

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 129th meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 30 October 2007

Members present

Peter Reimann (chair)
Malcolm McDonald (secretary)
Olaf John

Frances Lee
Stan Pillar

Dorothy Douglass
Barry Durrant

In attendance

Kate McKenzie, GW

Apology

Carolyn Theiler

Minutes

The minutes of the 128th meeting, held on 18 September 2007, were confirmed, subject to the correction of “Darryl Key” to “Darryl Kee” and to reference to discussion – as below – of problems with mountain bikers in Trelissick Park and adjacent closed areas, in particular Otari-Wilton’s Bush and Tinakori Hill.

GW Items

Kate McKenzie’s is working out her notice at GW, her last day of work being 9 November 2007. Kate’s successor is yet to be appointed. The interim contact will be Paula Loader; otherwise emails can be addressed to caregroups@gw.govt.nz Members thanked Kate warmly for the enthusiastic support she has provided the group, wearing several hats, in recent years.

Kate said that a date has yet to be set by GW for Water Watch training, but will probably be in January or February 2008.

Kate mentioned that she had participated in a recent stream fish life survey of part of the Kaiwharawhara Stream and two tributaries. Little target life was detected in the Kaiwharawhara Stream immediately upstream of the picnic area. The Albermarle Stream gave more pleasing indications, as did the tributary streamlet emerging at the picnic area.

Malcolm McDonald has spoken to Murray McLea of GW, who is making enquiries relating to two rock weirs installed early in October in the Korimako Stream downstream of Wightwick’s Field. One collapsed during recent flooding, in a manner directing the flow at the true left bank just above the two gabions installed in mid year to protect the track alongside the stream. The other was entirely removed by the flooding.

A standing invitation has been issued to Nic Conland of GW to attend a meeting of the group to advise the group on matters relating to GW’s monitoring of stream water quality and of resource consents where runoff from property development is potentially problematic.

Project Kaiwharawhara

Kate Mackenzie indicated that GW has recently received for comment a draft of the report being developed by Amber Bill of WCC after a stock take of the achievements to date. Kate thinks it likely that the next Project Kaiwharawhara meeting will be held early in 2008.

WCC Grant

The group is to report to WCC before 30 November 2007 on expenditure associated with grants of \$2,250 for the recently-published brochure on Trelissick Park and of \$250 for administration expenses. A request for a further grant of \$250 for administration expenses will be lodged for next year.

Weed Control Plan

Spraying of tradescantia has commenced, at the lower end of the park.

Ngaio Gorge Road Work

The strengthening work, intended to have been completed by mid-October, is ongoing.

Railway Land/Otari to Trelissick Park Link Track

There has been no progress.

Kilmarston evidence

The group lodged its brief of evidence with the Environment Court on 27 September 2007. One of the appellants, Reinhard Pauls, has withdrawn his appeal. It is uncertain whether the Ngaio Progressive Association will sustain its appeal. The third appellants are Frank and Noeline McGuire.

Bowen Hospital Development

Spencer Holmes, acting for the owners of Bowen Hospital (Wakefield Health), has provided the group with indicative plans for development of Bowen Hospital. The group wrote to Spencer Holmes on 2 October 2007, commenting on erosion and sediment control, storm-water runoff, and the unfortunate loss to building of a particularly attractive area at the northern end of the site. Malcolm McDonald is to represent the group at a presentation for neighbours of Bowen Hospital, in the evening of 30 October 2007.

97 Waikowhai Street

Indications from preliminary enquiries to WCC on behalf of the owner are that land at 97 Waikowhai Street, adjacent to the park, is to be subject to an application for resource consent for subdivision and construction of a dwelling. There have been problems in recent years with subdivision/housing construction on Waikowhai Street on behalf of the same owner.

It was agreed that the group should, in light of the history, sustain a close interest. In the first instance, Malcolm McDonald will contact the resource consents team in WCC to establish whether a resource consent has been sought, and to press for at least limited notification (including to the group) of the application. [Since the meeting contact has been made with WCC. A resource consent application for a 2 lot fee simple subdivision was lodged a week or so ago. Material related to the application is to be provided to the group. A decision on the notification of the application will not be taken until a WCC planner has visited and inspected the site.]

District Plan Change 61

A submission by the group to WCC on the proposed rezoning of land off Huntleigh Park Way, Heke Street, and Thatcher Crescent from Rural to Residential (Outer) is at an advanced stage of preparation. The group is to seek that the Council purchases land not proximate to existing dwellings to protect all the native bush in perpetuity. As a fallback position, the group seeks that construction of new residential housing be confined to one indicative site, on 11A Heke Street (preserving the status quo as to entitlements from the current zoning). Further, the group seeks that there be specified maxima applying to the area of the building site, the width of vegetation clearance for access roading, the height of the housing constructed, etc; the group is concerned to reduce the discretion of Council officers.

Other Submissions

Biodiversity Action Plan

The group had mixed success with its proposals for changes to the WCC's draft Biosecurity Action Plan.

Managing Infill Housing Development

The WCC District Plan Hearings Committee has heard submissions on proposed District Plan Change 56: Managing Infill Housing Development. The group did not seek to present an oral submission.

Code of Practice for Land Development

Peter Reimann has been invited to provide Nicci Wood of WCC with comments on the draft code.

