

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 143rd meeting, held at Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 1 September 2009

Abbreviations:

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

Square brackets – subsequent to meeting or other relevant information.

Members Present

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

In Attendance

Amber Bill, Manager, Community Engagement and Reserves	Robyn Smith, GW Team Leader, Community Environmental Projects
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Apologies

Joby Mills, Park Ranger	Andy Foster, Wellington City Councillor
David Grace, Projects Coordinator	

Minutes

The minutes of the 142nd meeting, held on 7 July 2009, were confirmed.

WCC Items

Parks and Gardens Staff Changes – Amber Bill is now Manager, Community Engagement and Reserves. Myfanwy Emeny has returned in the revised position of Biodiversity Coordinator (as opposed to Community Biodiversity Coordinator). This position will drive the Biodiversity Action Plan. The Park Rangers are now the first port of call for all enquiries/issues. Joby Mills is the key contact (replacing Stu Bailey) for TPG. A fourth ranger has been appointed (Paulo Fuinono).

Debris Trap and Rock Repositioning – After the recent heavy rain the debris trap is full again. Frances Lee has left messages with Sam Lister of Capacity to arrange clearance. Amber Bill will speak to GW about impediment to fish migration and also look into moving the rocks below the trap back up to their original positions to help to restore fish passage. As a crane is used to clear logs and branches from the debris trap, it appears that the rocks could be moved at the same time. [Sam Lister 2 September: trap will be cleared in 2 – 3 days and silt removed this month. He will discuss rock moving with Amber Bill and Robyn Smith] **Sam Lister/Amber Bill**

Branch Out Magazine – WCC advise that publication will be stopped after the next issue. As suggested at the last project Kaiwharawhara meeting, TPG will make a submission for reinstatement to Cllr Andy Foster and/or Wendy Walker (WCC Director of Citizen Engagement). **Peter Reimann**

Permanent Names for Tracks in the Park – Copies of the park map can be produced by WCC showing the proposed names for the tracks, together with grid lines. This will aid defining locations for future work. TPG is to resolve:

- re-naming the “Kaiwharawhara Valley Track” to the “Ngaio Gorge Track” (because of an existing sign)
- the numbering of park entrances
- whether or not bollards are required to identify the tracks

and then contact Amber Bill to allow the map to be finalised. **Frances Lee**

Working on Railway Land – Following an inspection of the rail corridor by Marc Slade, Frances Lee and Peter Reimann, it was agreed to request a letter of permission to work on railway land (in preference to extending the existing leases). Peter Reimann will draft some suitable words and send to Amber Bill for a letter from WCC to Ontrack. **Peter Reimann**

Possible Addition to Park below 113 – 117 Sefton Street – Private negotiation is ongoing. However, the land to be swapped with a road reserve is isolated from the park.

Ecological Corridors – A “corridor concept” is shown on maps in the 2004 report “Priorities for Ecological Restoration of the Kaiwharawhara Catchment in Wellington City” by Paul Blaschke et al (tabled at the meeting). However, this does not cover the many housing developments which include filling in of ephemeral streams, such as for Ridvan Gardens and proposed developments off Chelmsford Street and Cockayne Road, also the Kilmarston development. Amber Bill will mention this to Myfanwy Emeny, who is looking at corridors in the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan – as this should be taken into account in considering future housing developments. **Amber Bill**

Amber Bill had also been talking to Forest and Bird about linked ecological corridors as part of the “greening Wellington” initiative.

Robyn Smith will send a map of the GW Care Group areas to the GW Consents Team, so that effects of housing developments on these can be allowed for. She will also check to see whether the time limit for the GW Consent for filling in gullies at the proposed Kilmarston development above Ngaio has in fact expired.

Robyn Smith

Covenants – Rates Remission – Amber Bill advised that there are provisions in the Biodiversity Action Plan covering incentives to care for biodiversity on private land [see 2.4 of the Plan]. Myfanwy Emeny is working on how this can be implemented.

