

# Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 136th meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 26 August 2008

## Members present

Peter Reimann (chair)  
Malcolm McDonald (secretary)  
Stan Pillar

Frances Lee  
Carolyn Theiler

Dorothy Douglas  
Barry Durrant

## In attendance

Steven Peters, WCC Senior Park Ranger

Robyn Smith, GW Take-Care Coordinator

## Apologies

Andy Foster, Wellington City Councillor  
Marc Slade, WCC Community Biodiversity  
Coordinator

Stu Bailey, WCC Park Ranger

## Minutes

The minutes of the 135<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 1 July 2008, were confirmed.

## WCC Items

The group noted with pleasure that Stu Bailey, WCC Park Ranger: participated in the working bee on Tuesday 12 August; has supplied a third printing of 200 copies of the working bee brochure; has provided woolsacks for storage of weeds and general rubbish pending collections by WCC; promptly alerted the group on 15 August, when the shelter at the Kaiwharawhara Road entrance to the park was damaged by a crashed car; facilitated the removal to two lots of graffiti in the lower park; and has arranged for a further supply of bark mulch..

Dave Halliday, WCC Walkways and Reserves Project Officer, has sought the group's views on his wish that WCC "close" the bridge opposite Wightwick's Field. Closure would entail a sign being installed, and a chain with padlock slung across the bridge. The group would be able to unlock the chain if the group or an affected adopt-a-spottee wanted access across the bridge for planting or other purposes. The group agreed that Dave be advised the group is content for the bridge to be "closed".

WCC contractors N & R Askew refurbished sections of the northern walkway track between 11 and 20 August. Work from Trelissick Crescent towards Hanover Street mainly entailed channelling to divert rainwater from the track. Work from Trelissick Crescent towards Wightwick's Field was varied, and included realigning and metalling the previously-treacherous slope near the mapboard at the top of the firebreak, sandbagging around the eroded stormwater pipe under the walkway, and remedial strengthening of steps damaged by the movement of mowers up and down to Wightwick's Field. The group was pleased that Dave Halliday listened to group members' views as to the priorities for work on the walkway locally, within restricted funding.

Peter Reimann has provided Steven Peters with a map of the park showing the locations of plantings by the group between 1991 and mid 2008. Steven asked whether the group can provide supplementary information, such as numbers of plants put in at each location.

Steven will seek information for the group on the expected timing of the installation of a new sewer line between Waikowhai Street and Korimako Bridge "1" in the park, and the expected timing of the next episode of strengthening work on the Ngaio Gorge Road.

Training in mustelid trapping for the 5 volunteers from the group willing to clear and reset traps is yet to be arranged by WCC.

The group awaits information on what work is to be done – and when – by WCC to reinstate the gulch caused by storm water discharging into the park near the Hanover Street entrance, and to prevent repeats by extending the piping and diffusing peak flows.

Frances Lee noted that demolition materials protecting the true left bank of the Kaiwharawhara Stream, upstream from the detritus trap, seem to be failing.

Steven Peters will attempt to get the group an answer as to whether Capacity consulted Parks and Gardens before writing to GW on 10 January 2008 saying Capacity would be seeking to amend condition 13 to the gravel-extraction consent.

Steven will follow up on arrangements to be made for the spraying of vegetation on or near the dry stone wall in the lower park.

Steven noted, for examination, the matter of the depth of steps on the northern walkway below Hanover and Waikowhai Streets. With erosion on the lower side of a number of step risers, the distance to be stepped up or down might be inappropriate for older and younger users of the walkway.

The mapboard at the Ngaio Gorge Road entrance was removed for maintenance by WCC contractors Sign and Display.

Robyn Smith noted that vehicles park across the Kaiwharawhara Road entranceway to the park, between the road and the entrance barrier, frustrating legitimate vehicle access to the service road. She suggested that yellow hatched “No Parking” markings be applied to distinguish valid parking areas from the thoroughfare for service vehicles.

Frances Lee is working on a submission to WCC pressing for serious action, consistent with the Biosecurity Action Plan, to protect streams from the consequences of inexorable growth in hard surfaces and consequent increases in peak volume stormwater discharges.

