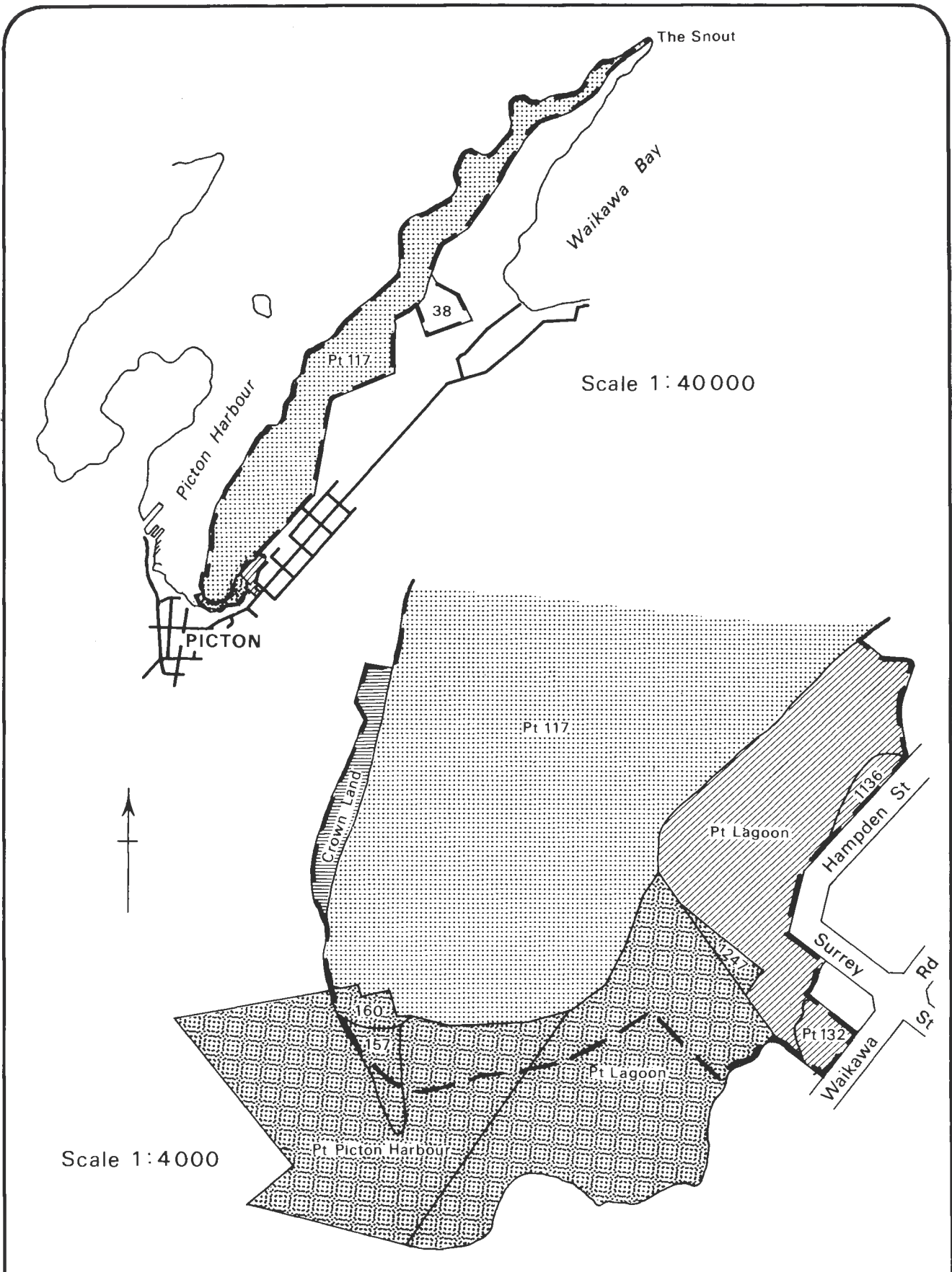
1. Part Picton Harbour, having an area of 3.0731 hectares. The vesting legislation is contained in section 11 of the Marlborough Harbour Amendment Act 1960.
2. Part lagoon, having an area of 3.3513 hectares. The vesting legislation is contained in section 12, Marlborough Harbour Amendment Act 1960, which vests it as a site for aquatic purposes and boat anchorage site.







These lands are administered in terms of the Harbours Act 1950 and the Marlborough Harbour Act 1958.

CROWN LAND

Reclamation of the sea bed adjacent to Victoria Domain and in the vicinity

of Shelly Beach was carried out by the Marlborough Harbour Board. Some 3780 square metres of the sea bed were reclaimed without legislative authority and were consequently vested in the Crown. At present it is administered as Crown land subject to the provisions of the Land Act 1948.



- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
|  | Victoria Domain |  | Crown Land |
|  | Picton Marina |  | Waikawa Reserve |
|  | Memorial Park |  | Boundary of the Study Area |

Victoria Domain & Associated Recreation Areas

AREA UNDER STUDY

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF STATUS

VICTORIA DOMAIN

Early records show that the Government Gazette for the province of Nelson, dated 22 May 1857 and authorised by Alfred Greenfield, Provincial Secretary, contained the following notice:

"His Honour the Superintendent directs it to be notified that the undermentioned portions of the Waste Lands of the Crown within the Province of Nelson, as hereinafter described, have been RESERVED for various purposes of public utility, viz :-

10. A block of land forming the hilly portion of the promontory between Milton Bay (Waitohi) and Newton Bay (Waikawa)."

In 1859 the province of Marlborough came into being, and on 27 January 1866 Sir George Grey, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief over the colony of New Zealand, granted to the superintendent of the province of Marlborough under the Public Reserves Act 1854 the portion of land described as follows for purposes connected with the improvement of the port of Picton:

"All that parcel of land in the Province of Marlborough in our Colony of New Zealand, situated at Picton Harbour in the District of Queen Charlotte Sound being Section numbered 117 on the plan of the said District and containing by admeasurement four hundred and seventy acres more or less bounded towards the south east by a Maori Reserve and 2600 links by Section numbered 8 on the Plan of the District of Picton Suburban towards the east 3700 links by the said Section numbered 8 again towards the south east 3025 links by the Belt of the Town of Picton towards the south west 125 links by the said Belt again towards the south east partly 350 links by the said Belt and partly by High Water mark Picton Harbour and towards the north west by High Water mark Picton Harbour."

This situation remained until the passing of the Picton Recreation Reserve Act 1896 which vested in the mayor, councillors, and burgesses of the borough of Picton for the purposes of a Recreation reserve:

"All that piece or parcel of land, containing 470 acres or there-

abouts, being Section No. 117, Linkwater Survey District, in the Land District of Marlborough. Bounded towards the east by the Waikawa Native Reserve, by Section No. 8 on the plan of the District of Picton Suburban, by part of the Town of Picton, and by the Lagoon; towards the south by the said Lagoon; and towards the west by Picton Harbour and Queen Charlotte Sound."

The area of 470 acres (190.2 hectares) was gazetted from Magnetic Plan 317, but later, in 1906, a survey was carried out and an area of 414 acres (167.5398 hectares) was measured and defined on Survey Office Plan 770.

In 1973 the reservation over 1795 square metres of the southern extent of Section 117 was revoked and freeholded to the Marlborough Harbour Board in 1974.

Today, Part Section 117, locally known as Victoria Domain and covering 167.3603 hectares, is vested in the Picton Borough Council for recreation purposes.

WAIKAWA RECREATION RESERVE

In 1961 the Marlborough Automobile Association carried out a residential subdivision over land at Waikawa. The Minister of Lands approved the subdivision under the provisions of the Land Subdivision in Counties Act 1946, a condition of approval being that an area of 11.8977 hectares be set aside as reserve contribution. This land was subsequently vested in the Crown as scenic reserve.

