

Long Bay - Okura Great Park Society

Newsletter July 2008



STOP PRESS

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday - 24th July

COURT DECISION IMMINENT

We have been advised by the Court that the decision on the Long Bay Structure Plan will be announced before our meeting.

Please come to the next General Meeting to hear an in depth report on the Court's decision.

2nd floor, NSCC Area Office, Glen Road, Browns Bay at 7pm

WHAT OUR EXPERT HAD TO SAY

Di Lucas - The landscape architect used by the Long Bay Great Park Society. Di assessed both the North Shore City Council's (NSCC) Long Bay Structure Plan and the LandCo Structure Plan. Here is a summary of her evidence.

Di stated that the 1996 Environment Court decision 'recognised that the park should not be protected from all adverse effects of urbanisation, but that it would be appropriate to seek to mitigate adverse effects of urbanisation of the regional park'. She observed that Mr Mead [expert for NSCC] had noted that since 1996 the understanding of the environmental values of the Long Bay area has increased significantly.

Di stated that she did not believe that the landscape values had yet been adequately assessed and identified the coastal environment as exhibiting areas of high natural

Continued on page 3

Long Bay is Alive with the Sound of Music!

Dear Members,

I have some really exciting news! No, the judge hasn't made his decision—we are still waiting for that, but it's nearly as exciting as that. A few months ago one of our members, Nan Gibson, who is an international concert pianist, offered to put on a concert to raise money for the Society. Of course we accepted! After months of hard work, Nan has everything ready.

The concert is at the Bruce Mason Centre at 2 pm on Sunday 21st September. It will feature Nan on piano, and the soprano Edria Voursalle, and Mark Paine on French horn. These artists have volunteered their services to help the Society. Edria, an American, will be in the country at the time, but Mark (who lives in Australia and works in London!) is making a special trip here for the concert.

The programme includes Mozart arias and songs, Schubert's *Auf dem Strom*, arrangements of American folk songs, Lehar's *Vilja*, horn solos, and a range of popular pieces from the theatre. Beth, an avid music fan, was fortunate enough to hear a preview and came away recommending the concert to all and sundry.

Normally the tickets are \$35 each, plus an administration fee of \$8 for each order and a credit card charge. As Great Park members, you can buy tickets for just \$31 from the Society (\$30 for the ticket, plus \$1 for the administration fees we have to pay) if you purchase them by July 31st. This is a saving of at least \$16 for two tickets, that's 20% off, but remember, you need to buy them this month!

To book your tickets for this great event, fill out the form below and send it with a self-addressed stamped envelope (so we can send you the tickets) to: Gala Concert, Long Bay – Okura Great Park Society, PO Box 35 348, Browns Bay. If you have any questions, you can phone me on 473 3779 or Jennifer on 473 6847.

Warmest regards

Fiona McLaughlin
stories@xtra.co.nz

Convenor

Long Bay is Alive with the Sound of Music!

FUNDRAISING GALA CONCERT TICKETS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Number of Tickets: _____ x \$31 per ticket \$ _____

Donation: _____ \$ _____

Orders must be received before 31st July TOTAL \$ _____

Send this form with a cheque and stamped, self-addressed envelope to:
Gala Concert, Long Bay – Okura Great Park Society, PO Box 35 348, Browns Bay

Continued from page 1

character, outstanding natural landscape value and high amenity value as well as heritage landscape values.

The Regional Policy Statement requires that in structure planning, natural characteristics of the land are to be considered and that a 'Precautionary approach shall be taken by local authorities when providing for and assessing subdivision, use and development in the coastal environment where potentially significant adverse effects may arise'.

Di noted that Mr Mead had assessed that 'the range and quality of natural resources present in the Long Bay area give support to the need to pay particular attention to a low impact approach that minimises earth working and landform modification'. He went on to say that 'the resources that are present in Long Bay, and not present elsewhere in the same combination in the city or region include:

A marine park and very popular Regional Park and swimming beach,
High quality streams, and

An urban edge condition ... away from key nodes and transport links.

