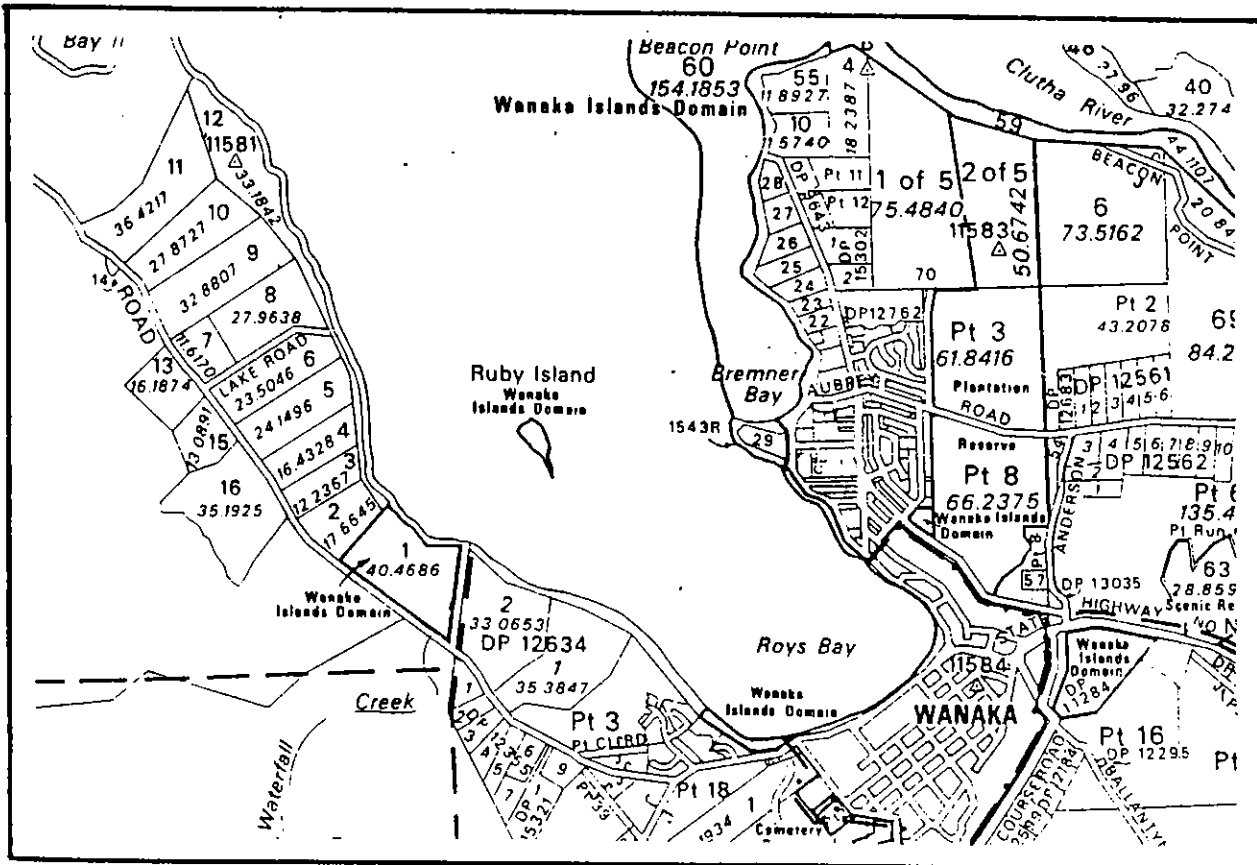


WANAKA

RESERVE REPORT No. 3

DO NOT REMOVE

RUBY ISLAND



**A MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARED UNDER
THE RESERVES ACT 1977**

BY

Queenstown Lakes District Council

REP
399

Prepared by : JOHNSTON ANDERSON WHITNEY MOSGIEL



CONSERVATION

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

In accordance with the conditions of its appointment to control and manage the Ruby Island Recreation Reserve, the Queenstown-Lakes District Council is required to obtain Ministerial approval for this management plan.

In submitting the plan for approval the Council has provided a summary of submissions received on the draft plan and a statement as to the extent to which they have been allowed or accepted, or otherwise. Council has also had regard to comments made subsequently by the Department of Conservation.

