

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 130th meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 11 December 2007

Members present

Peter Reimann (chair)
Malcolm McDonald (secretary)
Deidre Burke

Frances Lee
Stan Pillar

Carolyn Theiler
Barry Durrant

In attendance

Myfanwy Emeny, WCC Community Biodiversity Coordinator
Stu Bailey, WCC Parks Ranger

Robyn Smith, GW Take-Care Coordinator

Nic Conland, GW Team Leader Environmental Regulation

Apologies

Dorothy Douglass
Jo Coughlan, Wellington City Councillor

Andy Foster Wellington City Councillor

Minutes

The minutes of the 129th meeting, held on 30 October 2007, were confirmed, subject to the insertion on page 1 of the word “Troup” before the words “picnic area” and the words “from the Bledisloe Gorge” after the words “tributary streamlet emerging”.

WCC Items

Myfanwy Emeny, WCC Community Biodiversity Coordinator and Stu Bailey, WCC Parks Ranger, were welcomed to the meeting.

Stu Bailey reported that, as requested by Frances Lee, he had contacted Mike Oates, Manager Natural and Botanic Areas WCC, as to suggestions from Frances and from the Highland Park Progressive Association, that WCC examine purchasing undeveloped land for sale at 19m Kabul Street. Mike indicated to Stu that Mike would contact Frances when more information is available on progress.

Stu has followed up on the group’s concerns about large cut willow logs in the stream at the Hanover Street Bridge. Stu has asked the tree team to remove the logs and to place them away from plantings in the area nearby.

The group has responded to Steven Peters, Senior Park Ranger WCC, commenting on the design of a notice board to direct volunteers attending working bees from the relevant park entrance to the site where the work is being undertaken.

The group has asked Dave Halliday, Parks and Reserves WCC, to proceed with signs for either end of a route through the park crossing private land to ask users to keep to the route and for identifying the side route to the fish passage at the convergence of the Kaiwharawhara and Korimako Streams.

Peter Reimann will liaise with Stu Bailey to print the annual brochure listing the dates and locations of the group’s working bees in 2008.

Stu was thanked for arranging for the bulk delivery of mulch to the park entrance at Trelissick Crescent west on 10 December.

Stu is the person to be contacted to arrange pickups from park entrances by WCC of rubbish collected in the park by volunteers and adopt-a-spottees. From Stu's perspective it is preferable that rubbish be separated into three categories: organic, recyclable and other.

Members conveyed to Stu ongoing concern at the erosion caused by discharges of storm water 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.

GW Items

Robyn Smith, GW Take Care Coordinator, and Nic Conland, GW Team Leader Environmental Regulation, were welcomed.

Robyn asked whether members present could recall the location within the park at which GW used to measure the rate of redevelopment of the native bush. Members had no knowledge, and suggested Rosie Doole, now with Hutt City Council, might be a source of assistance.

Nic Conland apologised for GW's failure to date to reply to a letter from the group dated 22 March 2007 requesting details of pollution complaints.

Nic briefed the meeting on a range of matters with which his team is involved, and canvassed a range of initiatives underway within GW which have relevance to the group. His themes were that the group should not underestimate its capacity to influence council decision making in policy matters or the worth of contributions to everyday protection of the local environment through notifying GW or WCC of local observations of untoward events. For example, at storm water entry to the stream, an upstream/downstream change in algae on rocks may indicate sewage ingress.

Nic distributed copies of GW publications *Save the drain for rain* and *Watercourses and you*. He also passed around copies of the *Regional Policy Review Newsletter No 2: June 2007*, and commended the group to take an active part in the development of the Regional Policy Statement.

Nic touched upon the means by which groups such as our own can enhance the effectiveness of their efforts to influence resource consent decisions, such as signifying "opposition", rather than "agreeing subject to comments", to ensure the submission does not drop out of the process. Speaking to the submission is also important.

Malcolm McDonald is to provide Nic with details of the resource consent relating to the extraction of gravel by WCC from the Kaiwharawhara Stream.

Robyn Smith referred to opportunities for contacts between GW councillors and staff and the group. New councillors look to visit the likes of Trelissick Park during familiarisation processes (being undertaken in January 2008). Kirsten Forsyth of GW has suggested "reverse workshops" whereby councillors/staff from GW and WCC spend half a day in the field getting hands dirty alongside volunteer groups.

