

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 139th meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 3 February 2009

Abbreviations:

WCC Wellington City Council
GW Greater Wellington Regional Council
NPA Ngaio Progressive Association
HPPA Highland Park Progressive Association
TPG Trelissick Park Group

Persons to action: in bold italics

Members Present

Peter Reimann (chair)	Frances Lee
Stan Pillar	Barry Durrant
Olaf John	Carolyn Theiler

Apologies

Fiona Glasse (secretary)	Andy Foster, Wellington City Councillor
Stu Bailey, WCC Park Ranger	Dorothy Douglass

Minutes

The minutes of the 138th meeting, held on 2 December 2008, were confirmed, subject to addition of Stan Pillar, inadvertently and with apologies left off the list of members present.

WCC Items

Restoration after On Track Work - On Track have stored ballast on the flat ground east of the magazine building after final agreement with WCC, subject to conditions. There has been considerable movement and parking of vehicles in the area, leading to plant damage and concrete spillage. Large quantities of spoil have been piled up on the down side of the line in places, which could be a problem (eg slips and silting of stream). WCC and TPG will list the restoration work required when the work has finished and then meet On Track to discuss restoration plans. **Stu Bailey, Frances Lee/Peter Reimann**

Picnic Benches - Peter Reimann has provided a sketch for 2 picnic benches for the above area to be made and installed by WCC, from surplus railway sleepers provided at no charge by On Track. **Stu Bailey**

Reveg track below Hanover Street - Many thanks to Grant Preston Thomas for his upgrading work. Following a minor accident, the small "bridge" near the memorial seat has been removed and warning tapes placed across the track on either side, pending a new "bridge" being arranged by Stu Bailey and David Halliday, WCC Walkways and Reserves Project Officer. **Stu Bailey, David Halliday**

Debris Trap - Fast water flow has moved the rocks below the debris trap downstream and is hindering fish passage. Sam Lister of Capacity is investigating this in conjunction with the need for gravel extraction. The Consent only permits gravel extraction during the months of March, August, September, October, November and December. The silt depth is measured from two marker posts on the southern stream bank. Sam is arranging a check of silt depth and assessment of rock placement in conjunction with AC Consulting, the original contractor. Sam will advise the outcome. **Sam Lister/Capacity**

WCC is seeking from GW to have the Resource Consent condition for an annual report on silt sources changed. Frances Lee will follow this up. **Frances Lee**

Railway land leasing and letter from On Track for application for Community Conservation Funding - Marc Slade, WCC Community Biodiversity Coordinator, is to organise a letter from the landowner, On Track, giving permission to carry out weed eradication and then planting in 2010 below bridge 5 after clarifying leasing arrangements along the railway corridor. It is intended to lodge the funding application for the February round. **Marc Slade**

New signage on track below Ngaio Gorge Rd - Frances Lee will write to David Halliday and Stu Bailey to thank them for organising the signage to stop walkers in the park trespassing at 118 and 120 Trelissick Crescent. Frances Lee has informed the land owners. **Frances Lee**

Ngaio Gorge Road Strengthening - Frances Lee, Marilyn Hester and Peter Reimann, with Julia Williams of NPA met representatives of Opus last week on site to discuss the next phase of earthquake strengthening just up the hill from the last one. This will have a relatively small impact on the Park. However, TPG are concerned about need for restoration of the excavations associated with previous strengthening, now full of weeds eg buddleia, also the state of the road reserve, used for parking heavy machinery. Frances Lee has contacted Jonathan Bussell on this. Suggestions were made of low growing thin-stemmed plants to grow through the wire mesh, eg koromiko or other hebes, poroporo or Muelenbeckia complexa. **Frances Lee**

Trelissick Park 5 Year Plan Update - The 5 Year Plan has been updated in relation to the Management Plan. This covers a historical background of interferences, work done over the years, current issues and action plan. There are some suggested interfaces with Project Kaiwharawhara. It has been forwarded to Marc Slade for comment. **Marc Slade**

Puddling of Mud onto Bridge 6 - Drainage of Northern Walkway on Wadestown side has still not been done, to avoid wet weather hazard (from 2 December meeting). **Stu Bailey**

Northern Walkway Weed-eating – Needs doing again (from below Hanover St entrance down to bridge 6).

