



Report 04.118
Date 23 March 2004
File ENV/15/03/01

Committee Environment Committee
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Take Care Groups for 2004

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the care groups supported through the *Take Care* programme.

2. Background

The *Take Care* programme's contestable fund was advertised in local papers, *Elements* and on the Council's website in September last year. Groups interested in joining the programme were invited to contact the Council to talk about their project and obtain an application form.

As in previous years, we had a large number of enquiries about the programme. At the closing date, a small number of applications had been received.

During October, we assessed the applications using the criteria detailed in the *Take Care* programme policy (Report 00.675 to this Committee). The applications were scored against the criteria, ranked, and their costs over the five year care programme cycle evaluated. Next, we determined which staff had the best expertise to support the various projects. Letters advising applicants of the outcome were sent out at the start of November.

3. New care groups

The following groups have joined the *Take Care* programme this year:

3.1 Oku Reserve Community Group

The group will be restoring an iconic sand dune system at Island Bay. The original native vegetation cover will be reinstated – including an extension of ancient pingao beds. Our staff, and the community group, will be working in partnership with Wellington City Council on this project.

3.2 Friends of Owhiro Stream

This project aims to maintain the ecological health of Owhiro Stream and to assist in the restoration of the streamside margins. Again, our staff and the Brooklyn Community Association will be working in partnership with Wellington City Council.

3.3 Millwood Residents' Association

The Residents' Association is revegetating the stream margins of Hulls Creek in Silverstream. The project complements an adjacent streamside project being carried out by Forest and Bird and the Silverstream Railway project downstream, which is already supported by Greater Wellington. As a result of these projects, we anticipate that nearly one quarter of the stream will have good riparian cover in five years time.

3.4 Friends of Millenium Native Forest Reserve

This Trust is continuing to revegetate this reserve having worked here for sometime. The project we will be helping with is the restoration of three wetlands and their buffer zones. Our role is primarily to provide advice on wetland hydrology and wetland plant communities for the different wetlands. This project has the potential to become an excellent educational resource on wetland types, in addition to playing a significant ecological role in the area.

3.5 Friends of the Otaki River

The Friends of the Otaki now receive their main funding through the *Take Care* programme – in a similar manner to the Friends of the Waikanae River. In the short term, work is to focus on developing a nursery to support the group's restoration efforts, and planting at the mouth and alongside the river.

4. Groups already receiving funding or support

Twenty six groups continue to be supported by Greater Wellington this year from previous years. The groups and their projects are listed below.

4.1 Riversdale Stream Care Group

Restoration of the stream and lagoon at Riversdale.

4.2 Riversdale Beach Care Group

This group is managing the beach environment and restoring the dune systems at Riversdale.

4.3 Castlepoint Beach Care Group

Restoration of the dune systems and the management of the beach environment at Castlepoint.

- 4.4 Fensham Group, Royal Forest and Bird Society, Wairarapa Branch.**
The restoration of the Fensham wetland in Carterton.
- 4.5 Manuka Street Residents**
The restoration of a wetland and a stream flowing through Manuka Street Reserve in Masterton.
- 4.6 Henley Wetlands**
Development of the wetlands at Henley, Masterton.
- 4.7 Friends of the Waikanae River**
The restoration of the Waikanae River riparian environment.
- 4.8 Queen Elizabeth Park**
Wetland and dune system restoration in Queen Elizabeth Park.
- 4.9 Pakuratahi Interest Group**
The replanting of the streamsides of the Upper Pakuratahi catchment.
- 4.10 Friends of Maara roa**
The rehabilitation of a stream and lake at Cannons Creek.
- 4.11 Silverstream Railway Society and Upper Hutt Forest and Bird Society**
The rehabilitation of the lower reaches of Hulls Creek and the adjoining wetland in Silverstream.
- 4.12 O Te Pua Wetland Restoration Group**
A joint project by landowners to restore O Te Pua Wetland
- 4.13 Guardians Water Quality Monitoring Team**
This group is monitoring the water quality of streams around the Pauatahanui Inlet.
- 4.14 Pukerua Bay Residents Association**
The restoration of the Waimapehi Stream in Pukerua Bay.
- 4.15 Otari-Wilton Bush Trust**
A project to clear weeds and replant the Kaiwharawhara Stream, upstream of Otari-Wilton's Bush in Wellington.

4.16 National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research staff

A NIWA staff project to restore an area of coastal habitat and create a Blue Penguin breeding colony at Greta Point in Wellington.

4.17 Royal Forest and Bird Society, Upper Hutt Branch

The restoration of Moehou stream flowing through Moehou Reserve in Upper Hutt.

4.18 Royal Forest and Bird Society, Kapiti Branch

This group is working to restore the Wharemauku Stream, Kaitawa in Paraparaumu.

4.19 Te Horo Beach Residents Association

The restoration of the coastal environment and Mangaone coastal wetland.

4.20 Glenside Stream Care Group

This is a project to rehabilitate some of the streams making up the upper catchment of Porirua Stream, and part of the Porirua Stream itself.

4.21 Waimeha Restoration Group

The restoration of the wetlands and dunes in and around the Waimeha Lagoon, near Paraparaumu

4.22 Eastbourne Sand Dune Restoration Project

A project to restore urban sand dunes in Eastbourne.

4.23 Waitohu Stream Care Group

This group is working on the restoration of the Lower Waitohu stream and its estuary at Otaki.

4.24 Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve Management Committee

The development of a freshwater wetland at Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve in Porirua.

4.25 Guardians of Pukerua Bay Beach

A project to clear weeds and replant the unique vegetation on the foreshore.

4.26 Friends of Greendale

This group is rehabilitating land alongside the Muapoko Stream near Paraparaumu.

4. Groups no longer receiving funding

Three groups have ceased to be funded this year. However, staff do provide advice when required. The groups are:

- (1) Ngaio Progressive Association
- (2) Kapiti Forest and Bird Nursery
- (3) Trellisick Park Working Group

5. Conclusion

Within the *Take Care* programme there is a wide variety of projects, covering different types of ecosystems in locations throughout the Region. Groups working with our staff have made significant progress on their projects over the last few years.

The projects that Greater Wellington is supporting provide good opportunities to showcase what communities can do to help restore their own environment, and challenge others to examine how their behaviour can be modified in the light of the groups' efforts to work in these unique environments. The groups joining our programme this year have been encouraged to apply as a result of the successes seen in other groups.

6. Strategic context

The five new care groups described here meet our annual target for new care groups in the 'Community' section of 'Towards a sustainable region'.

7. Communication

The projects and groups the Council is supporting will continue to be reported in future issues of *Elements*. With assistance from their staff facilitators, the groups supported by Greater Wellington last year received extensive, positive coverage in the media. We will continue to help individual groups to report Greater Wellington support in their local papers.

With the appointment of a communications advisor for the Environment Division, we will also look at ways of giving the programme a higher profile and further promoting the good work the groups carry out.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee

1. *receive the report; and*
2. *note the contents.*

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