I therefore approve this management plan pursuant to Section 41(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 and a delegation from the Minister of Conservation. This approval does not operate as an approval or consent required for any other purpose under the Act.

Dated this 1st day of April 1988.

.....
Neill Simpson
District Conservator
LAKES DISTRICT

All Communications
To be addressed
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QUEENSTOWN-LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL
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PREFACE

This Management Plan represents one in a series of reports which the Queenstown Lakes District Council is required to prepare as part of its responsibilities under the Reserves Act 1977.

Ruby Island has been used for informal recreational activity for many years by boating enthusiasts and with its current physical state and proposals for development the implementation of a Management Plan is considered particularly appropriate.

The Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. This procedure included:

- the advertising of the intention of the administering body to prepare a Management Plan;
- consideration of submissions received in the preparation of a draft management plan;
- the advertising of the Draft Management Plan for public submissions;
- the incorporation of submissions into the Draft where appropriate;
- submission of the Management Plan to the Minister of Lands for his approval and the incorporation of suggested amendments;
- release of the Management Plan which is deemed to be effective from 1 April 1988.

Council sees the proposals in the Management Plan as upgrading the appearance and facilities of the island and at the same time making provision for a limited amount of development to occur.

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RUBY ISLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This draft Management Plan is concerned with Ruby Island, a small island in Roys Bay, Lake Wanaka. The island was part of the former Wanaka Domain and is now a Recreation Reserve managed by the Queenstown-Lakes District Council.

1.1 HISTORY OF RUBY ISLAND

Ruby Island was gazetted as a Reserve in 1886. It has long been used for picnicing and in the 1920's a cabaret was built and used by parties from the mainland, before being burnt down a few years later.

The island continued to be used for recreation by boat owners and in the last few years, there have been proposals by a group of Wanaka businessmen to tidy up and develop Ruby Island. They proposed to run a boat service and eventually develop some revenue earning facilities on the Island.

Until recently the Island was administered by the Wanaka Recreation Reserve Board, with subsequent transfer to the Lake County Council and now administered by the Queenstown-Lakes District Council.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- To determine and define both short term and long term management proposals for the Island.
- To guide development on the Island.
- To provide a management information document for the Queenstown-Lakes District Council, other agencies and the public.
- To meet the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

A Recreation Reserve Management Plan works from the goals set out in Section 17(1) of the Reserves Act:

"To provide areas for recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public and for the protection and beauty of the countryside with emphasis on the retention of open space and outdoor recreational activities including recreational tracks in the countryside."

The objectives translate this statutory intention in terms of the particular features of the Reserve, and policies are developed to achieve these objectives. It is important that the Management Plan process is flexible to cope with evolving or changed circumstances. These include:-

- physical changes and the new constraints they create.
- changes in the type and extent of recreational use.
- changes in public attitude to recreation.

The Management Plan is prepared in accordance with the procedure laid out in S41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

(cont...)

2.0 DESCRIPTION

2.1 LOCATION

Ruby Island is located 500 metres off the south west shore of Lake Wanaka.

2.2 LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The Reserve is classified for recreation purposes, N.Z. Gazette 1983 page 1934.

2.3 AREA

The Island comprises an area of 3.16 hectares.

2.4 ACCESS

Access to the island is by boat although helicopters are also a potential mode of transport.

2.5 PHYSICAL

The Island is a remnant glacial rock ridge with mostly shallow soils.

The Island receives the westerly prevailing winds which are funnelled down Lake Wanaka by the flanking mountain ranges. The rain shadow effect of the mountains means the Island only receives about 640mm of rain per year and which can be irregular in summer.

The vegetation at present is scrub, with infestations of briar, gooseberries, etc. There are some stands of pines and poplars.

Rabbits appeared on the Island in 1980 and have been eradicated.

From a landscape perspective, the Island is a focal point of Roys Bay, and although relatively small, it can be seen from most of the major viewing points around the township of Wanaka.

2.6 ADMINISTRATION

Ruby Island was previously managed by the Wanaka Islands Recreation Reserve Board. Queenstown-Lakes District Council is now responsible for administering the island under the Reserves Act 1977 in accordance with the management plan.

