

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 191st meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 18 February 2020

Abbreviations:

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| WCC | Wellington City Council | WRA | Wadestown Residents' Association |
| GW | Greater 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 |
| | | MBIE | Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment |

[Square brackets: subsequent to meeting.]

Actions are in bold italics.

Present

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| Peter Reimann (TPG) | Frances Lee (TPG) |
| Howard Moore (NCDRA) | Barry Durrant (TPG) |
| Stan Pillar (OHS) | Ian Shearer (HPPA) |
| Jenny Lewis (WRA) | Anne Tuffin (TPG) |

Apologies

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| Amanda Dobson (Enviroschools) | Cr Rebecca Matthews (WCC) |
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Minutes

The minutes of the 190th meeting, held on 19th November, were confirmed, subject to changing rat/mouse numbers under 'Animal Pest Control' from 288 to 290.

WCC Items

Fish Passage Improvement in Catchment - TPG has advocated for more funding in its submission of 8 May 2019 on WCC's Annual Plan. The Plan will be discussed at Zealandia's next Sanctuary to Sea meeting. Peter Reimann will follow this up. **Peter Reimann**

Ngaio Gorge Road Stabilisation Project – Work on the slips is expected to commence late in March and should continue for two years. The container wall will remain until the slope stabilisation work begins.

Parking Lay-by Opposite Container Wall - TPG is keen to see what used to be the parking lay-by opposite the container wall no longer used as the road and returned to its original purpose as a lay-by. In the past it was much used for parking by Park visitors and it would take some of the parking pressure off the lower entrance. What is proposed for this area? Could we have a drawing for comment? **Adam Groenewegen**

Parking for Lower Entrance - TPG understand that WCC is looking at widening the parking area at the lower Ngaio Gorge Road entrance, by possibly building up the bank above the small shelter-shed. TPG is very concerned about this, given the huge amount of work put in by the person who has adopted the entrance area for enhancement - now well-established and attractive.

TPG has advocated for years for the unused grassy area a short distance up the road to be turned into a parking area. Exiting from this 'lay-by' would be no more unsafe than from the lower entrance parking area or from the lay-by further up, easier to implement and accommodate more vehicles. Surely the cost would be similar to building up the bank next to the lower entrance? **Adam Groenewegen**

Earthquake Strengthening below Upper Ngaio Gorge Road - Due to budgets cuts WCC has deferred any further concept exploration of Wall 7 until it knows how much Ngaio Gorge Road Stabilisation tender price will be. WCC will be in a better position to decide in late February 2020. Peter Reimann will follow up. **Peter Reimann**

Trelissick Park Five-Year Plan (2016-2021) – Needs an update? **Peter Reimann**

Garages on Ngaio Gorge Road – Frances Lee would like NCDRA to investigate the usage of the garages on the Park side half-way up Ngaio Gorge Road. They are supposed to be used for vehicles but seem not to be.

Howard Moore

Pest Plant Control

Karaka Trees – Dog walkers, concerned about poisonous karaka berries, have petitioned WCC for removal of

the trees. In response, WCC propose to remove about five large trees along the valley walking tracks, subject to TPG's agreement. [In response to TPG's concerns, Myfanwy Emeny advises that dog walkers have talked to vets across Wellington. There are confirmed reports of poisoning from Trelissick Park and fatalities from karaka poisoning throughout Wellington. The dog walkers are pushing for removing the most high-risk trees, which are the large ones along the main valley track. They would be open to helping the TPG with further removals. Myfanwy understands this might not be seen as a priority for environmental reasons, but this is a budget around hazardous tree removal and is also tied to improving dog exercise areas. They are not endemic to Wellington and outcompete the natives that belong here. WCC are making efforts to remove karaka from other areas. The tree team would keep all debris away from the stream to avoid risk of it getting swept away. The trees would be dismantled, not poisoned and left.]

Other aspects raised at the meeting:

- Karaka berries are important food for kereru
- Dog walkers raking berries off tracks periodically instead
- TPG's Warrick Fowlie has been working in the Park for some years removing smaller/medium-sized karaka (destined to become larger eventually).

[Further discussion between WCC/TPG appears needed. **Myfanwy Emeny/Adam Groenewegen/Peter Reimann/Anne Tuffin**]

WCC Pest Plant Control by WCC/Contractor - Peter Reimann sent suggestions to Illona for inclusion in planning decisions in an email of 25 August. Peter Reimann will follow up with Illona Keenan. **Peter Reimann/Illona Keenan**

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

WCC's Kirsten Crawford is preparing a planting guide in collaboration with Anita Benbrook, assisted by some of the planting information in TPG's website. 500 plants are due from WCC on 8 May. Peter Reimann has another 100 ready now.

