
Whitireia Park Board

Friday 5 December 2025 at 9.30am

Titahi Golf Club, Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua

Members

Quentin Duthie

Jenny Ngarimu

Sharli-Jo Solomon

Claire Johnstone

Phil Rhodes

Caleb Ware

Whitireia Park Board

Friday 5 December 2025, 9.30am

Titahi Golf Club, Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua

Public Business

No.	Item	Page
1.	Whakawhanaungatanga	
2.	Apologies	
3.	Conflict of interest declarations	
4.	Public participation	
5.	Election of the Chair	3
6.	Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on Friday 6 June 2025	6
7.	Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on Friday 22 August 2025	10
8.	Overview of the Whitireia Park Board	11
9.	Application of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968	26
10.	Adoption of the 2026 Meeting Schedule	29
11.	Whitireia Park Board Finance Report – Quarter One	31
12.	Whitireia Park Board Operations Report – December 2025	34
13.	Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report	44

Whitireia Park Board
5 December 2025



ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

Te take mō te pūrongo **Purpose**

1. To advise the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) on the procedure and options to elect the Boards's Chair.

Te tāhū kōrero **Background**

2. This is the Board's first meeting for the 2025-2028 local government triennium. At its meeting on 12 May 2017, the Board resolved that its Chair should be elected at its first meeting of each new local government triennium.

Te tātaritanga **Analysis**

3. The Whitireia Park Board Standing Orders provide for the election of the Chair (SO 2.6.1).
4. Standing Orders provide the Board with two options to elect the Chair – voting system A and B
5. Voting system A is described in the Whitireia Park Board Standing Orders (SO 2.6.2). Voting system A requires that a person is elected or appointed if they receive the votes of a majority of the members of the Board present and voting. Voting system A has the following characteristics:
 - a There is a first round of voting, and
 - b If no candidate is successful in achieving a majority of members in that round there is a second round of voting, from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded, and
 - c If no candidate is successful in the second round, there is a third, and if necessary, subsequent rounds of voting, from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded, and
 - d In any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

6. Voting system B is described in the Whitireia Park Board Standing Orders (SO 2.6.3). Voting system B requires that a person is elected or appointed if they receive more votes than any other candidate. Voting system B has the following characteristics:
 - a There is only one round of voting, and
 - b If two or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.
7. Both voting systems A and B require a resolution by 'lot' if two or more candidates receive an equal number of votes and no one else is elected. The most common procedure is for the names of the candidates with the same number of votes to be placed in a container and the name of the person drawn out by an independent person is deemed the winner (i.e., elected or not excluded from the next round). It is recommended that this process be used in the event that there is a tie between candidates.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

8. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

9. Once the voting system is decided, a call will be made for nominations for the office of the Chair for the Board. Once appointed, the Chair will take the chair for the rest of the meeting.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Board:

- 1 **Adopts** either
 - a Voting system A; or
 - b Voting system Bto elect the Board's Chair.
- 2 **Agrees** that any voting round that requires a resolution by 'lot' to exclude any person/s will use the procedure where the candidates' names (with the same number of votes) are placed in a container and the name of the person drawn out by an independent person is deemed the winner (i.e. elected or not excluded from the next round).

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Renée Coffey – Kaitohutohu Ratonga Manapori Democratic Services Advisor
Approvers	Elizabeth Woolcott – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Ratonga Manapori Manager Democratic Services Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urungi, Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy



Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on Friday 6 June 2025

Titahi Golf Club
Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua, at 9.36am

Members Present

Jenny Ngarimu (Chair)
Quentin Duthie
Hikitia Ropata
Caleb Ware

Karakia timatanga

The Board Chair invited Quentin Duthie to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

1 Whakawhanaungatanga

Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves.

2 Apologies

Moved: Hikitia Ropata / Quentin Duthie

That the Board accepts the apology for absence from Chris Kirk-Burnnand and Sharli-Jo Solomon.

The motion was **carried**.

3 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

4 Public participation

There was no public participation.

5 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 28 February 2025

Moved: Hikitia Ropata / Quentin Duthie

That the Board confirms the Public minutes on the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 28 February 2025.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Whitireia Park Board Finance Report – Quarter Three

Moved: Caleb Ware / Quentin Duthie

That the Board:

- 1 *Receives the report.*
- 2 *Notes that:*
 - a *Income has been received from 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025:*
 - *\$4,125 from Titahi Bay Golf Club for lease of the land*
 - *\$2,001 Gross Interest*
 - b *Total costs from 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025 were:*
 - *\$412.5 for the GST payment*
 - *\$40 for Bank Fee – Auditor Confirmation*
 - c *The BNZ Bank account balance as at 31 March 2025 was \$84,326.86.*

The motion was **carried**.