## **GW items**

Robyn Smith spoke about the *GW Community Environmental Projects Newsletter July 2008*, the first of what is intended to be a series of newsletters to inform Take Care groups of activities and events of interest. Copies were distributed at the meeting.

Robyn arranged for GW planner Brian Coffey to contact the group about Ontrack’s application for consents for two temporary access bridges over the Kaiwharawhara Stream for machinery associated with upgrading of the Johnsonville line. Frances Lee met Brian on site on 4 August. GW is responsible for approvals relating to earthworks and pollution control, and WCC sets the terms under which vehicles and equipment will move through the park, and items such as the reinstatement of damage (including to existing plantings). The councils will supply the group with copies of the approvals when available. The line is expected to be closed for 6 weeks from December 2008.

A group (comprising Robyn, Megan Banks GW Biosecurity Officer (Plants), Justin McCarty WCC Pest Plant Manager, Stu Peters WCC Park Ranger, and Peter Reimann, Carolyn Theiler and Malcolm McDonald), on 21 July viewed the area of blackberry on Ontrack land south of Korimako Bridge “5” which the group aspires to plant, after spraying, in winter 2009. Subsequently, GW arrived at a tentative deal with a spraying contractor, Wayne Hawkins, whereby he will clear blackberry from all the Ontrack land identified during the site inspection. Wayne has the necessary warrants to work off Ontrack land. The aim is that Wayne will cut the blackberry in Nov, spray Dec/Jan and then respray in May in time for planting next winter. It is expected that the three items will cost \$1,800, \$450, and \$300 - \$350 respectively, or \$2,550 - \$2,600. This sum was considered to be satisfactory, as a charge against Take-Care funding of \$5,000 held by GW for the group for 2008-09, and Robyn is proceeding to formalise

arrangements. It is envisaged that WCC and Ontrack will agree to the land concerned being added to the existing areas covered under their current license to occupy.

Robyn indicated that an announcement is expected within a month about the creation of a community conservation fund, involving contestable funding available as grants to established community restoration groups. Robyn suggested that the criteria for projects to be approved might readily be met by the group and that we should be active when scheme is announced and details become available.

Robyn said that GW has sent local seed to a Taupo nursery for propagation. The strike rate has been unexpectedly high, leading to the opportunity for groups to purchase surplus stock in root trainers at advantageous prices. Peter Reimann will email Robyn with an estimate of the plants needed for planting the blackberry area to be sprayed on Ontrack land.

Robyn said that Otari has an excess of bush rice grass. Carolyn Theiler undertook to contact Rewi Elliot and offer to uplift the surplus for planting in the park. Carolyn will offer Rewi, at no cost, some of the nikau gifted to the group by the Manawa Karioi Society with the recent purchase of heritage trees. .

Conservation week is from 7 – 14 September. The group holds a working bee on Sunday 7 September (and another on Tuesday 16 September). GW's theme is to encourage the public to meet local restoration groups, and join or otherwise support them.

## **Adopt-A-Spot**

Peter Reimann reported that flaxes mistakenly planted in Wightwick's Field have been removed. The episode pointed to an omission in the spotee guidelines. The guidelines have been revised, accordingly, and Peter is likely to forward them to spotees in the next few days.

George Symes and Shaun Matthews have done great work at the Waikowhai Street end of the park.

## **Project Kaiwharawhara**

The group is unaware of any developments since the meeting on 12 March 2008.

## **Weed Control Plan**

The areas below Hanover Street sprayed for tradescantia in autumn should not be planted this year.

## **Plant orders for winters 2008 and 2009**

Since the last meeting, plants have been obtained, most satisfactorily, from several sources. Peter Reimann, Carolyn Theiler and Marilyn Hester collected self-sown seedlings from the property of a Wadestown resident. About 1,200 plants were purchased from the Manawa Karioi Society in Island Bay (about ½ in root trainers). These include black & white maire, fuschia perscandens, kahikatea, kaikomako, kanuka, kohekohe, kotukutuku, matai, mikoikoi, miro, nikau, pukatea, and tawa.

As agreed at the last meeting, an order has been placed for ferns (100 polystichum richardii and 100 asplenium oblongifolium) for planting in winter 2009.

