

20 May 2013

Whitireia Park Board

Order Paper for the meeting to be held in the Puna Ora meeting room
26 Ngatitua Street, Takapuwahia, Porirua on:

Friday, 24 May 2013 at 10.00am

Membership of Board

Jenny Brash
Nigel Wilson

Barbara Donaldson (Chair)

Manu Katene
Reina Solomon

Taku Parai
,

Whitireia Park Board

Order paper for the meeting to be held on Friday, 24 May 2013 at the Puna Ora meeting room, 26 Ngatittoa Street, Takapuwahia, Porirua at 10.00am

Public Business

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SUBJECT **Whitireia Park Board minutes**
WHEN Friday, 15 February 2013 at 10.00am
WHERE Puna Ora meeting room, Ngatittoa Street, Porirua

Present

Jenny Brash	Barbara Donaldson (Chair)	Nigel Wilson
Manu Katene	Taku Parai	Reina Solomon

Karakia

Taku Parai opened proceedings with a karakia.

1 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

2 **Public participation**

There was no public participation.

3 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved *(Brash / Parai)*

That the Board confirms the minutes of the meeting of 23 November 2012.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

4 **Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012**

Nigel Corry, General Manager, Environment Management, Greater Wellington Regional Council, spoke to the report.

Moved *(Wilson/Katene)*

That the Board:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the contents of the report.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

5 Work programme update

Amanda Cox, Manager, Parks, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Wayne Boness, Principal Ranger Western, Greater Wellington Regional Council, spoke to the report.

Moved

(Solomon/ Wilson)

That the Board:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the contents of the report.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

The Board noted that a comprehensive report on grazing in Whitireia Park will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

The Board discussed Porirua City Council's fire protection initiatives and noted the potential for a partnership between the Board and the Council. Planting of controlled vegetation along private boundaries will begin in May.

6 Report to Whitireia Park Board by the Whitireia Park Restoration Group February 2013

Chris Gibbons spoke on behalf of the Whitireia Park Restoration Group. The Board noted the concerns of the Group regarding grazing in the park and the type of fencing needed if grazing is to resume.

The Board thanked the Group for their continuing work in the Park.

7 Protection and enhancement of Pou site

At the Board's meeting on 23 November 2012, the Board agreed to spend \$7,000 on the protection and enhancement of the Pou site. Several design concepts were tabled at the meeting as a starting point and it was agreed further discussion would be needed on the options at the next meeting.

Taku Parai offered the closing karakia.

The Chair noted that the next meeting of the Board is on 24 May 2013.

The meeting closed at 10.37am.

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Subject: Report for Whitireia Park Board meeting 24 May 2013
Author: Wayne Boness, Principal Ranger, Western, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Date: 10 May 2013

Subject: Grass Management in Whitireia Park

1. Purpose

To provide the Whitireia Park Board with options for grass management at Whitireia Park, and to recommend a course of action.

2. Background

Prior to the 2010 fire at Whitireia Park, grass management had been undertaken via stock grazing and mechanical means. Over that time, the grazed area had been slowly reduced in size as the Te Onepoto Valley was retired followed by the fencing of areas from Onehunga Bay to Kaitawa Point.

As fences had been damaged during the fire, and given the history of poor stock management, there has been no grazing since 2010. Grass mowing has continued and extended to include areas adjacent to roadways and coast areas. This has increased the fire breaks between ignition sources, and added aesthetic value for park users.

The Biodiversity Department has identified areas of high biodiversity value on the Park and a document guiding management of these is currently under development. This will be discussed in detail with partners and stakeholder groups later in the year. The main areas identified as part of this exercise are the coastal escarpment and coast line from the southern end of the park around to and including the Te Onepoto catchment.

This work has taken into account the Sustainable Land Use Plan (SLUP) developed by Peter Handford of Groundtruth, (formerly P A Handford and Associates Ltd), which provides direction for the sustainable management of land within the park. The SLUP however, was based on the premise that grazing remained an option for on-going grass management.

Noting that fire remains a risk in the park, options have been explored to manage the grass within the park, more specifically the area between the two cattle stops bordering the golf course and coastal escarpment. Ngati Toa representatives, Whitireia Park Restoration Group representatives, Parks and Biodiversity staff met in early 2013 to discuss long term grass management options and related concerns.

Actions from this meeting included:

- Meet with Rural Fire Officers from Department of Conservation and Porirua City Council to get a full understanding of the Park Board's statutory obligations in relation to the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977
- Prepare fuel load and fire spread tables based on current vegetation types
- Confirm areas of highest probability fire ignition points to help focus efforts in areas requiring greatest mitigation
- Investigate best practice options for managing vegetation on archaeological sites

3. Discussion

3.1 Fire risk

Since the removal of the grazing from Whitireia Park grass growth in the area between the cattle stops has been unchecked, although mowing has increased on areas adjacent to the road and the coast. As a result, native vegetation species have regenerated along the coastal escarpment and in the valley systems.