7 Whitireia Park Board Operations Update

Jeremy Paterson, Team Leader Western Parks, spoke to the report.

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Hikitia Ropata

That the Board:

- 1 *Receives the report.*
- 2 *Notes the content of the report.*
- 3 *Approves permission for a short film to be filmed at Kaitawa Point.*
- 4 *Approves the Department of Conservation to remove six raukawa geckos from the Park; to be euthanised for the purpose of research into toxin bioaccumulation, proposal in Attachment 2.*
- 5 *Approves permission for PCC to install signage as described in Attachment 3.*
- 6 *Approves permission for Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira to hold a Matariki Hautapu ceremony at the Whitireia Maunga, proposal in Attachment 4.*

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: The Board and officers discussed a motion that was carried at the 28 February 2025 meeting, noted below:

That the Board: Requests a Board strategy workshop with Ngāti Toa, Greater Wellington, and community groups to explore evidence-based restoration direction for the Park.

The actions from the above motion were clarified as follows:

1. The Board will coordinate with Ngāti Toa to decide whether an independent facilitator should be engaged for the workshop (contact with Ngāti Toa to be led by Caleb Ware).
2. Greater Wellington staff to:
 - a. recommend facilitators suitable to help, provided that (1) is completed by the Board and Ngāti Toa is supportive of engaging a facilitator.
 - b. prepare for an environment restoration-focused workshop with Board members, Ngāti Toa staff, Greater Wellington staff and the Whitireia Park Restoration Group.
 - c. gather a summary of environmental restoration mahi undertaken to date compared against the direction of the current Park Management plan.
3. Noted that the output of this workshop is expected to be a report that can inform both incoming Board members and Ngāti Toa Rangatira in the ongoing management of the Park and in the future review of the Reserve Management Plan.

8 Restoration Group 20th Anniversary Recognition

Jeremy Paterson, Team Leader Western Parks and David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, spoke to the report.

Moved: Caleb Ware / Hikitia Ropata

That the Board:

- 1 *Receives the report.*
- 2 *Notes the content of the report.*
- 3 *Approves the expenditure of \$750 for kai for the barbecue.*

The motion was **carried**.

9 Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information]

Robyn Smith, Whitireia Park Restoration Group Coordinator, spoke to the report.

Noted: Jordan Clear and Ashleigh Sagar will liaise with Porirua City Council about getting a sign installed at Onepoto Estuary to educate users about protecting the wildlife.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Board Chair invited Quentin Duthie to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 11.49am.

Chair

Date:



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 5 December 2025

Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on Friday 22 August 2025

Titahi Bay Golf Club

Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua at 9.30am.

This meeting lapsed 30 minutes after its scheduled commencement due to the fact that a quorum was unable to be achieved within 30 minutes of the scheduled commencement time.

The members present at the time of the meeting's lapse were:

Jenny Ngarimu (Chair)

Quentin Duthie

Chris Kirk-Burnnand

Hikitia Ropata (from 9.46am)

Apologies for absence had been tendered by Sharli-Jo Solomon and Caleb Ware.

Chair

Date:

Whitireia Park Board
5 December 2025



OVERVIEW OF THE WHITIREIA PARK BOARD

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the role and processes of the Whitireia Park Board (the Board).

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. The Board controls and manages three parcels of land in Whitireia Park, in accordance with the Ngati Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014, Reserves Act 1977, Whitireia Park Management Plan, and Whitireia Park Bylaws.