In 1962, further consideration was given to the management of this reserve, and because of the lack of legal access, its proximity to Victoria Domain, and its vegetative cover it was resolved that the land would be best managed in conjunction with Victoria Domain as a recreation reserve.

After representations to the Picton Borough Council, the Minister of Lands approved a change in status (New Zealand Gazette 1962, page 1729) to recreation reserve and vested control in the council.

MEMORIAL PARK

Memorial Park was established as a war memorial and as a cultural and sports area. Its establishment came about primarily as a result of reclamation undertaken in 1950 over 2.3737 hectares of the Picton Lagoon at a cost of £4150. Recreation reserve status was first established over this lagoon and control vested in the Picton Borough Council in 1896, and this was recorded in the New Zealand Statutes 1896, page 248.

Another area which forms part of Memorial Park is Section 1136 Town of Picton. This land was vested as a public recreation ground in the Picton Borough Council in 1907 and recorded in the New Zealand Gazette 1907, page 31. Before this the land was reserved for landing purposes. Part Section 132 was added to Memorial Park to enable access to the reclaimed lands. This section was set aside and reserved in 1864 as a "Fish market for the Aboriginal Natives". However, as the result of an exchange of lands its status was changed to recreation reserve in 1952 (New Zealand Gazette 1952, page 206) and vested in the Picton Borough Council, in trust, for recreation purposes in 1956 (New Zealand Gazette 1956, page 240).

PICTON MARINA

Sections 1247 and 160 Sections 1247 and 160 are held in fee simple by the Marlborough Harbour Board as per certificates of title 2D/823 and 2D/819 respectively. Prior to their freeholding in 1974, these sections were vested in the Picton Borough Council for recreation purposes: Section 1247 being part of the reclaimed portion of the Picton Lagoon, and Section 160 being part of Victoria Domain. In 1971 the council passed a resolution approving the revocation of the reservation over these areas which then consequently reverted to Crown land. These sections were then sold to the Harbour Board in 1974 by the Crown in terms of section 54 Land Act 1948.

Section 157 Section 157 is held in fee simple by the Marlborough Harbour Board as per certificate of title 1B/617. Land contained in this title consists mainly of a spit which extended part way across the entrance to the Picton Lagoon. Records show that as far back as 1906 the spit was

Crown land and administered by the Marine Department. In 1963 this land was sold by the Crown to the Marlborough Harbour Board in terms of section 54 Land Act 1948 pending the development of the Picton Marina.

Part Picton Harbour and Part Lagoon Part Picton Harbour was foreshore and sea bed vested in the Crown while Part Lagoon was part of the Picton Lagoon vested in the Picton Borough Council for recreation purposes by New Zealand Statutes 1896, page 248.

Pending the development of the Picton Marina these areas were vested in the Marlborough Harbour Board by sections 11 and 12 of the Marlborough Harbour Amendment Act 1960.

CROWN LAND

The Crown land was initially sea bed and foreshore adjacent to Victoria Domain. During 1967, dredged material from the marina development was deposited in the vicinity of Shelly Beach in order to form an amenity area. This reclamation was in fact undertaken without legislative authority by the Marlborough Harbour Board and consequently remained in Crown ownership.

At present (1977) negotiations are being undertaken between the Crown, the Marlborough Harbour Board, and the Picton Borough Council to validate this reclamation (Marlborough Harbour Bill 1977) and to vest it in the council as a reserve for recreation purposes.

2.4 DISTRICT SCHEME PROVISIONS

Lands contained within the study area lie within the bounds of the Picton Borough and the Marlborough County and consequently are subject to the provisions of one or other district scheme.

At present both district schemes are in their draft stages. However, both have been publicly notified and objections received and heard by the respective councils.

More specifically:

Victoria Domain Some 22 hectares of Victoria Domain lie within the Picton Borough and the remaining 145 hectares in the Marlborough County. The planning maps of both schemes designate the domain as recreation reserve, and in addition, the Picton scheme shows an underlying rural zone while the Marlborough Scheme shows an underlying Rural B Zone.

Waikawa Recreation Reserve The Waikawa Recreation Reserve is situated in the Marlborough County. It is designated as recreation reserve and has an underlying Rural B Zone.

Memorial Park Memorial Park is situated in the Picton Borough. It is designated as recreation reserve and has an underlying residential zone.

Picton Marina Picton Marina is situated in Picton Borough. It is designated as Marlborough Harbour Board small boat facilities and has an underlying aquatic recreation zone.

Crown Land The reclaimed Crown land lies within the Picton Borough and the Marlborough County but has not been specifically recognised by either scheme. Of the total 3780 square metres, 736 square metres lie within the Picton Borough and the remaining 3044 square metres in the Marlborough County.

It is as well to note that all designated land is zoned as well, zoning being quite separate from the designation. Should it transpire that the designating authority decides it no longer requires the land and the designation is uplifted, then the zoning remains unaffected. In addition, the zoning is still in operation while the land is designated, and should the designating authority be agreeable to an interim use of the land not related to the designation then this use will be controlled by the zoning provisions.

PICTON BOROUGH DISTRICT SCHEME

Generally, rural zones within the Picton Borough District Scheme comprise steep hillside unsuitable either for farming or urban development. Such

hillsides are seen as a valuable and natural asset and form a pleasant backdrop to the urban uses in the town.

The aquatic recreational zone is confined to the area of land and water in the vicinity of the Picton Marina and foreshore. It is intended as a control of the area for uses of a recreational nature, including all water-oriented sports and pastimes.

MARLBOROUGH COUNTY DISTRICT SCHEME

The Marlborough County Rural B Zone is intended for farming and passive recreation use but with added restrictions in order to preserve the visual appearance by keeping the land free of buildings and visually intrusive land uses. One objective adopted by the county council, which is particularly relevant to Victoria Domain, is outlined in Clause 3 of the district scheme under "Policy as to Zoning". Section 3.2.3 of the scheme states that it is intended:

"To retain and enhance the area's (the Marlborough Sounds) natural scenic character by :-

3.2.3.2 Keeping parts of some areas free of development, such as headlands (particularly those evident from the Wellington-Picton ferry route) and the higher ground of the peninsulas which jut into the main Sounds waterways, and the land between road and water where a clear view of the water would be interrupted by buildings."

2.5 ACCESS

Victoria Domain occupies much of the promontory which extends for some 5 kilometres from Picton waterfront north eastwards to a point locally known as The Snout or Ihumoenui.

At its closest point, the domain is less than 1 kilometre away from Picton's urban centre.

There are several points of entry to the domain and there is access for pedestrians, motorists, and boaties.

