



Garden of Tāne Reserve Committee

Draft Minutes of meeting held on Friday 1 May 2026 at 5.30 pm at the Madeira Hotel.

A walk through the Garden was held between 4-5pm.

1. Present

Bryn Thompson (Chairperson), Suky Thompson, Jeremy Buchanan, Lynda Wallace (Minute Secretary) and Steffan Wood. Note that although the committee had been advised Hilda Rhodes would be the Ōnuku runanga representative, Hilda has indicated that she cannot attend meetings.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Leigh Hickey, Mark Herring and Don Milne.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest.

4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting held on 27/01/2026 were approved.

B. Thompson/S. Thompson

5. Matters Arising from the Meeting 27/01/26

No matters arising that are not covered in the agenda.

6. Health & Safety Concerns or incidents

Recent rain and heavy wind events have resulted in some safety concerns in certain areas of the Garden. In Fern Gully there are various branches overhanging the tracks, and dead trees posing potential risk to users. Tracks are slippery and in some places the surface washed away, making them less accessible. The culvert to Beach Road from the bottom of Fern Gully is blocked with gravel.

The committee noted that drainage problems in the Garden of Tāne are mainly due to road run-off, from Lighthouse Road, Ōnuku Road and Aubrey Street. The short steep road to the cemetery discharges water into the old tennis court/car park. Until road drainage is addressed these problems will continue.

7. Volunteer Hours

A total of 76.5 volunteer hours have been worked in the Garden since the previous meeting:

- Bryn and Don attended the CCC run Safe Hands training, 4 hours each.
- Jeremy working and clearing within the garden, 10 hours.

- Bryn working and clearing with the garden, 40 hours.
- Suky checking tracks, 5 hours.
- Lynda minutes and admin, 2 hours.
- Steff looking at drainage issues, 1.5 hours.
- Committee meeting hours, 5 x 2 hrs, 10 hours.

8. Chairperson's Report

"Welcome to the second meeting for 2026.

As a local committee we have no funding so it is important that our work as volunteers is recorded and recognised 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.

Over the past months I have communicated with Angeline VanZuilen, talking through the areas that require work and their support for 2026, the CCC team have started to work on a new resilience plan for the garden and other road reserves zones close to the garden. This will be very important as we see the weather system bring more wind and rain.

I personally spent over 40 hours in the garden, clearing tracks from wind-blown debris and dead or falling trees/branches.

With Don Milne I attended the CCC run "In safe hands" training. This was well run and we have a large document set which we can tailor to our needs and working bees going forward.

With help from Angeline, we have started the "Garden of Tāne Reserve Triennial Goals & Operational Plan 2026-28" to submit in June. I would like the wider support of the committee members to be able to complete this document.

Please see a draft attached in your document set.

The challenge for the winter period will be access to the garden. We will need the support of CCC to ensure drains and tracks are kept clear prior and after the storms. We thank council for completing drainage work along Fern Gully and the new steps down from Aylmers Valley Road."

9. Finance Report

Lynda noted that since she resigned as treasurer from the Akaroa Civic Trust she no longer has access to the bank account in which some funds are held for Garden of Tane projects. Should the committee need to access these funds it will need to put a request to Richard Goord, new treasurer for the Trust.

10. Working Bee update

It was agreed the committee should plan for two working bees, one in June and one in July, the July bee tentatively set for the long weekend of Matariki, 10-12 July. Date for the June working bee to be advised to members.

Work to attend to during the working bees will be clearing and trackwork, including spreading Teddington chip on the tracks in the Tui Valley area. Also making and installing some new timber track culverts and repairing existing. Steff will advise/prepare.

In preparation for the working bee it was agreed to ask Ange if council staff can move the chip down to the Tui Valley area. The committee will also request from Ange some Glymax Pro Cut and Paste weedkiller.

11. Lumiere 2027

Lynda reported that no firm plans have yet been made for a Lumiere event in 2027 due to the other commitments of the three core organisers. The two previous Lumiere events have been held in May, coinciding with a full moon (18 May 2019 and 22 May 2021). For 2027 that would put the event on 22 May.

The committee offered its assistance with the event, both in ensuring that the Garden is ready and safe prior to the event and in contributing to the work of the organising committee.

Suky has asked the Friends of Banks Peninsula if it would be willing to be the umbrella organisation for Lumiere, with a positive response. Lynda, as one of the Lumiere organisers, will write a letter to the Friends with a formal request.

12. Correspondence

Inward: none

Outward: none

13. General Business

- **Council's Long Term Plan**

Council staff are working now on the next Long Term Plan so it is timely that the GoT RMC considers work/projects that it would like included in the LTP. It was agreed that the highest priority project is the development of a comprehensive drainage plan, with scope of works, to address the matter of road run-off into the Garden. The committee would like to work with Council teams to progress this project.

- **Garden of Tane RMC Triennial Plan**

Council teams have offered to assist with the development of a 3 Year Plan for the Garden of Tane, work that needs to be completed before the next meeting in July as noted in the Chairperson's report.

The committee agreed that the urgent matter of drainage needs to be included in the Triennial Plan, including consultation with the Water and Waste Team. The Garden is currently a catchment for run-off from Ōnuku Road and Lighthouse Road. Ideally, water should be diverted around the Garden.

Weed control needs to be included in the plan, using the existing weed control plan, updated.

Utilising the milled Lawsons cypress timber (currently stored at Suky's) to make more benches and assets for the Garden.

Track maintenance needs to continue.

13. Next Meeting

Date: Friday 24th July 2026

Time: 5.30pm

Location: Madeira Hotel Akaroa

14. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm