

**Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 189<sup>th</sup> meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 20 August 2019**

*Abbreviations:*

WCC	Wellington City Council	WRA	Wadestown Residents' Association
GWGreater	Wellington Regional Council	OMB	Old man's beard
F & B	Forest and Bird Protection Society	OWBT	Otari Wilton's Bush Trust
DOC	Department of Conservation	VW	Volunteer Wellington
HPPA	Highland Park Progressive Association	VUW	Victoria University of Wellington
TPG	Trelissick Park Group	OHS	Onslow Historical Society
BotSoc	Wellington Botanic Society	OWBT	Otari Wilton's Bush Trust
NCDRA	Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association	CVNZ	Conservation Volunteers NZ

[Square brackets: subsequent to meeting.]

**Present**

Peter Reimann (TPG)	Frances Lee (TPG)
Phil Parnell (OWBT)	Howard Moore (NCDRA)
Ian Shearer (HPPA)	Jenny Lewis (WRA)
Stan Pillar (OHS)	Anne Tuffin

**Apologies**

Karin Wiley (F & B)	Barry Durrant (TPG)
Henk Louw (Biosecurity Specialist - Pest Animals)	

**Minutes**

The minutes of the 188<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 7 May, were confirmed, subject to correction on p.2 concerning the Oban track bridge under the heading "Financial Handling": NCDRA does not have "charitable status".

**WCC Items**

Fish Passage Improvement in Catchment - TPG has advocated for more funding in its submission of 8 May on WCC's Annual Plan. **Daniela Biaggio**

Ngaio Gorge Road Slips - Geotechnical investigations, topographical surveys and stabilisation work have been completed for WCC. Designs are being finalised and if consent is given, construction should be underway in November. The work should be complete by October 2020. (Taken from an article in the 'Independent Herald'). Presumably the car parking area at the Park entrance will be returned.

Seed Library in Ngaio Library - No further developments. Probably 'on-hold' pending decision on fate of central library and interim expansion of local libraries?

Earthquake Strengthening below Upper Ngaio Gorge Road - The existing wall below the upper end of Ngaio Gorge Road is undermined and the slope below is moving. A 'batter slope' below the road for earthquake strengthening is proposed by WCC's contractor WSP-Opus. This would encroach onto the original forest remnant area - environmentally destructive. A large tītoki tree would go, as well as the large pine, macrocarpa and eucalypt trees.

Considering the cost of removing the large trees and the multiple land ownership in the area, TPG is hoping that WSP-Opus, after further investigation, will find that the alternative of a new wall with deep piles is viable instead. **WSP-Opus/Adam Groenewegen**

If the batter slope option is finally decided, TPG will be removing some valuable seedlings from the area. The slope would be re-planted afterwards.

Replacement Footbridge on Northern Walkway below Hanover Street - Completed.

WCC Natural Environment Fund - This is now open, but TPG is not applying because it is understood there will be an increase in the pest control budget.

Replacement of Derelict Footbridge at North End of Park over Korimako Stream - This footbridge from Waikowhai Street is at the Park boundary. Adam Groenewegen understands an easement has been issued that provides just enough vegetation removal to install a new bridge. An affected adjacent resident says "The council has approved the building consent for a new bridge across my land without telling me...I have engaged the services of a lawyer."

Debris Trap Clearance - Clogged with large tree trunks. Adam Groenewegen has requested removal by WW. **Adam Groenewegen**

## **Pest Plant Control**

WCC Pest Plant Control by WCC/Contractor - TPG's submission of 8 May on the WCC Annual Plan advocated for increase in funding. TPG is very grateful for the extensive weed control work carried out by WCC's contractor, Kaitiaki o Ngahere, with support from WCC's Ilona Keenan. 2019 work so far includes:

- Earlier this year Kaitiaki sprayed large tracts of tradescantia below Hanover Street down to the stream, on the slope below Crofton Downs station and on railway land upstream of Bridge 6. They also dealt with OMB outbreaks (about 50) and Japanese honeysuckle (19) - mostly through the Korimako valley - and banana passionfruit (2) below Oban Street.

- Later, Kaitiaki dealt with climbing asparagus (35 outbreaks), banana passionfruit (14), old man's beard (26) and some Japanese honeysuckle on the slopes of the Kaiwharawhara Stream valley. They plan to tackle several evergreen buckthorn trees on railway land, upstream of Bridge 6.