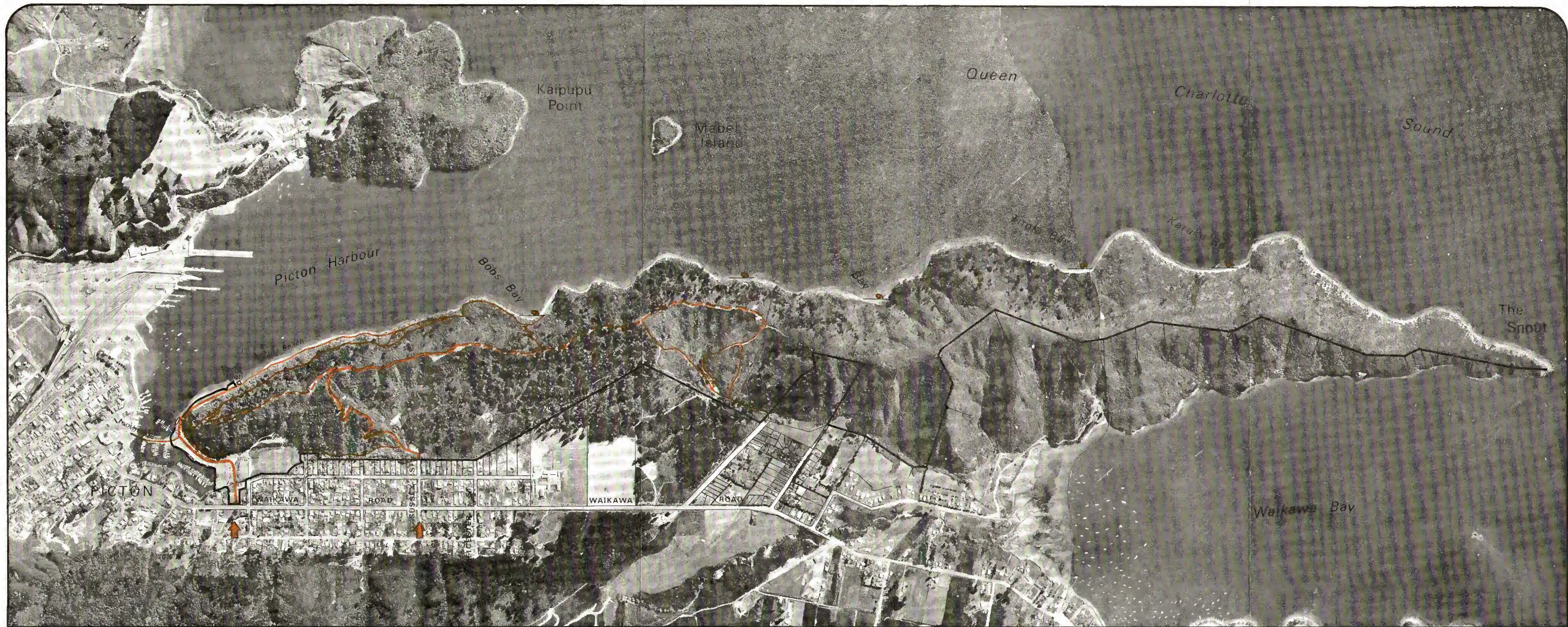
Motorists are able to gain peripheral access to the domain via Ranui and Leicester Streets, and via the Picton Marina. However, car access onto the domain is available only via Sussex Street.

The internal road, which continues off Sussex Street, climbs some 100 metres to a prominent ridgeline which extends the length of the domain. This road is sealed for about 1 kilometre of its length and then continues as a clay track for another kilometre.

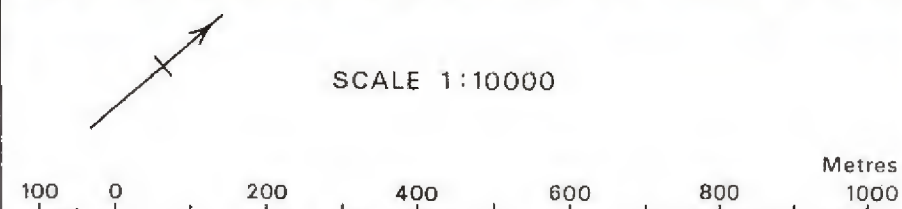
Pedestrians use these vehicular access routes as well as the walking tracks which start near the boating marina situated at the southern end of the domain. At present these tracks give access to beaches which lie between the boating marina and Bobs Bay. Pedestrian access from Picton township is available via the footbridge across the Marina entrance commonly known as the "coathanger".



Some 5 kilometres of the domain are bounded by mean high water mark. A series of small beaches facing out on to Picton Harbour enables boat landings. Perhaps the most popular is Bobs Bay. Other bays include Karaka Bay, Titoki Bay, and Pine Bay.




Generally, there are a number of access opportunities in the southern half¹/₄ of the domain but, in the north, vehicular access is non-existent and pedestrian access is limited.



Survey 3781, Photos E/18 & F/17
 Flown 11th April 1975
 Scale is correct at sea level,
 but approximate elsewhere.



-  Small-boat landing
-  Vehicle entry

-  Walking track
-  Sealed roadway
-  Clay vehicle track

Victoria Domain
 & Associated Recreation Areas
 EXISTING ACCESS PATTERN

2.6 CLIMATE

Victoria Domain and its associated recreation areas are subject to weather conditions typical of the Sounds.

Cook Strait provides a natural channel for air flowing between the high mountain ranges of the North and South Islands. It has the effect of increasing both the strength and frequency of winds from north-westerly and southerly quarters over the adjacent Sounds area. The rough terrain of the Sounds themselves causes large local variations in wind, and it also makes the flow very turbulent so that strong gusts and squalls accompanied by sudden changes in both speed and direction are relatively frequent. Victoria Domain and Picton are no exceptions; wind variations resulting from rough terrain are typical of the locality, and the area is particularly susceptible to southerly winds.

TEMPERATURES

The New Zealand Meteorological Service has indicated that the Sounds area has slightly warmer temperatures than Wellington, and the mean daily maximum and mean daily minimum at Picton (in °C) have been estimated as:

	<u>January</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>October</u>
Maximum	21	18	12	16
Minimum	13	11	7	9

RAINFALL

Rainfall figures for the period 1971 to 1976 as supplied by Mr B. Saunders of Picton indicate large variations in monthly rainfall and it is difficult to observe any particular pattern. During this period the monthly readings observed were:

	<u>1971</u> mm	<u>1972</u> mm	<u>1973</u> mm	<u>1974</u> mm	<u>1975</u> mm	<u>1976</u> mm
January	267	60	68	19	102	207
February	91	14	9	75	52	59
March	38	109	62	51	183	59

	<u>1971</u> mm	<u>1972</u> mm	<u>1973</u> mm	<u>1974</u> mm	<u>1975</u> mm	<u>1976</u> mm
April	74	102	59	255	178	85
May	141	274	173	128	119	81
June	113	36	60	32	390	127
July	83	144	103	229	70	176
August	432	84	166	181	201	145
September	73	65	69	385	94	
October	272	90	70	227	211	
November	102	50	164	40	168	
December	36	43	74	29	38	

Annual rainfalls measured by Mr B. Saunders were:

1971	1722 mm
1972	1071 mm
1973	1077 mm
1974	1651 mm
1975	1806 mm

SUNSHINE

Unfortunately there has been no recording of sunshine hours in Picton by meteorological recording equipment.

The figures below were based on records kept by Mr J. A. Kay of Picton who has recorded daily observations of the amount of cloud cover. These records therefore give an indication of the days which had sunshine, and from his four observations per day can be derived an approximation of the amount of sunshine.

Number of days on which sunshine was recorded
for at least 25% of the day

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
January	26	13*	14*	19	12*
February	24	15*	21	23	22
March	20	21*	20	22	20
April	22	17	21	26	23
May	20	23	25	26	21
June	20	25	25	22	16
July	17*	19	26	15*	15
August	15	22	19	9*	
September	20	21	22	18	
October	27	23	22	15	
November	21	24	21	18	
December	27	26	23	17	

Number of days on which sunshine was recorded
for at least 75% of the day

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
January	22	13*	10*	7	8*
February	23	14*	18	14	17
March	17	14*	18	19	14
April	16	14	21	14	16
May	12	20	22	17	11
June	16	20	24	14	12
July	13*	11	21	8*	8
August	12	10	11	4*	
September	17	13	16	8	
October	15	15	13	7	
November	10	23	15	10	
December	20	20	22	11	

* Observations not taken for full month.

Days missing from above tables

<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
9 days in full	11 Jan. 4 Feb. 4 Mar.	14 Jan.	7 July 7 Aug.	8 Jan.

2.7 TOPOGRAPHY

Like other land areas in the Marlborough Sounds, the Victoria Domain peninsula is the result of the sea's invasion into what was once a maze of forested valleys.

Essentially the domain may be described as a large promontory running south-west to north-east. Steep hillsides are a feature of the area, rising from sea level to a maximum altitude of 184.5 metres. A leading ridge runs the length of this promontory and coincides in part with the legal domain boundary.