Animal Pest Control

Trap Scores - Trap scores since 2008: 299 rats/mice, 17 stoats/weasels, 18 hedgehogs.

Bait Stations - Much consumption of block bait by rodents.

Rabbits - Still in evidence.

GW have provided training information and health and safety guidelines for animal pest control. Bill Hester has distributed these to his volunteers and added them to the 'Predator' page on the TPG website. The guidelines have been signed-off by Bill Hester and Barry Durrant.

Oban Track/Bridge

Engineering/Consents – [Trevor Butler, the engineer from Frame Group Ltd, sent the final drawings, design specifications and schedule on 18th February]. This means that following WCC/TPG review, WCC can commence tendering for construction. **Tim Harkness/Peter Reimann**

Trevor Butler advises that Resource Consent (RC) and Building Consent (BC) applications will be prepared this week. He expects both will take about one month, depending on council processing speed.

Construction should commence from about the end of March, pending issue of the RC and BC. **Frame Group**

Trevor Butler estimates that construction should take not more than six weeks (provided there is no delay in supply of the glulam beams from the manufacturer).

Construction – See November minutes.

Access from Oban Street - WCC will be funding and managing the access from Oban Street down the road reserve and the legal right-of-way. Work will commence soon. **Tim Harkness**

Track – Following site visits by WCC/TPG, Barry Durrant will upgrade the middle section. TPG may assist at working bees. **Barry Durrant**

The lower section is steeper, and Tim Harkness will organise a contractor for this. **Tim Harkness**

Plaque – Howard Moore will give details of the firm who provided a plaque for a bridge on the Silversky track. **Howard Moore**

Donors – Ian Shearer will follow up donor promises from the survey conducted by HPPA/WRA/TPG. **Ian Shearer**

Funds Secured – See November minutes.

Financial Handling – See November minutes. HPPA will eventually need to transfer the money they are holding to NCDRA for progress payments. HPPA's term deposit of \$51,763 matures on 20 March 2020.

Lower Kaiwharawhara Stream and Estuary/Reclamation

Kaiwharawhara Estuary and Point – No further information from Centreport. Amanda Dobson of

Enviroschools is organising a Seaweed beach clean-up with Sustainable Coastlines for Sunday 8th March at 10 AM. Frances Lee hopes this will include the beach at the north side of the reclamation.

Submissions

128 Trelissick Crescent 17-unit Development - Still 'in suspend'? See November minutes.

112 Churchill Drive BUPA Development (next to Countdown) – Construction of building framework proceeding. No problems were observed from sediment run-off into the Park from earthworks.

Appeals to Environment Court on the Proposed GW Natural Resources Plan - TPG has received copies of appeals from various parties. Anne Tuffin has examined these but found no issues that needed a response from TPG. She will keep abreast with further developments and the upshot for the proposed final Plan. **Anne Tuffin**

Email Correspondence with External Parties

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| Recent web alerts, resource consents | WCC |
| Volunteer Wellington workshops/events/volunteers | Julie Thomson/Jo Nixon (VW) |
| Rubbish collection | John Curran (WCC) |
| Bait station and trap reports | Illona Keenan (WCC) |
| Sanctuary to Sea meeting | Pascale Michel (Zealandia), Daran Ponter (GW), Onur Oktem/ Joshua Patterson (WCC), Paul Bruce |
| Ngaio Gorge Rd stabilisation project update | Adam Groenewegen, Sarath Amarasekera (WCC) |
| WCC Planting guide | Kirsten Crawford |
| Wadestown Fair | Karen Roper (WRA) |
| Pest plant control updates | Illona Keenan (WCC) |
| Potential volunteers | Collaborate and VW |
| Work in Park by Conservation Volunteers | Natalie Jones/Sonja Urban (CVNZ) |
| Fresh water monitoring training | Liz Gibson (Mountains to Sea Wellington) |
| Goodnature lures | Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| US student volunteers | Charles Dawson |
| More block bait needed | Paul Horton/Bruce Brewer/Darren Lees (GW), Henk Louw (WCC) |
| Karaka berries | Adam Groenewegen/Myfanwy Emeny (WCC) |
| Volunteer training – pest animal control | Bruce Brewer (GW), Henk Louw (WCC) |
| Ngaio Gorge Road entrance gate opening | Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| Funding for Oban track bridge | Givealittle |
| Updated pest control map request | Henk Louw (WCC) |
| Update request on upper Ngaio gorge Road strengthening | David Stewart/ Michelle Ginlinton-Hancock (WSP-Opus), Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| DOC200 trap catch records | Henk Louw (WCC) |
| Predator intrusion photograph records | Henk Louw (WCC) |
| Debris trap clearance | Steven Peters/Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| Work visit by Raroa Intermediate | Alix Gurau (Raroa Intermediate), Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| Oban track bridge funding progress report | Brian Hasell (Taranui Tramping Club Michael Taylor Bequest committee), Warwick Greenwood (Ron and Edna Greenwood Environmental Trust), Megan Williams (Transpower) |
| Broken brochure holder | Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| Light shields for in lower Kaiwharawhara commercial area | Lucy Alcock (local resident), Chris Walker/David Clark (NZ Post), David Valentine/Ben Reid (Exxonmobil) |
| Updates on Oban Track bridge engineering | Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen (WCC), Trevor Butler (Frame Group) |
| Work visit from MBIE Legal | Lyne Pringle (VW), Martien Duis (MBIE), Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| Work visit from VUW and Treasury | Shalini Gajadhar (VUW), Carissa Bryan (Treasury), Lyn Pringle (VW) |
| Work visit by Khandallah and Northland Cubs | Craig Barry (Khandallah Cubs) |
| Charity status for tax purposes | Bronwen Shepherd (Te Ahumairangi Hill Ecological |

