
Whitireia Park Board

Friday 2 May 2025 at 9.30am

Titahi Golf Club, Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua

Members

Jenny Ngarimu (Chair)

Quentin Duthie

Hikitia Ropata

Caleb Ware

Chris Kirk-Burnnand

Sharli-Jo Solomon

Whitireia Park Board

Friday 2 May 2025, 9.30am

Titahi Golf Club, Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua

Public Business

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Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 2 May 2025

Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on Friday 28 February 2025

Titahi Golf Club
Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua, at 9.30am.

Members Present

Jenny Ngarimu (Chair)
Quentin Duthie
Chris Kirk-Burnnand
Hikitia Ropata
Sharli-Jo Solomon

Karakia timatanga

The Board Chair invited Luke Barnsley to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

1 Whakawhanaungatanga

Everyone present introduced themselves.

2 Apologies

Moved: Hikitia Ropata / Quentin Duthie

That the Board accepts the apology for absence from Caleb Ware.

The motion was **carried**.

3 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

4 Public participation

There was no public participation.

5 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 1 November 2024

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Chris Kirk-Burnnand

That the Board confirms the Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 1 November 2024.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Whitireia Park Board Accounts

Zoe Chen, Senior Business Accountant, spoke to the report.

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Hikitia Ropata

That the Board:

- 1 *Receives the report.*
- 2 *Notes that:*
 - a. *Income has been received from 1 July 2024 to 31 December:*
 - *\$2,750 from Titahi Golf Club for lease of the land*
 - *\$1,081 gross interest*
 - b. *Total costs from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 were:*
 - *\$412.50 for the GST payment*
 - *\$40 for Bank Fee – Auditor Confirmation*
 - c. *The BNZ Bank account balance as at 31 December 2024 was \$82,238.90.*
- 3 *Accepts the additional statement of responsibility for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Annual Reports.*

The motion was **carried**.

7 Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information]

Robyn Smith, Whitireia Park Restoration Group Coordinator, spoke to the report. Angus Hulme-Moir tabled a presentation on mokomoko (lizards).

Angus advised the Board that mokomoko are the most threatened fauna in New Zealand and are severely at risk.

There are three mokomoko in Whitireia Park – Raukawa gecko, northern grass skink, and the copper skink. There are several mokomoko missing from the Park: ornate skink, ngahere gecko, barking gecko, Kupe skink, and gold striped gecko.

Angus explained the mokomoko conservation project that is being undertaken in the Park:

- Intensive pest control over small areas for mice

- Control site to determine impact
- Ongoing monitoring of rodents and mokomoko
- Methodology and date modelling

Angus advised the Board that there are opportunities to explore:

- National research project to understand the potential of Brodifacoum and bioaccumulation in the lizards
- Reintroduction of missing species to Whitireia Park – starting with either gold stripe gecko or ornate skink.

The Board discussed the opportunities identified by Angus.

Moved: Hikitia Ropata / Quentin Duthie

That the Board:

- 1 *Requests a Board strategy workshop with Ngāti Toa, Greater Wellington, and community groups to explore evidence-based restoration direction for the Park.*

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: The Board requested a report to the next meeting on options to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Whitireia Park Restoration Group, including resourcing and funding for an event.

Noted: The Board requested a report to a future meeting on the request for a study into bioaccumulation of toxins used to control pests in Whitireia Park mokomoko.

8 Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Jeremy Paterson, Team Leader Western Parks, Jordan Clear, Mobile Ranger Western, Kim Broad, Senior Advisor, Environment Restoration, and David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, spoke to the report.

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Chris Kirk-Burnnand

That the Board:

- 1 *Receives the report.*
- 2 *Notes the content of the report.*
- 3 *Approves interim permission granted on 25 November 2024.*

The motion was **carried**.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Board Chair invited Luke Barnsley to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 11.02am.