The domain's sea frontage consists of small bays and beaches. The beaches tend to be shelly or stony, and the sea bed drops away very quickly. The bays do not constitute particularly large indentations, and rock banks rather than cliffs are a predominant feature of this coastline.

Only minor man-made modifications have taken place along this coastline with the exception of the reclamation work on Crown land south of Shelly Beach. Lawn and shrubs have been established on this area, and it is used by the general public for picnicking, sunbathing, and other allied aquatic recreational pursuits. Major man-made modifications have been undertaken adjacent to Picton township; what was once a large shallow lagoon has been reclaimed and dredged over the last 27 years to form sports fields and the marina complex.

2.8 GEOLOGY

The rocks in the domain are divided into three units: indurated basement rocks, weathered scree and slope wash deposits, and alluvium.

The basement rocks, belonging to the Pelorus Group of Upper Paleozoic or Lower Mesozoic age, crop out extensively in the sea cliffs and small creeks in the west but, except on the access road to the top of the domain and at the Picton Borough Council quarry, are poorly exposed in the east. They strike NNE to NE and dip steeply, and they consist of indurated, well-jointed, grey or greenish-grey, poorly sorted sandstones (greywacke) with bedding planes from 0.1 metre to several metres apart. Grey siltstone and dark-grey mudstone (argillite) beds, up to about 200 millimetres thick, are scattered throughout. Locally the argillite beds are abundant and alternate with the sandstone beds to form a well-bedded sequence up to 5 metres thick in which the bedding planes are from 12 to 75 millimetres apart. The sandstone, where fresh, is very hard but, because of the presence of numerous joint planes, readily breaks into blocks 0.1 to 1 metre across. The siltstone and mudstone beds are severely crushed and are commonly puggy.

On the gentler slopes, particularly in the east of the domain and on the top of the ridge, the basement rocks are commonly deep weathered, to a depth of up to 3 metres, and although soft and brown in colour the original sedimentary features can still be seen. Locally these weathered rocks are a reddish colour indicative of prolonged weathering under warmer climatic conditions than the present. These warmer conditions probably occurred during the Pleistocene Period when the climate fluctuated from very cold (glacials) to warm (interglacials).

The scree and slope wash deposits, forming a layer that rests sharply on the basement rocks, consist of partly weathered, poorly sorted, angular rock debris, from a few millimetres to rarely over a metre across, in a brown to light grey-brown, silty clay matrix. The deposits are thickest (up to 2 metres) in gullies and at the toe of slopes; elsewhere they are about 0.1 metre thick. They are overlain by a thin stony topsoil up to 200 millimetres thick. Although these deposits are forming today it is probable that many of the thicker deposits, particularly those in now buried gullies, accumulated during or immediately following the cold climatic periods (glacials) during the Pleistocene.

At the heads of small bays there are small areas of alluvium consisting of rounded sandstone pebbles and cobbles, shell debris, and scattered

angular blocks of rock. The pebbles and cobbles have been rounded by wave action whereas the angular rocks have been freshly added to the beaches by rockfalls off the adjacent cliffs. At the mouths of small valleys in the east there are patches of poorly sorted gravel consisting of angular to sub-rounded pieces of rock in a silty clay matrix. The age of the alluvium is Late Pleistocene to Recent.

2.9 VEGETATION

ORIGINAL VEGETATION

The original pattern of vegetation prior to clearing for pasture was probably as follows:

- Most slopes: hard beech forest,
- Crests of steeper ridges: hard beech-black beech forest,
- Coastal spurs and headlands: black beech forest,
- Gullies: pukatea/tawa forest, tawa forest,
- Coastal cliffs: akiraho-akeake shrubland.

HISTORY OF CHANGE

The area seems to have been largely forested at one time. Following the original clearing of the peninsula, fires were a common occurrence and the area was burnt regularly as far out as The Snout. The earliest photos of the area (1890s) show bare hillsides without any substantial growth.

The patterns of successional vegetation attest to a complex recent fire history. There are many different trends and stages of succession present, and the presence of many burn margins suggest that these are not all attributable to site and aspect differences. The pioneering species have changed from manuka and kanuka to gorse and broom as the latter two species have become prevalent throughout the region.

The last major fire on the domain occurred in January 1963. It began in a small bay just north of Mabel Island and burnt over a widespread area from this point over the hill towards Waikawa. A considerable advance in the spread of gorse and pine throughout the majority of the domain is the result of this fire.

SECONDARY SUCCESSION TRENDS

A synthesis of successional trends can be determined by comparison of the vegetation in the domain and the older secondary vegetation on private land on the peninsula between Waikawa and The Snout and in the scenic reserve at Kaipupu Point. These can be summarised as follows:

1. Succession before arrival of gorse in area

Crests of steeper ridges: manuka → fivefinger → kamahi → (hard beech, black beech)*

Most slopes: kanuka-manuka → fivefinger → akeake → mahoe → hinau → kamahi-tawa → (hard beech)

Coastal spurs and headlands: manuka/flax → manuka-akeake-akiraho scrub → akeake-akiraho → (black beech)

Gullies: kanuka-mahoe-fivefinger → putaputaweta-mahoe-tawa → tawa → (pukatea/tawa)

* Vegetation in brackets refers to the original vegetation.

2. Succession following arrival of gorse in area

On all slopes, the initial stages are gorse-broom scrub. There are many situations in the current vegetation where a low forest of mahoe-fivefinger is replacing gorse in gullies. There has been little replacement elsewhere although the successional trends will probably resemble those of the indigenous vegetation, but at a faster rate, with gorse and broom replacing manuka and kanuka in all cases.

THE PLANT COMMUNITIES (SUMMARY)

The major plant communities and their distribution are as follows:

Black beech forest: a few remnant pockets along the eastern shore of Picton Harbour;

Hard beech forest with tawa: a small remnant stand 300 metres north of the extension of the vehicle track along the main ridge;

Manuka scrub: a few small areas near The Snout and above the cliffs on the eastern shore of Picton Harbour;

Kanuka-manuka scrub: actively being replaced by broad-leaved native tree species; widespread in the southern half of the domain and on

private land on the western shore of Waikawa Bay;

Akiraho scrub: widespread on cliffs and steep faces throughout, above the coastline; associated species are flax and akeake;

Akeake forest	}	widespread throughout, replacing kanuka-				
Akeake-mahoe forest			}	manuka and gorse-broom. Associated species		
Mahoe forest					}	are black matipo, karamu, hinau, kamahi,
Mahoe-fivefinger forest						
Fivefinger forest:						

Kamahi forest: a few small examples in former black beech sites on elevated spurs:

Gorse scrub	}	very widespread throughout, mainly in northern
Gorse-broom scrub:		

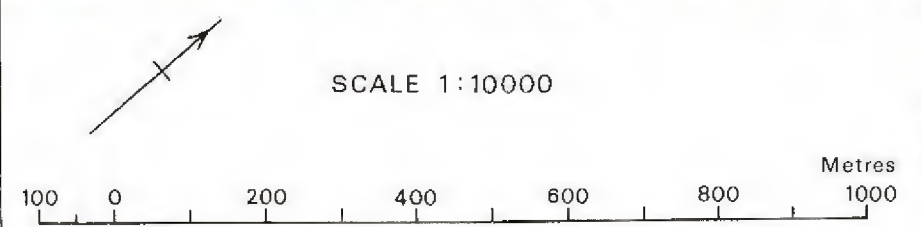
Mixed plantings: forest of a range of introduced species concentrated at southern end of domain: Robinia pseudoacacia, Acacia dealbata, Pinus radiata, P. pinaster, Pseudotsuga menziesii, Quercus suber, and numerous species of Eucalyptus. Only the two pine species seem to pose a problem as weeds because they are actively expanding into the younger vegetation as a result of the more recent fires, and also into the open vegetation on cliffs and steep slopes.

