

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 137th meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 21 October 2008

Members present

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

Frances Lee
Carolyn Theiler
Deidre Burke

Dorothy Douglas

In attendance

Stu Bailey, WCC Park Ranger

Marc Slade, WCC Community Biodiversity
Coordinator

Megan Banks, GW Biosecurity Officer (Plants)

Justin McCarthy, WCC Pest Management Officer

Apologies

Barry Durrant
Andy Foster, Wellington City Councillor
John Morrison, Wellington City Councillor

Phil Parnell
Jo Coughlan, Wellington City Councillor

Minutes

The minutes of the 136th meeting, held on 26 August 2008, were confirmed subject to miscellaneous additions. It was agreed the amended minutes be distributed with these minutes.

Frances Lee welcomed the action by WCC in spraying vegetation on the historic dry stone wall in from the Kaiwharawhara Road entrance.

Secretary

Members thanked the outgoing secretary, Malcolm McDonald, for his excellent work over a busy year. The meeting approved the appointment of Fiona Glasse as the incoming secretary. Contact details for Fiona are email: glassefb@paradise.net.nz ; post: 133 Heke Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035; telephone: 934 0699, mobile 021 257 9222.

WCC Items

Stu Bailey described the requirements to be met by contractors basing earthmoving equipment near the magazine building ruins for the Johnsonville line upgrade, and problems which had caused him to intervene with the contractor. Stu invited group members to contact him should they note any problems.

Marc Slade described efforts by WCC to clarify WCC's existing rights to work an area of blackberry on Ontrack land south of bridge 5 on the Korimako Stream. The group seeks that the land be cleared and replanted, but arrangements cannot be finalised without formalised access to the area. A longstanding lease by Ontrack to WCC of a large amount of Ontrack land in the Korimako and Kaiwharawhara valleys might contain the authority needed. If that is so, the areas covered by the more recent licence to occupy Ontrack land above the Korimako will not need to be extended to enable the work.

Malcolm McDonald reported that on 16 October he accompanied Dave Halliday, WCC Walkways and Reserves Project Officer, to look at practical means of stopping walkers in the park blundering up through the properties at 118 and 120 Trelissick Crescent. The residents have had unsettling experiences of people emerging without warning into the garden/patio areas close by the residents' houses. The residents are prepared to allow the continuation of a WCC-maintained track across the foot of their land, but want effective steps taken to protect their safety and privacy. Dave Halliday agreed that a WCC "Private Property, Keep Out" sign should be installed at the point of trespass from the track, that existing

signage near the Upper Ngaio Gorge Road foot entrance should be augmented to indicate to people coming up directly from the valley floor that access to Trelissick Crescent is available via Ngaio Gorge Road, and that suitable plantings and the deployment of windfall logs will assist in confining walkers to the formed track. Dave will get back to the group with graphics of the proposed signage.

Work to fill in the gulch caused by stormwater discharges immediately below the Hanover Street entrance, and to extend piping underground and slow discharge velocities, is in a queue for capital funds. Meantime, in the group's view, there is a significant risk to the safety of park users, and of further damage to plantings and tracks.

The installation of a new sewer line between Cummings Park and bridge 1 near Wightwick's Field is to proceed this financial year. The existing sewage main between the Ngaio tennis club and bridge 1 is to be renewed in 2009-10.

The next episode of wall strengthening on Ngaio Gorge Road is to proceed this financial year.

In response to the groups' enquiries about the state of the steps on the portions of the northern walkway below the Hanover Street and Waikowhai Street entrances, WCC has said there is a long list of step work to be done, Wellington-wide, and that other portions of the northern walkway within Trelissick Park have recently been refurbished.

Stu Bailey told the meeting that the closed bridge over the Korimako Stream adjacent to Wightwick's Field is to have the temporary orange plastic mesh barriers replaced with boarding.

Stu undertook to look into means of avoiding the paddling and siltation on the southern end of the Hanover Street bridge walking surface.

Stu Bailey will make further efforts 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. The group is concerned to establish the practical impact of the Biodiversity Action Plan, which has absorbed *Wet and Wild*, in this significant biodiversity-impacting matter. The group is unimpressed that WCC has failed to comply with condition 13, and that GW has responded passively to this failure.

The mapboard at the Ngaio Gorge Road entrance has yet to be returned following removal mid year for maintenance by WCC contractors Sign and Display.

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

GW items

Four volunteers from the group have been trained in mustelid trapping within the park, each scheduled to be active on month in four. No mustelids have been trapped to date, but the rat population has been reduced by two!

Adopt-A-Spot

Peter Reimann hosted a well-attended and enjoyed morning tea on 19 October to mark the conclusion of the winter 2008 planting season and to enable spottees to meet each other and group members.

Project Kaiwharawhara

Marc Slade undertook to distribute minutes from the meeting held on 12 March 2008. Marc indicated he expects a further meeting will be arranged, to take place within about one month.

