

Garden of Tane Reserve Committee meeting minutes
Tuesday 3 June 2025, 6.00 pm, Madeira Hotel
preceded by a walk around the Garden at 5.30pm

Present: Suky Thompson, Lynda Wallace, Alan Hemsley, Jeremy Buchanan and Bryn Thompson. In attendance for first part of meeting Ollie Rutland-Sims, from Pest Free Banks Peninsula.

1 Apologies

- Apologies received from Hannah Murdoch, Leigh Hickey and Steffan Kraberger.
- Ron Birch has resigned from the committee due to health issues.

2 Declarations of Interest

- None declared

3 Pest Free Banks Peninsula Update

- Ollie Rutland-Sims updated the committee on the work of Pest Free Banks Peninsula. The big knockdown of last year across Akaroa was very effective, with 40 possums being taken out of the Garden during the first pulse. By December there were no possums being detected in the Garden. Early last month one lone possum was seen on their cameras and was targeted for removal. All toxin will be removed next week, but cameras will keep running for monitoring and a scat dog will be brought in from time to time.
- Ollie expressed his thanks to the committee for its support and cooperation and commented on the valuable relationship we have built.
- Committee agreed to write a letter of thanks to Pest Free Banks Peninsula for the Akaroa Mail.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2025 (circulated) were approved. *B Thompson/S Thompson*

5 Progress since previous meeting

- The King Charles sequoia plaque and plinth installed
- Article about committee appeared in Akaroa Mail mid-April issue
- Working Bee held on Saturday 10 May. Work completed included:
 - Planting five kowhai at main entrance
 - Tidying logs along Grand Ave path edge
 - Clearing fallen branches and overhanging dead trees on Fern Gully and Pacific Way – carried out by CCC staff member Mario and Jeremy
 - Drainage improvements at Grotto swale and Fern Gully pond below – also Mario and Jeremy
 - Opening out Grand Ave track at Ceremonial Trees
 - Clearing vegetation from around Rhododendron at Big Pine Lookout picnic table
 - Removing and cut and pasting Tasmanian Blackwood below this picnic table

- Poisoning Climbing Asparagus along Bernies Track
- Planting small plants to block off the disused part of Bernies Track

6 Financial Report

- Funds held by the Civic Trust on behalf of the Garden of Tane was confirmed by Lynda - \$685.95
- Hannah Murdoch has stated the capital funds held by Paul Devlin for Garden of Tane (\$10k) will roll over.

7 Capital works proposed

- Steffan Kraberger, Wood Ltd, has provided a quote of \$3,239.55 to carry out the works discussed at the previous meeting.
- This quote has been provided to Hannah Murdoch, who has also viewed all the sites with Suky. She is now working to secure the capital funding from Paul Devlin. Currently she is enquiring about the drainage with Three Waters.
- Hannah has assured us that any capital funds remaining at the end of June will be carried over.
- These were fleshed out on a walkabout after the meeting and include:
 - Formalising the cut-through track from the bottom of Fern Gully to the path linking Beach Road and Aylmers Valley road. This involves about 20 wharf timber steps
 - Digging a drainage channel to take storm water that emerges below the entrance gardens to an existing channel draining to the Fern Gully stream. Currently this water streams over the hillside and floods the Fern gully track
 - Moving the sign at Tui valley to reflect the new route of Bernies Track, and adding chip to toe of Bernies Track where it slopes down to Tui Valley which is currently slippery

8 Approve Reserve Schedule

- Linda Burkes from CCC has prepared the Reserve Schedule, circulated with this agenda, and asks us to approve it.
- It was resolved that the Reserve Schedule provided by Linda Burkes on 30 May is approved subject to the following additions to the Sports/Parks Facilities section: walking tracks, nature playground, benches, seats, and ceremonial trees.
S Thompson/L Wallace

9 Storm Damage

- Mario had cleared the main culverts (Fern Gully and Cemetery Link Track) prior to the storm which reduced the amount of damage. However, due to the severity of the storm many tracks were very wet and showed signs of where the water had been running.
- Bryn reports that there were a large amount of trees loose after the rainstorm, and suggests we discuss how the clean up should be approached between ourselves and CCC.
- Note that some of this may have been dealt with by Mario and Jeremy at the Working Bee which was after the storm.
- Since the working bee Jeremy has taken more barrowloads of gravel to the problem area on Bernies Track.

10 Progressing the Three Year Plan

- Area 1 – planting kowhais on the roadside has been completed
- Toby Chapman, CCC arborist, has arranged for a walkabout on Wednesday June 11, 1pm, to discuss arborist work and his offer to prep Area 2 – the area between Upper Nikau Track and Onuku Road – and tree order.
- Suky, Jeremy and Bryn will meet Toby on 11 June.
- More gravel is required for tracks, agreed to request a supply through Hannah/Paul D

11. Asset Register

- Asset register corrections have been supplied to City Care by Suky
- Felipe Alves from City Care has informed that he will carry out the remaining adjustments and map updates, including photos of each asset by mid-June and will let us know when it is ready.
- The asset register provides the basis for asset renewal/replacement.

12 Succession Planning

- An article in the Akaroa Mail recruited two new volunteers, Peter Squires and Philip Sewell, both from Takamatua, but although they enjoyed the working bee and are keen to give further help, both declined to join the committee.
- After a discussion about how to attract new members it was agreed to run some free ads in the Akaroa Mail, advertise on the local Facebook page (Bryn will do) and do a leaflet drop in the streets around the Garden of Tane (Bryn will do).
- Jeremy will contact the school to see if there are any students or teachers keen to join the committee.

13 Working Bees

- Weeds in the Garden continue to be of concern, including climbing asparagus.
- The top of Tui Valley needs some work but probably best left until spring/summer, provisionally Saturday 11 October.
- Agreed to hold a working bee during winter to plant trees – Saturday 26 July (or Sun 27 if wet on Sat).

14 Volunteer Hours Register

- Hannah Murdoch has asked the committee to keep a record of their voluntary hours, agreed to individually send these by email to Hannah.

15 Health and Safety

- During the pre-meeting walk around the Garden, members identified a number of dangerous trees in various places, all reported for action.

16 Public forum

- No items raised

17 Meeting schedule for remainder of year

- Tuesday Sept 2 6:00pm – Madeira
- Tuesday Dec 2 6:00pm - Garden of Tane

Meeting closed at 7.18 pm