Members mentioned there are strong smells consistent with the leakage of sewage immediately downstream of the Hanover Street bridge.

Robyn provided an updated Take Care Budget 2007-2008 spreadsheet. The current balance stands at \$3,544.50, with \$5,000 and \$1,000 for subsequent years.

Robyn will contact Peter Reimann to arrange a visit to park areas she has not already seen.

Project Kaiwharawhara

Myfanwy Emeny said that Amber Bill, Planner Ecology and Biodiversity WCC, is expected before Christmas to distribute the minutes for the Project Kaiwharawhara meeting held on 27 November 2007, and a revised draft Project Kaiwharawhara review document, reflecting feedback received. The next

meeting would be next year. Myfanwy said it was possible she would prepare papers relating to an action plan, and was encouraged by Frances Lee to draw heavily on *Wet and Wild*.

Frances suggested the crush of people in attendance on 27 November inhibited some people from speaking. Discussion turned to restricting the number of representatives of each group. Myfanwy invited an indication of what number the Trelissick Park Group thought appropriate to represent it. However, Peter Reimann observed that Project Kaiwharawhara had as one purpose the exchange of information and networking between kindred groups, so there was something to be said for large numbers. It was concluded that numbers invited depended on the purpose of the particular meeting. There was benefit in sometimes splitting off into sub-groups.

Weed Control Plan

Group members expressed disappointment at the extent of the collateral damage to native plants from the spraying of tradescantia by contractors to GW. Between the detritus trap on the Kaiwharawhara Stream and the point just upstream of the Donald memorial rata where spraying stopped, every kowhai is lost, and most of the other native plants are obviously distressed with uncertain survival prospects.

Robyn Smith said a by-kill of native plants was inevitable from the initial sprayings of deep infestations of tradescantia. GW has committed substantial funding to tradescantia eradication, which cannot be accomplished by half measures. The need for some replanting after tradescantia eradication by spraying should not surprise. The initial spraying would be followed next autumn, by a follow-up smaller-scale “environmental” spray to remove residual infestations and to get in closer to plants, with care. The timing would depend on the weather, as the tradescantia needs to be still growing for an effective kill.

Discussion touched upon the merit of hand removal of tradescantia versus spraying, and the possible impacts of the high by-kill rate from spraying on the future direction and emphases of volunteer working bees and adopt-a-spotee planting activities. Robyn stated that all tradescantia physically removed should be carried away for collection/transport to a greenfill. Regrowth occurs from the edges of tradescantia heaps under black plastic.

One suggestion was to weed-eat the upper portion of thick infestations to limit the amount of spray needed and achieve a more effective kill.

Railway Land/Otari to Trelissick Park Link Track

Representatives of the Wellington City Council, the Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust, and the group have examined on the ground possible crossing points of the Johnsonville rail line for the section of the Sanctuary to Sea Walkway between Otari and Trelissick Park. A preferred point of crossing has been identified. A meeting with OnTrack to canvass the selection is being sought for late January 2008 by Malcolm McDonald.

Kilmarston

The Environment Court has called for the parties to provide updated information by 31 January 2008.

Submissions to WCC

District Plan Change 56 – Infill Housing Development

The group and other submitters have received advice of decisions made by WCC.

District Plan Change 61 (Rezoning of land off Huntleigh Park Way, Heke Street, Thatcher Way)

The group’s submission was tendered on 1 November 2007.

97 Waikowhai Street

The group's concerns as to the proposed subdivision were sent to WCC on 15 November 2007.

Bowen Hospital Redevelopment

The group emailed its concern as to the proposed increase in storm water discharge capacity to 340% of the present capacity, and sought the limited notified consent process be followed.

