

NEXT FUNDRAISING MOVIE

BEYOND *the*SEA

November 12th at 6pm

Bridgeway Cinema
Queen Street - Northcote

Tickets \$13



Kevin Spacey and Kate Bosworth in the life story of Bobby Darin and Sandra Dee – This biography of singer/composer/actor Bobby Darin – whose star shone briefly in the late '50s, through the '60s and until his early death at age 37 in 1973 - is a real fan's tribute.

Phone Ruth quickly on 476-6040 to ensure you get your tickets.
Last fundraiser movie was a sell-out.

its decision.

The Long Bay Structure Plan does provide a limited Heritage Protection Zone around one large site (201) only but this provides dubious protection at best as Council has retained discretionary rights to allow development in the future.

Historic Sites. The Crown purchased the Mahurangi block (some say dubiously) of which the coastal North Shore was a part in 1841. George Vaughan bought a 220 acre block fronting Long Bay in 1862 which the Vaughan family farmed till 1964 when ARA purchased the existing Regional Park and the Robinson family, Durafort Trust bought the balance. The area was extensively logged for kauri timber and subsequently exploited for kaori gum which the Vaughans traded while progressively developed for farming. Evidence of these historical activities still exist within the Structure Plan area and are considered by archaeologists to be worthy of protection and preservation.

We believe the Heritage Landscape Concept encompassing all identified sites both archaeological and historic in the lower Vaughan catchment with explanatory notices and linked by pathways connecting to the Crimson Walkway offers the best means of protection for the Heritage assets of the area with huge potential for cultural, educational and tourism activities and is entirely compatible with the Great Park vision. We will continue to work towards its creation with Iwi and other interested parties and are hopeful it will receive due recognition in the Environment Court.

Bernard Stanley –
Deputy Convenor LBOGPS (12-Sept-06)

Convenor	Fiona McLaughlin (09-473-3779)
Deputy Convenor	Bernard Stanley (09-473-8630)
Secretary	Chris MacDonald (09-473-8004)
Treasurer	Barry Tripp

Long Bay - Okura Great Park Society: P.O. Box 35-348 Browns Bay
www.longbaypark.org

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Long Bay - Okura Great Park Society

Newsletter September 2006



GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 21st September at 7pm
NSCC Offices, Glen Road, Browns Bay

Come along to our next meeting where we will be discussing the following:

- Fund raising progress and plans, including...
Walkathon—We have an exciting event coming up, a walk/runathon, so make sure you Put your foot down for the Great Park.
- What's happening now with the legal appeal. What's coming up.
- Gathering political support for the Great Park.
- Jo Harrison from Wai Care will inform us about water quality at Long Bay.

PLEASE PHONE AGAIN !

0900 4 PARK

Create the Great Park for Future Generations

The Long Bay – Okura Great Park Society is taking the fight to protect the green hills of Long Bay to the Environment Court.

We need your help now to prevent intense housing developments adjoining the Long Bay Regional Park.

Please keep calling 0900 4 PARK (0900 4 7275) to donate \$10 to the Environment Court Fund. Children, ask the account holder first.

Please check website for information on donating from overseas using direct bank to bank funds transfer.

Dear Great Park Supporters,

At the time of the last newsletter we had just lodged our appeal against the Structure Plan. You will be pleased to know that the Auckland Regional Council lodged an appeal shortly after we did. Landco and Singleton also appealed the Structure Plan seeking more intense development. Six other parties lodged notice as interested parties. These were: Okura Environmental Group, Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara, Ministry of Education, NZ Historic Places Trust, Segar, and Woodroffe. Things are definitely hotting up!

Community Board Decision

The East Coast Bays Community Board recently resolved to support the Great Park and to send a delegation to Council, ARC and Government to request funding for the purchase of land at Long Bay. The Secretary of the Community Board is currently arranging the meeting with Auckland Regional Council.

Fundraising

Recently we applied for a grant from the Ministry of Environment to help fund our Environment Court costs. In addition we have now raised \$28,500 from our own fundraising efforts. We have continued on our flyer drop of the North Shore and have almost entirely completed the East Coast down to Devonport. We are now making inroads into the Albany, Glenfield and western areas of the North Shore. We have also run some very successful fundraising stands at Glenfield and Takapuna Malls and our usual (and extremely popular) movie evenings. Don't miss the next one coming up in October.

We Need Your Help

If the last time you rung our **0900 4 PARK** number was some time ago I urge you to ring it again. We have noticed a drop in donations. It is important to keep the momentum going so that we ensure we meet our goal, so phone now and spread the word to your family, friends, and workmates. If every member gets five people to call the number we will reach our fundraising target!

We also need more volunteers to deliver flyers and run the mall stands. These are an important part of our fundraising campaign. If you can spare an hour or two, you can make a valuable contribution to making the park happen! Phone Linda on 479 1748 to volunteer.