J Ngarimu

Chair

Date:

Whitireia Park Board
2 May 2025



WHITIREIA PARK BOARD FINANCE REPORT – QUARTER THREE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To present to the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) the management accounts for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Board:

- 1 **Receives** the report.
- 2 **Notes that:**
 - a *Income has been received from 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025:*
 - \$4,125 from Titahi Bay Golf Club for lease of the land
 - \$2,001 Gross Interest
 - b *Total costs from 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025 were:*
 - \$412.5 for the GST payment
 - \$40 for Bank Fee – Auditor Confirmation
 - c *The BNZ Bank account balance as at 31 March 2025 was \$84,326.86.*

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Whitireia Park Board Financial Statements – Q3

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Zoe Chen – Senior Business Accountant
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director, Delivery Environment Group David Hipkins – Acting Group Manager, Environment Group

Whitireia Park Board
Statement Comprehensive Revenue and Expense
for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025

	2023/24 Full Year	2024/25 Q3	GW Entries 2023/24 Full Year	GW Entries 2024/25 Q3
Income	\$	\$	\$	\$
Water Rates	-	-	7,309	5,577
Lease	5,500	4,125	-	-
Interest	1,934	2,001	-	-
GWRC	-	-	209,043	153,300
Total Income	7,434	6,126	216,352	158,877
Less Expenditure	\$	\$	\$	\$
Water rates expense	-	-	7,850	6,876
Sundry	40	40	-	-
Depreciation Expense	1,676	1,257	-	-
Project Materials	-	-	40	5,541
Printing	-	-	712	368
Stationery	-	-	-	543
Postage & Couriers	-	-	427	-
Property Rates	-	-	-	1,733
Security	-	-	8,778	3,100
Cleaning & Toiletrie	-	-	10,088	8,623
Advertising	-	-	518	-
Settlement-Materials & Supplies	-	-	-	8,826
Contractors - Labour	-	-	61,375	29,553
Contractors - Machin	-	-	2,550	19,250
Contractors - Constr	-	-	25,421	522
Contractors - Facili	-	-	-	-
GWRC Vehicle Costs	-	-	-	-
GWRC Staff Time	-	-	98,592	73,944
Total Expenditure	1,716	1,297	216,352	158,877
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	5,718	4,829	-	-

Whitireia Park Board
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	30 June 2024	GW Entries 2024/25 Q3
FUNDS AND RESERVES		
Accumulated Funds	77,244	82,962
Net Surplus (Deficit)	5,718	4,829
TOTAL FUNDS AND RESERVES	82,962	87,791
Represented By:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Current Account	78,448	84,327
Sundry Debtors	82	82
GST Receivable	-	-
Total Current Assets	78,530	84,409
Fixed Assets	285,806	285,806
Accumulated Depreciation	(281,531)	(282,788)
Total Fixed Assets	4,275	3,018
Total Assets	82,804	87,427
CURRENT LIABILITES		
GST Payable	(198)	(404)
Sundry Creditors	40	40
Total Current Liabilites	(158)	(364)
Total Liabilites	(158)	(364)
NET ASSETS	82,962	87,791

Whitireia Park Board
2 May 2025



WHITIREIA PARK RESTORATION GROUP REPORT

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) on the works undertaken by the Whitireia Restoration Group.

Planting

2. Site preparation has yet to be done for the 2025 plantings because its been dry and the grass was all dead. Now that we have had a bit of rain, the grass will be germinating.
3. We have scheduled our anniversary planting day for Sunday 20 July 2025 with a backup day of Sunday 27 July 2025. We hope to get a very big turnout for this and also have a kiosk with a barbecue and information.
4. There will be two other planting days this season. We have yet to decide the dates. The soil is still very dry so it is likely to be June or July.
5. Below is the map showing the general area where the planting will be. Some areas which were burnt will be included for planting.



Image 1: Planting areas – H2 is a spillover area

6. Around the coast, 600 plants will be planted in Areas A and B with any spillover in Area C. The area marked in yellow was planted last season.



Image 2: Indicated planting areas

Wildlife

7. A young kārearea was spotted on a bollard at Onehunga Bay on 19 March 2025. It then flew up into a tree at the carpark and was bobbing its head. Apparently head bobbing helps them determine spatial distance.
8. It must have had a full belly as there were many pīwakawaka flitting around very close to it.
9. It was identified by an expert as being juvenile as it has yellow circles around the eye and its cere above the beak is yellow



Image 3: Juvenile karearea

Dune Monitoring

10. Aotea College students were to monitor the dunes at Onehunga Bay last year. This was cancelled due to very high wind.
11. This year the date is 8 May 2025. This will involve point sampling the vegetation cover every metre along transects which run perpendicular to the beach. We will also document the slope between each point along the transect which will tell us the profile of the dunes. Over time this should get higher and higher and anecdotally this has already been observed; however, it would be good to be able to prove this with a scientifically robust method.
12. We hope to repeat this every year.