The growth of grass across the park has not gone unnoticed by the agencies responsible for rural fire within the district. Both the Department of Conservation and Porirua City Council have responsibilities for ensuring requirements under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 are met in relation to fire prevention and control.

Staff have met onsite with both these agencies to ensure that these requirements can be met. Fire break work continues on the park, mainly using mowing. Additional effort has been invested in fire break cutting adjacent to the Thornley street entrance to remove standing grass adjoining private residences and an increased mowing width alongside the road to the coast applied where possible. Staff also plan some vegetative fire break planting this winter on some of the steeper inaccessible slopes adjoining Gloaming Hill.

With the work currently underway the rural fire authorities indicate that the minimum standard required is being met. They note that they would prefer to see some action taken on the larger areas of long grass to reduce fuel loadings.

3.2 Understanding the risk

Fire behaviour predictions represent a combination of art and science. They are intended to assist in fire management decision making, and are not a substitute for experience, sound judgement or observations of actual fire behaviour. Fire behaviour can change rapidly due to changes in fuel conditions, slope and exposure to wind and no models can fully account for all the variables that affect fire behaviour.

From information supplied from the NZ Fire Service on reported fire calls at Whitireia Park, the areas with the greatest potential as ignition sources are the main entry road, coastal zone and car park areas, i.e. the main access route and area of greatest recreational activity. Adjoining neighbours present only a negligible risk.

Continuing the current grass management practices will see a change in vegetation composition across the park as native regeneration increases. This will bring about a change in fire risk and fire behaviours.

In planning for any fire response, understanding fuel types and loading is an important consideration. As an example grazed pasture of 50mm in length will have a fuel load of 1.3 tonnes per hectare while un-grazed pasture of 450mm in length will have a fuel load of 8 tonnes per hectare. These loadings help determine the intensity of any potential fire and devise appropriate methods for control.

Over the drier months (October-March) grass curing (or die-off) occurs. The level of grass curing dictates how fast a fire will travel (rate of spread).

To understand grass curing on the park and how any potential fire would spread over time, three areas were selected for grass curing plots. Grass curing over all three sites fell within 80-85% fully cured range (80-85% dead grass; 15% live matter). Based on these figures we expect that any fire beginning around the coastal margin would potentially spread at a rate of 1400 to 1900 metres per hour without any factors being added for slope or wind.

The intensity of such a fire would be in the order of 4-5000kw/m with head flame heights in the 3 to 5 metre range. This type of fire emits considerable radiant heat and would require an aerial suppression attack with ground crews working from the flanks where safe to do so.

To have a chance of being effective, firebreaks would need to be a minimum of 10 metres wide. As the intensity of any fire grows and combined with wind and slope, firebreaks of up to 30 metres wide would be best constructed where possible.

To complicate the picture, while grass fires generally grow in an elliptical pattern, this would probably not be the case in Whitireia due to the broken topography and prevailing north-westerly winds. Fires at the park are unlikely to follow a predictable pattern and would likely be difficult to manage.

One of the greatest concerns for any fire at Whitireia Park is the close proximity to adjoining residential areas. With rates of spread at a minimum of 1400 metres an hour, a fire would travel quickly from the western cliffs to residential areas.

3.3 Archaeological Sites

While Whitireia contains numerous archaeological sites and the kumara terraces lie within this grass management area. GWRC are still to work with Ngati Toa to determine the best outcomes for this site (the terraces?) and how they are to be achieved.

As background, Kevin Jones in his publication: *Caring for archaeological sites* notes, “it will be possible to integrate some seasonal farm activities on most sites, but not all.”

Key factors to consider are:

- Limit stock numbers to no more than 10 stock units/ha
- Control stock type, yearling cattle only, no bulls or dairy cows
- No mob stocking
- Limit the grazing season, not in winter or very wet weather
- Fertiliser to be applied to maintain sward cover and not for production
- Maintain a desirable grass height of 6-10cm
- Mechanical/mowing regime and technique

Regardless of which management option is preferred, a maintenance plan will be required to manage the historical kumara terraces regardless of whether the site is grazed or mechanically controlled. Mitigating the effects of regenerating vegetation root growth and weed control are just as critical to maintaining the integrity of the site as potential damage from grazing animals.

