



APPENDICES MINUTES

Raumati Community Board Meeting

Tuesday, 20 May 2025

Table of Contents

4	Public Speaking Time	
	Appendix 1	Documentation supporting the grant application for the Kāpiti US Marines Trust (tabled by Allie Webber).....4
	Appendix 2	Image supporting the grant application for the Kāpiti Coast Trails Trust (tabled by Bruce Henderson)7
8.2	Chairperson's Report	
	Appendix 1	Ecoreef Presentation for Chair's Report8



US MARINES

IN NEW ZEALAND 1942-1944

Funding Application to Raumati Community Board for US Marines Heritage Trails May 2015

Project Overview & Vision

KUSMT, in partnership with the Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC), is leading the development of three heritage walking trails and a 15-kilometre cycling trail through the historic sites of the former U.S. Marines camps: Camp Paekākāriki, Camp Mackay (now Whareroa Farm), and Camp Russell (in Queen Elizabeth Park). This initiative intends to transform these trails into a cohesive, branded visitor experience of high historical, recreational, and educational value.

The vision is to create interpretive trails that integrate stunning natural landscapes with rich World War II heritage stories. Visitors will explore key locations where over 15,000 U.S. Marines lived and trained between 1942 and 1944. Existing trails, already equipped with amenities like toilets and parking, will be enhanced with upgraded and new signage, modern design, and digital storytelling elements such as QR codes that connect visitors to a growing online archive of historically significant material.

While many museums showcase heritage in static displays, KUSMT's innovative approach is site-specific. It brings the museum outdoors—directly to the landscapes where history unfolded. The heritage trails will include interpretive signage, storytelling pillars contrasting “then and now,” and immersive signage designed for engagement with both domestic and international visitors. Each trail loop and the connecting cycleway will highlight different facets of Marines life in New Zealand, as well as their legacy.

Significance of the Project

KUSMT has already made significant strides thanks to support from the Lottery Grants Board, the United States Embassy, KCDC, Transpower, Fletcher Building, the Paekākāriki Services Trust, and private donors. Thousands of hours of volunteer work have resulted in a heritage archive of national importance, which the Trust is now aiming to bring to life in the physical landscape.

The total cost of the overall project, including trail development and a major refurbishment of the Marines Memorial in Queen Elizabeth Park, is approximately \$300,000. KUSMT has applied for additional funding from the Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund and is engaging donors, especially in the United States through the Chapel & York platform. The Trust is also seeking funds from KCDC's Museum and Heritage Development Fund and local community boards.

While this broader fundraising continues, the Trust is seeking \$5,000 from the Raumati Community Board specifically to support heritage signage and story-sharing elements within the Raumati South section of the project. The funds would help KUSMT implement local signage and interpretation that will firmly connect the Raumati community to this shared wartime history.

Proposed Outcomes and Benefits to Raumati

KUSMT's project will offer several tangible benefits to Raumati and its residents:

1. Interpretive Signage at Poplar Avenue (Te Ara o Whareroa Entrance)

A new, branded sign will be installed at the Poplar Avenue entrance to Te Ara o Whareroa, the shared pathway between Paekākāriki and Raumati. This signage will mark the starting point of the Marines trails from Raumati, making the connection between local entry points and the broader heritage trail network explicit and accessible. The new signage will elevate the trail's visibility and attract both local and out-of-town users.

2. Commemorative Site at Whareroa Beach

KUSMT plans to relocate the U.S. Sailors' Memorial to Whareroa Beach, the site of the 1943 landing tragedy that claimed the lives of 10 U.S. sailors. The new memorial location will provide visitors with a meaningful historical and photographic experience, including panoramic views of Kāpiti Island. The installation will include heritage photos of Marines training on the beach and directional signage connecting visitors back to Raumati South, Queen Elizabeth Park, and Whareroa Farm. This interpretive site will become a focal point for remembrance and storytelling.

3. Marines History Signage at Raumati South Entrance to QEP

A third signage installation is planned at the Raumati South entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park. This sign will highlight the training activities that occurred on the beach and in the surrounding parklands, adding contextual depth to the existing trail. This will include the incorporation of Maurice Perry's detailed, first-hand account of his boyhood experiences living near the Marines camps, offering a unique local perspective.

Heritage, Health, and Community Well-being

Beyond the historical education value, the upgraded trails will offer improved opportunities for recreation and well-being. Locals and tourists will be able to walk or cycle through Raumati and surrounding areas while experiencing an enriching, historically grounded journey. The blend of cultural storytelling, nature immersion, and physical activity supports holistic community health and strengthens a shared sense of place.

Moreover, this project will increase foot traffic to local businesses, particularly those in the Raumati Beach shopping centre, and help Raumati assert its role in the broader narrative of the Kāpiti Coast's wartime history.

Funding Justification and Future Sustainability

KUSMT is requesting \$5,000 from the Raumati Community Board as a contribution to the cost of designing and installing the three key Raumati-based signage sites. While modest in comparison to the total project budget, this funding is crucial. It demonstrates community-level backing that strengthens KUSMT's case when applying to larger grantors like the Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund.

The project has been designed to be modular, allowing for staged implementation depending on the availability of funds. Even if larger-scale fundraising efforts take longer to materialize, KUSMT believes that the Raumati components alone are valuable and achievable, with their own merits and community impact.

Proven Track Record and Community Engagement

KUSMT has a strong record of successful collaboration with local iwi (mana whenua), a priority for many in the Raumati community. The Trust has also received previous support from the Raumati Community Board, including:

- \$750 for Memorial Day (May 2025)
- \$750 for Memorial Day and general expenses (June 2024)
- Pou funding (March 2023)

This history of successful partnership adds to the Trust's credibility and signals its ongoing commitment to responsible heritage stewardship.

Conclusion

The KUSMT Heritage Trails project stands at the intersection of history, nature, and community. With a relatively small grant of \$5,000, the Raumati Community Board can help activate an important piece of this broader initiative. The proposed signage and interpretive features in Raumati South will anchor the area's significance within the wider U.S. Marines narrative, honour a shared past, and provide future generations with an engaging, outdoor, and educational experience. The project will leave a lasting legacy for Raumati and reinforce the village's connection to a defining period of global and local history.





7 ARAWA STREET, RAUMATI BEACH
Preliminary Design Proposal

PD-REV 10042025

Website: www.ecoreef.co.nz
Email: inquiries@ecoreef.co.nz
Phone: +64 4 586 8088





