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Te Atatu Peninsula - Development - Harbourview

Park's making may be recorded in book

■ by Amy Patterson

When west Aucklanders get a people's park at Harbourview South land there may be a book in tow.

Tiirangi photographer Ted Scott is planning a book to document the making of a regional park at Te Atatu.

"I'm just doing it to follow the whole story as it unfolds really," he says.

"There's going to be a few years in the process. It's a good opportunity

to start on a completely empty piece of land and the history of what it was before it gets developed."

Mr Scott worked on the book *Untamed Coast* with Mayor Bob Harvey to record the west coast. It was first published in 1998.

Over the past 10 years Mr Scott has compiled landscape shots of Harbourview land at different times of the day and during different seasons.

He covered the turning of the first

sod at the land on a rainy Sunday on June 10 this year.

"It's an idea at the moment. It's a bit like the *Untamed Coast* with Bob Harvey - with 12 years in the making," says Mr Scott.

He approached representatives from Te Atatu Ratepayers and Residents Association at the May 29 meeting where councillors agreed to give the people's park the nod.

Jeff Nielsen, the ratepayers' asso-

ciation president, says they endorse the idea.

Another resident who has researched the land is Mary Gilligan. She is interested in west Auckland's history, and has helped to uncover some of Te Atatu's rich past.

She started collating information and families' histories at the beginning of this year, and got into it more when councillors agreed to endorse the people's park.

"I felt that the general opinion was that Te Atatu has not got much of a history so why care?" says Ms Gilligan.

"It's actually got an incredible history."

The heritage kiln site from the former Auckland Brick and Tile Company, Maori middens, and evidence of gum-digging are all part of the area's history that she has been researching.