4. Management options

The two main options for managing grass on the top terraces are:

1. Mowing/Mechanical control

This would see the continuation of the current mowing regime around the car park, amenity areas and road sides. Some additional areas would be widened to maximise fire break width, this is not possible in some areas due the broken nature and steepness of the topography. As the majority of this is undertaken by the Park Ranger the cost is in time and running cost of the ride on mower that GWRC own.

Additional fire breaking will need to be continued adjacent to the Thornley street entrance and along the areas adjacent to Gloaming Hill and the Golf course.

Currently around \$5000 is expended on an annual basis to manage existing firebreaks by contractors. The new fire breaking adjacent to Thornley

Street is likely to cost around \$3000 annually depending on seasonal growing conditions and number of cuts required.

It is likely that additional weed control would be required to limit gorse regeneration.

2. Stock grazing

As identified in the SLUP, the land around the upper part of the main western ridgeline is suitable for grazing.

Peter Handford concludes *“this coincides with the value in maintaining open space in an area where there are spectacular views, and a feeling of expansive open space. Grazing of long grass in this area will also assist in controlling summer fire risk to adjacent residential areas. Keeping this area open also provides variety in the landscape and a transition from built up areas to the more remote and wilder coastline and eastern ridgeline.”*

The SLUP identified that a sensible way to manage the area would be to undertake seasonal grazing, bringing cattle back in the spring to control major grass growth, probably October to early December and then again in the autumn, possibly March to mid May. Grazing in this way allows stock to only graze when there is sufficient feed available, so they are not pushed to damage land or break into non grazed areas.

It would also be important to avoid having bulls or calves on the park.

With grazing being a possible land management option, staff have identified fencing requirements to protect the areas identified as “high value” in the Biodiversity Area Plan currently being developed.

In addition to these sites, we identified and priced fencing for an area at the head of Te Onepoto stream catchment, as it drains into the Porirua Harbour and should also be protected.

Options for fence types have been discussed with farmers, fencing contractors and Peter Handford. On this basis, 8-wire post and batten fences would be the preferred option for fences in the wetland valley areas. A 4-wire fence with one electric wire being is favoured for the escarpment being less intrusive in this location. Allowance has been made for gates into each area and for access to the coastal escarpment for model aeroplane enthusiasts.

Potential fence lines and associated costs are outlined below:

- Escarpment fence – \$14,466.18 ex GST, 4 wire fence, 1240 metres
- Coastal Wetland \$12,554.00 ex GST, 8 wire post and batten fence, 680 metres
- Te Onepoto catchment wetland \$ 21,922.00 ex GST, 8 wire post and batten, 850 metres

The prices of the first two fence lines are lower because materials are already in stock. The third item includes costs to supply all materials and labour.

5. Further considerations

5.1 Whitireia Park Management Plan

A review of the Whitireia Park Management Plan is expected to start in 2013/14. Noting that the current plan is over 30 years old, we expect a high level of interest in the review. Comments received to date from stakeholders, neighbours and visitors to the park, indicate a range of community interests – a desire to develop track networks and maintain open spaces throughout the park, concern for the protection and enhancement of the park environment and requests to manage the fire risk.

GWRC staff note that under the current regime of grass mowing and firebreak maintenance the Park Board is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities with regard to managing the fire risk so there is no pressing urgency to change. To complete the recommended fencing programme entails significant costs. An agreed outcomes and a maintenance plan for the archaeological sites is also required.

With all this in mind, staff advise to continue with the current regime of grass mowing, and incorporate a final decision on grass management into the new Whitireia Park Management Plan.

6. Recommendation

That the Board:

1. ***Receives the report, and***
2. ***Notes the contents of the report.***
3. ***Endorses the continuation of mechanical and mowing methods of grass control until the Whitireia Park management plan is finalised***

Report prepared by:



Wayne Boness
Principal Ranger, Western

Report approved by:



Amanda Cox
Manager, Parks department

Report approved by:



Nigel Corry
General Manager, Environment
Management Group
Greater Wellington Regional Council

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Subject: Report for Whitireia Park Board meeting 24 May 2013

Author: Wayne Boness, Principal Ranger, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Kim Broad, Biodiversity Coordinator, Greater Wellington Regional Council

Date: 3 May 2013

Subject: Whitireia Park, work programme update

1. Purpose

To update the Park Board regarding the implementation of the annual work programme at Whitireia Park, and progress action points from the last meeting.

2. Background

A programme of work for the 2012-13 financial year was approved by the Board at its meeting on 18 May 2012.

3. Biodiversity management

3.1 Biodiversity Area Plan

The Biodiversity Area Plan for Whitireia Coast has been considered by the Parks department and shortly after further editing is completed will be available for consideration by Ngati Toa and other stakeholders. The plan will be presented to the Board at its meeting in August 2013.