The 10 volunteers from a Catholic youth group, expected on 8 July to plant in the gorse-cleared area below Trelissick Crescent, did not turn up. Members of the group did the planting on the day.

## **Railway Land/Otari to Trelissick Park Link Track**

A reconnaissance on-site took place on Thursday 3 July, involving Dave Halliday of WCC, Jonathan Kennett of Kennett Bros, Phil Parnell and Peter Buxton of Otari-Wilton's Bust Trust, the caretaker-groundsman from Bowen Hospital, and Peter Reimann and Malcolm McDonald. Subsequently, Dave Halliday advised that the cost of the anticipated tunnel is established to be so substantial as to cause

abandonment of short term intentions that it proceed. WCC is looking to see whether there are any less expensive possibilities. It was agreed that Frances Lee contact Councillor Andy Foster to explore whether other possibilities have been identified, and to canvass possible sources of supplementary funding for a tunnel.

## **Environment Court**

### ***Kilmarston Developments***

Counsel for the applicant has provided the Court with a series of statements on progress supposedly being made to resolve matters between Kilmarston Developments and WCC, and Kilmarston and the appellants.

### ***Subdivision Design Guide***

Mediation is scheduled for the week commencing 15 September on the Lincolnshire Farms Limited and Woodridge Estate Limited appeals against WCC in relation to District Plan Change 65. The group is to participate, as a section 274 party, in support of WCC.

## **Submissions to WCC**

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

Hearings on submissions were held in May.

### ***Bowen Hospital Redevelopment***

Submissions are to be heard on 10 and 12 September. .

### ***District Plan Change 65 – Earthworks Provisions***

The group made a submission supporting the plan change.

### ***Infill Housing: How and where will Wellington grow?***

The group made a submission, confined to matters relating to the Crofton Downs neighbourhood centre.

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

There has been no feedback from the St Luke's liaison person, Mike Ormsby, following his intended consultation with St Luke's members before a possible meeting on the site below the Hanover Street entrance.

Peter Reimann has planted dianella, tawa and rewarewa in the general area. Work close to and down from the stormwater discharge gulch is pointless until it is clear from WCC what is to be done to resolve the fundamental problem and to reinstate the area.

## **Permanent Names for Features in the Park**

Following discussion at the last meeting, WCC readily agreed to, and installed, numbers at each end of the 5 bridges in the park on the track along the Korimako Stream. Bridge "1" is below the Waikowhai Street entrance and "5" is the furthest downstream.

Stan Pillar has suggested names for several tracks and features within the park, and improvements to the numbering of park entrances as on the group's brochure and the WCC mapboards. Malcolm McDonald will provide copies to members to assist further discussion at the next meeting.

## Correspondence

### Inwards

- 2 July Environment Court – advice that the Kilmarnston Developments hearing scheduled for 7 July has been vacated, and that the parties are to file a signed consent memorandum and draft consent order by 18 July.
- 4 July WCC, Helen Lingard – advice that the hearing on Bowen Hospital is suspended
- 25 July Rebecca Davies, Morrison Kent – memorandum of counsel in relation to the status of the Kilmarnston Developments appeal to the Environment Court.
- 29 July WCC, Dave Halliday – invitation to comment on proposal to close bridge at Wightwick’s Field.
- 29 July GW, Robyn Smith – cost for spraying of blackberry on Ontrack land south on Korimako bridge 5.
- 5 August WCC, Helen Lingard - advice that the hearing of submissions on the redevelopment of Bowen Hospital is delayed.
- 8 August Rebecca Davies, Morrison Kent via NPA – memorandum of counsel in relation to the status of the Kilmarnston Developments appeal to the Environment Court.
- 11 August WCC, Megan Banks – identification of weed invading roadside on Trelissick Crescent, as *petasites fragrans* (winter heliotrope).
- 13 August DOC – deadline for nominations for conservation awards is extended to 5 September.
- 15 August WCC, Stu Bailey - damage to two rail fence, shelter and gate at Ngaio Gorge Road r entrance to Trelissick park
- 20 August WCC, Helen Lingard – advice that the hearing of submissions on the redevelopment of Bowen Hospital will take place on 10 and 12 September
- 22 August WCC, Helen Lingard – further information provided by Bowen Hospital, ahead of hearings on 10 and 12 September.

