

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 133rd meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 8 April 2008

Members present

Peter Reimann (chair)
Malcolm McDonald (secretary)
Carolyn Theiler

Dorothy Douglass
Frances Lee
Barry Durrant

Olaf John
Stan Pillar

In attendance

Steven Peters, WCC Senior Parks Ranger
Robyn Smith, GW Take-Care Coordinator

Paulo Fuiono, WCC Parks Ranger

Apologies

Andy Foster, Wellington City Councillor
Celia Wade-Brown, Wellington City Councillor

John Morrison, Wellington City Councillor

Minutes

The minutes of the 132nd meeting, held on 4 March 2008, were confirmed.

Frances Lee reported that she has spoken with Mike Oates, Manager Natural and Botanic Areas WCC, who is looking into matters relating to undeveloped land which was for sale at 19m Kabul Street.

WCC Items

Steven Peters introduced Paulo Fuiono to members. Paulo has been a “weekend Ranger” while working in Operations, and has become a Ranger full time with Stu Bailey’s temporary switch to a role elsewhere in Parks and Gardens. Members warmly welcomed Paulo.

Steven said that David Halliday, WCC Project Officer – Reserves and Walkways, is meeting with WCC officers from Capacity on Tuesday 15 April to look on site at the problem storm water discharge points below the Hanover Street entrance to the park. Representatives of the group are welcome to attend. Peter Reimann is likely to do so, and Barry Durrant will also if free.

Steven said that weed control work has been done recently on the banks of the Kaiwharawhara Stream where it runs between the Beaurepaires and Spotlight buildings east of the Hutt Road. Plantings are scheduled in the next month or two, involving 752 plants.

Steven referred to action taken by Councillor Celia Wade-Brown in response to the group contacting her about the distressed and rubbish-strewn state of the Kaiwharawhara estuary. Councillor Wade-Brown has received advice from Centreport that Centreport and Toll NZ are to proceed cooperatively to institute a waste management programme covering the Interislander ferry vehicle marshalling area, and in the interim a commercial cleaner was to tidy things up. Malcolm McDonald told the meeting he had visited the area recently, and nothing of substance appeared to have been done on site. Councillor Wade-Brown has made it clear to Greater Wellington and Centreport that rubbish is not the sole issue, and that undertakings relating to revegetation have not been honoured.

The meeting discussed the action taken by WCC and GW in response to information from the group as to rock dams put in the Korimako Stream by identified members of the public.

Steven presented to the group three signs to be used to direct group members engaged on working bees from park entrances to the actual work sites. The group’s gratitude was expressed.

Frances Lee drew attention to a track marking issue at the southern end of the grassed flat area downstream of the southernmost bridge over the Korimako Stream. People unfamiliar with the park who are heading east become confused at the point where a side track from the main pathway has been metalled. They tend to mistake the side track for the main path, blundering down the side track and coming abruptly to insecure footing right at the stream. Frances suggested a post be installed, on which arrows be placed signifying the main track. Steven Peters undertook to look into the matter.

The meeting discussed the quote obtained by Stu Bailey, WCC Parks Ranger, from an Auckland supplier of waterproof holders for brochures and pamphlets publicising the park and the group's working bees. The quoted price was \$48 + GST each. Steven Peters mentioned that Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves fashion their own waterproof holders. Peter Reimann will contact them to obtain details.

Steven will follow up on the further 200 copies of the group's adopt-a-spot and working bee programme for 2008, to be printed by WCC for the group.

Frances Lee has sought to discuss with Jonathan Bussell, WCC Manager Berhampore Nursery, two matters hanging over from the Ngaio Gorge Road strengthening work, nominally completed by Opus Consulting some weeks back. One is the (re)vegetation of the main working area below, the other the restoration of the roadside area where Opus stored equipment to grass (removal of shingle).

Steven Peters mentioned concern within Parks and Gardens that vines, such as supplejack and passionflower, have been cut in the area of the park adjacent to the "crossroads" [where 4 tracks meet about 100 metres up the northern walkway on the Ngaio side from the Hanover Street bridge]. Members had no knowledge of the person(s) responsible. There was supposition that the actions might be well-intentioned, by someone mistakenly thinking they were dealing with old mans beard. Malcolm McDonald said he had noticed vines have also been cut near the track which runs from near the Rod Donald memorial rata to upper Ngaio Gorge Road. Barry Durrant mentioned that miros he had planted and nurtured on the side of the track running from the upper Ngaio Gorge Road to the crossroads have recently been removed and unsatisfactorily replanted nearby. WCC is happy to provide plant identification assistance to the group, should this be judged worthwhile.