GW Items

Last Year of Take Care Funding – \$1,000 is available in this financial year. It was agreed that this should be used for follow-up spraying of montbretia by Mark McAlpine. **Megan Banks/Robyn Smith**

Ferns – All 195 ferns and 12 tree ferns from the Honda Tree Fund from Fern Factor Ltd have been planted. 170 of the Take Care funded ferns in pots and the 960 originating from “plugs” from NZ Fernz Ltd have also been planted [except for a small number that died or are still not large enough]. A further 70 are to come – to be followed up in couple of months (*Polystichum richardii*). **Robyn Smith/Peter Reimann**

Honda Tree Fund Plants for 2010 – Jo Fagan of GW has sent the application form. It was agreed TPG would apply for riparian/rushes/grasses for stormwater ditches as they enter the valley. Following the information from the hydrologist who talked at a recent Project Kaiwharawhara meeting the benefits of this would be fourfold: 1) they will filter out contaminants, 2) they will disperse the water flow, 3) they will improve the porosity of the soil, and 4) will therefore prevent the gouging that occurs. Last year TPG received \$1,255 from this fund, but more may be available this year. A number of heritage trees would also be requested – rimu and miro, if possible. **Peter Reimann**

GW Environmental Awards - In 2007, Greater Wellington initiated a range of environmental awards to recognise the work people are doing to improve the health of the environment throughout the region. [The awards are only open to people or groups who work in partnership with the Greater Wellington Regional Council. There are two awards which GW Take Care groups are eligible to apply for; the **Rata Community Partnership Award** and a new award this year the **Community Environmental Leadership Award**.

The Rata award is open to groups including work such as habitat restoration and protection.

The new Leadership award will recognise an individual who goes above and beyond the norm in demonstrating leadership, initiative, creativity and commitment to restore the Wellington region's environment and who is inspiring others to do the same.]

Peter Reimann is being nominated for the latter. Closing date for entries has been extended to 18 September.

Plants/Planting

[The WCC 500 trees have been planted, as well as most from the 3 home nurseries. Sprayed tradescantia areas have been planted with mostly ferns and bush rice grass. Thanks to volunteers on working bees, adopt a spot volunteers and St Benedict's School. The latter are keen to revisit later in the year for weeding.

The Saphya Sai Service Organisation have adopted a spot across the stream below the debris trap. They held a working bee there last Saturday with 22 people, clearing and planting. They plan another visit in September. About 40 of the 70 eco-sourced toetoe (*Cordarteria toetoe*) purchased from Kiwi Plants in Stokes Valley, supplemented the WCC/TPG sourced plants.

WCC have planted around 1,000 species along both sides of the stream down from the powder magazine ruin.

Ontrack have employed landscape contractor GSL to plant 2,000 trees to replace those destroyed by the recent tunnel widening, accessed from the lower park]. There are a few minor anomalies, such as matai and totara planted a metre apart, tawa and kawakawa exposed to full sun in poor soil. Peter Reimann will carry out some swaps to correct these. **Peter Reimann**

Pest Control

Robyn Smith advised that there may be a reduction in funds for the GW/WCC 5-Year Weed Control Plan, mainly for tradescantia [2009-2010 and 2010-2011 still to run].

[Bait is still being emptied consistently from several bait stations – probably by rats, which are still being caught in the mustelid traps. Since September 2008, 25 mustelids and 1 hedgehog have been caught in the 14 traps].

Bruce Brewer of GW inspected rabbit damage to new plantings with Carolyn Theiler, Marilyn Hester and Peter Reimann. Control options were discussed. The situation will be monitored and susceptible species (eg karamu and kowhai) avoided. Robyn Smith will arrange delivery of 50 wire reinforced mesh protectors, delivered to Peter Reimann at 51 Heke Street. **Robyn Smith**

Project Kaiwharawhara

Bethanna Jackson, lecturer in Hydrology and Water Resources at Victoria University of Wellington, will run the catchment through a model looking at flood and sediment/erosion producing areas vs flood and erosion mitigating areas to look at what factors are of great value from a protecting water quality/mitigating flood perspective and identifying key areas where small changes might have large effects.

[In addition, she will consider using the Kaiwharawhara catchment as an area to take measurements as part of training students. This would involve taking water quantity and quality measurements. If this goes ahead, there would be a lead time in getting it organised and the earliest start time would be March or April 2010].

Next meeting: Wednesday 18 November at Otari Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre at 5.30 PM. [This will cover:

- Stormwater contaminants in urban streams – Juliet Milne (GW)
- Proposed: Changes to the Resource Management Act via the Amendment Bill - District Plan team and GW.
- Review of corridors within Kaiwharawhara catchment
- Round Robin/group round-ups].