3.2 Pest animal control

The Restoration Group has volunteered to assist with the reinstatement of a possum and rat control regime. A network of bait stations will be loaded with toxic bait to control any possums migrating into the Park and to keep rat numbers at low levels. Staff have positioned bait stations in patches of bush across the Park and along the boundary, and the volunteers will soon start checking and re-filling the bait stations with toxin at three monthly intervals. All volunteers involved will be trained in the safe handling of the toxins.

We will issue a press release highlighting the Restoration Group's pest control work and asking for the public's help to keep the Park possum free by reporting observations of possums near or within the Park.

The Restoration Group also continues to provide vigilant and successful predator trapping across the Park. During the last three months 13 mustelids

(stoats or weasels, no ferrets), five rats and two mice have been cleared from the traps.

A night-shoot of rabbits and search for intruding possums will be carried out later this month.

3.3 Environmental weed control

Work is continuing on environmental weed control on the coastal escarpment on the western side of the Park. The species being controlled in this area include boneseed, boxthorn, brush wattle, karo and pohutakawa. One contract was completed earlier in the year and a second one is about to commence. This contract will again require abseiling and this time the use of chainsaws to remove some very large boxthorn bushes.

3.4 Revegetation

The “Burn site” has been reassessed for gorse re-growth and was deemed no action was required this year; this will be reassessed in the 2013-14 financial year and follow up undertaken as required.

During the late summer early autumn an area of pampas has become noticeable around the eastern edge of the burn area and in the lower sections of the Onepoto stream catchment. This will be included in the weed control programme in the spring.

Preparation of areas adjacent to the road leading to the car park in Onehunga Bay has been completed. Flaxes will be planted here by Aotea College students at the end of May. In time this will see the removal of the unsightly fence currently in place as the flaxes grow and form a vegetative barrier.

Preparation of planting sites in the Gloaming Hill firebreak is underway with planting to start in June/July. We are currently investigating ways to involve community groups and residents in this planting.

Contractors will begin a trial this winter to investigate re-vegetation techniques that have the potential to cover larger areas at lower costs than current techniques. The techniques to be trialled are plug planting, direct seeding and seed sowing. Trial sites in the burn area have been selected and the trial is planned to run over the next two years.

Species to be planted this winter in the first stage of the trial are:

Species	Common name	Stock Type	Number
Austroderia fulvida	Toetoe	RTH	200
Austroderia fulvida	Toetoe	P14	50
Leptospermum scoparium	Manuka	RTH	200
Leptospermum scoparium	Manuka	RTT	100
Leptospermum scoparium	Manuka	Plugs	500

Species	Common name	Stock Type	Number
Phormium tenax	Swamp flax	RTH	400
Phormium tenax	Swamp flax	BR	100
Phormium tenax	Swamp flax	Plugs	100
Coprosma robusta	Karamu	RTH	50
Coprosma robusta	Karamu	P14	50
Coprosma robusta	Karamu	RTH	50
Coprosma robusta	Karamu	P14	50
Coprosma robusta	Karamu	Plugs	100
Hebe stricta	Koromiko	P14	50
Hebe stricta	Koromiko	RTH	100
Olearia solandri	Coastal tree daisy	RTH	100
Cordyline australis	Cabbage tree	RTH	100
Phormium cookianum	Mountain flax	Plugs	600
Solanum laciniatum	Poroporo	Plugs	200
			3100

4. General park management

4.1 Ranger Service

The Park Ranger continues to have a regular presence in the Park responding to incidents as they arise with the most common being isolated incidents of vandalism, graffiti and rubbish dumping. Off road use continues spasmodically with the Ranger having some success in apprehending and gaining details of these offenders.

It appears some of the local motorbike riders have adapted to staff being present with late afternoon/early evening reports of off road use being received.

Another compliance patrol operation is planned and will target some of these times to try and intercept and deal with people who breach the Park bylaws.

One very determined 4-wheel driver completely demolished the gate and rails around the coast between Te Onepoto and Onehunga Bays. They continued to the fence before Onehunga Bay and cut the wires, and when unable to get out due to the bollards, appear to have returned the way they entered. This is the worst case of vandalism seen for some time.

Some of the more interesting finds in the dumped rubbish have been gas bottles, golf clubs, fishing equipment, knives and a pile of broken crockery.

Over the summer period an increased number of patrols were undertaken by staff due to extended high fire danger period. Several groups and individuals were spoken to regarding beach fires and requested to extinguish these.

