



a passion for the Port Hills

11 August 2010

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday August 31, 2010 at 7.15pm
Board Room. Beckenham Library/Service Centre
66 Colombo St, Christchurch

The Board of the Summit Road Society hereby gives formal notice of its intention to hold a Special General Meeting, as allowed for in the Society's Constitution, to consider the transfer of the Omaha Bush block of land from the Gama Foundation to the Society.

Agenda for Special General Meeting

1. Welcome, and apologies
2. To consider the following motion: *That the Summit Road Society Inc accept the offer from the trustees of the Gama Foundation to transfer 146.7328 ha of land, held in titles lot 1 DP 76974 and lot 3 DP 81448 both CB46c/452 of 83.6429 ha AND lot 5 DP 70453, CB40D/1032 of 63.09 ha to the ownership of the Summit Road Society Inc. for the consideration of one dollar*

Background The Society is extremely fortunate to have been offered ownership of the Omaha Bush and Gibraltar Rock area, currently owned by the Gama Foundation, for the sum of \$1. The total land area is 146.7328 hectares, which is slightly smaller than the Society's Ohinetahi block. The land is held in two titles, both of which are subject to Queen Elizabeth covenants.

Located at the top of the Port Hills, Omaha Bush is a 106-hectare reserve of native bush, with several walking tracks, ranging from 30-90 minutes duration. There is a striking outcrop of volcanic rock at the summit, fittingly named Gibraltar Rock, as well as native birds such as bellbirds and fantails, and great views. Omaha means "escaping" or "running silently". Prior to European settlement, when a Maori chief was killed near here, members of his tribe managed to escape through the bush cover of Omaha. Within easy reach of Christchurch, this preserved area is situated on the northern side of the panoramic Summit Road, past the historic Sign of the Bellbird building.

The Gama Foundation is a charitable trust set up in 1985 by trustees Grant and Marilyn Nelson, with the primary aim of conserving native bush in the South Island through land purchase. Omaha Bush is just one of several blocks of bush purchased by the Gama Foundation, and now the trustees propose to pass ownership of Omaha to the Summit Road Society. The Foundation, really the Nelsons, have received a number of awards for their conservation efforts, including the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Award, the Environment Enhancement Site Award and the Christchurch Civic Award.

Grant has been interviewed by the Bush Telly team at the 2009 Ellerslie Flower Show, talking about the bush and wildlife values of the Omaha Bush block.

3. To amend clause 8(d) of the Society Constitution, which deals with winding up of the Society, as follows:
In the event of the winding up of the Society, its surplus cash funds after payment of all debts due, shall be lodged with the Christchurch City Council (CCC) for expenditure under the direction of the Committee determining Parks and Recreation policy. The land known as Omaha Bush and more particularly described as lot 1 DP 76974 and lot 3 DP 81448 both CB46c/452 of 83.6429 ha AND lot



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5 DP 70453, CB40D/1032 of 63.09 ha shall be offered to the CCC for the consideration of one dollar, subject to the CCC agreeing to maintain the said land as a public park or reserve. All remaining assets of the Society shall be disposed of for the benefit of the community at large, to be used for charitable purposes only, in such a manner as shall be decided by the elected Officers of the Society in Office at the date of the Society's decision to wind up, provided always that no member or person associated with a member of the Society shall participate in any surplus on winding up.

Background The Gama Foundation trustees wish the land to be gifted to the Christchurch City Council in the event that the Society is wound up at some time in the future, or its membership falls below fifty persons, or the Society is not able to fulfil its role in looking after the land and the bush. To do this, the Society requires to amend its Constitution.

The current clause of the Summit Road Society Constitution dealing with winding up states:

In the event of the winding up of the Society, its surplus cash funds, after payment of all debts due, shall be lodged with the Christchurch City Council for expenditure under the direction of the Committee determining Parks and Recreation policy. All other assets of the Society shall be disposed of for the benefit of the community at large, to be used for charitable purposes only, in such a manner as shall be decided by the elected Officers of the Society in Office at the date of the Society's decision to wind up, provided always that no member or person associated with a member of the Society shall participate in any surplus on winding up.

4. To appoint one or more Honorary Ranger(s) to carry out regular inspections of the Omahu land, and to arrange for all necessary maintenance work to be done.

Background This is one of the terms of the sale and purchase agreement, which will be the subject of a caveat on the property. The work would include:

Maintain wide foot tracks and mow vehicle tracks for public access, and keep them in good condition

- ✍ Control animal pests
- ✍ Control invasive plant pests which grow in native bush
- ✍ Keep gorse, broom, bracken and other plants pests off Gibraltar Rock
- ✍ Prevent any plants except grass and tussock growing along the road verge and in the pastoral area to the north and east of Gibraltar Rock. Also, in the open area below Gibraltar Rock carpark in order to maintain views
- ✍ Arrange for pasture areas to the north of Omahu Bush to be grazed only by sheep. The income from grazing to be only used for work on the property

5. To establish a "Friends of Omahu Bush" group

Background The Society already has three work party groups – the Eastenders, the Ohinetahi group and the Weekendens. This fourth group could be made up of those members and others who have a particular interest in the Omahu block. They may serve on a work party, or be interested in the management of the area, or wish to further promote the area for public use.

Assuming the first four resolutions are passed, the Society already has a list of names of people keen to join the Friends of Omahu Bush group.

PLEASE COME TO THIS MEETING !

This is one of the Society's most momentous opportunities. Your Board members and Grant & Marilyn Nelson of the Gama Foundation have been working towards the transfer of the Omahu Bush block for nearly two years now. The generosity of the Nelsons in proposing this transfer is overwhelming, but the



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Society has no doubts that we can maintain and enhance this property for the benefit of Christchurch and its visitors. What we need now is your support in attending this meeting to we can move through the necessary formal procedures.

Supper will be served after the formal part of the meeting.

Jeff Long [Secretary]