Members discussed a recent instance where mulch supplied by WCC for the use of the group was taken without authority for private use. The culprit was recognised by WCC from a photograph taken by a group member, and the loss was made good on the culprit's behalf.

Frances Lee has contacted Sam Lister of WCC requesting clearance of the detritus trap.

GW items

Robyn Smith, GW Take-Care Coordinator, said enquiries of Jonathan Bussell, WCC Manager Berhampore Nursery, indicated the nursery is unable to sell to the group all the plants wished to be purchased using GW Take-Care funding. Robin is meeting with Jonathan shortly. Some clarity as to what will be available is hoped for shortly after the plant orders from community groups from the free supply by WCC are collated by Myfanwy Emeny, WCC Community Biodiversity Coordinator, and compared against supply.

Peter Reimann said he had recently sent Jonathan a list of the heritage and other trees the group hoped to purchase from Berhampore nursery using donations received by the group.

Robin advocated that the group act now to assure the supply of seedlings for plantings in 2009. She commended the group to order plants now for 2009 and to take advantage of a member's accreditation to collect seed, to do so right away from within the park with a view to sending this to nurseries for propagation, or for home propagation. Using seed from the park eliminates concerns about eco-sourcing.

Frances Lee asked Steven Peters whether WCC had finished spraying for knotweed. Steven did not know. Several members spoke of the ongoing problem with old mans beard on OnTrack land above the Korimako Stream, and in the park. Steven suggested the group alert Julian Emeny, WCC Customer

Liaison Office Tree Team. It was observed by group members that instances of super-enthusiastic indiscriminate spraying of old mans beard by WCC staff made minor problems into a bigger ones.

Robin Smith advised the group that the GW Draft Pest Management Plan had been released for public consultation. Peter Reimann said he had a copy of the draft plan, but was yet to review it.

Peter told the meeting that he had contacted Glen Falconer of GW again about the refilling of possum bait stations in the park, and shortcomings in the distribution of the stations. GW has recently retaken the servicing of bait stations in house, and Peter has agreed with Glen Falconer that Peter will act for GW to refill stations in the park. Members felt there had been no possums in the park for two or more years, and that rats remained numerous. No-one present knew whether there was current monitoring in the park for possums, rats, stoats, etc. Peter Reimann will check with Glen Falconer. Barry Durrant said he had caught 3 rats recently in a trap he maintains privately near the Kaiwharawhara Stream.

Robin Smith is, on behalf of the group, to enquire of Nic Conland, GW Team Leader Environmental Regulation, whether WCC had responded to GW on the matter of WCC non-compliance with the resource consent for gravel extraction immediately upstream of the detritus trap on the Kaiwharawhara Stream.

Project Kaiwharawhara

Steven Peters said he understood that Myfanwy Emeny was expecting to circulate the minutes from the Project Kaiwharawhara meeting of 12 March 2008 in the next week or so.

Adopt-A-Spot

Peter Reimann, who has taken over the role of adopt-a-spot coordinator, said that ACC employees are considering adopting a spot and he has proposed this be an area on the Hanover Street side of the park, above the northern walkway in an area near the restoration track. ACC has yet to confirm.

Peter said that Volunteer Wellington continues to do good work referring volunteers. Most recently, a small group from Team Xtreme had put in willing work.

Frances Lee noted that an area below the fire break off Trelissick Crescent, planted last winter, has produced a crop of daisies which are about to flower and should be removed.

Steven Peters and Paulo Fuiono brought to the meeting a roll of black rubbish bags in response to an enquiry from the group as to whether pre-used strong bags were available for transporting bark and rubbish and weeds within the park. Steven suggested that accumulations of rubbish in bags might be stored, pending collection by Operations, in wooolsacks provided for the purpose by WCC to other community groups. Members sought that Steven supply 3 wooolsacks to the group for this purpose. Steven will inquire whether used 40 litre or so strong plastic bags are available at the WCC landfill or elsewhere for reuse by community groups like ours (i.e. when Operations collects reusable bags filled with rubbish and weeds by the group, are the bags emptied and put aside to be used again?).