4.2 Park Assets

Major road resealing from the Thornley Street entrance is due to get underway in May and be finished by the end of June. We have worked with Porirua City Council to use their roading maintenance contractors.

This work will include a full reseal of the road from the Thornley street entrance down to and including the car park and back along the coast towards the western car park.

Additional work will see the construction of a pull over area outside the toilet block with a sealed track leading up to the toilet, with bollards preventing vehicle access into this area. People with limited mobility will be able to then access the toilet; which at present is extremely difficult for them.

Working with the Porirua City Council to permanently close vehicle access into Te Onepoto Bay has progressed to the point where manufacturing the gate is underway and will be installed in the very near future.

This has been quite an involved process but a key step to protecting the nearby wetland.

Preparations are underway to re-metal inland sections of Te Onepoto Loop Track.

Track cutbacks and spraying operations have been completed.

New track directional signage has been produced and installed. These signs are a lighter and brighter shade of blue, complying with the new Whitireia Park colour scheme.

Grass mowing is continuing and has improved the visitor experience around the coastal margin with increased shade areas being well used. Roadside mowing has improved sight lines on the access road and new road safety signage has been installed.

Over the settled summer period it was not uncommon to see limited parking spots around the coast areas as people flocked to the beach.

4.3 Fire Protection/Management

The fire risk remained high throughout the period, with staff dealing with picnic fires that have been not extinguished properly. In conjunction with the Porirua City Council Rural Fire Officer, we established three grass curing sites around the park to establish live and dead grass percentages which will help better understand potential fire intensity and behaviour patterns. In the later part of the summer when these were measured, 85% of grass was classed as dead.

Staff continue to monitor and clear fire breaks on risky margins of the park bordering private property. Additional firebreaks have been cut near the Thornley Street entrance as neighbours were concerned about standing dead grass adjoining their properties.

We hope to start mitigating the risk with the upcoming planting of low flammability species in some key sites over winter.

4.4 Promotion

4.4.1 Whitireia Brochure

Before the end of the financial year we plan to produce the Whitireia brochure. Originally we had delayed this project until the 2013/14 financial year because it was thought we were not going to reach finalisation about the History copy to be included. Now that this has been confirmed we can proceed, but the time lines are short.

The draft copy and map for the brochure has been written and circulated to GWRC internal stakeholders for comment. The revised copy and map has been sent to Jennie Smeaton and Reina Solomon for suggested changes, additions and Ngati Toa approval. We have commissioned a photographer to produce some images for the promotion of Whitireia Park. These images will include an “iconic” Whitireia Park photograph, recreational pursuits in the park and cultural/historical features. They will be used in the brochure, on the map boards, on the website and for future interpretation and promotion projects. Once we have the images and finalised copy, we will get the designer to produce a first draft. We plan to email the design to the Park Board members for approval so we can get the brochure printed before 30 June 2013.

4.4.2 Whitireia signage

Before the end of the financial year, we plan to design and install the following:

(a) Thornley Street

- Entrance sign
- Entrance fencing improvement
- Opening hours and prohibition signs
- (It is proposed the prohibition signs included are the No fires, No trail bikes, No 4WD, No camping and dogs on a lead icons.)

- (b) Te Onepoto entrance
 - Entrance sign
 - Opening hours and prohibition signs (as above)
 - Map Board
- (c) Whitireia Rd concrete car park
 - Map board near the track to Whitireia peak
- (d) Onehunga Bay
 - Information Kiosk and Map board

We plan to have all the copy approved by Ngati Toa and then circulate the designs to the Park Board members for final sign off.

We have also approached PCC about getting a directional finger board sign at the Thornley and Dimock Street intersection to improve directional signage to the park.

5. Whitireia Pou

We have progressed the concept plans but they are not yet ready to present to Ngati Toa or the Park Board. We plan to present the refined concept drawings to Ngati Toa in the next couple of months and the completed version to the next Board meeting. We have also been researching permission requirements for developing this site.

6. Community Involvement

This has been covered by separate report to the Board from the Whitireia Park Restoration Group.

7. Recommendation

That the Board:

1. **Receives the report, and**
2. **Notes the contents of the report.**

Report prepared by:



Wayne Boness
Principal Ranger
Western Sector – Parks
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Report prepared by:

Kim Broad
Biodiversity Coordinator
Biodiversity department
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Report approved by:



Amanda Cox
Manager, Parks department
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Report approved by:



Nigel Corry
General Manager, Environment Management
Group
Greater Wellington Regional Council

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Report to Whitireia Park Board by the Whitireia Park Restoration Group

May 2013

Trapping programme

The trapping programme involving 42 traps spread across the park is to be supplemented by bait stations at strategic spots across the park. These will target possums that may venture into the park but will also kill rats ensure gains in bird and lizard populations can occur. They will be maintained and baited by volunteers along with the current DOC 200 series traps. Catches over the past 3 months are 13 mustelids, 2 mice and 5 rats.

