

# Te Waikoropupū Springs

## DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

### *Management planning*

Management plans are agreements between Department of Conservation and the community about how a park or reserve will be managed. The management plan for Te Waikoropupū Springs (Pupū Springs Scenic Reserve) is prepared under the Reserves Act 1977; the previous management plan prepared for this site was published in 1985 by the Department of Lands and Survey. This draft plan has been prepared in close consultation with local iwi, Manawhenua ki Mohua, and this is reflected throughout the management plan which seeks to protect Te Waikoropupū's outstanding natural, cultural, historic and scenic values.

### *Management planning process*

The public have been invited to contribute comments and suggestions toward the formulation of the final plan. Preliminary comments were sent in by individuals and organisations and these were incorporated into the development of the draft plan. From this point the statutory process for preparing this scenic reserve management plan is:

- submissions close on the draft management plan **4pm Friday, 12 September 2008**.
- hearings will be held on submissions;
- the Department will revise the plan incorporating submissions;
- the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board will consider the revised draft plan and may amend it further; and
- the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board will approve the plan making it operative.



Artist: Robin Slow

Public meetings to provide opportunities for questions and answers regarding the draft management plan will be held in August in Nelson and Tākaka. You can contact DOC offices in Motueka, Golden Bay or Nelson for information on when and where those meetings will be held or alternatively visit the DOC website: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

### *Facts about the springs*

Commonly known as Pupū Springs, Te Waikoropupū Springs are the largest freshwater springs in the Southern Hemisphere and also the clearest, which gives them international significance.

The springs pump out about 10,000 litres of water a second and are a constant cold temperature of 11.7C. Walking tracks give access to native bush and the freshwater streams of the reserve.

The area is a Māori taonga (treasure) and a wāhi tapu (sacred place). Te Waikoropupū Springs receives 50,000 visitors a year, making it the most visited attraction in Golden Bay. The proposals in the plan seek to maintain the unique character of the reserve as a place visitors enjoy for its natural quiet and tranquility.



## History

It is estimated that Māori first visited this area over 700 years ago as part of the gradual expansion from Nelson through Tasman Bay and Mohua/ Golden Bay and down the West Coast. Te Waikoropupū was an important strategic site as well as a staging post on their journeys for mahinga mataitai/food gathering. The Springs remain of high significance to iwi in Golden Bay today.

For European settlers the site was also important. During the 1860s gold prospectors began mining the land adjacent to the springs and the area was worked extensively. Evidence of this can be seen in the form of piles of rock tailings and tail races which were dug to transfer water for sluicing purposes. The Tākaka Sluicing Company worked a claim in the upper part of the Waikoropupū Valley until 1908.

## Dydimo (*Didymosphenia geminata*)

Didymo is a microscopic invasive alga known as a diatom that's invading our rivers and streams. *Didymosphenia geminata*, also known as 'rock snot' or 'didymo', can smother entire stream beds with mats as thick as eight inches and can ruin just about any river or creek.

Preventing the introduction of this aquatic plant pest is essential to protect and preserve the exceptional values of the waters of Te Waikoropupū Springs. To this end, the waters were closed to contact in January 2006 and bylaws were approved to prevent the introduction of didymo, which has infested many other waterbodies in the South Island.

The proposals in the plan are aimed at protecting the natural integrity of the Springs as well as recognising the concern of Manawhenua ki Mohua that bodily contact with the Springs waters is inappropriate given the sites wahi tapu/sacred status.



Didymo. Photo: Fish & Game, Southland



Artist: Robin Slow

Waikoropupū, Waikoropupū  
Pupū ake te whenua  
Pupū ake ko ngā waiora  
Waikoropupū  
Ngā puna wai o Tākaka  
Ngā puna roimata wairua  
Waikoropupū, Waikoropupū

*Bubbling waters from the throat of the spring,  
Bubbling waters from the throat of the spring,  
Forever bubbling from the land  
Forever bubbling for the health of the people and the spring waters  
The spring waters of Takaka  
The tears of the ancient ancestors  
Waters bubbling form the throat of the spring,  
Waters bubbling form the throat of the spring*

## Contact us

Submissions can be sent to: Te Waikoropupū Springs Management Plan, Department of Conservation, Private Bag 5, Nelson  
For more information contact: Fiona Shaw, Phone: (03) 546 3139, Email: [waikoropupu@doc.govt.nz](mailto:waikoropupu@doc.govt.nz)