

Manager – Marketing and Design

Report for period ending Friday 8 June 2007

1. Manager's Comments

1.1 Kapiti Coast Rotary Pathways Trust

At the last Committee meeting, officers were asked to find out more regarding the Pathways Trust and its intentions for a commuter cycleway in Queen Elizabeth Park.

The Pathways Trust has been established by Rotary to raise and administer funds for cycleways, walkways and bridleways in the Kapiti district. In effect it represents an external fundraising arm of the KCDC Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy which was developed in 2004.

Previous and current Management Plans for Queen Elizabeth Park allowed for cycleways through the park and there have been some informal discussions with KCDC and the Friends of QEP. Both parties have been considering possible commuter and recreational cycling paths through the park.

Officers have recently met to consider options for commuter and recreational cycling routes from Raumati South to Paekakariki at Queen Elizabeth Park. We now intend to develop a brief for closer investigation into the options and likely effects. While KCDC and/or the Pathways Trust may well secure funding for the initial cost, there will be implications for ongoing maintenance and management that we need to be mindful of.

2. Signs

2.1 Queen Elizabeth Park

Following a review of the current material we have updated the text and photographs for the new US Marine information panels. We will be going through the graphic design and printing process shortly. The panels will be installed in time for the "Sunday Funday" on the last weekend in August which the Queen Elizabeth Park special events committee wants to promote. This Sunday Funday will be about vintage military machinery, and the committee are hoping to have the US Ambassador attend.

2.2 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

Chris MacLean, an historical writer, has been contracted to prepare the text for five signs to be erected overlooking the cemetery and along the Summit Loop track, ending at the summit itself. The signs will be located on or near the sites identified as being significant to the conflict between colonial troops, their Te Atiawa allies and Te Rangihaeata's Ngati Toa. These sites include the battle site and the ridge top where Te Rangihaeata's party defended their camp by digging trenches and felling trees to use as obstacles.

Archaeological remnants of the earthworks still remain on this site. The signs will tell the intriguing story of the battle, including the strategies used by Te Atiawa to give advance warning to Te Rangihaeata's party, despite the fact Te Atiawa was assisting the colonial troops in attempting their capture.

2.3 Kaitoke Regional Park

At the last Committee meeting, officers were asked to investigate options for improving signage near the park's Te Marua entrance, given the re-siting of the main park sign to its current position. We had applied to Transit to place the existing sign to the right of the current brown sign so that it would be visible to oncoming SH2 traffic and this request had been declined. We do still have issues around visitors mistaking this for the main park entrance and will be discussing our options with Transit during the next few weeks.

3. Brochures

Several of the popular Parks and Forest brochures are currently being updated to reflect the improvements to tracks and new facilities within the parks, and to replenish depleted stocks. Feedback from rangers (including one on a mountain bike) has helped to provide new track information for both walkers and bikers, particularly on the new tracks in East Harbour Regional Park and the Wainuiomata Recreation Area.

4. Events

4.1 Buggy Walks

We had our first cancellation due to inclement weather in May, and the walk planned for the Hutt River Trail will be moved to September. The Oriental Bay event is scheduled for Saturday 9 June to test the response to a weekend date (and to accommodate a busy Arbor Day week). Buggy walks will be held in July at Karori cemetery and in August at a route to be determined in Whitby.

Given the response to the Buggy Walks we are keen to maintain our partnership with Sport Wellington Region and continue to offer new parents and caregivers these opportunities in the regional parks. Planning will start shortly for the "keynote" event to be held in the Botanic Gardens in October, which will serve as a launching pad for the summer season.

4.2 Restoration Day

With around 200 people attending this event at the Tauherenikau Racecourse near Featherston this was a very successful day. Opened by Chair Cr Buchanan, it featured well known writer and ecologist Geoff Park as guest speaker and several GW staff running skills training sessions.

4.3 Arbor Day

During the period we completed preparations and held two very successful Arbor Day events at Queen Elizabeth Park and Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

Sixty-five years to the day since the arrival of the first US Marines in Wellington in 1943, the first event at QEP saw around 150 children from Raumati South, Te Ra and Paekakariki schools plus parents and other supporters assembling near the “Marines” wetland. After hearing from Cr Chris Laidlaw and US Ambassador William McCormick they walked past previous Arbor Day plantings through the bush remnant to plant around 700 trees in a sheltered part of the “ephemeral” wetland. The ensuing sausage sizzle was enthusiastically received by all concerned.

The weather held and two days later several busloads of children came from Holy Cross, Pauatahanui and Postgate Schools to plant around 1000 trees further up Swampy Gully at Battle Hill. A good twenty minutes’ walk from the Dell, this site is extending the transformation of the gully from what was a boggy paddock to swamp forest.

From all reports the two events were much enjoyed by attendees, VIPs and staff alike. We have also received compliments on the revised and updated booklets and certificates that included more images from the parks and were more interesting for the children to use in their Arbor Day studies.

4.4 Of Gorse Of Course

This planting day is will be held at the Wainuiomata Recreation Area in conjunction with the NewDowse will on the afternoon of Saturday 16 June. Around 50 members of the public are expected to attend.

4.5 Corporate planting days

Planning is underway for staff from IAG and the Reserve Bank to attend planting sessions at Queen Elizabeth Park in late June. Wellington Honda dealers and customers will be returning to Kaitoke Regional Park’s Te Marua entrance in late August/ early September, while Kapiti Honda has signed up for the 21 July planting on the Whareroa Stream.

Many of the contacts for corporate planting days come through Volunteer Wellington and we are meeting with them shortly to increase their awareness of what the regional parks can offer the groups.

5. Wellington Region Recreation Initiatives Group (WRRIG)

The *At the Heart*” Regional Physical Activity Plan was submitted for peer review by an Auckland-based panel that included Dr Digby Whyte (head of Manuka City Parks), Sue Laurence (Ministry of Health) and Kelvyn Eglinton (ARPASS-Auckland Regional Physical Activity Strategy). Their feedback was very positive noting the strong links to the

background research and the comprehensive approach. Their comments will be incorporated into the document and it will proceed to the design and print stage.

Our consultant Robyn Cockburn presented an outline of the plan to the Regional Leaders Forum on 29 May. The Mayors/ Chair and Chief Executives were asked to support *At the Heart* through aligning their internal planning (starting from the 08/09 Annual Planning cycle) and endorsing a collaborative approach to other agencies with similar objectives.

Consultation will continue over the next six months with interested parties, including a meeting with a Pasifika representative group convened by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

6. Community Liaison

6.1 Review of Friends groups

We have accepted a proposal from Derek Wilshere to review the establishment, functioning and effectiveness of all the Friends groups in the GW area and their relationships with kindred groups, including Care Groups. As a result of this process Derek will be recommending options for the future of the groups, particularly the role of GWRC in working with them. We also want to investigate the possibility of forming groups for the Hutt River and East Harbour Regional Park and what form these potential groups should take.

Amanda Cox
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