Biodiversity Planning

Several members of the group will shortly be meeting with Darren Peters from DOC and GWRC biosecurity officers to discuss intensification of trapping in areas where native fauna is either currently prevalent or can be re-introduced to the area. These discussions have a view to engaging the trapping volunteers in thinking about the strategic nature of the work and how biodiversity gains can be maximised. The western escarpment area is a high priority area where the group are keen to enhance habitat for lizard species, blue penguins and speargrass weevil. GWRC Parks department, Biodiversity department, the Whitireia Park Board and DOC will be consulted once plans have been finalised.

Issues

Driftwood

The group is very concerned with driftwood harvesting both around the northern coast and in particular on the western coastline. Most of the large driftwood which accumulates during storm events has been removed.

Driftwood is a safe habitat for lizards which were found by Richard Romijn when he surveyed the Park for lizards found in Whitireia Park. (Romijn, R. 2011: Lizard fauna of Baring Head and Whitireia Park).

We suggest that a barrier is installed to prevent vehicles from accessing the area and that the road which leads from the bottom of the hill at Onehunga Bay westwards is stopped at the rock stack. See map. The area outlined in orange is where driftwood has been removed and where the group initially want to enhance lizard and penguin habitat.

We think that stopping the road just before the rock stack will provide a safer roosting area for birds on the rocky platform behind the rocks and make it a substantial distance from the driftwood area for people to carry the wood. It would also reduce litter and other illegal activity in this area and encourage people to enjoy the park by walking

4WD entry from Onepoto

The gate on the eastern side has been pushed over. We have intentions to bollard and planting the dunes in this area during June and July. Without security the planting and bollarding work is put at risk and we would ask that the board take quick action to manage entry from Onepoto Bay



Fencing

The group would like to re-emphasise their concerns about grazing and consequently fencing needed to contain stock.

We understand that a number of Redfin bullies are currently being translocated to the Onepoto (inland stream) from a stream in Titahi Bay. According to NIWA’s native fish database “Redfin bullies occur mainly in the runs and pools of small bouldery streams and their principal food is mayfly, caddis fly and chironomid larvae. Because of their dependence on this habitat, they are more sensitive to the effects of siltation in streams than other fish species.”

The headwaters of the Onepoto Stream are in the area being considered for grazing which would contribute to the siltation of the stream (see largest catchment outlined in map).The smaller catchment in the map drains to Titahi Bay beach and may have contributed to periodic closing of the beach for swimming after rain events when the Park was grazed prior to the fire in 2010.

Given the enormous cost of fencing adequately to contain stock in a relatively small area and the amount of regeneration taking place in the grasslands, we believe re-introducing stock is a retrograde step for the health if the ecosystems within the park.



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Planting Days for 2013

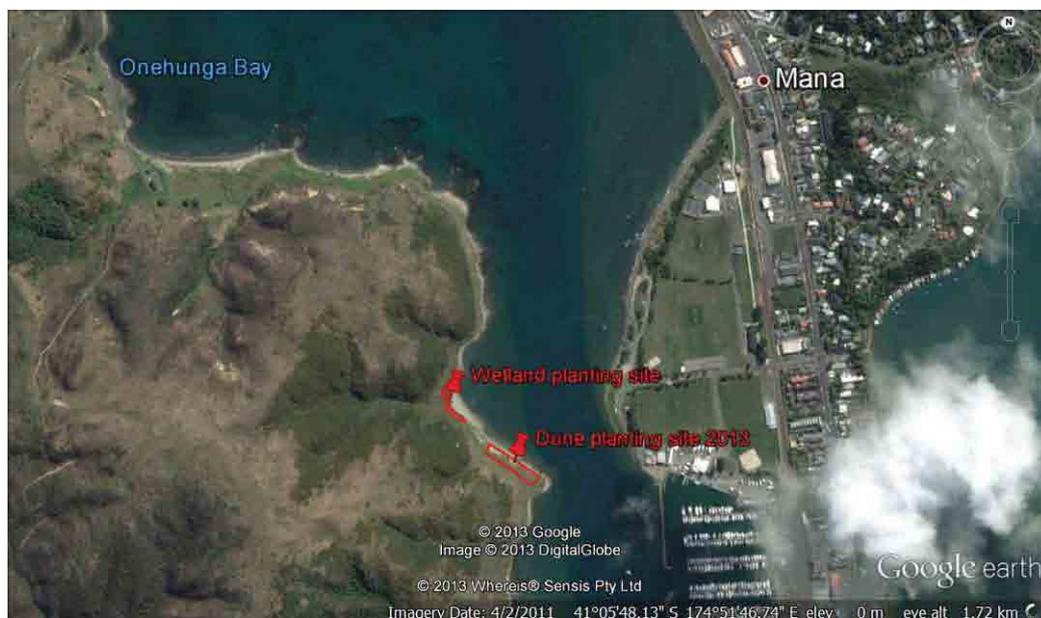
With the assistance of Wayne Cowan from GWRC Biosecurity, the sites for planting this winter are almost ready. Both sites are an 8 minute walk around the coastal track from Onehunga Bay. The sites are very easy to plant and all are welcome. We have 2,500 plants to put in this winter. We hope the Kapi Mana newspaper will again support our days by publishing our planting days.