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| | Restoration Group) |
| Plant order for 2020 | WCC website/Adam Groenewegen/Anita Benbrook (WCC) |
| Plant protective shield information | Naomi & Frans Steenkamp |
| Oban track route and upgrade | Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| Erosion on Northern Walkway below Hanover Street | Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| Volunteer requests | Lyne Pringle (VW) |
| Treasury work in Park | Carissa Bryan (Treasury), Lyne Pringle (VW), Adam Groenewegen (WCC) |
| Kaiwharawhara estuary area update | William Woods (Centreport) |
| Pollution query – Kaiwharawhara Stream | Pat Van Berkel (GW) |

Newsletters - VW, NCDRA, Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, Wildlands Wellington News.

Finance

The bank balance in early February was \$1,140. 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.

Treasurer - TPG accepted with a vote of thanks Frances Lee's resignation as Treasurer and from the TPG committee. Peter Reimann, seconded by Howard Moore, moved that Anne Tuffin take over as TPG Treasurer – accepted.

Contribution for use of OHS Venue/facilities – It was agreed that TPG will pay OHS \$100/annum for the four TPG meetings held there each year. **Anne Tuffin**

Other

Groups in Park - Thanks to Khandallah/Northland Cubs, Raroa Intermediate, Treasury and Victoria University for their work in the Park in December. Conservation Volunteers are due on 20 February.

Sanctuary to Sea Meeting - This will be at Zealandia on 24 March at 5.30 PM to discuss achievements for 2019, plans for 2020 and the WCC district Plan.

Light Shields in Lower Kaiwharawhara (effect on biological cues for wildlife in the ecological corridor) - A local resident, Lucy Alcock, living above the lower Kaiwharawhara commercial area advises that ExxonMobil have now fixed their LED lights to align with the site boundaries, although there is still some 'spill' onto regenerating bush on the hillside. CourierPost says, "We are currently engaging a lighting engineer to see if there are any cost-effective ways of shielding the lights while still providing a safe environment for our staff to work in."

CourierPost

Wadestown Fair – 29 February. Peter Reimann will attend, with a small TPG display. **Peter Reimann**

Pollution in Kaiwharawhara Stream - An article in the Dominion Post about polluted Wellington streams included a photo of the Kaiwharawhara Estuary. It insinuated that the Kaiwharawhara Stream may be graded "E" which is an "unacceptable levels of risk" – the lowest possible grade. TPG has asked GW for an update on monitoring results for the Kaiwharawhara Stream from GW's Pat Van Berkel. **Pat Van Berkel.**

Howard Moore will draft a letter for WCC concerning his experience with new fibre-optic cabling breaking into a sewer line, causing leakage. In view of recent extensive fibre-optic installations in Wellington, this leakage could be occurring elsewhere. **Howard Moore**

Turnbull Library Archives – The TPG website contains much historical information. Peter Reimann will check that this is 'swept' periodically by the library. **Peter Reimann**

Hi-vis Vests – Barry Durrant will check availability for volunteers e.g. during pest control or weed-eating.

Barry Durrant

The meeting closed at 10.45 AM.

The next meeting is to be at **9:30 a.m. Tuesday 19 May 2020** at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road.