**Workshop Summaries**

At a Reserve Management Plan community workshop held on October 30, groups were tasked with defining the park’s values, challenges and opportunities. The lists below summarise the findings of the groups. The next workshop, on November 27, will focus on finding solutions. Those solutions, alongside the information in independent reports commissioned for the park (archaeological, historical, arboricultural and public engagement) will inform the draft Reserve Management Plan.

**Eskdale Park**

**Values:**

Workshop participants valued the park for its heritage, peacefulness, tranquil rural character, the natural environment including large trees and river access, and that it offers a place to walk, picnic and walk dogs freely.

The character of the space was important to the majority of workshop participants. It is considered a ‘place of memories’.

**Constraints** identified during the workshop included:

* risk of limb-drop risk from older trees
* quality of and access to toilet and changing facilities
* difficulty accessing river at times
* condition of riverside vegetation (weeds etc)
* conflict between user groups
* road safety and access from state highway
* railway corridor (safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists)
* playground dated
* park not accessible from i-Way network
* risks related to driving and parking within the park
* people not having dogs under control
* flooding
* lack of security/feeling unsafe
* park entrance not welcoming (judder bars)
* park hard to find
* park underutilised

**Opportunities** identified by participants included:

* reflecting the heritage of the park (storyboards)
* retaining the natural rural feel of the park
* creating an inviting entrance (a sense of arrival)
* upgrading toilet facilities (including wheelchair access)
* creating separate play areas (including natural play)
* installing new barbecue/picnic facilities
* incorporating the leased portion of the park into the public area (parking/planting/new public entryway/access into Panpac forest for range of user groups)
* developing a defined car parking area
* improving the layout of the park
* providing accessible pathway network within park
* connecting park to external pedestrian/cycling networks (i-Way)
* considering public access into Eskdale Park off Yule Road
* protecting/managing the mature trees
* succession planning for vegetation (exotic and/or native)
* maintaining Esk River edge and improve access to river
* upgrading the cricket green
* defining dog off-lead areas
* creating space for events (e.g. farmers’ market).