Last Friday a team from Kaitiaki tackled around 100 climbing asparagus outbreaks on the slope between the track and road downstream of the debris trap.

Kaitiaki/WCC are planning the next spray season now, so Peter Reimann will review new requests or suggestions and send to Ilona for inclusion in planning decisions. **Peter Reimann**

Control by TPG - TPG continue with manual control of tradescantia, OMB, Himalayan balsam, cherry, wattle, karaka seedlings, sycamore, bindweed and buddleia by individuals, working bees and groups. **TPG**

## **Nursery/Planting Update**

1,000 plants delivered from WCC in May and July. Peter Reimann is supplementing these from around 300 in his home nursery this year. 930 planted so far. Jonathan Anderson of WCC also has a podocarp allocation.

## **Animal Pest Control**

Trap Scores - Trap scores since 2008: 270 rats/mice, 17 stoats/weasels, 18 hedgehogs.

Bait Stations - Consumption of block bait by rodents continues - no particular consumption pattern.

Rabbits - The Korimako valley numbers continue to increase - much in evidence along the Trelissick Crescent verge, on the grass slope below entrance 3 and along the railway line. A WCC team shot 5 a couple of weeks ago. Plant protection is being employed. Henk Louw says the rabbit problem is "widely shared throughout the city and we are trying to address all heavily affected areas."

## **Oban Track/Bridge**

Short Form of Agreement with the Engineer - Two forms signed - one for WCC/Frame Group Ltd and the other TPG/NCDRA/Frame Group Ltd, for their respective payment requirements.

## Site Visit and Engineer's Work

Trevor Butler, the engineer from Frame Group Ltd, visited the site in July. He proposes a wooden bridge of laminated beams, 15 m long. A helicopter may be the easiest way to bring these to the site.

His design and preparation of tender documentation should finish in September. He will then work on WCC and GW consent applications.

## Future Work Summary

Tim Harkness from WCC will seek quotations from construction contractors and project manage the work.

WCC will be funding and managing the access from Oban Street down the road reserve and the legal right-of-way.

TPG will need to upgrade the existing track to WCC standards and do the short stream-bank section to the bridge. The northern end of the bridge will connect with the vehicle track, locally elevated to keep the bridge above floods and floating trees/branches.

All should be complete by May 2020.

Funds Secured - \$66,433 so far, including donations from the Ron and Edna Greenwood Environmental Trust, Tararua Tramping Club Michael Taylor bequest and individuals, some via Givealittle - gratefully received.

Funds Required - Based on a ball-park estimate from the engineer, we may have enough. But this may be an under-estimate and projects costs can escalate, due to unforeseen work. Jenny Lewis has a list of donor sources, following a WRA meeting.

TransPower Community Care Fund - Advice on TPG's application awaited (closing date was 31 July).

## **TransPower**

Financial Handling - NCDRA, as an incorporated society, has agreed to act on behalf of TPG on all financial transactions and have set up a dedicated bank account.

The HPPA committee advise that future donations from individuals can be sent to them, because they are an incorporated society and are registered as a charity, meaning donors can claim a tax refund. HPPA will eventually need to transfer the money they are holding to NCDRA for progress payments.

## **Lower Kaiwharawhara Stream and Estuary/Reclamation**

Sanctuary to Sea Walkway - WCC have still not changed the description on the website, so that it commences at the 'Sanctuary' and proceeds to the lower end of the Trelissick Park **Tim Park**

Kaiwharawhara Estuary and Point - At the last meeting of the CentrePort Environmental Committee we were told that Interislander is getting larger ferries in 3-4 years time. CentrePort are widening the existing ferry link-spans over the next two years to take two trains at once and two rows of vehicles. The vehicle marshalling area will remain the same. Long-term they are looking at combining facilities for Interislander and Bluebridge into one - not sure whether at the existing Interislander location or at King's Wharf (further south).

There are three different grades of rubble stored on Kaiwharawhara Point. No other information provided on any plans there (ties in with uncertainty of long-term plans for the ferry terminals?).

Little blue penguins are nesting in the rocks below the vehicle marshalling area.

## Submissions

128 Trelissick Crescent 17-unit Development - Bill Hester has recently asked WCC if there is any updates. WCC advise the application is still 'in suspend'. It doesn't automatically expire and could potentially remain on suspend indefinitely.