Legislative context

3. The Board was established as a joint board by section 150 of the Ngati Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014.¹
4. The Board is the administering body of Whitireia Recreation Reserve, Onehunga Bay Historic Reserve, and the Te Onepoto Recreation Reserve in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 as modified by the Claims Settlement Act.
5. The Whitireia Recreation Reserve is Crown land vested in the Department of Conservation (DOC). The Onehunga Bay Historic Reserve and Te Onepoto Recreation Reserve are vested in the trustee of the Toa Rangatira Trust; the trustee of the Toa Rangatira Trust may become the administering body of these two land parcels, thus removing them from the jurisdiction of the Board at any time by notice to the Minister of Conservation and the Board.
6. The Whitireia Urupā is not subject to the Reserves Act 1977 and does not come under the administration of the Board. Similarly, the land recently purchased by Toa Rangatira Trust from Radio New Zealand Limited falls outside of the Board's jurisdiction. There are also five other parcels of Crown land in the broader area Whitireia Park that, whilst not formally within the jurisdiction of the Board under the provisions of the Ngati Toa Claims Settlement Act 2014, are treated in a consistent way with those parcels of land within the jurisdiction of the Board.

¹ www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2014/0017/latest/DLM5954056.html

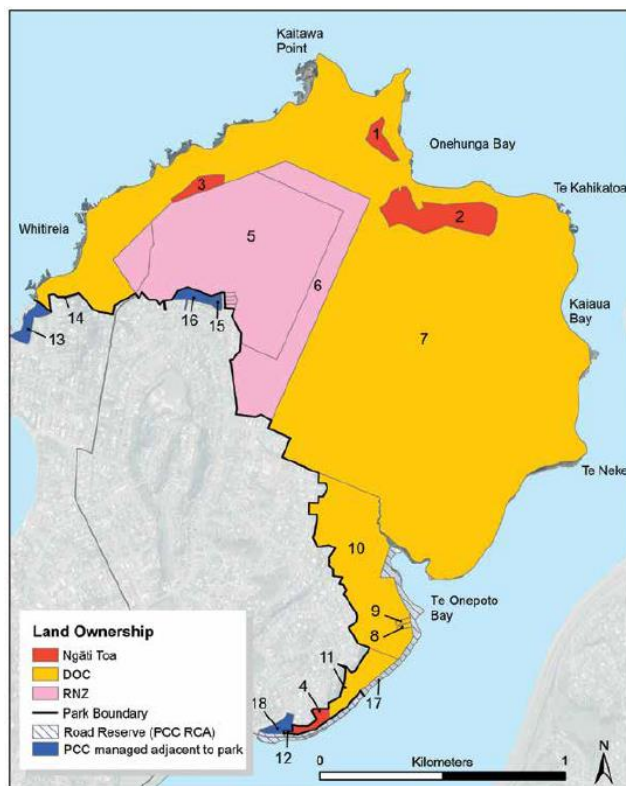


Figure 1: Land tenure and control. (source: *Whitireia Park Management Plan*)²

7. The Board is required to prepare a park management plan under the Reserves Act, which is approved by the Minister of Conservation.

Park Management Plan and Bylaws

8. The Park Management Plan and Bylaws³ were prepared by Greater Wellington under the Agency Agreement (described below) and approved by the Board in 2015 and the Minister of Conservation in 2016.
9. Section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977 requires the administering body of any reserve to keep its management plan under continuous review. This does not specify a clear timeframe for undertaking comprehensive reviews. In this case, the Park Management Plan and Bylaws are not subject to a specific review date. Ngāti Toa Rangatira has indicated their interest in leading future management plan review work and Greater Wellington has committed to supporting their undertaking in this regard.

² The parcels of land under the jurisdiction of the Board pursuant to the provisions of the Ngati Toa Claims Settlement Act 2014 are the areas labelled as 1 and 2 (Onehunga Bay Historic Reserve), 4 (Te Onepoto Bay Recreation Reserve), and 7 (Whitireia Recreation Reserve).

³ www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2022/05/Whitireia-Park-Management-Plan-2016.pdf

10. The Park Management Plan and Bylaws aim to sustainably manage and develop the areas as an important taonga to Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the local and extended communities.
11. The Park Management Plan outlines a number of objectives and activities for the long-term enjoyment and sustainability of this precious taonga.
12. The Bylaws assist the Board and its authorised officers to manage activities so that the Park can be used for its intended purpose.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

Membership

13. The membership of the Board consists of:
 - a Three members appointed by Toa Rangatira Trust
 - b Three members appointed by the Wellington Regional Council
14. Appointments end after five years or when the appointer replaces the member by appointing another member (whichever comes first). A member may be appointed, reappointed, or discharged at the discretion of the appointer.
15. It is important to note that members act jointly and in the interests of the Board and, when undertaking their Board duties, do not act as representatives of their appointing organisations.
16. The Board also appoints its own chairperson. It has been the Board's practice that the chairperson's term is three years, and that the appointment of the chairperson is considered at the first meeting following the triennial local government elections. This is the subject of a separate report for this meeting (refer to *Election of Chairperson* report).