OTHER INTRODUCED SPECIES



Many introduced species are present and some are common (e.g., Spanish heath, hawthorn, sycamore, honeysuckle, ivy, traveller's joy, barberry, sweet briar, gorse and broom). They pose future management problems as weeds, particularly the climbing species such as traveller's joy (Clematis vitalba), ivy, and the common honeysuckle. These are actively smothering scrub vegetation. They are also a problem on Mabel Island.




Survey 3781, Photo's E/18 & F/17
 Flown 11th April 1975
 Scale is correct at sea level,
 but approximate elsewhere.



 *Open Pine forest*
 *Mixed planting*

 *Black Beech forest*
 *Hard Beech forest with Tawa*

 *Gorse scrub*
Gorse-broom scrub
[includes isolated Pines]
 *Akeake-Mahoe forest*
Mahoe forest
Mahoe-Fivefinger forest

 *Manuka scrub*
Manuka-Kanuka scrub and forest
Akeake forest - coastal faces
Akiraho scrub - coastal faces

Victoria Domain
 & Associated Recreation Areas
VEGETATION
 (broad pattern only)

2.10 NOXIOUS WEEDS

A variety of noxious weeds is presently found on the domain in varying degrees of infestation.

Spanish heath and blackberry are apparent in a number of places but it is broom and gorse which represent the largest source of infestation.

At present these give rise to a very real fire risk especially during the summer months when ground conditions are dry and visitors' use greatest.

It was noted, however, that the same weeds appear to be assisting native regeneration in many areas on the domain. This is a typical occurrence in the Marlborough Sounds. Native seedlings generally require a shady and sheltered environment, and the cover provided by gorse, broom, and tauhinu has repeatedly proved very congenial for regeneration.

Essentially the domain has a steep, hilly topography and consists of Taumarina and Kenepuru soil types, both of which are sensitive to erosion where vegetative cover has been removed. In this respect the noxious weeds are playing a conservational role.

Adjacent lands are not agriculturally or pastorally productive and, therefore, are not detrimentally affected by the presence of noxious weeds on the domain.

2.11 FAUNA

Fauna within Victoria Domain has been directly influenced by the effects of fires in recent times. The vegetative pattern has changed considerably from its original cover of beech and tawa forests to grazed pastures and now to its present cover of gorse, broom, and regenerating native species.

At present, there are no known fauna of scientific value, and their recreational value can be described only as limited.

Wildlife Service indicates that Victoria Domain, in its present condition, has low significance for wildlife. Roosting by shags occurs spasmodically on parts of the shoreline, and the rest of the area supports small numbers of native species such as the tui, fantail and New Zealand pigeon, and introduced species such as the hedge sparrow, songthrush, blackbird, and chaffinch.

No signs are evident as to the presence of noxious animals such as deer, goat, or feral pig, or of pests such as hare or rabbit.

Opossums occur in small numbers but do not appear to be having any adverse effect on vegetation.

2.12 SUPPLY OF RECREATIONAL SETTINGS

It is now commonly accepted that there is a spectrum of recreational settings. This spectrum is made of individual settings each of which has different characteristics but which together are capable of satisfying the whole range of recreational activity. At one end of the spectrum are found completely natural settings where emphasis is on the appreciation of natural phenomena and conservational values are important. These are termed resource-based settings, and typical activities include tramping, walking, and hunting. At the other end of the spectrum are found highly developed settings where introduced facilities are common and emphasis is toward using the area to maximise social interaction. These are termed user-oriented settings. Typical activities include organised competitive sports.

In between are settings that combine in varying degrees characteristics of both resource-based and user-oriented settings: these are termed intermediate recreational settings. Recreational activities in these settings are those which are orientated toward the enjoyment of the natural environment but require minimal structural facilities or vehicular access and/or good all-weather walking tracks. Typical activities include picknicking, swimming, and shore fishing.

USER-ORIENTED SETTINGS

Within the study area the user-oriented settings are very much modified and are confined to reclaimed lagoon and foreshore areas. These areas do not possess natural values of particular significance, and public use is very much related to social interaction and the availability of facilities. Memorial Park is used for rugby league and other organised competitive sports, and is considered the major focal point in this setting. Other parts of the reclaimed lagoon are used for the housing of facilities required by water-based activities and function almost purely as a servicing zone; the facilities include boatsheds, car and boat parking, and recreational clubrooms.

Public interest in this zone has been stimulated by the siting of an old scow, the Echo. This is presently being used as clubrooms by the Marlborough Cruising Club, but it is fast becoming a cultural feature of interest to the public, so much so that the scow is considered a minor focal point. It certainly does enhance recreational experience available in this setting.

INTERMEDIATE SETTINGS

The intermediate settings within the study area enable the public to enjoy the natural environment with the assistance of minimal structural facilities such as toilet blocks and a selection of access facilities including boat access, all weather walking track, four-wheel drive track, and a sealed roadway.

Intermediate settings occur along the sealed roadway and four-wheel drive tracks extending from Sussex Street up on to the main spinal ridge where there is an important focal point at what is now a lookout at the terminal of the sealed roadway. The other main intermediate setting is located along the beach frontage extending along the track from Shelly Beach to Bobs Bay. Bobs Bay is considered a major focal point. Other less intensively used intermediate settings include narrow beaches at Pine, Titoki and Karaka Bays.

Another particularly important focal point occurs on reclaimed land just

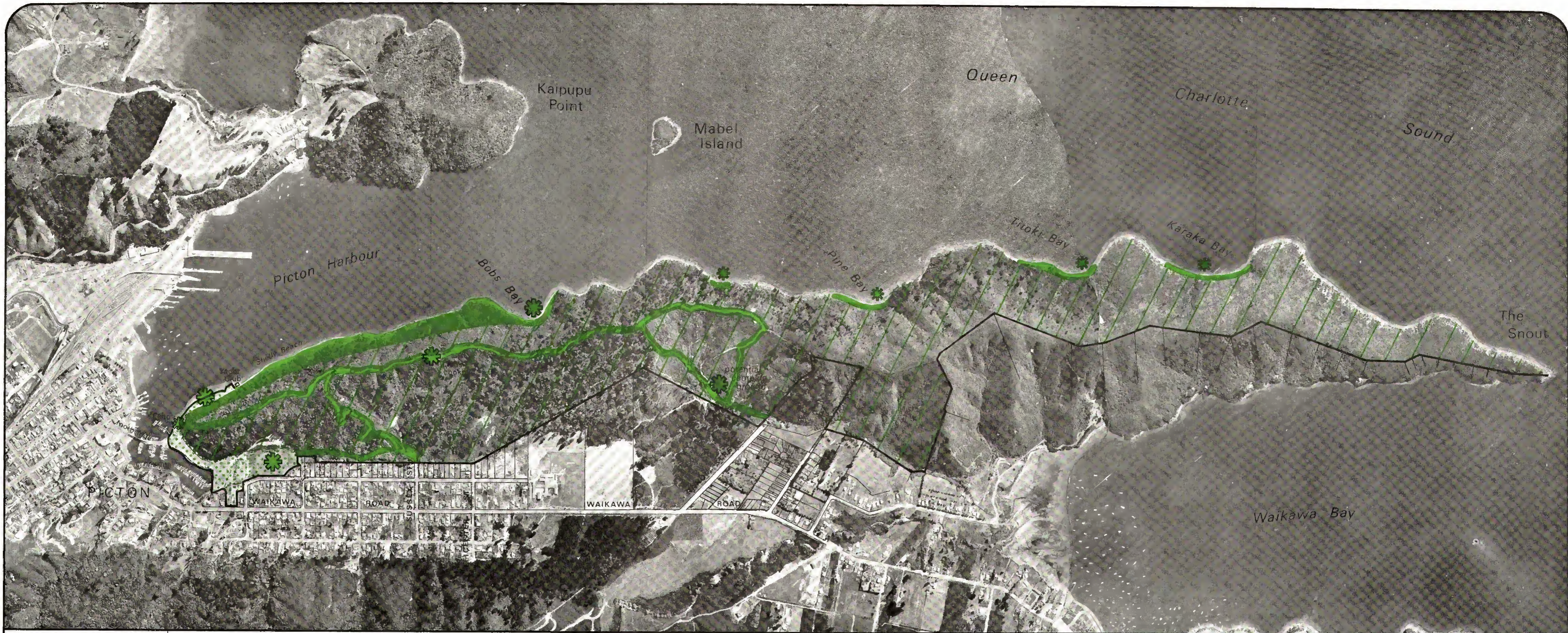
south of the Queen Charlotte Yacht Club Clubhouse. Although this is not a naturally occurring area, it is used to enable public access and enjoyment of Picton Harbour for activities such as swimming and fishing. This is not considered a user-oriented setting in that it is not purely a servicing recreation zone. Recreational activities such as picnicking and sunbathing are popular on this site, and lawn and shrubs add an open space feeling to the otherwise built-up environment.