112 Churchill Drive BUPA Development (next to Countdown) - Earthworks are proceeding. A 'Watchdog on BUPA Crofton Downs' is on <http://www.bupa.nz/2019/08/13/complaints-procedure-bupa-churchill-construction/>.

Kilmarston Development (Above Ngaio/below Crows Nest) - As per previous minutes, WCC's Jonathan Anderson will advise if anything happens - nothing yet. He says the application is "open-ended and can sit in state of inaction pretty well indefinitely." **Jonathan Anderson (WCC)**

The consent holder, Kilmarston Developments Ltd (KDL), is looking at options for the future use of the land. They seek to retain the ability to undertake the activities consented by the regional permits and consents while working through this process. In the main the Applicant is looking to:

1. Retaining more freshwater ecology with less earthworks than the existing consented works
2. A better yield of residential allotments through site-specific design considerations.

The Applicant's consultant team has prepared concept plans with substantially less reclamation than that consented. There is also a desire to protect terrestrial ecology in the southern extent of the land (next to Huntleigh Park) which is described by the project ecologist (Graham Ussher of RMA Ecology) as podocarp-broadleaf mature forest, unusual in the Wellington region.

It is likely that a plan change under the First Schedule of the RMA will be needed. That process could take anywhere between 18 months and 5 years. Therefore, the Applicant is seeking an extension of time to undertake the necessary planning work to more fully consider the process. Without further time, it would be likely that the Applicant would need to undertake the reclamation works now to protect its position. This may not be a desirable outcome and these applications give sufficient time to explore a better result for the environment.

Of greatest concern is the possibility of more than 43 allotments and the effect on the recent walking track from near Huntleigh Park traversing north to Bells Track.

## Correspondence with External Parties

### Emails

Recent web alerts, resource consents	WCC
Volunteer Wellington workshops/volunteers	Julie Thomson/Jo Nixon (VW)
Rubbish collection	John Curran (WCC), Amanda Valois (NIWA)
Bait station and trap reports	Illona Keenan (WCC)
Sanctuary to Sea meeting, agenda, minutes	Pascale Michel (Zealandia)
Plant deliveries	Anita Benbrook/Adam Groenewegen (WCC), Chris Logan (Outsiders)
Submission on WCC Annual Plan	busannualplan@wcc.govt.nz, Daniela Biaggio (WCC), Lynne White (Upstream Friends of Central Park)
Oban track bridge contract with engineer Frame Group and site visit	Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen (WCC), Trevor Butler (Frame Group Ltd)
In Safe Hands workshop digital version	Tom Dowling, Dave Sharp (CVNZ)
Pest plant control updates	Illona Keenan (WCC)
TransPower Community Care Fund Application for Oban Track bridge	teamonline@transpower.co.nz
National Volunteer Week	Jo Nixon (VW)
Work in Park by Conservation Volunteers	Natalie Jones (Conservation Volunteers)
St Benedicts School visit	Fiona Barnett (St Benedicts School)
Freeparking invoice/payment for website	accounts@freeparking.co.nz