Kaiwharawhara Estuary/Reclamation

TPG has submitted a funding application for a WCC Environment Grant for a study to examine options for restoration and access, in conjunction with the proposed Great Harbour cycling/walking track and Sanctuary to the Sea track. This has been supported by members of Project Kaiwharawhara, MP Peter Dunne and others. The WCC Grants Subcommittee is scheduled to have completed its deliberations by 22 September and will advise the outcome as soon as possible after that. Frances Lee will speak to the Subcommittee to support the application on 21 September.

The GW replacement Project Kaiwharawhara sign (less vulnerable to damage from trucks) has yet to be installed. **Robyn Smith**

A working bee is to be held at the estuary on Sunday 6 September for weeding, litter removal and planting. [A clearance email has been obtained from Centreport. We are to meet in the Interislander departure building at 1.30 PM for clearance with the Duty Manager].

Environment Court

Kilmarston Developments

Resolution of NPA's appeal appears close, but one of the appellants, Frank McGuire, is still awaiting answers. Kilmarston wants to clear the NPA and McGuire appeals together.

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

WCC have advised that mediation with the appellants failed. An Environment Court hearing is the next step – timetable:

Filing/serving evidence and reply evidence: 23 Sept, 14 Oct, 28 Oct.

Meeting of experts: by 11 Nov.

Submissions

Plan Change 70 – Earthworks - A new District Plan Change, Plan Change 70 covering Earthworks is currently notified for public consultation. Submissions close at 5pm on Monday 14th September. **Peter Reimann**

WCC Draft Dog Control Policy – submission by TPG lodged. In view of diverse opinions by TPG members, the question of “on-lead” or “off-lead” has been left for individuals to take up in separate submissions. Peter Reimann will speak to the TPG submission on 10 September. **Peter Reimann**

Correspondence

Emails

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

Thanks for assistance to Marc Slade	Marc Slade (WCC)
Expected decision date on Community Conservation Fund	Megan Banks (GW), Justin McCarthy (WCC)
WCC work summary	Steven Peters, Joby Mills (WCC)
Flooding by magazine site	Steven Peters, Joby Mills (WCC)
Biosecurity Institute Article in “Protect” magazine	NZ Biosecurity Institute
Fence at 95 Waikowhai Street	Modus Homes and NPA
Rabbit damage at northern end of Park	Megan Banks, Glen Falconer and Bruce Brewer (GW)
Fern delivery from NZ Fernz	Robyn Smith (GW)
Kaiwharawhara estuary study WCC grant application	WCC Grants Subcommittee, Celia Wade-Brown (WCC), Paul Bruce (GW), Peter Dunne, members of Project Kaiwharawhara and others
Conservation Week arrangements	Wellington Cathedral, Babs Lake/Peter Stuart (DoC), Richard Morrison
Project Kaiwharawhara meeting	Myfanwy Emeny (WCC)
Recruiting Project Coordinator	Volunteer Wellington
Funding support and newsletter	Matthew Robertson and Robin White (Orleans Makererua Street Reserve Group)
350 Wellington support	350 Wellington

Cutting of Kamahi Tree on Forest Remnant Track	Grant Preston-Thomas
Ngaio Gorge strengthening work and vehicle damage	Joby Mills (WCC)
Site meeting concerning Ontrack restoration work	Joby Mills (WCC)
Supply of Vigilant gel	Joby Mills (WCC)
Honda Tree Fund application	Jo Fagan (GW)
GW environmental awards	Robyn Smith (GW)
WCC Park and Gardens staff organisation	Myfanwy Emeny (WCC)
Address change for WCC papers	WCC Public Participation
Condolence on death of Bill van Gorkon (initial TPG committee member)	Julia Ryan (daughter)
Dog policy submission	WCC
St Benedict's School work in Park	Rachel Davis
Memorial seat for Martin Hunt by Forest and Bird	Robert Mackintosh
WCC items for Marc Slade	Amber Bill
Monitoring weekend workshop at Catchpole	James Griffiths (DoC) and Robyn Smith (GW)
Working bee at Kawharawhara estuary	Jacquie Hill/Brenda Boughan (Centreport)
Thanks for visit and queries on plant availability/prices	Fred Allen (Kiwi Plants Ltd)

Letters

Inwards

Jennifer Gerritsen (Ministry of Justice, Environment Court Unit) concerning WCC DPC 61 schedule
Hazelton Law concerning WCC DPC 61 schedule
Barbara Franklin (WCC) acknowledging receipt of grant application from Environmental Pool
Baz Kaufman (WCC) with response on TPG submission on the draft Long-Term Council Community Plan
David Hedgley (NPA) supporting the funding application for a study on the Kaiwharawhara Estuary and its access
Sharon Bennett (WCC) acknowledging submission on Draft Dog Policy and speaking arrangements

Outwards

WCC – grant application from WCC Environmental Pool
Encroachments, Property Services (WCC), copied to Modus Homes – 95 Waikowhai Street encroachment does not affect Trelissick Park
Peter Dunne – Thanks for letter of support for funding application for a study on the Kaiwharawhara Estuary and its access.