2.7 POPULATION

There are no residents on Ruby Island and statistics for visitor numbers to the island are unavailable. Table 1 shows the population of the Wanaka Community and Table 2 of the Lake County. The population figures for peak periods in summer are estimated at around 25,000 people. A lower peak is reached during the winter ski season. These peak population figures represent the popularity of Wanaka as a base for recreational pursuits.

(cont...)

3.0 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To preserve in perpetuity Ruby Island as a recreational area for the enjoyment of the people and visitors of Wanaka.
- 3.2 To conserve and enhance those qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony and cohesion of the natural environment and to its better use and enjoyment by the public.
- 3.3 To ensure that any development and future plantings are compatible with the overall landscape character of Roys Bay and township of Wanaka.
- 3.4 To ensure and maintain public freedom of entry and access to the Reserve in a manner which does not detract from the character of the Reserve.
- 3.5 To co-ordinate the management of this Reserve with that of other reserves in the area and with the recreational use of the lake waters wherever practicable.
- 3.6 To provide for commercial services appropriate to the foregoing objectives and to ensure that these complement the character of the island.

Table 1 : Population of Wanaka Community

<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1986*</u>	<u>1971-76</u>	<u>1976-81</u>	<u>1981-86</u>
904	1,178	1,155	1,710	30.3%	-2.0%	30.1%

Table 2 : Population of Lake County

<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1986*</u>	<u>1971-76</u>	<u>1976-81</u>	<u>1981-86</u>
5,404	7,936	8,929	11,622	46.9%	12.5%	30.2%

These figures show a large increase in the population of Wanaka and the former Lake County. However, this is due to the fact that the recent statistics include the visitor population whereas previous statistics do not.

* Figures for resident population only are not yet available, therefore these figures include visitor population.

2.8 PRESENT USE

The Island is used mainly as a picnic spot and for shoreline fishing by boat owners and their families. It is primarily used during the summer months.

2.9 THE DISTRICT SCHEME

Ruby Island is designated "Recreation Reserve" with an underlying zoning of Rural 2 (Scenic Protection) in the operative District Scheme.

- 4.0 MANAGEMENT POLICIES - These provide the means for carrying out the objectives.
(See Map 2 for proposals.)

4.1 RECREATION AND FACILITIES

Development of some facilities is necessary to enable the public to take advantage of the recreational resource offered.

Policy 1 : To maintain suitable walking tracks to vantage points on the Island.

Explanation : Walking tracks provide access and ensure that vegetation is not unnecessarily disturbed.

Policy 2 : To establish and maintain barbecue sites on the southern end of the Island and firebreak this area from the rest of the island.

Explanation : Some kind of barbecue facility is desirable for visitors but must be carefully sited because of fire risk.

Policy 3 : To erect and maintain suitable landing platforms at convenient and sheltered parts of the Island's shoreline.

Explanation : As boats are the primary form of access, safe landing places are essential. The existing jetty at the south of the island will be upgraded and maintained and it is proposed to erect a new jetty in closer proximity to the concession area.

Policy 4 : To preserve and interpret the site of the old cabaret building.

Explanation : This is an area of historical interest and information about it would be of interest to visitors.

Policy 5 : No camping shall be permitted without the permission of the Council.

Explanation : Generally no camping shall be permitted because of lack of water and other facilities, and fire risk.

Policy 6 : Helicopters will not be permitted to land on the island except in an emergency.

Explanation : Given the relatively small area of the island it is considered helicopters will detract from its intimate environment.

4.2 PLANTING

Ruby Island is a focal point of Roys Bay and can be seen from most of the viewing points in Wanaka township.

Since the Island is generally viewed from a distance, any planting should be bold in concept, so that distinctive irregular patterns are formed, rather than a mixture or assortment of different types of trees that would probably result in visual discord.

See Map 2 for Proposals.

Policy 1 : On the shady south west of the Island, a strong theme of native species will be planted. The central ridge will have conifers planted on it. On the exposed and more visible north east side of the Island, deciduous and broadleaved species will be used. The planting will be in accordance with the plan and species list as set out in Schedule A attached hereto.

Explanation : This planting reflects the design philosophy of using relatively large numbers of one species in groupings of "drifts" that will create a visual impact. The planting also reflects physical and other considerations. The deciduous and broadleaved species are hardier than other species as well as providing a pleasant autumn effect. Native planting will attract native species of birds (See Birdlife 4.5).