Weed Control Plan

Robin advised that the areas in the park sprayed for tradescantia in spring 2007 are to have follow-up spraying by 30 April 2008, and will be safe for planting this winter.

Plant order winter 2008

Peter Reimann has received responses from group members nominating appropriate plants to be ordered from the WCC allocation of 500 plants for 2008.

Peter has prepared a spreadsheet which reflects the number of plants available for planting and the indications from spotees and group members of the number and composition of plants required for plantings this winter in relation to all areas needing planting or in-fill. About 2,300 plants should be available from WCC, from Take-Care funding, from St Luke's church funding, and from a seedling by-catch nursed along by Peter. The aim is to obtain a "best fit" of availability and requirements. The spreadsheet does not take account of plants grown in home nurseries by members who will plant them in the park themselves.

Railway Land/Otari to Trelissick Park Link Track

Councillor Andy Foster, WCC, has arranged a meeting with OnTrack on 14 April 2008. Malcolm McDonald will represent the group at the meeting.

Kilmarston

The Environment Court has set a revised timetable, since changed in one particular, for parties to provide updated information.

Submissions to WCC

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

Further submissions responding to a summary of the 119 original submissions closed on 31 March 2008. The group has received a copy of just one supplementary submission, made by David Chester and Suzanne Kubala, residents at 11A Huntleigh Park Way.

District Plan Change 63 (Minor amendments to District Plan maps and text)

The group has made a submission supporting the element of DPC 63 involving the rezoning of 99 and 101 Waikowhai Street from outer residential to conservation reserve.

Bowen Hospital Redevelopment

The group has had no response from WCC to concern expressed at the proposed increase in the rate of discharge of storm water.

Donations from St Luke's Church, and other assistance in the park from St Luke's

It was agreed that the second donation of \$397 from St Luke's Church, Wadestown, should be used for the purchase of heritage trees for distribution through the park. In anticipation of this agreement, an enquiry has been made with Berhampore nursery for supply of these. Malcolm McDonald is to write to St Luke's, informing them of this intended use of the donation.

The group is still to meet on site with representatives of St Luke's to look at the area below Hanover Street which is to be planted with plants purchased from the earlier donation of \$735 from St Luke's.

Correspondence

Inwards

2 March	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – material for article for "Branch Out" on Martin Hunt
4 March	Morrison Kent – status report on Kilmarston Developments [to Peter 26/03]
4 March	Cardno TCB - response to comments from group on proposal for change of storm water detention system at Downing Street subdivision (Ridvan Garden Developments Ltd).
6 March	Environment Court – evidence exchange dates, Kilmarston Developments.
6 March	WCC – notice of decision, District Plan Changes 45 and 46 and Variation 2.
6 March	WCC – agenda for Project Kaiwharawhara meeting, 12 March 2008.
7 March	WCC, Stu Bailey – supply/price of waterproof brochure holders.
11 March	WCC – heritage trees and plaque for Martin Hunt.
15 March	Charmaine Meyers – request for advice of timing of group meeting, and for agenda.

17 March	Charmaine Meyers – request for information on group activities.
25 March	WCC, Paolo Fuiono – removal of bark mulch from Trelissick Crescent entrance to park.
25 March	DOC – invitations to attend Restoration Day 2008, Saturday 3 May.
26 March	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – notification of Where There's Water Community Environmental Grants
27 March	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – advice of action taken relating to rock dams across Korimako Stream.
30 March	Highland Park Progressive Association – advice that HPPA holds \$1,061.61 + GST for the group.
1 April	Environment Court – amended due date for s274 parties to exchange evidence, Kilmarston Developments
2 April	Hazelton Law – copy of further submission on District Plan Change 63 from David Chester and Suzanne Kubala.
3 April	WCC, Councillor Andy Foster – invitation to participate in meeting with OnTrack on 14 April.
3 April	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – advice that Berhampore nursery has limited plants for sale at \$4:50 each.
4 April	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – cutting of supplejack and passionflower vines in area of park.
4 April	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – copy of printed version of Biodiversity Action Plan.