Meetings

17. The Board meets four times a year or as required. Meetings are scheduled quarterly and held at the Titahi Golf Club. The meeting schedule for 2026 is the subject of a separate report at this meeting (see *Adoption of the 2026 Meeting Schedule*).
18. Meetings are publicly notified in *The Post* and on Greater Wellington's website.⁴ Order papers are provided to members and made publicly available at least two working days before scheduled meetings.
19. Quorum for Board meetings is two members appointed by Toa Rangatira Trust and two members appointed by the Wellington Regional Council. The statutory framework applying to the Board does not enable the Board to hold remote meetings.

⁴ www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/events-and-meetings/?start=0&date-range=future-dates&from-date=15%2F02%2F2024&to-date=&topics=whitireia-park-board

20. Decisions are made by only with the agreement of members who are present and who vote at meetings. The chairperson of the Board has a deliberate vote but does not have a casting vote.
21. The Board has adopted Standing Orders⁵, which provide the rules and processes for the Board's meetings.

Agency Agreement

22. The Board and Greater Wellington have entered into an Agency Agreement ([Attachment 1](#)), which sets out the operational, financial and administrative services that Greater Wellington provides to the Board. on behalf of the Board.
23. Currently, Greater Wellington is responsible for the delivery of services described in the Agency Agreement. The Board has previously expressed a desire to shift that responsibility to Ngāti Toa Rangatira. Going forward, the Board would need to confirm a replacement Agency Agreement with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc to supersede the agreement with Greater Wellington. This could be given effect to at any time the Board and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc agreed.

Operational services

24. Ranger services and biodiversity management are delivered, wherever possible, in partnership with Ngāti Toa Rangatira.
25. Greater Wellington manages biodiversity in parts of the park on behalf of the Board through its Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) programme, which protects some of the best remaining examples of original (pre-human) ecosystems in the Wellington Region. Sites with the highest biodiversity values in the region have been identified and prioritized for management.
26. The Whitireia Coast KNE site (see figure 2) is comprised of areas of high biodiversity value within the park and a small adjacent stretch of coastal land to the western side owned by Porirua City Council. Key areas of the park included in the KNE site are:
 - Coastal escarpments, slopes and platforms around the park perimeter
 - Onepoto estuary, awa and headwater repo
 - Onehunga dunes, repo, awa and surrounds
 - The remnant of mature coastal ngahere
 - Regenerating coastal ngahere linking these areas.
27. Biodiversity management actions are planned and implemented in the KNE site by Greater Wellington in collaboration with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, the Whitireia Restoration Group, and the Board. Funding is provided by the Greater Wellington Environment Restoration team through the KNE programme. A KNE operational plan outlines ecological values, threats, and broad management approaches, while annual work plans guide weed control.

⁵ www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Whitireia-Park-Board-Standing-Orders-adopted-29-August-2014.pdf

28. The Whitireia Coast KNE site is one of 58 KNE sites spread across the Wellington Region. The sites range in size from six to 12,400 hectares and represent diverse ecosystems such as sub-alpine tussock land, lowland forest, wetlands, lakes, coastal escarpments, estuaries and dunes.



Figure 2: Whitireia Coast KNE site

Funding

29. As a management board, the Board is responsible for its own finances and expenditure. The Board receives regular reports on its finances (see *Whitireia Park Board Finance Report Quarter One* at this meeting).
30. As part of its Ranger service to the Board, Greater Wellington provides and funds a modest amount of park maintenance in order to maintain public access to and enjoyment of Whitireia Park.
31. When the Board wishes to undertake significant maintenance, park improvements or asset renewals it needs to consider and determine how such work would be funded. Funding avenues could include:
- a Use of monies held in the Board's bank account⁶
 - b Allocations of funds made available for Whitireia Park purposes by Greater Wellington (or potentially Porirua City Council) in their Long Term Plans as a result of submissions made by the Board to their Long Term Plan consultations

⁶ The primary external income for the Board's bank account is the payment made by Titahi Golf Club for its lease of land, for golfing purposes, within Whitireia Park. This income was \$5,500 in 2023/24

- c Allocations for funds made available for Whitireia Park purposes by Toa Rangatira Trust and/or the Department of Conservation
- d Allocations for funds made available for Whitireia Park purposes by community grant organisations and lottery grants as a result of applications made by Whitireia Park Board.

Activity Rules and Concessions

- 32. All activities have potential impacts on other park visitors and the environment. Careful management of activities is required to ensure that impacts are limited or mitigated. Some activities can occur without permission because of their low impact. All other activities will require approval from the Board.
- 33. The Board is unable to delegate its responsibility to approve concessions and related matters. As applications for concessions may be time-bound (e.g. to undertake a marriage ceremony in the Park) the Board can consider requests, considering unpaid officer advice on any associated risk or issues, outside of the usual meeting process, by email. However, these requests must be documented and provided to the next Board meeting for ratification.

Appointment of Rangers

- 34. The Board appoints unpaid officers of the Board in accordance with section 53(1)(l) of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 35. The Board has appointed Jeremy Paterson and Jordan Clear as rangers.
- 36. For further context about Greater Wellington's administration services, management oversight of the park is within the management portfolio of the Manager Ecosystems & Community, David Boone, under the Director Delivery, Jack Mace.

Future Opportunities for the Park

- 37. Greater Wellington and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc staff continue to progress work to transfer management of the Park to Te Rūnanga. Currently, transition is focused on operational aspects of park management. As Te Rūnanga capability and capacity build, it is envisioned that the Agency Agreement will be revised accordingly.
- 38. With the recent purchase by Toa Rangatira Trust of the approximately 53 hectares of Radio New Zealand land within Whitireia Park, there is the opportunity for the Board to engage with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc and DOC to explore the potential for all the land within Whitireia Park to eventually come under the management and control of Toa Rangatira Trust.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

- 39. There are no financial implications arising from this report; however, some costs associated with Greater Wellington's services performed on behalf of the Board will be reviewed. These costs may be charged to the Board, as per the Agency Agreement.

He tūtohu**Recommendations**

That the Board:

- 1 ***Receives*** the report.
- 2 ***Notes*** the content of the report.

Ngā āpitihanga**Attachments**

Number	Title
1	Agency Agreement

Ngā kaiwaitohu**Signatories**

Writers	Lucas Stevenson – Kaitohutohu Ratonga Manapori Democratic Services Advisor David Boone – Manager Ecosystems & Community
Approvers	Elizabeth Woolcott – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Ratonga Manapori Democratic Services Advisor Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urangi, Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy Jack Mace – Hautū Director Delivery

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Overview Report

Agency Agreement

Whitireia Park Board

Greater Wellington Regional Council

129 5 990.

Edocs#1287211

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Overview Report

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Overview Report

Date: 22/11/2013

PARTIES

Whitireia Park Board

Greater Wellington Regional Council

BACKGROUND

On 3 November 2011 Greater Wellington Regional Council assumed interim responsibility for the provision of administrative services to the Whitireia Park Board (the Board). Previously these services were provided to the Board by the Department of Conservation.

This agreement sets out the services that Greater Wellington Regional Council will provide to the Board and the conditions on which the agreement is made.

IT IS AGREED as follows:

1. Appointment

The Board hereby appoints, and Greater Wellington Regional Council hereby accepts appointment as the Board's agent to provide and perform the agreed services on the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement, on and with effect from 18 May 2012.

2. Greater Wellington Regional Council's duties and responsibilities

2.1 Agreed services

In its capacity as agent of the Board, Greater Wellington Regional Council shall:

- a. Provide and perform the agreed services set out in detail in Schedules 1, 2 and 3, as and when required in a timely and efficient fashion with appropriate skill and care;
- b. Provide such other services as may be agreed to be provided and performed for and on behalf of the Board from time to time;
- c. Keep separate records in relation to the agreed services provided and performed on behalf of the Board;
- d. Record any financial transactions forming part of the agreed services provided or performed on behalf of the Board in a general ledger of accounts and report to each meeting on the Board's financial position;
- e. Keep the Board informed of any substantive matters performed and/or arising under this agreement.

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Overview Report**2.2 Provision of services by Greater Wellington Regional Council**

Greater Wellington Regional Council, as a local authority pursuant to the Local Government Act 2002, may employ any natural person or entity to effect any service required to be provided or performed by Greater Wellington Regional Council under this Agreement.