Finance

The bank balance as at 4 August is \$792.34. The following payments were approved:

- \$60 to Peter Reimann for purchase of 70 toetoe trees from Kiwi Plants.
- \$50 to David Grace for signage for the Conservation Week display.
- \$35.60 to Frances Lee for meeting expenses and food, copies of photographs for the WCC Environmental Grant application and photocopying.

Other

Secretary Resignation and New Secretary – Fiona Glasse has resigned due to pressure of other commitments. Peter Reimann will initiate enquiries for a new secretary. **Peter Reimann**

New Projects Coordinator – Welcome to David Grace, recruited via Volunteer Wellington. David will work on submissions, funding applications and liaison on work projects in the Park. He has already worked on the WCC draft dog policy submission, Conservation week display and is currently looking at options for a new track from Oban Street.

Conservation Week Activities – TPG will have a display on Theme 9 in the list below in St Paul's Cathedral, Molesworth St between 5 – 19 September for the Department of Conservation sponsored, national 'Conservation Week'. This year, St Paul's Cathedral will be focussing on the aims and values of 'Transition Towns', which dovetail with those of Conservation Week but extend somewhat wider to embrace the challenge of Peak Oil and climate change. [Themes are:

1. PeakOil
2. Climate change
3. Local food production
4. Local energy generation and supply
5. Urban transport patterns
6. Housing for the future
7. Local economies: business & currency options
8. Water
9. Urban forests; & protecting and developing local biodiversity
10. Optimum population].

There is also an invitation to a group networking day on Saturday 12 September 2.00 - 8.00pm when groups will exchange information about themselves, ask questions of one another (including 'what can we

best do separately? what might we best do together? what are the gaps? where do we go from here? what is our dream for Wellington in 2020?') - and then celebrate with a potluck meal and social time. David Grace and Frances Lee may come to part of this. Peter Reimann will advise accordingly. **Peter Reimann**

Restoration Planning and Monitoring – [Myfanwy Emeny of WCC has advised that a monitoring network is now established and involves individuals from WCC, GW, DoC, Karori Sanctuary, other local Councils and private consultants. This was established to provide a coordinated approach to monitoring within the Wellington region and ensure that data gathered would be complementary and comparable].

In addition to this, there is a restoration planning and monitoring workshop being held on October 10th and 11th at the Catchpool Centre in Rimtaka Forest Park. This is aimed at community groups and covenant holders around the region and is a weekend of workshops, presentations and practical field trips designed to enable groups to improve skills in planning and monitoring restoration projects. Invitations have been sent out courtesy of DoC and each group should have received one. The aim is partly to get groups more involved in monitoring their own efforts and also being able to assist WCC with monitoring programmes.

Stan Pillar and Barry Durrant may register.

Commemorative Seat from Forest and Bird for Martin Hunt – Rob Mackintosh has advised that F & B are still intending to proceed with a commemorative seat at the rear of the grassy flat between bridges 4 and 5. Further advice awaited. **Robert Mackintosh**

350 Wellington – A photo of ferns in the form of a “350” has been taken and sent to 350 Wellington to be used in their campaign (350 represents CO₂ atmospheric parts/million concentration limit aspiration - refer www.350.org).

Erosion at Bridge 5 – Barry Durrant is concerned about erosion on the foundations of bridge 5 and expense if the bridge is lost in a flood. This was taken up with WCC some months ago, along with erosion at bridge 4. David Halliday of WCC has rectification scheduled for this financial year. Peter Reimann will contact WCC again. **Peter Reimann**

Next Meeting

The next meetings are to be at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday 17 November**, and **Tuesday 2 February 2010**, Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 a.m.

Dates for next 2 working bees and general location details, are:

Sunday 6 September	Kaiwharawhara Stream estuary (instead of Hanover St)
Tuesday 15 September	Hanover Street