Stu Bailey

Sign Post Downstream of Bridge 5 – There is a need for a post with a blue direction marker, where the track forks at the end of the grassed area downstream of bridge 5. People get confused here, as the right hand track just goes to the stream, then ends. **Stu Bailey**

GW Items

Remainder of “Take Care” Funding – The remainder of the “Take Care” funding for 2008-9 stands at \$1,750.70. Purchase of some grasses for streamside planting was discussed with Robyn Smith during a walk through the park in December. However, due to the large amount of planting to be done this year (see below). Peter Reimann will ask Robyn Smith whether this funding could be carried over until next year. **Peter Reimann**

Community Conservation Fund - Robyn Smith, with inputs from Peter Reimann, has been working on an application for funding from the Community Conservation Fund on behalf of TPG on railway land downstream of Bridge 5. **Robyn Smith**

Possums and Mustelids

Bill Hester reports that 10 of the 19 possum bait stations were clean and empty in late January, the same 10 as 7 weeks previously, indicating a possum or rat population probably the latter, as Barry Durrant has seen no signs of possums for several years. 1 stoat and 4 rats have been caught in the 14 mustelid traps installed in September.

Weed Control

Tradescantia and Japanese Honeysuckle Spraying – Following some by-kill below Waikowhai Street and the resulting discussions on remedial measures, spraying is in progress (downstream of bridge 6 and above the fish ladder just done)

Japanese Knotweed – There is one reappearance upstream of the debris trap. Justin McCarthy will investigate. **Justin McCarthy (WCC)**

Balsam – Bill Hester has cleared the Korimako valley of balsam, which is overwhelming young plants.

Pellitory (Parietaria judaica) – This new, invasive weed is appearing. Carolyn Hester has removed and bagged some below Wightwick’s Field [Peter Reimann likewise below the lower park entrance] – further information: see December 2007 Gorge Gazette (on the website).

Planting for winter 2009

“Take Care” Funded Ferns – All 960 fern plugs have been delivered from Fern Factor and potted. Growth rate of the November delivery is slow, but some might be ready for planting in early spring. The 200 ferns in pots from FerNZ have yet to be delivered – Robyn Smith to arrange. **Robyn Smith (GW)**

Honda Treefund – The 195 ferns and 12 tree ferns have been ordered – delivery to be arranged by Juzah Zammit-Ross. **Juzah Zammit-Ross (GW)**

WCC 500 Tree Allocation – Arrangements to be advised. **Marc Slade**

Home Nursery Update – Marilyn Hester, Carolyn Theiler and Peter Reimann are harbouring several hundred bush rice grass and ferns each, plus large quantities of grasses, kanuka, ngaio, kohuhu, karamu, kahikatea, matai and other species.

Proposed Planting Areas –

- Infill throughout the Park, including spaces left by dead willows
- Gorse-cleared area below Trelissick Cres
- Japanese sprayed area above fish ladder
- Tradescantia sprayed areas with bush rice grass and ferns

Johnsonville Line Open Day

This will be between 3 – 7 PM on Wed 4 Feb, walking from Crofton Downs station down through 2 tunnels to the loop above the historic site and return. A sausage sizzle will follow. TPG is involved with marshalling.

Project Kaiwharawhara

The next meeting at Otari on 25 February at 5.30 PM will review vision and goals/objectives. It is hoped to have presentations on catchment hydrology and WCC earthworks provisions, infill housing work and draft plan changes (urban and suburban centres). TPG intend to present the actions from the Trelissick Park 5 Year Plan for the meeting.

Kaiwharawhara Estuary

Frances Lee had sent a message to Celia Wade-Brown concerning arrangements for a meeting on site about remedial work. **Celia Wade-Brown**

Adopt-A-Spot

George and Andrew Symmes have expanded their spot between bridges 2 and 3 and have been interviewed by an internee for City Life – followed by an article and photo in that newspaper. An enquiry has since been received from a potential spottee – being followed up by Peter Reimann.

New Spottees Nick Koirala and Claire Mortimer have taken up a streamside spot on railway land upstream of bridge 2.

Environment Court

Kilmarston Developments

There is no movement towards a "Memorandum of Consent" with appellants – but deferrals of Environment Court deadlines seem to be ongoing.

Subdivision Design Guide

There is still no sign of when mediation will occur.

