



Garden of Tāne Reserve Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 6pm at the Madeira Hotel, Akaroa

Present: Bryn Thompson (Chairperson), Suky Thompson, Jeremy Buchanan, Lynda Wallace (Minute Secretary), Mark Herring, Don Milne, Angeline Van Zuilen, and Hannah Murdoch (currently in role of team leader, community partnership rangers).

1. **Apologies:** Steffan Kraberger
2. **Welcome:** Bryn welcomed those members attending in person and via Zoom.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2025 were confirmed. J. Buchanan/S.Thompson
Minutes of the 5 December meeting will be circulated to members.
5. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:** no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
6. **Health & Safety**
 - Hannah has shared documentation for volunteers to use during working bees in the Garden.
 - There was considerable discussion about the health and safety risk posed by dangerous trees and poor track conditions in the Garden and how best to report those matters. Hannah advised that all could be reported through the council's Snap, Send, Solve app. She also advised that not all of these would necessarily be referred to the Parks team. For example the recently reported blocked drain at the bottom of the Garden was dealt with by the Roads team and/or contractors. If the committee is aware of any outstanding tickets, please refer them to Hannah.
7. **Volunteer Hours**

Hannah has requested that all members record their hours for all types of voluntary work in the GoT (including meetings and admin).
8. **Chairperson's Report**

'Welcome to the first meeting for 2026, I am privileged to be able to take the over the role of chairperson and to follow on from the fantastic work by Suky over the past 12 plus years.

As a local committee we have no funding or direct connection to the local council boards and committee, our work as volunteers needs to be recorded and recognized by the local boards and Christchurch City Council. My role will be to ensure the relationships formed continue and new ones are nurtured.

The Garden of Tane is an important reserve for Akaroa and Canterbury, the preservation of this is important for local and international visitors.

During the Christmas break I met with Hannah Murdoch and Angeline VanZuilen, we had a walk through the garden and talked through the areas that require work and their support for 2026, I look forward to their support and guidance to how we can work closer with the community parks team and themselves.

I personally spent over 20 hours during the break in the garden, clearing tracks and planting the 50 plus rengarengas which were kindly donated by the CCC Parks team.

A request has been made to the CCC parks team for support on acquiring some battery equipment for us to use to maintain the tracks and other areas of the garden, we look forward to a favourable response.

The Facebook and Instagram pages are working well and gaining followers, both locals and international visitors. Please do share images or videos of the garden with me so we can share them on these platforms.

From this first meeting I would like to form a calendar of events for us to promote and work towards through 2026.

9. Finance Report

- As there is no capital budget for the Garden of Tane there is nothing to report on.
- Funds held by the Akaroa Civic Trust for use by the RMC on specific projects total approximately \$690.
- Hannah offered to look into available budget for the Garden.
- Council will begin work on the next Long Term Plan (LTP) soon. Hannah advised that for the committee to provide input to this process it should work through the Community Board.

10. Correspondence (In / Out):

- email between Bryn and Hannah, request for equipment
- email between Bryn and Ange, regarding getting GoT tracks onto the council's Walking Tracks site. After some considerable discussion it was agreed that the map supplied by Ange is a good basis for inclusion on the website.
- Lynda should be the conduit for all emails in and out, cc'ed to the chairperson.

11. Projects & Maintenance Updates

- Prior to a tree planting working bee in winter there will be some minor smaller efforts in the Garden.
- Jeremy B. will coordinate working bees.
- Much of the track maintenance will be about managing water run-off.
- Agreed that three Lawsonia be planted in the area of the fallen and rotting tree near the Garden entrance. Hannah offered to supply netting and stakes.
- In Tui Valley kowhai and kahikatea will be planted – Ange has already ordered these.

- Agreed that a meeting on site with Blair Hemmingsen, team leader, should be organised before the next meeting.
- Bryn mentioned there is a need for protective covers on drains across tracks. Hannah will seek advice on this. Jeremy suggested the covers could be made by council staff and placed by our committee.

12. General Business

- **Website** – Bryn asked who looks after the Garden of Tane website. Suky has been personally paying for the web hosting and domain name, about \$200 per year. The site appears to receive little or no traffic. Suky was thanked for her generous financial support of the website but it was agreed we should now abandon it and use the Council's website instead.
- **Lumiere** – Lynda informed the committee that she and Leigh have not yet had a chance to discuss a date, or logistical planning, for another Lumiere d Akaroa event. It was agreed that the event should be a standing item on each agenda.
- **Works order** – Suky mentioned that there is an outstanding work order for track work in the Garden. Hannah said a purchase order has been raised and she will update the committee on progress.

13. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday 21 April, 5pm, Madeira Hotel

Meeting Closed at 7.45 pm.