Onepoto estuary sign

13. There still isn't a sign at Onepoto to educate park users about the estuary wildlife.
14. This was previously approved by the Board. Can we please get this done before next spring. It would be really good to have a simple sign telling people to pick up their dog poo too.

Predator Control

15. In the past quarter there has been 30 hours of volunteer work.
16. An A24 has replaced after it was mown by the contract mower on the fire break.
17. There have been 155 catches for the year to date.
18. The traps deployed to catch hedgehogs near the Thornley Street entrance appear to have controlled the hedgehog plague; however, new hedgehogs will move into the area next spring.

Weed Control

- 19. A lot of weed control of boneseed and karo has been carried out over the past few months mostly on the escarpment. Also, many small karo seedlings have also been pulled between the road and the top of the escarpment. Many are in or close to mingimingi where the birds have been feasting on mingimingi berries and have pooped out the karo seed.
- 20. Boneseed seedlings which have germinated over the past 2 months have been pulled out along the coast between Onehunga Bay and Kaiaua Bay.
- 21. They are easy to hand pull when young. Osteospermum species, African daisy is constantly reinvading along this coastline too. These are also being pulled out.



Image 4: Osteospermum species, African daisy

Volunteer hours

22.

	Trapping	Lizard project	Seed collection	Planting	Weed control	Admin/Promotion
February to 20 April 2025	30	NA	8	0	37	9

Ngā kaiwaitohu Signatories

Writers	Robyn Smith, Chris Gibbons, Rob Hughes, Rob Stratford, Niki Edwards, Nick Hartley, Mike Jacobson, Turi Hodges
Approvers	Nicola Patrick – Acting Director Delivery David Hipkins – Acting Group Manager, Environment

Whitireia Park Board
2 May 2025



WHITIREIA PARK BOARD OPERATIONS UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Whitireia Park Board (the board) on operational management of the park.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

Park Ranger update

Kaitawa point gate update

2. Rangers have contacted iwi representatives regarding a site visit to review the placement of the bollards discussed at the Park Board meeting prior to Christmas.

Fire risk management

3. Officers have continued to follow up with Wellington Electricity regarding remedial actions that were taken/not taken following the Whitireia fire in 2024. Officers are yet to have a response.

2024 Fire damage rehabilitation

4. Aerial gorse spraying will take place on the burnt area in May 2025. The Park Board and public will be notified when spraying is taking place. Signage will be left at each end of the Te Onepoto loop track for two weeks after spraying to warn foragers.

Blocked vehicle access

5. Vehicle access via the Thornley Street entrance will be blocked on 29 April 2025, due to repairs on a telegraph pole outside the park. Pedestrian access will still be available. Rangers have updated the website.

Road repairs

6. Officers have engaged a contractor to fix edge breaks and fill in potholes along Whitireia Road. This work is to be completed before the end of June 2025.

Capital expenditure

7. Greater Wellington continues to investigate options for resolving the issues relating to asset ownership and future capital expenditure for new and replacement assets in the park. Options are being considered with a future perspective of enabling transition of park management services to Ngāti Toa at the appropriate time.

20-year celebration event

8. Officers are working with the Whitireia Restoration Group to plan an event to be held at the first tree planting of the year in July 2025. Rangers intend to support the event with \$1,000 to provide kai for the celebration.

Restoration strategy workshop

9. Officers have considered the Board's request for a workshop on restoration strategy. Officers request further discussion with the Board at this meeting to clarify the intent and to consider merging this work into the review of the Park Management Plan.

Parks Planning

Parks survey

10. Greater Wellington's annual park visitor satisfaction survey is taking place in late April/early May 2025, which will include Whitireia Park. The results will be published on the Greater Wellington website when it's completed and included in a future report to the Park Board. An additional question has been added about restoration and the layout has been improved, but there are no significant changes to the survey this year. Previous surveys are published on the Greater Wellington website.¹

Key Native Ecosystem management

Weed control

11. The annual weed control programme is still underway at the time of writing this report but is due to be completed by the end of April 2025. The Toa Rangatira kaimahi team, which is undertaking most of the ground-control mahi this year, has been supported by guidance and support from Greater Wellington staff. They have been very receptive and have learnt a lot about the site and the control methods used. We expect that they will be able to undertake this mahi next year with more ease and effectiveness.