3. Payment of direct costs

The costs of the following services provided and performed on behalf of the Board by Greater Wellington Regional Council shall be directly charged to the Board's bank account:

- Statutory public notification of meetings and other notifications required under the Reserves Act 1977, Local Government Official Information Act 1987 or any other statute
- Order paper printing and distribution
- Annual financial audit
- Any third party costs directly incurred by Greater Wellington Regional Council on behalf of the Board, with such costs reported to the Board at its next meeting.

All internal costs incurred by Greater Wellington Regional Council in delivering the administrative, operational and financial services specified in the schedules to this agreement will not be charged to the Board.

4. Termination

The appointment of Greater Wellington Regional Council in relation to the Board may be terminated by either party by notice in writing.

5. Confidentiality

Subject to the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the Parties to this Agreement shall treat all information received pursuant to this Agreement as strictly private and confidential. If the Agreement is terminated by any of the Parties, each Party will return such information in its possession belonging to the other Party and neither Party will divulge any such information to any third party or use it in any way for that Party's own advantage unless and until:

- a. The information becomes public knowledge otherwise than by the owning Party's own disclosure; or
- b. Either Party is required by law to make the disclosure; or
- c. The owning Party, as appropriate, has consented in writing to the disclosure.

6. Variations

6.1 Consent

The Parties may, with the consent of both Parties to this Agreement, vary or amend the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

6.2 Effective Date

Any such variation or amendment shall be effective from the date on which a deed of amendment effecting such variation or amendment is executed by each of the Parties or on such other date as the Parties may agree.

7. Governing law

This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in all respects in accordance with the laws of New Zealand.

8. Former agreement

This Agreement replaces the Agreement executed on 18 May 2012.

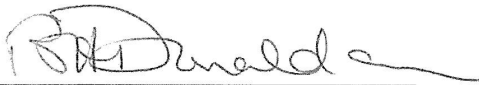
EXECUTED on the date first written above.

Signed for and on behalf of Greater Wellington Regional Council by:



Nigel Corry
General Manager, Environment
Management

Signed for and on behalf of the Whitireia Park Board by:



Barbara Donaldson
Chairperson

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Overview Report

FIRST SCHEDULE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The administrative Services to be provided and performed by Greater Wellington Regional Council at the request of the Whitireia Park Board include:

Being the “public face” of the Board

Greater Wellington Regional Council’s Manager Parks will act as the Board’s Office Manager, dealing with public enquiries on matters relating to the Board. Greater Wellington Regional Council will develop and maintain the Board’s contact details (phone, email, postal address, website).

Arranging meetings in accordance with the requirements of LGOIMA

Greater Wellington Regional Council will publicly notify upcoming meetings of the Board in accordance with Section 46(1) and (2) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Order papers will be available from Greater Wellington Regional Council’s Wellington office, at the Porirua City Council office in Cobham Court and on the Board’s website (once developed).

Servicing Board meetings

Greater Wellington Regional Council will provide support for the meetings of the Board. This includes taking the minutes of the meetings and providing advice on meeting procedures as set out in the Reserves Act 1977 and LGOIMA. Greater Wellington Regional Council is responsible for holding a Board minute book as a record of proceedings.

Processing official information requests made to the Board

Should the Board receive any requests for official information, the Board’s Office Manager will be responsible for processing each request in accordance with the requirements of LGOIMA.

Maintaining the Board’s records

The Board’s Office Manager will maintain the Board’s records. Board information will be kept separately from Greater Wellington Regional Council’s records.

Providing advice to the Board on park governance and management matters

Greater Wellington Regional Council will provide advice to the Board relating to the Board’s governance responsibilities and park management, including Board bylaws, licences, concessions and leases.

Providing and maintaining a website for the Board

Greater Wellington Regional Council will provide and maintain the Board’s website (either as part of Greater Wellington Regional Council’s website or separately).

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Overview Report

**SECOND SCHEDULE
OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

The operational services to be provided and performed by Greater Wellington Regional Council at the request of the Whitireia Park Board include:

- Preparation of an annual work plan for Board approval
- Implementing an annual work plan
- Developing a park plan for Board approval in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977
- Providing a ranger service.

