

Garden of Tane RC meeting minutes

Tuesday June 13, 2023, 5:30

Held at Madeira Hotel

Present: Suky Thompson, Lynda Wallace, Bryn Thompson, Ron Birch, Leigh Hickey, Fiona Waghorn

1 Apologies

- Apologies from Alan Hemsley, Steffan Kraberger, Jeremy Buchanan and Nigel Harrison were accepted.

2 Declarations of Interest

None

3 Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting on March 23, 2023 are approved.

Wallace/Hickey

It was noted that the new Pipeophone is very popular.

4 Progress since previous meeting

- Refuge Ecology have completed the weed work
- Purchase order for track work has been issued to Wood Ltd and work expected to commence late June.
- Purchase order for arborist work has been issued to The Tree People and work is expected to take place 19-20 June
- Original heritage bench frame uplifted from Robin Burleigh and supplied to Bryn Thompson.
- Paul Newport asked to make some further timber signs
- Giant sequoia planted with Akaroa Area school below carpark to mark the King Charles Coronation.

5 Financial Report

- The financial report from Steven Gray shows the Garden of Tane has \$187 left in its capital budget for this financial year. This is to be used for the timber signs.
- The Akaroa Civic Trust holds \$1,499.34 on behalf of the Garden of Tane
- Steven Gray has advised that the Parks Unit are looking to spread out the future funds allocated for the Garden in the LTP (\$100k in 2030) at the rate of \$10k per annum. If further funds above this are needed these would be requested through the LTP process.

6 Track signs

- A walkabout with Paul Newport prior to the meeting identified timber signs to label the Pipeophone, and to mark the Lookout track that branches off Fern Gully Track and dissuade bikers from using a cut through track they have made.
- The meeting approved this suggestion as the use for the remaining capital funds, to be additionally subsidised from the Civic Trust held funds if needed.

7 Coronation Tree Plaque

- Wording for the King Charles Coronation Tree brought to the meeting by Lynda was agreed, and she was asked to proceed with making an application to an appropriate Council fund (Discretionary Response, Strengthening Communities or Place Partnership) to cover the costs of the plaque, plinth and materials needed to re-use the Turkish Pine tree cage. This is expected to come to around \$1000
- It was considered well worth while protecting the young tree with a cage.

8 Heritage bench

- Bryn Thompson has been supplied with the metal parts of an original bench that was in the Garden of Tane retrieved by DOC ranger Robin Burleigh many years ago. It is in very good condition, and Bryn aims to have the next bench ready late July for an August installation
- Bryn is donating the slats and work, but asks that the bench is listed in the Council asset register for its book value of \$1500.
- There was agreement that this bench should be coloured Rangoon Green to distinguish it from the other new benches, and installed at Big Pine lookout

9 Behaviour Issues and bikes

- Suky to visit Aka Tracks to discuss behaviour issues
- Worst cut through is between the Big Pine Lookout Track and Fern Gully Track. A two pronged approach will be taken to dissuading bikes and walkers from using this shortcut
 - New timber signs will indicate the proper track route
 - The top of the cut through will be blocked with kanuka rails affixed to nearby small trees
 - The cut through area will be planted at a working bee
 - Fiona Waghorn has offered to supply the plants

10 Working bee August

- A Working Bee will be held in August to install the new bench and do the cut through planting
- Dates to diary are Saturday 19 August, with Saturday 26 August as a rain day
- The bee will be followed by a picnic with former committee members if they are available.

11 Triennial Plan/Maintenance agreement with Council

11.1 Asset Register

- Fiona Waghorn advised that the person in charge of the asset register is Fiona Hancock.
- There was agreement that all assets need to be on the asset register and referenced by the track name that they are located on.
- The asset register staff had said that there were too many track names to enter, but the committee will ask for this to be reviewed – the names are extremely useful in locating where things are in the Garden –which is necessary if listing on the asset register is to lead to better and more structured maintenance.
- Fiona Waghorn will aim to sort this out, and if she is not successful, the matter will be raised

with the Community Board.

11.2 Replacement and renewal planting – our Triennial plan

- The committee has been concerned about the number of trees that are dead or dying
- David Barwick from the Botanic Gardens has advised that this provides an opportunity to develop a new planting programme to replace trees
- There was agreement that this would be the next logical step for the Garden now that the infrastructural work has been completed
- A walkabout prior to the meeting had identified areas for planting including the Big Pine –Fern Gully cut-through area, the area between the car park and toilets currently infested with many Tasmanian Blackwood suckers, and an area alongside Onuku Road where large oaks require attention
- Trees that provide autumn colour will provide a welcome addition, and there are now sterile cultivars that will avoid a self seeding problem. Such trees could be used to replace unsafe oaks.
- The committee will advise the Community Board of its plan with a deputation, and develop a 10 year plan. David Barwick will be invited to give advice.
- Funding of \$10k per annum will greatly assist in paying for trees and for arborist work.

12 Health and Safety

The committee is concerned about the following health and safety matters:

- Two large trees came down in May during a period of wet weather
- It was felt that an arborist safety review of the trees was needed, particularly before another Lumiere event
- Mario from the Council's Community Parks Team was thanked for doing a good job of removing the fallen trees

13 Public forum

- Lynda Wallace reported that the Lumiere committee needs to find an incorporated umbrella group that would be willing to handle the grant funds, but would like this group to allow the Lumiere committee to plan the event. Suggestions were Heartlands or Rod Donald Trust.
- Metal work artist Brynski would be invited to do an installation at Lumiere and to consider whether something attractive could dress up the white post at the main entrance.
- Hollie Hollander to be asked if issues with American Foulbrood are now resolved.

14 Pest Free Banks Peninsula

- Ollie Rutland Sims and Alex Albright from Pest Free Banks Peninsula gave a presentation updating the committee on progress since the previous presentation in May 2022.
- An Akaroa Pulse targeting possums with cage traps is planned to start in late July. The Garden of Tane has been selected as a location for about a dozen traps.
- These will be grouped together to make them efficient and attract possums with food in one spot. The Upper Tui Loop has been selected. The committee agreed this is a good location as it is fairly remote.

- The Garden of Tane work is being done in conjunction with Akaroa Area School, who will be involved with pre-feeding.
- The committee approved the use of trail cameras to monitor the traps
- Rat traps will be set next to the cages.
- Possums will be taken off site to be shot. Any cats trapped will be assumed to be pets and released.
- Neighbours of the Garden are also offered to have traps.

Meeting closed 7:05 followed by a dinner.

Date of Working Bee Saturday 19 August, with Saturday 26 August as a rain day

Date of next meeting Tuesday 12 September at The Madeira.