Pest animal control

12. Volunteers continue to operate the network of traps and bait stations across the Park without any issues. Greater Wellington is grateful for the effort that the group puts into this mahi.
13. A night-time search of the Park for pest animals will be carried out by staff in late April 2025. These night-time surveys are carried out quarterly and are aimed at keeping the Park free of possums, hares and rabbits and reducing hedgehog numbers.

¹ <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans-and-reports/parks-plans/toitu-te-whenua-parks-network-plan-2020-30/implementing-toitu-te-whenua-parks-network-plan-2020-30/enhancing-recreation-experiences/parks-survey/>

Revegetation

14. All weed control and spot spraying in the community planting sites will be completed by the end of April.

Mokomoko research proposal

15. At the previous park board meeting Angus Holme-Moir (representing Whitireia Restoration Group) presented findings from a long-term study of lizard/mokomoko conservation and habitat restoration in Whitireia park.
16. Following the mokomoko presentation, Angus (now representing the Department of Conservation (DOC)) informed the Board about the need to undertake research relating to bioaccumulation of rodent toxins in frogs and lizards. The Research proposal from DOC is included in [Attachment 2](#).
17. The DOC research proposal into toxin bioaccumulation in mokomoko aims to test native geckos within Whitireia Park, who can live for up to 65 years. To assess the impact of toxin bioaccumulation, DOC proposes to euthanize six geckos from the Park.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Board:

- 1 **Receives** the report.
- 2 **Notes** the content of the report.
- 3 **Approves** the Department of Conservation to remove six raukawa geckos from the Park; to be euthanised for the purpose of research into toxin bioaccumulation.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board Meetings
2	Research proposal - bioaccumulation of rodent toxin in frogs and lizards

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Jordan Clear – Mobile Ranger Western Jeremy Paterson – Western Parks Team Leader Kim Broad – Senior Environment Restoration Advisor David Boone – Manager, Ecosystems & Community
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director Delivery David Hipkins – Acting Group Manager Environment

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Date	Action item	Status and comment
30 August 2024	<p>Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report – May to 31 July 2024</p> <p>Noted: The Board requested that Greater Wellington staff initiate conversations with Radio NZ to address weeds at the Radio NZ site.</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>Comment: Officers have met with Ngāti Toa and the Whitireia Restoration Group to better understand the issue. A site visit has been organised. Officers are not sure if RNZ is willing to do anything in this space.</p>
30 August 2024	<p>Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report – May to 31 July 2024</p> <p>Noted: The Board discussed arranging a celebration for the Whitireia Park Restoration Group volunteers next year to thank them for their mahi and celebrate the Group’s 20 year anniversary.</p>	<p>Status: in progress</p> <p>Comment: Update in operations report May 2025 meeting.</p>
30 August 2024	<p>Whitireia Park Board Operations Report – August 2024</p>	
	<p>Noted: The Board requested that Greater Wellington staff identify in the annual operational and capital budgets what activities can be met from the Board accounts.</p>	<p>Status: in progress</p> <p>Comment: Officers are currently looking at different projects that could be funded.</p>
	<p>Noted: The Board requested Greater Wellington staff organise a site visit to Kaitawa Point to see placement options for the bollards.</p>	<p>Status: in progress</p>

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

		Comment: Officers have contacted lwi representatives regarding a site visit to review the placement of the bollards discussed.
1 November 2024	Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information] Noted: The Board requested that it be advised of the number of traps used in the Park.	Status: Completed Comment: Excluding the traps and stations that the restoration group operate in their escarpment lizard protection project, there are 122 traps and 39 bait stations in the park. The traps consist of rat, mustelid, hedgehog and possum traps. All are operated by the restoration group.
1 November 2024	Whitireia Park Board Operations Report – November 2024 Noted: The Board requested:	
	that the fire management plan for this season be recirculated to members.	Status: In Progress Comment: A park specific fire management plan is still in development. For now, Rangers are using standardised activity controls similar to other parks when dry conditions trigger controls being put in place.
	that officers follow up with Wellington Electricity to confirm that remedial action has been taken on the power lines within the Park.	Status: In Progress Comment:

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

		Wellington Electricity has been contacted and, Greater Wellington is still awaiting a response from Wellington Electricity.
28 February 2025	Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information] The Board requested:	
	a report to the next meeting on options to celebrate the 20 th anniversary of the Whitireia Park Restoration Group, including resourcing and funding for an event.	Status: In Progress Comment: The 20 th Anniversary celebration to be held at the first planting event for the season. Greater Wellington and Whitireia Park Restoration Group to work together to make this event a success.
	a report to a future meeting on the request for a study into bioaccumulation of toxins used to control pests in Whitireia Park mokomoko.	Status: In progress Comment: Department of Conservation research proposal sent to board members and resolution requested in May 2025 broad meeting (see points 15-17 in report and Attachment 2)