### Outwards

- 5 July WCC, Helen Lingard – acknowledgement of receipt of advice that hearing on Bowen Hospital is suspended
- 12 July WCC – submission on Infill Housing Review, *How and where will Wellington grow?*
- 18 July WCC, Steven Peters – map annotated with the locations of plantings by the group from 1991 to mid-2008.
- 24 July Trelissick Park Neighbours – request for vigilance as to disposal of garden waste and weeds.
- 29 July GW, Robyn Smith – spraying of blackberry on Ontrack land south on Korimako bridge 5.
- 22 August WCC, City Planning – submission in support of proposed District Plan Change 65, Earthworks.

## Brochures

Barry Durrant said the reprint run of 2,000 brochures is expected to be available from Fitzbeck Creative in the next few days.

## Finance

The bank balance following payment of \$1,012 to Manawa Karioi Society for plants is \$767.29. The balance will meet the cost of the purchase of Vigilant approved last meeting and the top up to the funds held for the group by HPPA needed to pay Fitzbeck Creative for the brochures.

A personal donation of \$50 has been received from Bronwyn Shrapnell, of Wadestown. In her message of thanks to the group for the work it is doing, Bronwyn recalls efforts of 40 years ago to save the gorge as a nature reserve in the face of WCC proposing a rubbish tip.

## Other

Members and recipients of these minutes are asked to note the new email address for Frances Lee, and to pass it to colleagues where pertinent: [flee24@clear.net.nz](mailto:flee24@clear.net.nz)

Stan Pillar noted that the NPA seat on the grassy flat adjacent to the original Tararua Tramping Club site is unfortunately placed, being shaded in winter by its proximity to a tree. Members will resolve the problem.

Carolyn Theiler noted that foliage has been cut along the track which runs towards Trelissick Crescent from near Korimako bridge “4”. She feels this action was not necessary, and asked that her view be minuted.

Frances Lee drew to attention WCC’s current consultation on 3 draft policies. Most pertinent to the group is the draft Track Recreation Activities Policy. Trelissick Park is listed in Schedule A as an open space area closed to mountain biking. In this respect there is no change. It was agreed that continuation of this status should not be taken for granted. Frances’ offer to put together material for a submission was accepted. Members are encouraged to make and promote the making of submissions in favour of the status quo, to counter the welter of pro forma submissions likely to be generated by activist mountain biking individuals. Tending to be young and well-networked electronically, activist mountain bikers readily achieve superficially-impressive numbers of submissions. These lead to statistics capable of being passed off as evidence of overwhelming community support for their interests, such as opening currently-closed areas to mountain biking. Submissions close on 22 September.

Volunteers from OMV will work in the park on Friday 29 August. Work identified for them involves tidying up and infill planting on the flat area on the Ngaio side and downstream of the Hanover Street bridge, plus removal of montbretia bulbs left exposed following spraying of tradescantia.

At the initiative of Carolyn Theiler, a letter was delivered on 26 July to households in Trelissick Crescent, Hewett Way, and Jacobsen Lane giving news of planting activities by the group and seeking assistance to maintain the periphery of the park as a weed-free boundary. This followed events in Trelissick Crescent including dumping of leaf sweepings, dumping of a large exotic tree, and an invasion of a weed identified as *petasites fragrans* (winter heliotrope). The weed is to be sprayed in the context of other spraying by GW/WCC.

Marilyn Hester and Carolyn Theiler are conducting an experiment downstream of Wightwick’s Field, with hound’s tongue fern. This entails the pegging down of transplants in an effort to promote their taking in new areas.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday 21 October 2008**, Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road.

The final meeting for 2008 is to be held on 2 December.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 a.m.

Dates for working bees in September and October 2008, and general location details, are:

Sunday 7 September	Hanover Street entrance
Tuesday 16 September	Hanover Street entrance
Sunday 5 October	Waikowhai Street entrance
Tuesday 14 October	Trelissick Crescent (firebreak) entrance