Policy 2 : To encourage and establish attractive flowering and berrying vegetation with colourful foliage where possible.

Explanation : Although these plantings will be attractive visually, lack of water, insufficient shelter and the lack of horticultural attention the Island receives may mean this is practicable only in the long term and in certain locations.

Policy 3 : Without Council permission it shall be an offence to take any plant, tree, nut or seed onto the Island; cut or bark any tree or shrub; take, remove or dig up any plant or tree.

Explanation : The retention of the vegetation is essential to preserving the natural character of the Island.

4.3 NOXIOUS WEEDS

Weeds such as briar and gooseberries are found on the Island.

Policy 1 : To control and dispose of all noxious weeds as far as can be reasonably expected as being within the physical and financial resources available.

Policy 2 : The Council may declare any noxious plant as being undesirable on the Island and stipulate its complete removal.

Explanation : The removal of noxious weeds is essential if new planting is to take place. As well they detract from the natural character of the Island and provide a hindrance to the public.

4.4 ANIMALS

Goats were introduced onto the Island to control the weeds in 1971 and rabbits infested the Island for a short time.

Policy 1 : To eliminate any animal on the Island which is likely to cause damage to vegetation and soil values unless permitted by the Council.

Policy 2 : It shall be an offence to take onto the Island any firearms or to hunt or molest any animal or bird with a gun dog, bow and arrow or any other means without written permission from the Council.

Explanation : Animals such as goats and rabbits damage soil and vegetation, but any animal control programme shall lie with the Council.

4.5 BIRDLIFE

Policy 1 : Encourage the establishment and protection of native and exotic birdlife.

Explanation : A bird population will enhance the natural qualities of the Island.

Policy 2 : The introduction, removal, harming or destroying of any bird shall not take place without the permission of Council and Department of Conservation.

4.6 FIRES

Policy 1 : All fires and utensils involving naked flame are to be restricted to fireplaces in the southern end of the Island and this area shall have a firebreak maintained around it.

Policy 2 : Section 97 of the Reserves Act 1977 regarding damage by fires shall apply to Ruby Island.

Explanation : The Island has a very low rainfall in summer (the maximum time of use), so restrictions have to be placed to protect the flora and fauna of the Island.

Policy 3 : Any driftwood or fallen deadwood on the Island may be used in authorised fireplaces, but living trees shall not be used.

4.7 CONCESSIONS

Policy 1 : The Council may grant such concession for use of part of the Island as is compatible with its classification and use as a Recreation Reserve and otherwise as set out in the objectives contained herein.

Explanation : It is envisaged the most likely opportunity for a concessionaire is in the development of a facility to provide food and beverage for those people making an excursion to the island and accordingly an area of 1600 m² is defined for concession proposals. (See Map 2.)

(cont...)

4.8 BUILDINGS

It is considered appropriate for a building designed in sympathy with the environment of the island to be erected to serve the needs of visitors to the island. It is anticipated this building may be erected in conjunction with the granting of a concession.

Policy 1 : Any building or structure shall be confined to the area allocated for commercial concessions in the north of the island. (See Map 2.)

Policy 2 : The design of any building or structure shall have regard to Objective 3.2 and shall be subject to the prior approval of Council and the Minister of Conservation.

Explanation : Haphazard and over-development of the island will destroy its natural character and therefore any building shall be confined to a specific area and generally constructed within the following criteria.

1. The building shall not exceed 300 m² in area.
2. The building shall not exceed 10m in height and have regard to the existing contour of the island.
3. The design of the external appearance of the building shall utilise natural materials such as timber and stone where appropriate.
4. All external colours are to be of natural tonings.

4.9 SIGNS

Policy 1 : To erect and maintain the minimum number of signs required of a type which are in keeping with the character of the Reserve.

Explanation : Signs will need to be erected to show the public the various facilities that are to be developed, but it is proposed the signs shall be of a design sympathetic to the surrounding environment.