Correspondence

Inwards

1 November	WCC – 97 Waikowhai Street, resource consent application for 2 lot subdivision.
5 November	Bowen Hospital – invitation to complete consent form for Bowen development.
5 November	WCC Planner, Ecology and Biodiversity –draft “Review of Project Kaiwharawhara”.
23 November	Emma Williams – alert to Trelissick Park being reviewed in the Wellington Schmap Guide.
28 November	WCC – decisions on District Plan Change 56, Infill Development.
28 November	WCC David Halliday – invitation to meeting to discuss crossing OnTrack lines.
3 December	Environment Court – Kilmarston Developments, file another status report by 31 January 2008.
3 December	GW Robyn Smith – advice that Robyn is new Take-Care Coordinator, ex Kate Mackenzie.
5 December	WCC Steven Peters – request for clearance for Trelissick Park whiteboard signage.
6 December	WCC Grants (Barbara Franklin) – additional information required with grant application.
8 December	Lionel Nunns, Ngaio Union Church – invitation to guide Ngaio Union and Wadestown Presbyterian Church members through the park on 24 February 2008
10 December	WCC Steven Peters – acknowledgement of comments on whiteboard signage

Outwards

1 November	Ngaio Progressive Association – thanks for grant of \$300.
15 November	WCC Building Consents and Licensing Services - Submission on proposal to subdivide 97 Waikowhai Street.
15 November	WCC Grants Co-ordinator – report back on grant for production of brochure and towards administration expenses 2007.
15 November	WCC Grants Co-ordinator – advice that administration grant is sought for 2008.
22 November	WCC Planner, Ecology and Biodiversity – comments on draft “Review of Project Kaiwharawhara”.
28 November	WCC Grants Co-ordinator – application for administration grant for 2008.
28 November	Neighbours of Trelissick Park, Hanover Street – confirming advice of planned sycamore poisoning.
30 November	WCC David Halliday – invitation to meeting to discuss crossing OnTrack lines
2 December	WCC Building Consents and Licensing Services – request for Bowen hospital development to be subject to limited notified consent process.
4 December	GW Robyn Smith – welcome to Robyn as new Take-Care Coordinator
6 December	Bowen Hospital – acknowledgement of letter of 5 November, advice of concern as to proposed storm water capacity.
8 December	WCC Steven Peters – clearance for Trelissick Park whiteboard signage.
11 December	WCC Stu Bailey – request for the removal of large cut willow logs from Kaiwharawhara Stream adjacent to Hanover Street bridge.
11 December	Lionel Nunns – agreement to the group guiding Ngaio Union and Wadestown Presbyterian Church members through the park on 24 February 2008

Finance

The meeting approved the payment of \$211.70 to Peter Reimann, as reimbursement for the purchase of Vigilant for sycamore eradication (one 240 gm brush-on container and one 1.8 kg pot, from PGG Wrightson in Porirua).

The current bank balance is \$1,425.57.

Donations

It appears that the recent donation of \$300 from the Ngaio Progressive Association will substantially meet the cost of sycamore eradication on private land below Hanover Street and throughout the park.

Earlier consideration of the use of money from the donation from St Luke's Church, Wadestown, towards sycamore eradication is now set aside. The group will now seek the agreement of St Luke's Church to use its donation for plantings below the park entrance from Hanover Street. Plantings last winter in the large area hand-cleared of tradescantia by students sponsored by Deidre Burke have taken well, but are sparse and need supplementation. Deidre will provide Peter Reimann with a proposed list of supplementary plants.

The Highland Park Progressive Association (HPPA) holds \$1,000 for the group, being the balance of funding from the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund grant for the Adopt-A-Spot project. HPPA are GST registered, so this can be recovered if the group works via HPPA. One possible use is for more brochures when existing supplies run low.

WCC Grants

The group has reported to WCC on expenditure associated with grants for 2007 of \$2,250 for the recently-published brochure on Trelissick Park and of \$250 for administration expenses. A request for a further grant in 2008 of \$250 towards administration expenses has been lodged.

Other

The group is grateful for the 3 x 240 gm Vigilant containers provided by Stu Bailey. These are being used for sycamore poisoning, along with the purchased Vigilant. On the private property slopes below Hanover Street, Stu Bailey and Peter Reimann have almost reached Deidre Burke's covenanted land. Deidre agreed to continuing with the poisoning on her land.

Peter Reimann is preparing an edition of the Gorge Gazette and would be grateful for any contributions.

Next Meeting

9:30 a.m., Tuesday 29 January 2008, Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road

The meeting concluded at 11:30 a.m.