

**Garden of Tane Reserve Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 4 March 2025, 5:30 pm
Reserve Playground/Bully Hayes**

Present: Suky Thompson, Lynda Wallace, Jeremy Buchanan and Bryn Thompson. In attendance Hannah Murdoch (Community Partnerships Ranger). In attendance for first part of meeting Toby Chapman, Manager of Urban Forests.

1 Apologies

- Apologies received from Leigh Hickey, Alan Hemsley, Ron Birch and Steffan Kraberger.

2 Declarations of Interest

- None

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2024 were approved.

Thompson/Buchanan

4 Progress since previous meeting

- The King Charles sequoia was replanted and is doing well.
- The previous meeting in November was cancelled due to lack of quorum
- Suky and Lynda met with Hannah Murdoch Community Partnerships Ranger and Linda Burkes, Banks Peninsula Governance advisor on 24 January 2025.
- Hannah has offered to source the kowhai for the roadside planting.

5 Parks arborist presentation

- Toby Chapman, Manager of Urban Forests, who leads the team of arborists within the Parks Unit of Council met the committee at the Garden to talk about his role, sourcing and planting trees and external arborists' contracts with Council.
- The maintenance cycle for each park is determined by the status of the park and ranges from 2-8 years. Garden of Tane is currently a Heritage Park, status 2, which means it will receive a full inspection and work programme every three years. Committee can have a say in this.
- Toby offered to give the committee training in track inspection. Committee members walk the tracks frequently and are best able to identify areas needing work. Discussed GPS mapping of tracks and built assets, tree locations and data-sharing and accessibility. Much information is available through the CCC website, open data mapping system.
- Council's current contract is with Tree Tech who handle both proactive and reactive work, so there is no opportunity to use other contractors, such as The Tree People who have previously done good work in the Garden of Tane.
- Committee has been concerned in the past about trees being removed without its knowledge. Toby advised no tree removals will happen without the approval of the CCC arborists team. Any requests for tree removals received via Snap Send & Solve will come through the arborists team as well. Toby can approve removal of trees that are dead, structurally unsound or creating a hazard. Cannot remove healthy trees unless the Reserve Committee approves it and correct process followed.

- Toby has a budget for tree purchases and easy access to the expertise of the rest of the arborist team.
- Before adjourning to Bully Hayes for the rest of the meeting, the committee showed Toby the area adjacent to the hospital on Ōnuku Road identified for development with new plantings. He will prepare this area for planting (spraying periwinkle, clearing dead trees, mulching) and consult with the committee about acquiring 5 appropriate deciduous exotics trees for planting.

6 Financial

- The committee was not successful in its attempt to have the \$100k allocated to the Garden of Tane in the LTP in year 2031 brought forward as \$10k per year, and that line item now seems to have disappeared from the LTP. As there is no capital budget for the Garden of Tane in the LTP Steven Gray is no longer project manager for the Garden.
- Hannah Murdoch advised that the Garden of Tane has a \$10k capital works budget this year, managed by Paul Devlin from the Regional Parks Team. The committee would need to apply to Paul (through Hannah) for the funding, which is for approved projects only and not for tree maintenance. It seems unlikely now that this budget will be used before the end of the financial year. Suky will contact Paul Devlin to find out how the committee can access these funds
- As the budget managed by Paul D is for enhancements, the committee could suggest projects. Some new steps in the cut through from Aubrey St/Aylmers Valley Road via the Hobbit Rounds to Beach Road would be a good project. Suky will ask Steffan for a quote. Hannah will talk to Paul to find out if this can include improved drainage (if a problem).
- In terms of the Annual Plan, Reserve Committees can make submissions and copy to the Community Board. The committee could also support the community board's submission. Linda B put forward the Garden of Tane Triennial Plan goals for consideration in the Board's Annual Plan submission.
- Amount held by the Civic Trust on behalf of the Garden of Tane was confirmed by Lynda - \$683.59. This is what remains after Lynda was reimbursed \$225 for the sequoia.

7 Issues in the Garden

- Agreed to leave Bernie's Track as is – two paths seem to have formed around/across the slip.
- Agreed to leave the Hobbit rounds where they are, no further work required.
- Jeremy is still working on the broken direction signs. Paul has been busy. Update next meeting. Possibly to be funded from Paul Devlin's budget?
- Mountain bikes are still a problem in the garden, especially with hired bikes. Jeremy to talk to Tim, the hire business owner. Hannah observed that signs don't work in these situations.
- Agreed that we should work on a Garden of Tane update for the Akaroa Mail

7.1 General maintenance

- Lynda had obtained from Kerri a list of planned maintenance for the Garden of Tane (from the Community Board's triennial plan) but there is no indication of whether work has been done. Lynda and Suky to meet with Kerri to discuss further.
- There is a tree down at Tui track
- Agreed to invite Toby for a walkabout in the near future to identify maintenance issues.

8 Progressing the Three Year Plan

- The committee will progress with the planting of Area 1 by the Hospital on Onuku Road, as discussed with Toby Chapman. Hannah will order the trees and stay in contact with Toby.

9 Progressing Map and Asset list

- The asset list produced by City Care has been checked over, but still needs minor corrections and dates entering. Suky and Lynda aim to complete this by mid-April.

10 Succession Planning

- We are struggling to get a quorum at meetings. Agreed that an article in Akaroa Mail along the lines of the recent article about the Stanley Park Reserve Committee might help to bring others forward. Could cover the work of the Garden of Tane committee, its projects and vision. Committee members could also do some shoulder tapping.
- Suky signaled she will step down as chair at the Triennial elections (end of this year) although will remain on the committee. Lynda confirmed she can continue as minute secretary.

11 Working Bee

- Agree to hold a Working Bee to do some general tidying up, plant the roadside kowhai. Will also clear culverts if Council hasn't done it. Committee to liaise with Toby to set a date. Toby will spray the periwinkle before then.

12 Pest Free Banks Peninsula update

- Ollie Sims, Pest Free Banks Peninsula, updated the committee on how their possum removal work is tracking.
- Pest Free installed 18 bait stations in the reserve as the GOT and neighbouring private properties were the last remaining hotspot of possum activity. They believe they are down to the last few individuals, being tracked by 6 trail cameras within the Garden of Tane. The cameras were placed out of public view and away from tracks. 'Report a Possum' signs were also placed across the township, encouraging community reports. The elimination project is entering a very exciting phase with Pest Free BP looking forward to seeing a possum free Akaroa in the very near future. Their urban work has been a new challenge for staff but all are incredibly grateful for the support received to date.
- Agreed to thank Ollie for his report and sense of humour and invite him to next the meeting.

13 Health and Safety

- No Health and Safety issues to report.

14 Public forum

- The committee agreed to place a plaque for Patsy on the seat by Tane carving. "In memory of Patsy Dart". Lynda to investigate.

15 Meeting schedule for remainder of year

- It was agreed that meeting dates for the remainder of the year will be:
 - *Tuesday June 3, 6.00pm – Madeira*
 - *Tuesday Sept 2 6.00pm – Madeira*
 - *Tuesday Dec 2 6.00pm – Garden of Tane*

Meeting closed at 7.55pm