Planting dates are

- Sunday 16 June 2013 from 10am to 1pm
- Sunday 14 July 2013 from 10am to 1pm.

Both planting days will be followed by a simple BBQ lunch and hot drinks.

We are also working closely with Jenny Whyte of Conservation Volunteers New Zealand. Jenny will be working with us to erect a rope and post fence around the new dune site and will also be helping out our planting.



Chris Gibbons

Chair, Whitireia Park Restoration Group

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Subject: Report for Whitireia Park Board meeting 24 May 2013
Author: Wayne Boness, Principal Ranger, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Date: 3 May 2013

Subject: Draft work programme 2013/14

1. Purpose

To seek approval from the Whitireia Park Board for a proposed work programme for Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) funding contribution to Whitireia Park for 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

2. Background

GWRC has included in its Proposed 2013/14 Annual Plan a contribution to the park of 104,959. In the 2013/14 financial year GWRC has allocated an additional \$30,000 for implementation of the Pou road and car park area. In total, the amount contributed by GWRC in 2013/14 is \$134,959. This is subject to the Council's finalisation of the GWRC 2013/14 Annual Plan in June 2013.

The annual contribution excludes the cost of GWRC staff time that will be used to implement the work programme. The Ranger service that began in March 2012 will continue with the Ranger being present in the park up to three days per week, including coverage over weekends and public holidays.

In the park, GWRC staff will also be undertaking pest animal and plant control work, organising and running community events and doing regular maintenance work. To support this work, staff will also be undertaking administrative, board servicing and planning duties.

3. The proposed 2013/14 work programme

As it is a role of the Board to define its work programme for the year, GWRC officers propose the following work programme to the Park Board for approval:

1. General expenses

There are a number of general costs that come with running the park. These include the cost of property and water rates, security to open and close gates and building lease. This will cost approximately \$24,459.

2. **Environmental protection and restoration**

GWRC is proposing that \$41,000 of the 2013/14 budget is spent on protecting and restoring the park's environment. This includes:

- Weed control focussing on gorse and pampas in the burn area
- Controlling pest animals (possums and rabbits) and pest plants predominantly on the western coastal escarpment
- Continuing with re-vegetation trial within the burn area and also increasing plantings in fire breaks adjoining Gloaming Hill
- Monitoring and maintenance of stoat trap network with community support
- Mowing selected areas to mitigate any fire danger
- Maintenance of boundary fences

3. **Community involvement**

GWRC is proposing that \$3,000 of the 2013/14 budget be spent getting the local community actively involved in park programmes. This activity will include:

- Encouraging and supporting planting, restoration and recreational events in the park

4. **Asset maintenance**

GWRC is proposing that \$66,500 of the 2013/14 budget be spent undertaking maintenance to infrastructure around the park. This includes:

- Corner easing on the road to improve sight lines
- Re painting of car parks and road markings post the resealing work being completed.
- Investigation of speed control measures, e.g. speed humps
- Programmed maintenance on structures and tracks
- Construction of the Pou car park and roading
- Mowing of amenity sites and road verges

The detailed budget is as follows:

General Expenses	\$
Security	7,000
Rates	4,959
Ranger Supplies	2,000
Water	5,000
Toilet Supplies and Repairs	4,000
Office lease/Admin expenses	1,500
Sub Total	24,459
Community Involvement	
Volunteer programme/Restoration group support	3,000
Sub Total	3,000
Maintenance	
Track maintenance	4,500
Structure maintenance	500
Roading repairs and maintenance	25,000
Fence repairs	1,000
Pou car park construction	30,000
Septic tank cleaning	500
Mowing (includes fire breaks)	5,000
Sub Total	66,500
Environmental protection and restoration	
Pest animal control	8,000
Pest plant control	12,000
Re-vegetation trial work	8,500
Fire break planting	5,000
Weed control and planting maintenance in burn area	7,500
Sub Total	41,000
Total	\$134,959

