

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by **THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL** for a comprehensive resource consent for festivals and events at Williamson Park, Whangamata

**Statement of Evidence of CHRISTOPHER RAYMOND BALL
on behalf of the Friends of Williamson Park Society**

Dated 25 October 2018

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SUMMARY

1. My name is Christopher Raymond Ball
2. I oppose this application on three grounds:
 - a. The nature of the commercialisation;
 - b. The proposed allocation of the resource consent for 15 years;
and
 - c. The proposal to sell alcohol as part of these events.

OBJECTIONS

3. My full name is Christopher Raymond Ball. I am a ratepayer in Tairua, Coromandal Peninsula. I am an interested and affected party on the basis that I have a property at 112A Hinemoa Street, Whangamata on the beach about a kilometre from Williamson Park. I have lived in and conducted a business in Whangamata over the last 40 years or more. I was married a second time on the Williamson Park Reserve in 1993, with a gathering of friends and family, at the Whangamata surf club.
4. Our family owned the Whangamata Motor Camp in Barbara Terrace for 25 years from 1979. This was the largest motor camp and we were its longest owners since its beginnings. I moved back to Whangamata in 1999 and was a business owner of the garden centre. I ran this for seven years until 2005.
5. Our family were involved in the community. My father was the chairperson and patron of the Whangamata Bowling Club. My mother was also active in bowls. On return to Whangamata, I was a Cub Leader for four years. I took part in the beach care planting days to help retain our sand dunes. This included the section in front of the Whangamata surf club.
6. My family were active, as many residents and ratepayers are, in donating to events such as the Summer Festival held at the Park in its beginning years, to fund unfenced free concerts and events. This was to avert the terrible riots which had happened in the past.
7. As business owners, we supported Beach Hop which started in 2001. This event has grown and has been located at Williamson Park reserve, unfenced and enjoyed by many. It is an event that is open to all– both the event and the park.

8. My family and I have had a long-standing commitment and involvement with Whangamata. I still do. I care much about the future of Whangamata, the local community and the families who come. I am fully aware of how Williamson Park Reserve, as gifted by the Williamson family forever, has got to be where it is today.
9. The original title and transfer of land document should be heeded to; thus, no commercialisation should occur. The original documents, signed by Madeline Williamson, state that the Park is gifted to the community forever. What the original documents Madeline Williamson signed is what it is - Forever – and that is that. Attempts should not be made to sneak in commercial events for several opportune private business promoters. To do so is at the expense and loss to the many others who enjoy open and free access to the Park.
10. I totally oppose the proposed commercialisation in the 15 year consent application to run large concerts by private promoters.
11. I totally opposed the possible sale of alcohol at these private concerts – they are a recipe to allow the terrible riots of years before to occur again. This was what we as business people had donated to financially to avoid.
12. The Shapeshifter's concert, held in January 2018, was not well controlled. Some patrons came pre-tanked and left to get post-tanked upsetting some neighbouring properties where families were trying to enjoy a peaceful Christmas break.
13. I believe if private promoters want a concert, then do as Wanaka does – find someone's farm on the outskirts of town, bus young concert goers to and from the venue. Leave the best family reserve we have for what it was intended for by the Williamson family.

Christopher Raymond Ball

25 October 2018