Weed Control Plan

Justin McCarthy and Megan Banks briefed the meeting on the WCC and GW joint programme for weed control in the park in 2008-09. Elements planned for the period 20 October to late November include first or second sprayings for tradescantia along the Kaiwharawhara Valley floor to the Hanover Street bridge, and from the bridge up to the Hanover Street entrance. Areas above the confluence of the Korimako and Kaiwharawhara Streams in which honeysuckle was cut last autumn will be sprayed for regrowth. Spraying for tradescantia will be undertaken along the Korimako through to Waikowhai Street. The tradescantia area in the gully below Trelissick Crescent (above the Northern Walkway) will be sprayed next year.

Members asked that the contractors contact Peter Reimann, or if he is unavailable Carolyn Theiler, so that a member of the group can ensure plantings by the group will be protected to the fullest extent from spraying accidents.

Justin McCarthy was reminded there remains a willow to be poisoned, near Waikowhai Street entrance.

Plant orders for winter 2009

Members have potted nearly 2,000 rice grass plants in home nurseries.

Orders from Take Care funding cover 200 ferns so far.

The group is looking into the possibility of obtaining funds under the recently-announced Community Conservation Fund for restoration projects on public land. Robyn Smith, GW Team Leader Community Environmental Projects, is working on the application on the group's behalf, with a view to this being for restoration of the streamside blackberry area on railway land below bridge 5 (see under WCC items above 2nd para).

The group is to obtain a minimum of 251 plants from the Honda TreeFund.

Environment Court

Kilmarston Developments

The Presiding Judge has directed that concluding documents be lodged with the court no later than 24 October 2008, failing which the matter will be set down for a hearing.

Subdivision Design Guide

Mediation was scheduled for mid-September, but has been deferred.

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. No product has been sighted.

Bowen Hospital Redevelopment

Submissions were heard in September.

Infill Housing: How and where will Wellington grow?

Following submissions, WCC is not proceeding with proposals relating to the Crofton Downs neighbourhood centre, the only component of direct interest to the group.

Walking Policy

The group made a written submission.

Cycling Policy

The group made a written submission.

Track Access Policy

The group made a written submission, to which Peter Reimann spoke on 15 September during the oral hearings. Frances Lee also spoke to a personal submission.

Permanent Names for Features in the Park

Members discussed in detail observations and suggestions made by Stan Pillar on means by which group members, in their interaction with each other, and with Council officers, and possibly with the public, can identify unambiguously locations within the park.

The placement by WCC of numbers, 1 to 6, on the bridges in use over the Korimako Stream, has proved a cheap and effective means by which locations can be easily defined for all park users, as in “between bridges 2 and 3” or “immediately upstream of bridge 5”. There is only one permanent bridge over the Kaiwharawhara Stream within the park, however, so localities along the Kaiwharawhara Valley floor call for other reference points than bridges. The choices of points must be generally practical (group members all know the location of “the Rod Donald rata”, but many members of the public – and numbers of Council officers? – cannot identify a rata, let alone distinguish the Donald rata from anonymous rata). Stan’s suggested reference points along the Kaiwharawhara, with refinement, could offer practical usage.

The naming of the tracks within the park has attractions. Stan has made suggestions of names for some tracks, some based on historical usage, others descriptive. Members will consider these and think of others.

The meeting agreed that when revisions are made to the current map of the park, prepared by John Foden and used in the group’s brochure, changes should be worked in

Correspondence

Inwards

27 August	GW, Robyn Smith – advice of the mechanics of the Honda TreeFund, and that requests for plants must be tendered to GW by 3 September 2008.
9 September	WCC, Barbara Franklin – reminder that report back on grant is due by 30 November, sooner if another grant is sought from the October round.
9 September	WCC, Marc Slade – community greening projects questionnaire.
10 September	GW, Robyn Smith – request for statistics as to annual hours worked by the group.
11 September	Ben Phillips – request for information to assist with work on masters thesis on community-based restoration in Wellington.
12 September	Ontrack, Ruth Larsen – information relating to the construction work planned for the Johnsonville railway line.
15 September	DLA Phillips Fox, Phillipa Le Couteur – advice that a memorandum of counsel was filed with the Environment Court on 22 August, with a copy sent to 51 the group.
15 September	Environment Court, Jane Connew – advice that WCC has filed a status report on the appeals of Lincolnshire Farms Limited and Woodridge Estate Limited against WCC in relation to District Plan Change 46 – Subdivision Review Guide, saying those appeals are not yet ready for mediation.
18 September	WCC, Paul Kos – summary of consultation and feedback on discussion paper <i>How and where will Wellington grow?</i>
24 September	WCC, Marc Slade – removal of hazardous poplars in front of 17 Kaiwharawhara Road.
30 September	GW, Juzah Zammit-Ross – advice that the group has been allocated \$1,255.00 from the Honda TreeFund.
2 October	GW, Juzah Zammit-Ross – enquiry from MSc student.
2 October	GW, Megan Banks – update of progress with tender for tradescantia and honeysuckle spraying October and November 2008.
3 October	WCC, Rewi Elliot – offer of seedling <i>Microleana avenacea</i> from Otari.
3 October	Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand, Mike Mellor – historical information relating to the railway

- adjacent to Trelissick Park.
- 3 October WCC, Sharon Bennett – advice that the group is pencilled in to be heard on its submission on the Track Access Policy at 9.25 am for 10 minutes on Wednesday 15 October.
- 13 October Thorndyke Law, for Environment Court – copy of letter to Morrison Kent in relation to Kilmarnock Developments Ltd requesting that concluding documents be lodged with the Court no later than 24 October 2008.