Although it is not used as such at present, there is potential for Titoki Bay to become a minor focal point because of its small beach and adjacent flat land. Also, a basin located at the end of the present four-wheel drive track has potential for camping and thus could become a major focal point.

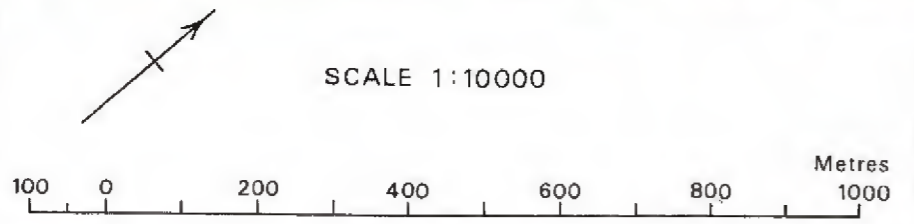
RESOURCE-BASED SETTINGS



The vast majority of land contained in the study area is essentially resource based because it provides for activity based on the natural environment. Passive recreational viewing is by far the most common activity.




Because of its topographic, soil, and geological structure the study area does not lend itself to extensive development, but its vegetation and location in regard to the main ferry waterway and Picton township make it scenically important. Access to defined and undefined walking tracks is limited, and recreational activities are restricted to walking and general viewing of flora and fauna.



Survey 3781, Photo's E/18 & F/17
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 but approximate elsewhere.



-  Major focal points (existing & potential)
-  Minor focal points (existing & potential)

-  Resource-based settings
-  Intermediate settings
-  User-oriented settings

Victoria Domain
 & Associated Recreation Areas
 RECREATIONAL SETTINGS

2.13 DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Picton has long been associated with the tourist trade and continues to function in part as a holiday centre for the Marlborough Sounds. This function is likely to expand with the growth of the country's population and with the increased mobility provided by improved transport services.

Picton's present town centre not only provides for some 2800 of its residents, but during the summer months serves, for a time at least, almost double that number as a result of the influx of holiday crowds.

Although large numbers recreate in the Sounds, many land-based recreationists are confined to land and water areas adjacent to Picton township. Victoria Domain and the associated recreation areas have been used to satisfy, in part, the huge demand for recreational opportunity and are likely to play a greater role in the future.

In order to assess the present and future development for recreational opportunity in the vicinity of Victoria Domain, a variety of recreational clubs, community groups, service groups, and land and water administrative authorities were given the opportunity to express their opinion as to the recreational function of the domain and the associated areas and the likely demand that may be made of it in the future.

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL CLUBS OR GROUPS

The following are comments taken from various submissions.

1. Youth Hostel Association

The Youth Hostel Association considers that an area of land within the domain, overlooking the harbour, would have the benefit of a considerable amount of sun each day, together with a very attractive outlook across the boat harbour and main harbour to the town. Furthermore, the proximity of the area to the town and thence to public transport - trains, buses, and inter-island ferries - would be of tremendous advantage to persons using a youth hostel situated in this area. It is worthy of mention that the vast majority of youth hostellers travel by foot, using public transport, although of course some use their own motor vehicles.

2. Queen Charlotte Yacht Club

The yacht club considers that the domain be directed to meet local needs and that, at present, it satisfies demand for bush walks and facilities that enable yachting and viewing of boating in Picton. In the future they would like to see a new yacht club and a scenic road extended further to give views of the outer Sounds rather than just Picton.

3. Marlborough Amateur Rowing Association

The association considers that, from a rowing point of view, Victoria Domain and Picton Harbour are of high recreational importance. The harbour provides an excellent rowing course, and, with certain developments on Victoria Domain for the housing of racing skiffs, and of facilities for the public and sportsmen and sportswomen, the area could once again be a major attraction for New Zealand and overseas rowers, and, in fact for all aquatic sports.

The sport of rowing first started on Picton Harbour 116 years ago and since then 19 New Zealand championship regattas have been staged at Picton. Most of these regattas have been only 1 day affairs but over recent years the system of racing has changed and the number of competitors has increased to the extent that a championship regatta now takes 6 days to complete. The main requirements for conducting national regattas are:

- (1) the centralisation of rowing course, and facilities and accommodation for approximately 1000 oarsmen and oarswomen;
- (2) easy access for the transport of racing equipment from both North and South Islands, and an area that is centrally situated in New Zealand if possible;
- (3) a straight course of 2000 metres with sufficient room for at least 6 crews abreast (100 metres);
- (4) reasonable weather.

Picton has all of the above qualities except that by today's standards there is insufficient space on Victoria Domain for the housing of approximately 500 racing skiffs (an area of approximately 1-2 acres is required for open-air boat ranks in the vicinity of Shelly Beach) plus room for public observation between Shelly Beach and the Picton Rowing Club.

It is felt that by satisfying national needs, this would more than cater for provincial or local requirements. Limited convenience facilities and a public observation area are already provided as well as excellent racing and launching space for rowing.

The rowing association would like to see the shoreline west of the Picton Rowing Club developed on a long-term basis, not only for rowing, but with facilities that could be used for all aquatic sports and the general public by:

- (1) enlarging the area at least as far west as Shelly Beach and forming a shoreline walkway to Bobs Bay;
- (2) the installation of adequate dressing, toilet, and showering facilities for approximately 1000 sportsmen and sportswomen, together with spectator requirements for, say, 5000. These requirements would satisfy rowing for the next 20-30 years.

4. Trail bike group

Although no formal trail bike club exists, local interested individuals have commented on the suitability and desirability of trail biking in the domain. They considered that Victoria Domain represented the only publicly-owned land in close proximity to Picton suitable for trail biking.

The group identified the basin of some 12 hectares as being fairly suitable because of the network of tracks that already existed in the area. Other attributes included the availability of an access route which was not in common use by the general public, and the area's relative isolation from residential development. The tracks were considered to be suitable for use all year around.

5. Service clubs or groups

- (1) The Automobile Association

The association made the following comments:

"We consider that Victoria Domain has at the present time a low recreational importance but with proper development this rating could be improved considerably.

The scenic views of the Picton Township, Ferry Terminal area and inner Sounds waterways which can be obtained from the Domain make it

of recreational importance. The presence of some walking tracks and the possibility of extending these is also of importance.

In our view management of the Domain should be directed at satisfying local needs but particular emphasis should be placed on attracting visitors to Picton to spend some time in the Domain.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of the Domain at the present time is the opportunity it provides for someone to spend a quiet hour or two away from traffic noise while at the same time enjoy very attractive scenery.

In the near future there is an urgent need for the cutting of scrub to below road levels so that views are not obstructed. The provision of further picnic areas including barbeque fire places which could be used outside the main fire danger season, picnic tables and rubbish disposal facilities could also be looked at. In the case of rubbish disposal facilities, adequate arrangements for these to be emptied at regular intervals would also need to be arranged.