Workshop on weeds	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Plastic project Kaiwharawhara	Jorge Jimenez (Mountains to Sea)
Funding for Oban track bridge	Warwick Greenwood (Ron and Edna Greenwood Environmental Trust)
Polystyrene from Silverstream housing development	Amanda Valois (NIWA), Scott Claridge, Howard Moore, Andrew McLellan
Astelia epiphyte	Anita Benbrook (WCC)
Earthquake strengthening below upper Ngaio Gorge Road	Michelle Grinlinton-Hancock (WSP-Opus)
Debris trap clearance	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Kaiwharawhara Estuary Litter Monitoring workshop follow up and link to litter audit data	Pascale Michel (Zealandia)
Activity Assessment Request	Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme for Georgia McKendry
Flyer to send out - information on litter monitoring in the Kaiwharawhara	Amanda Valois (NIWA)
Funding for Oban track bridge	Givalittle
Kaiwharawhara estuary/reclamation studies	Pascale Michel (Zealandia)
Light shields for LED lights in Kaiwharawhara	Lucy Alcock
Biodiversity Framework Collaborative Working Group announced	Pascale Michel (Zealandia)
Plant protectors against rabbits	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Trelissick Park planting locations	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Tree trimming from lower Park entrance	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Replacement footbridge below Hanover Street	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Funding application for Oban track bridge from Michael Taylor bequest	Brian Hasell (Taranua Tramping Club)
CVNZ project partners meet-up	Natalie Jones (CVNZ)
Kilmarston consent information	Andrew McLellan
Volunteer motivations research	Sonia Bhula (VUW)
SPCA visit to Park	Heidi Olsen (SPCA)
Weed workshop presentation link	Illona Keenan (WCC)
Diseased kawakawa	Anita Benbrook (WCC)
Revegetation sites	Jonathan Anderson/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Looking for Gahnia plants	Jacqui Knight (Moths and Butterflies of NZ Trust)
128 Trelissick Crescent (Ngaio) 17 unit development	Bill Stevens (WCC)
VW checking - on-line activation/information	Jo Nixon (VW)
Natural Environment Fund now open	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Dumped rubbish below Ngaio Gorge Road	Adam Groenewegen/Jonathan Anderson (WCC)
Stormwater contribution and litter clean-ups	Amanda Valois (NIWA)
CentrePort master plan and ferry trip	William Woods (CentrePort)
Summary of weed control work	Stu Whiterod (Kaitiaki o Ngahere), Illona Keenan (WCC)
Oban track bridge update	Tim Harkness (WCC), Martin Wilson (Abseil Access)
Scouts messengers for peace visit	Mary Bluck, Cr Andy Foster (WCC)
'Only Fools and Dreamers' movie night	Richard McIntosh (WCC Councillor candidate)
Park foot traffic control during weed work above	Stu Whiterod (Kaitiaki o Ngahere)
Park tree chopping and replacement of derelict footbridge from Waikowhai Street	Kelvin Hastie, Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Rabbit shoot	Henk Louw/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Debris trap clearance	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Update on Oban Track bridge	Martin Wilson (Abseil Access)

## Finance

The bank balance at 2 August was \$1,235.10. This includes \$1,000, which WCC passed on to TPG from an anonymous source in 2011 and TPG kept aside for initial Oban St track expenses. It was agreed that TPG will retain that in the bank account until needed later on.

Thanks to WRA for donation of \$50 to TPG to help cover running expenses, (eg potting mix, eggs for traps, meeting venue, copying, refreshments for working bees...)

Thanks once more to Deidre Burke for payment of \$49.10 for the website domain name.

A cheque for NCDRA for \$95 from 'Givealittle' for the Oban track bridge was approved.

## Other

Groups in Park - Thanks to Conservation Volunteers, St Benedicts School and SPCA for their work in the Park.

Volunteer Workshop on Weeds - Conducted by Darryl Kee of Weedworks and attended by some from TPG.

Sanctuary to Sea Meeting - This will be at Zealandia on 5th November at 5.30 PM

QE2 Trust Covenantee below Eastern End of Trelissick Crescent - Some of the properties extend across the Forest Remnant Track. Peter Reimann will check boundaries, then ask if any of the owners would be interested in covenanting to the QE2 Trust. **Peter Reimann**

Kaiwharawhara Plastics Project - Amanda Valois of NIWA and Jorge Jimenez from Mountains to Sea have been looking for volunteers to empty stormwater filters (LittaTraps) for scientist to audit the plastics in it. The data will be useful to understand the origins of ocean plastics. Deidre Burke has responded. They are also looking for people to run transects collecting rubbish in the Park.

Light Shields in Lower Kaiwharawhara - A local resident has contacted ExxonMobil and NZ Post requesting sharp edges to their LED lights to align with the site boundaries - effect on biological cues for wildlife in the ecological corridor. They are investigating.

Talk on Hinewai Reserve (Banks Peninsular)/Hugh Wilson Movie 'Only Fools and Dreamers' - Peter Reimann gave a short talk on Trelissick Park prior to the screening hosted by Wellington Greens on 17 August.

Keith Maynard - Sadly, Keith Maynard died on 8 July. He was 103 and a stalwart for the Park. He and his wife Margaret (TPG minute secretary for many years) were early investigators for WRA in a route from Oban Street into the Park.

The meeting closed at 10.45 AM.

The next meeting is to be at **9:30 a.m. Tuesday 19 November 2019** at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road.

Membership drawn from Highland Park Progressive Association Inc., Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association Inc., Onslow Historical Society Inc., Private Landowners' Group, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Inc. (Wellington Branch), Wellington Botanical Society Inc., Wadestown Residents' Association.