... It is a combination of these resources that means that a low impact approach is appropriate.'

In her assessment, both the NSCC Structure Plan and the LandCo Structure Plan had failed to protect those values, and were definitely not low impact designs.

She assessed that under both Structure Plans:

The very significant adverse effects on the coast environment, natural features and landscape, and the amenity values could not be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

The adverse effects would be particularly adverse on the coastal environment and landscapes associated with the Long Bay Regional Park.

The spatial configuration and methods were inappropriate due to their significant adverse effects.

In her evaluation of the NSCC Structure Plan, she noted Mr Mead's statement 'To provide the

Continued on page 4

2008 SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Thank you to those who have paid their membership so promptly. Please find your receipt enclosed.

(If your fees were paid in the last 7 days your receipt will follow in the next newsletter).

Please call **Beth** on 473 5097 for any queries. The * on your label means your sub is still due.

2008 SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL AND MEMBERSHIP FORM

**LONG BAY - OKURA GREAT PARK SOCIETY
PO BOX 35 348, BROWNSBAY**

Mr, Mrs, Ms _____ First Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Phone: _____ Mob: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2008: \$10 per member x () \$ _____

DONATION: \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please mail to above address enclosing payment. We will forward a receipt with your next newsletter.

If you have already paid please pass this on to a friend.

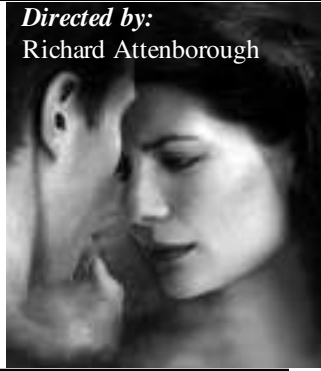
CLOSING THE RING

When a U.S. B-17 crashes near Belfast, a dying gunner asks a local to return his ring to his girlfriend in America. Half a century later, a man finds the ring, learns its history and tracks down the girlfriend.

Starring:

Shirley MacLaine, Christopher Plummer,
Mischa Barton, Brenda Fricker, Pete Postlethwaite,
Neve Campbell

Directed by:
Richard Attenborough



Sunday 3rd August at 6pm

Bridgeway Cinema, Queen Street, Northcote

Phone Jennifer on 473-6847 to get your tickets. \$15 per ticket

Continued from page 3

road connections shown on the Structure Plan, some modification of the landform will be required'. She however pointed out that the earthworks were very substantial, slicing off the summit of the slope and removing the natural side-slope patterning. The summit would be cut into, being lowered by at least 12 metres. The suites of spurs and gullies on the flanks would be lost along with their waterways. The landform change proposed will be substantial as are the likely landscape effects.

Di saw the LandCo Structure Plan as a 'play-dough approach', employing 'very extensive earthworks to remove ridge summits, entirely full gullies and introduce a formally terraced terrain closely abutting the Long Bay Regional Park'.

She compared the development of LandCo's design with the way Dunedin was designed in Edinburgh 150 years ago in ignorance of the terrain.

'Whereas Edinburgh was a glacial valley and Dunedin a volcanic crater; and Edinburgh went down and Dunedin went up, Charles Kettle produced a balanced and harmonious plan 'on paper' that was used to advertise a well-ordered colonial settlement. The suburban dream in a concept plan is again being offered, and again seeks to ignore reality.'

She stated that: 'To address a large-scale greenfields development in a highly valued and sensitive landscape, a more responsible design approach is required, rather than a bulk change, simple pattern, formulaic approach. Considerably greater care is needed than is demonstrated by the LandCo Structure Plan'. ♦

Convener	<i>Fiona McLaughlin (09-473-3779)</i>
Deputy Convener	<i>Bernard Stanley (09-473-8630)</i>
Secretary	<i>Chris MacDonald (09-473-8004)</i>
Treasurer	<i>Barry Tripp</i>