On a longer term basis we feel that there should be some investigation into the possibility of extending the present roading system so that an exit into the Waikawa area can be provided. If this was possible it would provide, once completed, a very enjoyable round journey from Picton to Waikawa and back again."

(2) Picton Rotary Club

At a meeting held to discuss desirable forms of development within Victoria Domain, several points were noted. The recreational importance of Victoria Domain in its present form was considered to be low mainly because of the lack of development and poor access. It was agreed however that it had high recreational potential.

The present road to the lookout was considered to be dangerous and there was a definite need for a one-way loop road. It was also suggested that judder bars be installed to slow down traffic. More tracks were required to give access to beaches, and there was also a need for more tracks off roads which abut on to the eastern side of the domain.

It was felt that the domain should not be lost from public ownership.

Opinions were expressed that the domain be allowed to regenerate and that native species be encouraged and exotics taken out.

Other suggestions, which did not meet with widespread approval, were the establishment of a casino and of holiday houses between Bobs Bay and The Snout.

(3) Picton Lions Club

The Picton Lions Club considers the domain to be of high recreational value because of its important scenic and tourist attraction in the light of Picton fast becoming the playground of New Zealand. The club considers that the domain presently satisfies a certain demand for tramping, scenic and tourist attraction, and fishing and swimming as there is access to some of the bays via bush tracks to the water's edge.

It was felt that future projects be oriented towards increasing safety for all users of the domain whether they be young, middle aged, or old. This means the widening of roads to take all traffic, to avoid cliff faces, etc. The fire risk was emphasised as being a matter which required further attention.

A continuation of the road was thought to be a desirable development, so that, from the present Lions Lookout, it would gradually ease down to the coast on the Picton Harbour side, continue around and lead to the development of any area or bay suitable for swimming, fishing, or picnicking, and then lead on to the point known as The Snout. From there, it would go back up onto the main ridge then on to Waikawa Road via Ranui Street. If this is not feasible, the suggestion was to continue the road down the main ridge to tap any area or bay thought worthwhile (though it would not be necessary for the road to go directly to the area; a track off the main road may suffice).

The club also suggested that the large area of land that runs through the back of Hampton Street and on past the back of Queen Charlotte College and Chaytor's property to Ranui Street be developed for housing and leased on a 21-year term with right of renewal. So long as this subdivision did not

extend right up to the main ridge it would not interfere with any scenic attraction at all because the land slopes downhill from the main ridge. This could supply continuing finance for the project.

(4) Waikawa Residents and Ratepayers Association

The association considered the domain to be of high recreational value. The domain was considered to possess values similar to other reserves within the Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park, but it had the added advantage of not requiring water access. Therefore, people without boats were able to enjoy beaches, bush walks, lookout and observation points, plus other very natural areas. In the near future more walking tracks and beach access will be required as well as access to picnic areas. In the long term, further roading will be required to extend to the south to overlook Picton and to the north as far as The Snout. Access was also required to the domain from Waikawa. Further toilets were considered to be a necessary development for the future.

2.14 RECREATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF AREA UNDER STUDY

From a purely scientific point of view Victoria Domain and the associated recreation areas contain no cultural or natural features of critical importance. However, because Victoria Domain lies adjacent to a recreation-ally intensively used waterway, it is an area which requires very careful soil and water management.

When one considers that the domain, because of its proximity to Picton township and the main ferry route, is subjected to the visual use of many thousands of visitors each year, then landscape management can only be described as being of critical importance.

In a recreational demand survey carried out in conjunction with the Outdoor Recreation Planning Pilot Study for the Province of Marlborough (Department of Lands and Survey, 1977), it was clearly shown that greatest public recreational demand is for intermediate type settings: that is, settings orientated towards enjoyment of the natural environment but supplemented by the availability of structural and access facilities. Those settings combining land and water in close proximity to urban centres tend to be

more accessible and versatile in terms of recreational activity and invariably attract greatest recreational use.

The large user group in Picton, the adjacent recreation land/water base of Victoria Domain and the associated recreation areas, and Picton Harbour continue to make a recreational setting of high significance capable of satisfying a range of recreational needs.

3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

- 3.1 Origin of management objectives
- 3.2 Objectives of management
- 3.3 Noxious weed control policy
- 3.4 Earthworks and stability policy
- 3.5 Access policy
- 3.6 Fire control policy
- 3.7 Development and use policy for resource-based settings
- 3.8 Development and use policy for intermediate settings
- 3.9 Development and use policy for user-oriented settings
- 3.10 Cultural appreciation policy
- 3.11 Vegetation management policy
- 3.12 Landscape management policy
- 3.13 Wildlife management policy
- 3.14 Leasing policy

3.1 ORIGIN OF MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Victoria Domain is at present administered under two legislative Acts: It is administered under the specially constituted Picton Recreation Reserve Act 1896 but, being a public reserve, it is also subject to the provisions of the Reserves and Domains Act 1953 where such provisions do not conflict with those contained in the specially constituted Act. The Waikawa Recreation Reserve and Memorial Park are also public reserves, subject to the Reserves and Domains Act 1953.

The Picton Recreation Reserve Act 1896 contains little if any guidance as to management objectives and is more specifically concerned with Picton Borough Council powers to reclaim lagoon, to lease reserve lands, and to expend monies received through usage of such lands on improving the reserved land.

The Reserves and Domains Act provides only limited management guidance: management objectives related to public recreation reserves and domains are neither precise nor clear as compared with those for scenic and historic reserves.

Since this plan has been written the new Reserves Act 1977 has come into force (on 1 April 1978). The new Act is a consolidation, with amendments, of the Reserves and Domains Act 1953 and the amendments to that Act. One major change in the Reserves Act relates to the classification of reserves and the delineation of broad management policies for each type of reserve.

The Department of Lands and Survey made recommendations to include management objectives in relation to recreation reserves in the Reserves Bill. These were endorsed by Government and will therefore apply to Victoria Domain and other public reserves.

Therefore, to ensure the future validity of this management plan, the management objectives adopted for the study area will be based upon those recommended by the Department of Lands and Survey for inclusion in the new Reserves Act.

Additional objectives have been formulated concerning the management of adjacent areas which influence the use, enjoyment, and general management of Victoria Domain.

3.2 OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

3.2.1 The first objective is to encourage proper management of Victoria Domain, ensuring its use, enjoyment, development, maintenance, and preservation in its role as an important landscape identity and as a public recreational reserve for the purposes of providing areas for:

- recreation and sporting activities,
- the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public,
- the protection of the natural environment.

The emphasis will be on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities which are dependent upon the type of environment or settings that presently occur in the reserve. Subject to this, it is intended to:

1. ensure freedom of public entry and access to the reserve, subject to conditions and restrictions as may be necessary for the protection and general well-being of the reserve and the public using it;
2. ensure the management and protection of scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological, or other scientific features or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife that are present on the reserve to the extent compatible with the predominant purpose of the reserve;
3. ensure that those qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve are conserved;
4. ensure that soil and water conservation values are maintained to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve.

3.2.2 The second objective is to encourage the management of adjacent areas set aside for recreation and other purposes which influence the recreational use of Victoria Domain, by recommending that:

1. access be provided over these areas at selected locations;
2. specific recreation opportunities be provided for the public on these areas;
3. development of these areas be in harmony with the character of Victoria Domain and compatible with the recreational use of the domain.

3.3 NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL POLICY

Noxious weeds have been described as a real and increasing problem within the Marlborough province. There is widespread weed infestation ranging from soft weeds such as barley grass to others such as gorse, broom, and matagouri.

This problem is considered acute in Marlborough because the economy of the region is largely dependent upon primary production. It is the threat that noxious weeds pose on productive or potentially productive lands that has stimulated activity within the farming fraternity to establish a controlling body aimed at "total eradication of weeds and their replacement with desirable species."

In fact, one of two approaches may be adopted:

- noxious weed control,
- noxious weed eradication.