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

WCC has accepted the recommendations in the officer's report of 29 October, for 2 new sites at 11A Huntleigh Park Way, 1 at 83 Heke Street and 1 at 21 Thatcher Crescent, all at designated locations. Each site will be for 1 household unit, with a maximum of 250 m² cleared. A new environmental policy has been included in this District Plan Change.

TPG's submission was for no development or clearance of bush at all from the 5 properties, due to downstream effects, with support for any proposal for purchase by WCC. However, TPG had a "fall-back" position of allowing some limited development at 11A Huntleigh Park Way, subject to various conditions.

2 parties have lodged appeals, one for pro-development, with 6 houses instead of 2 at 11A Huntleigh Park Way and the other for no development/clearing at any of the 5 properties.

TPG will apply to become a Section 274 Party opposing the pro-development appeal and supporting the "no development/clearing" appeal (application due date: 23 February). **Peter Reimann**

Submissions

2009 to 2019 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)

TPG have been invited to a consultation meeting on 4 February, which WCC has organised prior to receiving formal submissions. Frances Lee will attend. **Frances Lee**

WCC Draft Plan Changes for Residential Area and Suburban Centre Zones of the District Plan

Submissions are due 1 April 2009. **Peter Reimann**

GW Draft Parks, Forests and Reserves Bylaw

Submissions are due 2 March 2009. **Peter Reimann**

Permanent Names for Features in the Park

The draft of track name and track section designations by Frances Lee was agreed. Peter Reimann will obtain comments/agreement from WCC before asking John Foden to incorporate in map updates. This will facilitate identification of any future maintenance locations. **Peter Reimann**

Correspondence

Emails

A number of emails were received and sent, covering the subjects below:

Enquiry re planting trees (Form 4, Thorndon Primary School)

On Track work affecting the lower end of the park (WCC and GW)

Walk-through by Robyn Smith and grass species to plant (GW)

Upgrade of reveg. track below Hanover Street and bridging gulch – safety concerns (WCC and Grant Preston Thomas)

Honda TreeFund (GW)

Debris trap cleaning/rock movement/fish passage/silting (WCC, Capacity)

Project Kaiwharawhara minutes (WCC)

Walking and cycling policy feedback (WCC)

District Plan Change (DPC) 61 appeals (zoning adjacent to Huntleigh Park) (NPA, WCC, Gordon Purdie)

Lower Kaiwharawhara Stream reveg. (below the Park) (WCC)

Asiatic knotweed reappearance (WCC)

Spray damage to plantings (WCC and GW)

Interview with City Life North (Miyuki McGuffie)

Possum bait station reports (GW)

Mustelid trap report (WCC)

Next Ngaio Gorge Rd strengthening – notification and minutes (NPA, Opus)

Restoration of previous Ngaio Gorge Road strengthening excavations (WCC)

WCC Long-term Plan (NPA, Waterfront Watch)

Picnic benches for historic site and working bee pamphlets (WCC)

Otari Wilton's Bush Environmental educator role – support letter (Susan Waugh)

Trelissick Park 5-Year Plan Update (WCC)

Limited access to TPG PayPal account for "Fly & Plant" donations pending tax exempt information (PayPal)

Letters

Expression of appreciation from Chair of GW, Fran Wilde (1/12) and reply (10/12)
From Paul Andrews, WCC (27/11), replying to concerns about stormwater damage
Invitation from WCC (16/1) to participate in LTCCP community discussion
Environmental Court DPC61 appeal documents - Chester and Kubala (17/12)
Environmental Court DPC61 appeal documents - Purdie (18/12).

Finance

The bank balance as at 31 December is \$794.64.

HPPA has advised that they have agreed that we can consider the amount they are owed by the Group (\$277.39) for the second run of brochures as a donation. The Group is to send a letter of appreciation to HPPA. **Peter Reimann**

TPG will investigate with IRD the situation with tax exemption for donations to non-profit organisations.
Frances Lee

Other

Peter Reimann has verbally thanked Andy Hollings for the rimu and kahikatea planted in the Park under "Project Podocarp".

Frances Lee expressed appreciation of the Gorge Gazette and suggested wider circulation. **Peter Reimann**

Next Meeting

The next meetings are to be at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday 31 March and 19 May**, Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.

Dates for working bees in February 2009, and general location details, are:

Sunday 8 February	Ngaio Gorge Road
Tuesday 17 February	Ngaio Gorge Road