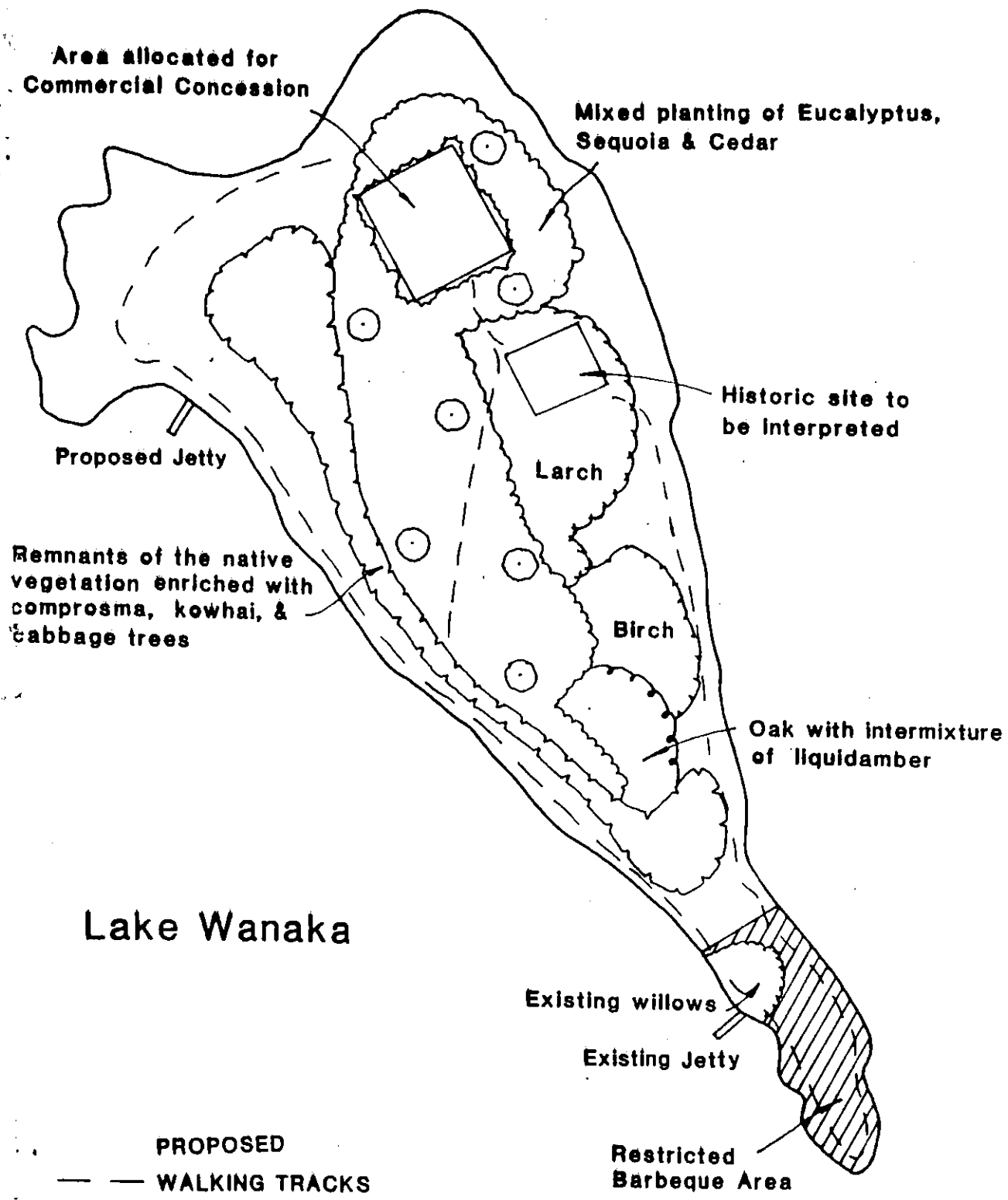
4.10 OFFENCES

Policy 1 : Offences on the Island shall be as listed in the Council's By-Laws and Sections 94 and 98 to 102 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Policy 2 : The penalty for offences is laid down in Sections 103, 104 and 105 of the Reserves Act 1977.

4.10 PLAN AMENDMENT AND REVIEW

Policy 1 : The Management Plan shall be reviewed as necessary and generally at five yearly intervals.



Lake Wanaka

MAP 2: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND PLANTING RUBY ISLAND

SCALE 1 : 2000