From a productive point of view the prime determining factor is economics. One must consider the land's farming value, whether existing or potential, against the cost of noxious weed control or eradication. Obviously, there would be a case for total eradication on good cropping lands, but control would be a more practical (economical) approach with heavily infested hill country.

An increasingly important factor is conservation - a weed in one position may be a valuable plant in another.

There are many instances where steep hill country situated in the Sounds or the Picton region of Marlborough has suffered badly from erosion because of the lack of vegetative cover. Gorse and broom are frequently responsible for stabilising such country.

It appears that Victoria Domain is no exception. At the moment there are few instances on the domain where soil erosion has occurred, mainly because of the heavy cover of noxious weeds such as gorse and broom and also because of cover such as native and exotic trees.

Surrounding lands are essentially non-productive; therefore the fact that the domain is a potential seed source for further infestation is not considered critical. These factors suggest that noxious weeds on the domain must be viewed as an important conservational asset and should be managed as such. The single most important requirement is to keep fire out.

Noxious weed control rather than eradication should be adopted within Victoria Domain. Conservation is the aim although sight must not be lost of the responsibility to eliminate seed sources that would result in the infestation of neighbouring areas, especially those of primary production value, should they be developed.

3.4 EARTHWORKS AND STABILITY POLICY

The rocks in the domain are divided into three units: indurated basement rocks, weathered scree and slope wash deposits, and alluvium.

The basement rocks in the domain show no evidence of any deep-seated movement and there is little danger of large-scale earth movements. There are, however, precautions which must be observed when carrying out earthworks related to road and track construction and the grading of building sites.

On the sea cliffs, weathering is continuing and rock falls involving superficial weathered material occur from time to time. The frequency of rock falls could be increased if the toe of the cliffs is steepened by the construction of roads or building sites as this would lead to the formation of an unsupported layer of partly weathered rock in the upper part of the cliff.

Even high steep banks cut into stable fresh bedrock will shed rock debris after becoming weathered, in order to attain a gentler and more stable slope.

In areas where there are weathered basement rocks and scree deposits, adequate drainage and supervision of earthworks are necessary. Failure to do this can lead to serious movement within these deposits particularly if the toe is removed and/or water is allowed access to the interface between the deposits and the underlying basement rocks.

Where it is necessary to use fill it should be of suitable composition, adequately compacted, and adequately drained. Where it is placed on a sloping surface the fill should have sufficient toe area to support the material above, particularly if it is intended to place a building on it.

Where possible, steep batter slopes should be discouraged. If they cannot be avoided then they should be cut back to a gentle and more stable slope. All slopes should be planted and/or natural vegetation allowed to regenerate to prevent superficial slipping and creep of the scree and slope wash deposits.

On all roads, firebreaks, etc., adequate cut-off drains should be allowed so as to prevent concentration of stormwater leading to accelerated erosion of topsoil and the scree deposits.

3.5 ACCESS POLICY

RESOURCE IMPACT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

As outlined in the objectives of management, the public should be able to use and enjoy public reserves and should have freedom of entry and access subject to conditions and restrictions as may be necessary for the protection and general well-being of the reserve and the public using it.

Because of the many ways in which different sectors of the community and age groups obtain their recreational enjoyment and appreciation of reserve values, it follows that reserve features must be kept accessible to the public by a variety of practical means, but these means must be primarily consistent with the preservation of the reserve's natural, cultural, landscape, and soil and water conservation values. The type of access and its location is determined by the need to:

1. serve the needs of management;
2. facilitate the proper use and enjoyment of the reserve by the visiting public. At present, Victoria Domain is serviced by vehicular roads, four-wheel drive tracks, and walking tracks. These are located within the domain and on adjacent lands.

Vehicular roads and four-wheel drive tracks

The existing vehicular road which continues off Sussex Street and climbs some 100 metres to the prominent reserve ridgeline is performing a useful function in that it provides opportunity for vehicle-based recreationists to enter the reserve and enjoy the variety of values that occur there. In terms of enjoyment of the reserve's values, there is little justification for further extension of the existing vehicular road.

There is justification, however, for the upgrading of some four-wheel drive tracks to vehicular roads for reasons of public safety.

Walking tracks

Walking tracks are considered to be a particularly important type of access within the Victoria Domain because they enable public appreciation and enjoyment of reserve values. The location of this large natural resource adjacent to Picton's urban centre is considered too valuable to road unnecessarily, and walking tracks are seen as presenting the least impact on the reserve while still allowing the public opportunity to enjoy the reserve. Walking tracks should be used to direct people to places where reserve values may be enjoyed by the public without detrimentally being affected by the resultant public use.

Boat access

The coastal frontage of Victoria Domain allows some opportunity for boat access. Other than Bobs Bay, the limited extent of beach and adjacent flat land has restricted the use made of the domain by boating picnickers. However, with the extension of walking tracks along the coast there may be some increase in usage of the domain by boaties who either drop off or collect people using the reserve's walking tracks. It is recommended that

no development take place to facilitate the landing of such boats beyond the present Queen Charlotte Yacht Club building as it is essential in terms of landscape values to maintain an un-built coastline.

Conditions and restrictions

The necessary conditions and restrictions to which entry and access must be subjected are those which are required to:

1. reduce the likelihood of endangered natural, cultural, landscape, and soil and water conservational values; and
2. preserve the safety and health of the public using the reserve.

In order to preserve reserve values it is recommended that:

1. Access facilities should not be visually obtrusive. Large batter cuts should not be visually obtrusive. Large batter cuts should be avoided, especially in landscape subjected to intensive public viewing from both outside and within the reserve.
2. Access routes should not require the denudation of flora, especially native species, nor promote increased concentrated run-off. The extent and surface of such access facilities should not encourage run-off to collect at points without an adequate storm-water dispersal system. Adequacy is measured by the adverse effect that the collection and channelling of such waters have on soil and water conservational values.

In the interests of preserving public safety it is recommended that the present one entry/exit road be extended and a circuit road be constructed through the reserve. At present there is real danger that people in cars could be trapped in the reserve as a result of fire and because there is only one entry/exit point.

PICTON MARINA ACCESS POLICY

As indicated by management objective 3.2.2, the availability of access over adjacent areas requires specific consideration if public recreational use and enjoyment of Victoria Domain is to be promoted.

Peripheral vehicle access to Victoria Domain is available via Ranui and

Leicester Streets and via the Picton Marina. As Ranui and Leicester Streets are legal streets their availability for public access is guaranteed provided their status is not changed.

Perhaps of greatest significance and requiring most urgent attention is the availability of public vehicle access across Picton Marina between the Waikawa Road entrance and the Queen Charlotte Yacht Club Clubhouse. Vehicle entry to the marina from Waikawa Road is through Part Section 132, a public recreation reserve. There is no written agreement enabling this reserve to be used by individuals making use of the Marlborough Harbour Board marina facilities, and correspondingly there is no written agreement allowing the general public any access rights across the marina while pursuing their recreational preferences on and adjacent to Victoria Domain. The availability of vehicle access between Waikawa Road and the Queen Charlotte Yacht Club Clubhouse is important because of the servicing requirements of the clubhouse and especially because of the public use that is made of the beach area adjacent to the clubhouse.

File records (of the Department of Lands and Survey) show that with the transference of lands to the harbour board for the development of the Picton Marina, it was intended that public access be available across the marina. However, no legally binding agreement has been entered into. While it may at present be the policy of the harbour board to permit public vehicle access across the marina, any future conflicts between marina traffic and recreational traffic using Victoria Domain and beaches could result in a change of board policy which may seriously restrict this traffic.

In addition, the availability of pedestrian access between Picton township and Victoria Domain, across the "coathanger" bridge and the marina, is essential.

Therefore it is recommended that a formal agreement be obtained guaranteeing public access rights, both pedestrian and vehicular, across the marina to enable public enjoyment and use of Victoria Domain and adjacent beaches.