6. Recommendation

That the Board:

1. **Receives the report, and**
2. **Notes the contents of the report.**

Report prepared by:



Wayne Boness
Principal Ranger
Western Sector – Parks
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Report approved by:



Amanda Cox
Manager, Parks department
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Report approved by:



Nigel Corry
General Manager
Environment Management Group
Greater Wellington Regional Council

8

Subject: Report for Whitireia Park Board meeting 24 May 2013

Author: Sue Nelson, Manager, Environmental Support, Greater Wellington Regional Council

Date: 15 May 2013

Subject: Accounts for the 10 months to April 2013

1. Purpose

To present to the Whitireia Park Board the management accounts for the 10 months to April as attached.

2. Background

As outlined in the *Agency Agreement between Whitireia Park Board and Greater Wellington*, (the Agreement), Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) has the responsibility to manage the Board's finances.

3. Income

Income has been received from Titahi Bay Golf club for lease of the land \$5,500.

4. Costs

The main cost is depreciation on assets which is a non cash expense; see note 6 of the accounts for details. All other costs are currently being paid by GWRC.

5. Bank account

The bank account balance at end of April was \$17,149.

As provided for in Section 3 of the Agreement, certain costs incurred on behalf of the Board will be directly charged to the Board's bank account.

6. Recommendation

That the Board:

1. *Receives the report, and*
2. *Notes the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:



Sue Nelson
Manager, Environmental Support
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Report approved by:



Nigel Corry
General Manager, Environment Management
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Attachment 1: Financial statements for the period ended 30 April 2013

Income & Expenditure Statement				
as at 30 April 2013				
	2012	2013	GW Exp	GW Exp
	\$	\$	2012	2013
Income	\$	\$	\$	\$
Water Rates	-	-	-	-
Lease	5,573	5,500	-	-
Interest	22	40	-	-
GW Funding	-	-	175,919	104,492
Total Income	5,595	5,540	175,919	104,492
Expenditure	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sundry	121	35	-	-
Depreciation Expense	11,958	7,870	-	-
Proj Materials/Suppl - 63000	-	-	44,276	15,209
Security - 63605	-	-	-	854
Chemicals (General) - 63100	-	-	3,119	-
Printing - 63300	-	-	-	734
Photocopying - 63315	-	-	3,273	1,848
Rates - 63600	-	-	-	3,778
Cleaning & Toiletrie - 63620	-	-	778	-
Meeting - Non Council - 63628	-	-	311	-
Repairs & Maintenanc - 63700	-	-	4,318	310
Repairs & Maint Equi - 63710	-	-	168	390
Repairs & Maint Plum - 63720	-	-	692	-
Repairs & Maint Pain - 63750	-	-	123	-
Loose Tools/ Minor E - 63760	-	-	6,306	134
Venue Hire - 63821	-	-	45	-
Equipment Hire - 63822	-	-	270	-
Advertising & Promot - 63830	-	-	788	225
Contractors - Labour - 65000	-	-	31,971	26,367
Contractors - Machin - 65010	-	-	-	3,920
Contractors - Facili - 65030	-	-	35	-
Consultants - Extnl Audit Fees	2,200	44	-	-
Labour Resource Cost - 92100	-	-	52,146	50,723
IC Wairarapa Biosec - 95781	-	-	2,898	-
IC Biodiversity - 95447	-	-	2,536	-
Contractors - Constr - 65020	-	-	24,440	-
External User Charge - 53000	-	-	- 2,574	-
Total Expenditure	14,279	7,949	175,919	104,492
Net Surplus (Deficit)	- 8,684	- 2,409	-	-
The above is expenditure that Greater Wellington has incurred since taking over the management of Whitireia Park Board.				

Whitireia Park Board			
Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2013			
	2012		2013
FUNDS AND RESERVES			
Accumulated Funds	55,192		46,509
Net Surplus (Deficit)	- 8,684	-	2,409
TOTAL FUNDS AND RESERVES	46,509		44,099
Represented By:			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Current Account	14,019		17,149
Sundry Debtors	-		-
GST Receivable	-		-
Total Current Assets	14,019		17,149
Fixed Assets	46,647		46,647
Accumulated Depreciation	- 11,957	-	19,827
Total Fixed Assets	34,690		26,820
Total Assets	48,709		43,969
CURRENT LIABILITES			
GST Payable	-	-	130
Sundry Creditors	2,200		-
Total Current Liabilites	2,200	-	130
Total Liabilites	2,200	-	130
NET ASSETS	46,509		44,099