Fiona McLaughlin,
Convenor

Colouring Competition

We received a lot of colourful and creative entries to the Long Bay Colouring Competition and awarded the 28 winners their prizes at an event at MERC in Long Bay. One of the prize winners was seven-year-old Caitlin Taylor Venter who made a speech on receiving her prize. She said:

"I am glad I won the colouring-in competition, so I can tell people what I think about Long Bay. I moved to New Zealand from England 6 months ago. I was amazed to see how beautiful New Zealand is, especially Long Bay Regional Park. But then I heard people want to build on the open land there. I am very sad about this because one of the reasons we moved to New Zealand is to enjoy wide-open green spaces, like Long Bay.

So why do people want to spoil their beautiful country? One day there will be no green spaces left! If people build there it will ruin the habitat for the birds and animals – it's their land too, you know! We have just bought a house next to Long Bay and I love looking at the cows in the fields. It is so beautiful and I want it to stay that way. So we need more people to realise that we are supposed to look after the earth and its animals not destroy it!"

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please take a look at the mailing label on this newsletter to determine if your LBOGPS subscriptions have been paid for 2006. An asterisk (*) on the label indicates that we do

Heritage Issues at Long Bay - Okura

Historic heritage is defined in the Resource Management Act which is the principal governing Act under which urban development is controlled as

- a) Those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of NZ history and cultures including:
 - (i) Historic sites and buildings
 - (ii) Archaeological sites
 - (iii) Sites of significance to Maori including Waahi Tapu
 - (iv) Surroundings associated with natural and physical resources.

Section 6 of the Act sets out matters of national importance that people with functions under the RMA to achieve sustainable management, such as councils, have to recognize and provide for.

- a) Preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment including the coastal marine area, wetlands, lakes and rivers and protect them from inappropriate subdivision use and development.
- b) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- c) The protection of areas of significant indigenous flora and fauna.
- d) The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers.
- e) The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.
- f) The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision use and development.

All of these criteria are present in large measure at Long Bay – Okura.

Unbeknown to most of the public the Long Bay – Okura peninsula abounds in heritage sites both archaeological and historic – the former pre European Maori and the latter pre 1900 European colonial.

The reason for this lack of knowledge is that with the exception of the Vaughan Homestead which received Historic Places classification in 1992, all are unmarked and at or below ground level.

Archaeological sites. About 95 archaeological sites have been identified in the Long Bay – Okura area and registered by the NZ Archaeological Association which maintains the national register of such sites. However recent further investigation within the relatively small area of the Long Bay Structure Plan by a more sophisticated modern method indicates a considerable number of additional sites exist.

An archaeological investigation by Clough and Associates commissioned by NSCC in 1999 confirmed the existence of 19 sites within the Structure Plan area. Clough described these as "typical for pre-European Maori settlements, defensive pa, living terraces, storage pits and extensive midden indicative of long settlement and use of the regions agricultural and marine resources."

The Russell Foster Consultants report May 2005 states "The historic heritage resources identified form a heritage landscape composed principally of very old unique archaeological sites of particular significance to Maori. These sites are thought to be remnants of the pre-European encampments used during the shark fishing and whaling seasons and likely to have associations such as a resting place for groups making use of the land crossing to the Waitemata. It is considered they could represent a large portion of the period of human occupation of NZ and appear to be unique survivors of pre-European usage not only in North Shore City but the wide region. No similar group of sites survives along the East Coast of the City or even past Orewa and are relatively intact and undisturbed by modern standards."

The reference to the land crossing to the Waitemata is amplified in the Te Hao o Mgato Whatua Report Sept 2005 prepared for the NSCC which states "The area (pathway) Pukekaueru ascends from Long Bay and connects to two important intersections in the Waitakeres and on to the shores of the Manukau to the south and north-west to the eastern Kaipara. These pathways were extremely important for seasonal fishing excursions and as communication links and more importantly to exercise their ahi kea (keeping the fires burning) their occupation rights to the lands and waters."

The Te Hao report states "We also know from historical records the entire length of this (North Shore) coastline was inhabited from the 14th century. As there has been extensive loss and modification of Maori heritage in North Shore City retention of what remains is even more so (ie., important) as they are taonga (treasure) to be secured for the future generations."

In evidence to the Structure Plan Commission Hearing Nov 2005, Great Park Society and Iwi under the Okura Environment Group banner strongly advocated the creation of a comprehensive Heritage Landscape encompassing all the Awaruku Ridge and lower Vaughan stream catchment linking with the Regional Park which would include a large proportion of the identified sites rather than a scattered array of fenced sites interspersed with urban development as provided for in the Structure Plan. Regrettably the Commission largely ignored our submissions in