Correspondence

Inwards

24 September WCC – advice of additional session for submissions on District Plan Changes 45 and 46.
25 September Spencer Holmes – amended development plans by Opus Architecture, Bowen Hospital.
27 September Morrison Kent – advice of withdrawal of Reinhard Pauls' Kilmarnston Developments appeal.
27 September WCC – responses to issues raised in the TPG submission on the Draft Biosecurity Action Plan
27 September WCC – copy of final Otari-Wilton's Bush Management Plan.
28 September Morrison Kent – advice as to the status of the Ngaio Progressive Association's Kilmarnston appeal.
28 September WCC – advice that WCC can't reimburse TPG for GST on brochure.
1 October WCC – invitation from Nicci Wood to comment on draft Code of Practice for Land Development
3 October Spencer Holmes – acknowledgement of TPG comments on Bowen Hospital developments.
9 October WCC – advice from Community Biodiversity Coordinator, Myfanwy Emeny, of her new role within Parks and Gardens
?? October WCC – copy of *Annual Report Wellington City Council 2006/07*
?? October WCC – copy of *Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve Management Plan, August 2007*
?? October Volunteer Wellington – invitation to a breakfast forum, 8 am Thursday 1 November.
11 October Forest & Bird – advice of decisions taken in response to District Plan Change 61.
15 October WCC – queries from Steven Peters about wording for working bee sign.
25 October Bowen Hospital – invitation to presentation to adjoining neighbours
26 October Warwick Greenwood, Ron Greenwood Environmental Trust – thanks for letter of condolence.

Outwards

24 September WCC Grants – enquiry relating to the treatment of GST with funding for brochure.
27 September Environment Court, and parties – brief of evidence relating to Kilmarnston Developments appeals.
2 October WCC – interim reply to invitation to comment on draft Code of Practice for Land Development
3 October Spenser Holmes – acknowledgement of preliminary information as to Bowen Hospital developments.
12 October WCC – thanks to Myfanwy Emeny for advice of her new role, and request for electronic copy
14 October WCC – gratitude for newly-erected mapboards and interpretative boards, special thanks to Dave Halliday.
19 October WCC – reply to queries from Steven Peters about wording for working bee sign
24 October Volunteer Wellington – reply to invitation to a breakfast forum, 8 am Thursday 1 November.

Finance

After the payment of printing costs associated with the brochure, funds stand at \$1,126 including \$735 from St Luke's Church, Wadestown, for a special project. Take Care funding available to the group from GW, for purchases of plants and for seed raising in 2007/08, is slightly less than \$4,000.

In response to our inquiry, WCC advised that the group must bear the GST associated with the production costs of the brochure.

The Ngaio Progressive Association, at its recent annual meeting, approved a donation to the group of \$300. Malcolm McDonald will write thanking NPA for its generosity.

Peter Reimann suggested that the special project with the St Luke's funding be the eradication of sycamores on the Wadestown side of the Kaiwharawhara Stream, on private land on the slopes on the true right down from the Hanover Street bridge. Possibly WCC might arrange the work, at the expense of the group. The Ngaio Progressive Association donation might be combined with the St Luke's funding, according to total costs. Barry Durrant offered to meet with Peter to survey the locations, accessibility, incidence and size of the sycamores, and to identify on whose land they are, for the purpose of obtaining permission. Peter might also take soundings of St Luke's as to the suitability of the project.

A possible alternative project, mentioned by Dorothy Douglass, was inplanting in the large area cleared of tradescantia at the top of the track down from Hanover Street. During discussion, several members expressed dismay at the erosion caused by discharges of stormwater from a large WCC pipe about 30 metres from the start of the track down from Hanover Street, and the extent of the risk to anyone who slipped from the track and fell into the deeply scoured area.

Other

Frances Lee drew attention to the advertisement for sale of 3.44 hectares "covered in mostly second growth native bush" in 3 titles at 19m Kabul Street and 42 and 56 Old Porirua Road. Tenders close on 31 October 2007. The land, precipitously steep, is highly visible from Highland Park and from Wadestown. It is erroneously thought by many to be part of the park. At one point WCC officers, in dealing with subdivision plans in Kabul Street, expressed the view that WCC should acquire the land for a reserve to buffer the Harbour Lights subdivision and the Kabul Street subdivision. It was agreed that Frances, on behalf of the group, would inform WCC officers of the sale and aspects of the history of the property. [Frances alerted Mike Oates, recently returned to the position of Manager, Natural and Botanic Areas, to the sale and expressed the wish that WCC consider purchase. The Highland Park Progressive Association is understood to intend to make a similar approach.].

Attention was drawn to the omission from the minutes of the last meeting, held on 18 September 2007, of a record that John Shrapnell, President of the Wadestown Residents Association (who attended in place of Barry Durrant, overseas) expressed the frustrations he and the WRA held about mountain biking in closed areas in the park, on Tinakori Hill, and in Otari-Wilton's Bush. Sentiments expressed today confirmed that all members present share John's frustrations, and deplore the lack of effort by WCC to enforce the relevant bylaws, or to derive alternative bylaws more amenable to enforcement.

Peter Reimann with Carolyn Theiler met Susan Weekes of the Ngaio Scouts, to survey an area in the park on the between the second and third bridges on the Koromiko where about 30 of the troop are to work on weed control once per school term.

Dorothy Douglass drew attention to advertising of a stage 3 release of sections at the Harbourside subdivision.

Next Meeting

9:30 a.m., Tuesday 11 December 2007, Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road

The meeting concluded at 11:40 a.m.

Next working bees:

Sunday 4 November	1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Ngaio Gorge Road
Tuesday 13 October	9.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.	Ngaio Gorge Road