



Local and Sports Parks Plaques and Memorials Application form

Date: 4 December 2018

Applicant:

Name/Organisation: Jan Gopperth

Position title: _____

Contact number: 021 526467

Email address: jan@gopperth.nz

Commemorating:

Person/group or event: Brian Osborne

Reason: **Brian was a long-term resident of the North Shore. He lived in Hurstmere Road and prior to that in Earnoch Avenue. He loved his local neighbourhoods of Takapuna and Milford. He had a special connection with the local beaches and walked daily along the coastal walkway between Takapuna and Milford until his illness prevented it. At the very end, just days before his death, he was determined to make his daily walk. He decided that walking to the end of O'Neills Avenue and sitting on the bench seat watching the ocean was a pretty good effort. It was one of his many attempts to convince his Oncologist to give him more chemo, even though he had been told there was no hope and that, in fact, it was likely to speed up his death.**

Brian loved his local community and spent many years at my side, working with the Save Takapuna Beach Holiday Park supporters group. He gave his unwavering support over 5 years to save our beloved campground and to prevent development of the northern reserve. He wanted to help ensure that the children and grandchildren of our community, and further afield, could continue to experience the joy of campground holidays that he had the privilege to enjoy when he was a child. He worked away quietly behind the scenes and never expected any recognition for his efforts. He printed out flyers on his home printer and hand delivered hundreds of them to households in Milford and Takapuna. He wrote speeches and presented them at Local Board meetings. He helped on Takapuna Beach and at the Takapuna markets to collect signatures for the Council's feedback poll.

Brian was a driving force behind the Holiday Park Working Bee in September 2015 when he helped to facilitate a massive clean-up. He sat through many Board Meetings and Commissioner's Hearings to help ensure that the local community was heard.

Brian spent hours watching the ocean and he especially loved watching fishing boats launch off Takapuna Beach and the various ocean activities and water-sports. He was always picking up litter, especially broken glass, from the beach, anxious that a small child might cut their feet. He especially enjoyed watching locals fishing off the black rocks in front of Audrey Road and it is by this spot that the family would like to have a memorial bench in his name. Over the years Brian would take our grandchildren on his favourite walk and share his knowledge of the local area. He taught them about the fossil forest in front of the holiday park and the Lake Pupuke eruption. He taught them about the ocean and tides and the creatures that lived there and in the rock pools by Milford Beach. Our grandchildren were most entranced by Merksworth Castle, the Giant's Chair and the swimming pool made of black rock and the captivating story that their Grandad told about

how they came to exist. Our grandchildren now pass the story along to visitors that they take on the coastal walkway.

Brian battled terminal cancer for two years after an initial prognosis of 6 months. He was a fighter. He died at North Shore Hospice in June this year. He was cremated and asked for his ashes to be scattered at sea in the future, together with mine. The family would all very much value a place to sit and remember Brian – husband, father, uncle and Gran Beanie, as the children called him, and remember him at his favourite spot.

Brian was not a notable local figure. He was a family man, a local resident. Someone who loved his community and worked quietly behind the scenes, always lending a helping hand to friends and family. He was greatly respected. On 23 November this year his business clients and friends organised the Brian Osborne Memorial Golf Tournament, held in his honour. This will be an annual fund-raising event, with the proceeds donated to North Shore Hospice in Brian's name. We were able to make a sizeable donation to the Hospice this year in Brian's name, following the tournament.

Brian was well travelled but he felt most at home on the rocky Takapuna – Milford coastal walkway, with the waves splashing at his feet and the smell of the ocean breaking over the black rocks of Milford Beach. We do hope you can grant this request for a memorial seat, not only for the family, but also for the use of our community and other travellers to take a short break and enjoy our beautiful ocean and views of Rangitoto.



In memory of Brian Osborne, local resident, who

Plaque Text: **loved this spot (1952 – 2018)**

Memorial Type: _____

Furniture Description: **Memorial Park Bench**

Tree Species: _____

Ceremony **None**

Preferred location: Alongside the beach walkway in front of 6 Audrey Road, facing the ocean. Second preference: Thorne Bay. Third preference: At the bottom of Minnehaha Avenue. Photos attached.

NB: Photo must be attached.

NB: All applications must be in accordance with the policies set out in the *Auckland Council Parks, Sport and Recreation Plaques and Memorials on Parks Interim Guidelines 2011*