Outwards

4 March	United World Colleges in NZ – thanks for volunteer work carried out on 1 March.
6 March	Councillor Wade-Brown, WCC – state of the Kaiwharawhara Estuary.
6 March	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – report on erosion damage and potential damage at 2 sites on walkway below Hanover Street.
11 March	WCC – heritage trees and plaque for Martin Hunt.
11 March	Marc Slade (F&B); Andrew Hunt – heritage trees and plaque for Martin Hunt.
11 March	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny - Vision and Recommendations for Project Kaiwharawhara.
15 March	Charmaine Meyers – advice of timing of next group meeting, and promise of agenda.
17 March	ACC, Jim Robertson – advice on adopting a spot and voluntary work in the park.
18 March	GW, Robyn Smith, Murray McLea – rock dams across Korimako Stream.
18 March	Charmaine Meyers – information relating to group working bees and adopting a spot
18 March	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – request for details of programme for Restoration Day 2008.
20 March	GW; WCC – photo of dam constructed across Korimako Stream.
24 March	WCC – removal of bark mulch from Trelissick Crescent entrance to park.
24 March	WCC; GW – identification of couple building rock dams across Korimako Stream.
24 March	Cardno TCB further comments from group on proposal for change of storm water detention system at Downing Street subdivision (Ridvan Garden Developments Ltd).
27 March	Team Xtreme – thanks for volunteer work carried out on 26 March.
30 March	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – plant order form for winter 2008.
2 April	WCC – submission on District Plan Change 63, supporting 99 and 101 Waikowhai Street being rezoned from Residential to Conservation Site.
2 April	ACC, Jim Robertson – arrangements for volunteers to work in the park.
2 April	Highland Park Progressive Association – thanks for advice that HPPA holds \$1,061.61 + GST for the group.
2 April	WCC, Sam Lister – notification of build up in detritus trap.
3 April	WCC, Councillor Celia Wade-Brown – thanks for help getting action on rubbish at Kaiwharawhara estuary.
3 April	WCC, Councillor Andy Foster – invitation to participate in meeting with OnTrack on 14 April.
4 April	WCC, Myfanwy Emeny – cutting of supplejack and passionflower vines in area of park.
6 April	WCC, Jonathan Bussell – plant order for heritage trees from Berhampore nursery, using donated funds.

Peter Reimann advised the meeting of details of the correspondence with Cardno TCB relating to the proposal of the developer to change the terms of the resort consent relating to storm water detention at the Downing Street subdivision (Ridvan Garden Developments Ltd).

Finance

The bank balance is \$1,596.89. This sum includes the two donations totalling \$1,132 from St Luke's Church, Wadestown.

The Highland Park Progressive Association (HPPA) holds \$1,061.61 for the group. Discussion of the purpose to which this sum should be put led to it being earmarked towards the reprinting of the group's brochure on the park, subject to any more vital claim not arising in the meantime. Demand for the brochure has been high, with more than half of the print run of 2,000 copies having been consumed in the 7 months since printing. High volume points of uplift include the WCC Information Centre in Civic Square, the DOC centre in Manners Street, and the Wadestown and Cummings Park libraries. Barry Durrant will alert Fitzbeck, printers of the brochure, that a further order may be forthcoming. It was agreed that the group should take up the offer of HPPA to process the order, as they can recover the gst.

Other

Barry Durrant asked whether WCC could be asked to arrange for a no-biking symbol to be fixed to the bicycle barrier at the Hanover Street entrance to the park. Barry frequently advises mountain bikers that the park is closed to bikes, and points to the notice boards at the entrances. Bikers using the Hanover Street entrance claim not to have noticed the "no bikes" message on the notice board there. Placing a pictograph on the bike barrier facing the street would reduce to zero any doubt that cyclists proceeding from Hanover Street were doing so wilfully.

Several members let off steam about the frequency with which mountain bikers ignore WCC bylaws in Otari and in the park, damaging pathways and plantings and risking injury to families and others legitimately enjoying the areas. The complete lack of enforcement of the bylaws by WCC infuriates group members.

Peter Reimann said he had received no responses from spotees to his emailed invitation to them to indicate interest in taking up a place allocated to the group for participation at Restoration Day, 3 May 2008. Carolyn Theiler will liaise with several of the group's volunteers, known or expected to be keen, to finalise selections.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday 20 May 2008**, Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road.

The meeting concluded at 11:30 a.m.

Dates for working bees later in April and in May 2008, and general location details, are:

Tuesday 22 April	Waikowhai Street entrance
Sunday 4 May	Trelissick Crescent entrance
Tuesday 13 May	Trelissick Crescent entrance