Attachment 2 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Research Project: Rodent poison persistence and accumulation in lizards and frogs

Background

Anticoagulant rodenticides are rat and mouse poisons (including the toxin brodifacoum or Talon) that are commonly used in New Zealand to protect biodiversity as they are very effective at controlling rodents (rats and mice) to very low numbers. They are also used widely around homes and buildings. In recent years we have come to understand that mice have a devastating impact on lizard, frog and invertebrate populations. Mouse control is needed to prevent extinction of the most threatened lizard and frog species, and the use of anticoagulant rodenticides (including brodifacoum) is expanding. There are no alternative toxins that provide the same level of effectiveness for mouse control. The challenge, however, with anticoagulants such as brodifacoum is the potential for bioaccumulation.

Bioaccumulation is when the anticoagulant (brodifacoum) accumulates within the bodies of animals and insects that consume it. This obviously results in the death of the target species (rats and mice), but it can also lead to accumulation within the bodies of the species we're aiming to protect. This risk is better understood overseas as very little work has been done to understand the risks to New Zealand's fauna. This study aims to understand the risk of bioaccumulation in lizards and frogs. To do this we aim to test the invasive plague skink (who have a very short lifespan), native geckos (who can live for up to 65 years) and native frogs.

To assess the impact, we need to euthanize a small number of skinks, geckos and frogs from areas where there is known use of brodifacoum. The number of animals to be euthanized has been determined by the Manaaki Whenua toxicologists who are undertaking the examinations. 6 animals from a given population provides enough data to make robust conclusions. To further minimize impacts on any given population the focus will be male animals and at sites which have a known population that is robust.

Each site in the proposed list has different anticoagulant rodenticide usage histories (high, medium, low or nil). The study will determine whether current usage levels pose a concern for lizards and frogs. If bioaccumulation and persistence is a real threat, this will signal the need for further research into impacts and alternatives to anticoagulant rodenticides, as well as a reassessment of existing practices.

Permissions and consultation

- This research has been approved by the DOC ethics committee.
- The project has been developed with Manaaki Whenua scientists and socialized with the wider Lizard technical advisory group which includes herpetologists external to DOC
- At the Kapiti Wellington level we have sent the proposal to
 - Yourself as the Board for Whitireia Park
 - A group of iwi reps who are interested in the lizard conservation space and/or are involved in pest control.
 - Land manager reps including GWRC and Wellington City Council

Attachment 2 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Draft list of sites

Location	Species	Number to be euthanaised	Frequency of anticoagulant rodenticide use
Macraes, Redbank	<i>Woodworthia</i> Otago/Southland large" geckos	6 geckos	Medium
Macraes, Nenthorn	<i>Woodworthia</i> "Otago/Southland large" geckos	6 geckos	Nil (but in proximity to operations)
McKenzie Basin, Lake Pukaki, Morgans Island	<i>Woodworthia</i> "Southern Alps"	6 geckos	Nil
Maud Island	<i>Woodworthia raukawa</i> geckos. <i>Leiopelma hamiltoni</i> , Hamiltons frog	6 geckos 6 frogs	Low
Wellington, Miramar Peninsula	<i>Woodworthia raukawa</i> geckos	6 geckos	High
Wellington, Whitireia	<i>Woodworthia raukawa</i> geckos	6 geckos	High
Wellington, Zealandia	<i>Leiopelma hamiltoni</i> Hamiltons frog	6 frogs	Low/Moderate
Auckland, Waitakere Ranges, Ark in the Park	<i>Lampropholis delectata</i> (plague skink). <i>Leiopelma hochstetteri</i> , (Hochstetters frog)	40 skinks 6 frogs	High
Auckland, Shakespear Regional Park	<i>Lampropholis delectata</i> (plague skink)	40 skinks	Moderate/High
Auckland, Torbay Bay	<i>Lampropholis delectata</i> (plague skink)	40 skinks	High
Brynderwyn commercial forestry block	<i>Leiopelma hochstetteri</i> , (Hochstetters frog)	6 frogs	Nil