

Cass Bay Reserve Committee

August 13 - 7.30 to 9.30 - Lyttleton Board Room

Present: Warner Russell, Ine Schils, Tyrone Fields (Comm Board Rep), Jenny Healey, Paul Devlin, Liz Hales, Chris Nee, Karen Banwell and Jeremy Webb

Apologies – Norani Abbas, Taka Kuze, Dave Tayler, Majorie Russell, and Tracy Littlejohn. Hannah Murdoch also gave her apologies

Confirmation of minutes from June 4 - approved the minutes were accurate – Put forward by Warner seconded by Jenny.

Matters Arising – 8 Cass Bay Place came up again, Tyrone put out a request to staff. The compliance team have put a property warning notice on the LIM. There is a continuing need to follow up with the issue of incursion into public space. Staff asked for photos from the Reserve Committee. Staff replied on 17 July.

Pony Point track, Simon Bannister has kindly donated 2 bench seats for the new track, the wood comes from the Governors Bay jetty. The track is very popular and, because not a steep slope, it is being used by families, sadly bikers are also using it at night. There is a section at the beginning that needs work. The path has an all-weather surface and will link to the Memorial track.

Cholmondeley children centre - 16 children put plants in the ground, they will have a space for more trees and will come back in summer to water them. When it is drier they will put bark around them.

There have been three planting days with about 38 at two of them and more than 32 at the other. Jenny has started a Cass Bay Junior conservation club to help young ones participate.

Still got about 80 plants to put in, the next planting day likely will be 30/8. Many are totora from Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust/Te Kāhahu Kahukura and we will need to monitor them for three years. We have 100 Matai, 60 totora and 60 kahikatea, planned for 2026 and need to think about the ecological positioning of the latter. Christ College students will clear easy to reach weed species in November.

Jenny is talking to a master's student who wants to study the soils in the gums and is looking at regenerative projects. Jenny will show him the regenerating areas in Cass Bay, including those areas planted 20 years ago. **ACTION:** Jenny to send contact to Paul D.

Another student project will look at distribution of *Homosira banksia* or Neptune's necklace, it has found to be stressed in Cass Bay by sediment, and she has been doing water testing. She will do a presentation when finished.

Bunker 10 and other buildings to be cleared of asbestos. A project is underway with CCC. We need to ensure that area is planted out well.

ACTION -Paul to arrange a meeting with Di Carter with Jenny and Ine re the replanting project in the eucalypts. Planted native 600 trees planted under the gums this winter. Some gums need to be removed as well as the wattles, and other pest plants. Similar work being done by CCC across BP varies at the different sites. We need a Pony Point development plan and need a plan to work out what is best for removal of the gums. Other areas to be planted next year are around the dead poplars, which have been tested and clear of asbestos, the playground and under the gums.

Jenny thanked everyone who has been on the committee and who are not standing again. Liz, Tracy and Taka and Majorie. Everyone else is standing again. Jenny will encourage some of those who come to the planting day to join the committee. There was recognition of all those who are stepping down, the Reserve Committee would like to say thank you for their contribution.

Nick Singleton has spoken to Jeremy about a new mountain bike track within Steadfast, although it might be too wet. Nick is assessing the situation.

Jeremy outlined that the last part of the Pony Point track is soft, CCC will check that it is not a water issue. Ine- suggested that we have some working bees over the spring such as releasing the plants etc. the steep areas will need to be hand released.

In September boneseed is in flower, would like to have another go at removing it including other weeds. Many are difficult to get to so not easy for volunteers. Will also talk to Di Carter when have meeting. Will use the school groups to help remove weeds in November.

Ine – spoke of the fliers about trapping in the area – all those within 200m of traps will receive a flier providing information about working to ensure cats will not be trapped. The self-setting traps are activated at night. Trapline in Steadfast and other along the coastal pathway has caught 278 rats, 53 possums, 19 mustelids and 18 hedgehogs and many mice. Steadfast 35 mustelids – stoats and weasels. Have some new keen trappers to do the top line. Have four trappers in Cass Bay. **ACTION** – Ine to send out flier to Jenny and Karen for the trapping workshop in Governors Bay on 21 August.

Penguin – Do not want to encourage them to some areas used by people and dogs. Found penguins at Naval Point but where they are is safe. Need to build a good barrier for white flipper penguins to stop them moving high up in the land. Paul and Phil from CCC will check out the boat shed area for penguins.

Willows in Steadfast – many of the willows that had been poisoned need to be redone as starting to sprout. There are some down in the creek that need attention. Working bees – do one every month. September – boneseed. October – releasing the plantings. Paul will let Jenny know if there are any groups who would like to help.

Jenny- consultation is open on the playgrounds for Cass Bay and Corsair Bay. The play structure is modelled on a waka and will have Māori carvings; they will treat the wood to look like it's been burnt to represent the bay where the fire making trees were. It is an accessible beach, so need to ensure that is usable for all. Submissions need to be in by Sunday Aug 17th. Jenny had a meeting with CCC staff including the designer, park staff and sediment control unit. Will plant flax above to stop sediment load. Jenny handed out the plans for the playgrounds. Work will also be done on Cass Bay Beach, picnic tables and plantings. Consultation for this will be early in the new year.

Triennial Plan – presented by Paul. There are many actions. Develop a Pony Point Landscape Plan for implementation for 2026. Paul will enter a budget figure. Warner wanted to include funding for irrigation, currently water is pumped into the green tank. Warner made suggestions about how to get water to the top tanks. Paul will investigate getting tanks in the appropriate places. Also looking at moving toxic soil on site so don't have to move it out, perhaps put into a bunker and covering. It's about 100k to remove off site. A decision needs to be made soon as is holding up what is happening to the other buildings. Pest funding – Whaka Ora Pest Project will be supported and can carry on with management pest work – 5k for new traps etc. Track development will include track to the summit road; it is more popular than expected and track will need to be upgraded. The Committee agreed to accept the Cass Bay Triennial Plan and Reserve Schedule subject to minor adjustments resulting from feedback provided.

ACTION- Provide feedback to Paul by the end of next week, 22 August, on the plan.

ACTION – will need to order plants soon. Warner would like to target the area between the nursery and up to road to the next planting. It's easy planting. Will need to avoid the rock fall areas.

The Cass Bay Reserves volunteers have amassed 1050 hours since January to August, this year.

Meeting ended at 9.35