Outwards

- 26 August GW, Robyn Smith – agreement to spraying of blackberry on Ontrack land in summer 2008/09 as a charge to the GW Take Care budget money held for Trelissick Park.
- 27 August GW, Robyn Smith – estimate of the group’s plant requirements for 2009 under the GW Take Care budget.
- 31 August OMV, Juilee Bhandeker – thanks for the work done by volunteers from OMV New Zealand Limited on 29 August.
- 1 September GW, Robyn Smith @ Matt Velde – thanks for splendid posters promoting the group’s working bee to be held on 7 September.
- 1 September GW, Robyn Smith – suggestions for plantings in the park to be funded by the Honda TreeFund.
- 11 September GW, Robyn Smith – advice that the annual hours worked by the group are about 3,500.
- 15 September DLA Phillips Fox, Phillipa Le Couteur – request for a copy of the memorandum of counsel was filed with the Environment Court on 22 August.
- 15 September Environment Court – enquiry for details of the timing of assisted mediation on the appeals of Lincolnshire Farms Limited and Woodridge Estate Limited against WCC in relation to District Plan Change 46 – Subdivision Review Guide,
- 17 September Ben Phillips – answers to questions relating to the group’s involvement with community-based restoration in Wellington.
- 17 September WCC – submission on draft Cycling Policy.
- 18 September WCC – submission on draft Track Recreation Access Policy.
- 18 September WCC – submission on draft Walking Policy.
- 18 September WCC, David Halliday – problem with walkers in Trelissick Park entering private property at 118 and 120 Trelissick Crescent.
- 29 September GW, Megan Banks – statement as to the group’s understanding of GW intentions as to spraying in the park.
- 2 October GW, Juzah Zammit-Ross – response as to enquiry from MSc student.
- 3 October WCC, Rewi Elliot – acceptance of offer of seedling *Microleana avenacea* from Otari.
- 6 October WCC, Sharon Bennett – confirmation of Peter Reimann as representative of the group to be heard on the Track Access Policy on Wednesday 15 October.
- 6 October GW, Juzah Zammit-Ross – gratitude for the allocation of \$1,255.00 from the Honda TreeFund; request that plants be ordered through GW; nomination of suitable plants.
- 13 October Thorndyke Law, for Environment Court – copy of letter to Morgan Slyfield/Kilmarnock Developments requesting concluding documents be lodged with the Court by 24 October, failing which a hearing date will be set.
- 15 October WCC, Marc Slade Copies of the railway land 2005 Licence to Occupy and the 1982 beautification lease, also marked up map showing locations of these.
- (by hand)
- 15 October GW, Robyn Smith/Megan Banks copy of marked up map given to Marc Slade as above.
- (by hand)

Finance

Payments were approved, as reimbursements for receipted purchases of materials for propagation in home nurseries, to:

Carolyn Theiler \$35.80 and \$50.49;
 Peter Reimann \$65.00 and \$148.40;
 Marilyn Hester \$62.66.

The bank balance as at 3 October is \$756.19.

Malcolm McDonald is preparing the report back to WCC Grants on the use of the grant of \$250 from the November 2007 grants round. Malcolm’s advice is that the bureaucracy associated with applying for and reporting upon WCC grants is onerous to the point of absurdity for such a minor amount. Members were incredulous that, with a 17 year record of service to Trelissick Park, personal recognition from many WCC Councillors and officers, and inputs of thousands of volunteer hours year after year, the group – along with groups with like records serving other community purposes – are subject to such

bureaucracy. Members noted that the overheads in obtaining and reporting on grants are similar no matter the sum involved, so decided that future applications should be for more substantial amounts. Peter Reimann undertook to look into an application for a grant to meet the costs of materials for propagating the plants raised each year in the three home nurseries, in addition to administration costs.

Other

Deidre Burke informed the meeting of recent contacts she has had, as a landowner with land covenanted to the QEII Trust, with representatives of the Trust. Frances Lee is to provide Deidre with names and contact details of landowners with whom Frances has canvassed the covenanting of land below Trellissick Crescent and Hewitt Way. Deidre is prepared to meet the landowners, and give them the benefit of her own satisfactory experience with covenanting.

Deidre mentioned that QEII Trust (Lisa Clapton) recently did a survey of weeds on covenanted land below Hanover Street and that funding may become available, which, along with land-owner contribution, could be used for sycamore and pine removal.

Peter Reimann advised the meeting that the Hunt family has notified friends of Martin Hunt that the cause of Martin's death is thought to be "viral pneumonitis and myocarditis", probably the result of a viral infection. The death of Rod Donald in 2005 was attributed to the same cause.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday 2 December 2008**, Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 p.m.

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

Sunday 2 November	Ngaio Gorge Road
Tuesday 11 September	Ngaio Gorge Road