

3.3 KEITH MCKENZIE PARK

3.3.1 DESCRIPTION

Keith McKenzie Park provides a rest area for drivers with access from Tamarangi Drive/SH 34 opposite the Kawerau tennis and netball courts. It has picnic tables, rubbish bins and car parking.

Ruruanga Stream runs through the park and access to the far side is provided by two foot bridges. The Park is planted with predominately native species.

3.3.2 HISTORY

The Park was gazetted as a Reserve in 1969 and designated a travellers' rest area by the Kawerau District Council in the 1980's. To commemorate the 90th year of Rotary International in 1995, the Rotary Club of Kawerau planted native species in the Park and constructed two bridges, seats and tables and a walking track.

In 1996 the Park was named Keith McKenzie Rotary Park, after a very active local Rotarian who had died. Keith McKenzie was one of the original retailers in Kawerau. Firstly, in 1954 he was a director of Adolphi's Cycles and Motors located on Bridge Road (now Tamarangi Drive). The business moved to the permanent shopping centre in 1957. Keith became the sole owner of the business in July 1961 and changed its name to McKenzie's Cycles and Motors.

Keith McKenzie had also had a great interest in junior angling and did a lot to encourage juniors in trout fishing. The Ruruanga Stream is designated as a 'Junior Anglers' stream and for many years was annually stocked with trout by the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council, to encourage children to take up trout fishing.

In 2009 the Rotary Club sourced funding from the Environment Bay of Plenty environmental enhancement fund to plant native wetland species and generally tidy up the Park. This project is now complete.

3.3.3 STATUS

Keith McKenzie Park is vested in, and administered by Council. The Park is a Recreation Reserve as defined by the Reserves Act 1977. The legal description is: Allot 379 Matata Parish SO 43160

Keith McKenzie Park is approximately 0.4 hectares in size. It is zoned Reserve under Council's District Plan.

3.3.4 POLICIES

Landscape Character

1. The relaxed and informal nature of the Park shall be retained.
2. Park structures shall be maintained to appropriate standards.
3. Ground maintenance shall be to a standard appropriate for the uses of the Park.

Vegetation

1. The semi-wilderness character of the river embankment shall be maintained.
2. Planting shall be with tree and shrub species complementary to the nature of the Park.
3. Prior to removal of any vegetation its historic, ecological or aesthetic merit must be assessed against the goal of removal.
4. Pest plants shall be controlled and where possible eliminated from the Park.
5. Sound horticultural techniques shall be applied in the management of the Park's vegetation.

Access/Parking

1. Existing pedestrian access to the Ruruanga Stream shall be retained.
2. Car parking shall be allowed on the Park.
3. Vehicle access into the Park shall be maintained.
4. The area of the Park within 20 metres (one chain) of the Ruruanga Stream is a designated dog exercise area.