THIRD SCHEDULE FINANCIAL SERVICES

The financial services to be provided and performed by Greater Wellington Regional Council at the request of the Whitireia Park Board include:

- Managing the Board's finances, arranging the annual audit and preparing the annual report
- Processing the Board's accounts payable and accounts receivable
- Collecting revenue related to park leases and licences
- Operating the Board's bank account
 - The Board shall appoint the signatories to the Board's bank account.
- Preparing financial reports.

Whitireia Park Board
5 December 2025



**APPLICATION OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS' INTERESTS)
ACT 1968**

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. To advise the members of the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) of their obligations under the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (LAMIA).

Te tāhū kōrero
Background

2. Section 150(1) of the Ngati Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014 (the Claims Settlement Act) establishes a joint board for the Whitireia Recreation Reserve. Section 151(1) provides that the joint board, the Whitireia Park Board, is the administering body as if the joint board were appointed to control and manage the Whitireia Recreation Reserve under section 30 of the Reserves Act 1977.
3. LAMIA applies to administering bodies constituted under the Reserves Act 1977; under second 151 of the Claims Settlement Act this includes the Whitireia Park Board.
4. Therefore, it is important that members of the Board are aware of their obligations under LAMIA and how to deal with conflicts of interest in general.

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

5. LAMIA helps protect the integrity of the Board's decision-making by ensuring that Board members are not affected by personal pecuniary interests (any interest that can be measured in money) when they participate in Board decisions, and members cannot use their position to obtain preferential access to contracts. The two specific rules in LAMIA are that Board members cannot:
 - a Be "concerned or interested" with contracts with the Board worth, individually or cumulatively, more than \$25,000 (inclusive of GST) in a financial year (the contracting rule); or
 - b Participate in matters before the Board in which they have a 'direct or indirect' pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the public (the participation rule).

6. Breaching the contracting or participation rules can have a serious consequence for a Board member personally as it is a criminal offence and disqualification from the Board is automatic on conviction.
7. The Controller and Auditor-General's *Guidance for members of local authorities about the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968*¹ provides important information for members.

Common law conflicts of interest and bias

8. In addition to LAMIA, which focuses on pecuniary interests, there are common law rules about wider conflicts of interest which require that the Board's decision-making is, and is perceived to be, procedurally fair and free from bias.
9. A conflict of interest exists where two different interests intersect; in other words, where your responsibilities as a Board member could be affected by some other separate interest or duty that you may have in relation to a particular matter. The other interests or duties might exist because:
 - a You have a close relationship or involvement with an individual or organisation affected by the matter; or
 - b Your statements or conduct indicate that you have predetermined the matter before hearing all relevant information (that is, you have a "closed" mind).
10. The *Guidance for members of local authorities about the local authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968* discusses the issue of conflicts of interest in more detail in Part 5.

Declaring a conflict of interest

11. At the beginning of each meeting Board members are expected to declare any conflicts of interest relevant to items on the meeting's agenda. A declaration may be in relation to a pecuniary interest (other than an interest in common with the public) or a non-pecuniary interest.
12. Members are advised to read the Order Paper before a meeting to see whether they have an interest in any matters that are to be discussed or voted on. If there are, members should, if possible, advise the Board's Chairperson before the meeting starts that they are going to declare an interest in a particular matter. Once a conflict is declared, the member will be required to abstain from discussion and voting, and should consider leaving the table or meeting for that item. In declaring a conflict of interest, a member is not required to inform the meeting about the nature of the interest or why it exists.

¹ oag.parliament.nz/2020/lamia

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Board:

- 1 ***Receives*** the report.
- 2 ***Notes*** the content of the report.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Elizabeth Woolcott – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Ratonga Manapori Manager Democratic Services
Approver	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urungi, Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy

Whitireia Park Board
5 December 2025



ADOPTION OF THE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) of the Board meeting dates for the 2026 calendar year.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Every year the Board adopts a schedule of meetings for the following calendar year. This provides certainty to members for meetings and helps enable their attendance. It also provides staff with certainty in order to forward plan reporting to the Board.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

3. Board meetings follow a standard practice of Fridays with a 9.30am start.
4. The proposed Board meeting dates for 2026 are based on the meeting dates for 2025. The proposed meeting dates for 2026 are:
 - a 6 March
 - b 29 May
 - c 14 August
 - d 6 November
5. Titahi Golf Club has confirmed the club rooms are available on the above dates.
6. Should need to be rescheduled or additional meetings added, it is proposed that the Board authorise Greater Wellington's Head of Governance and Democracy, in consultation with the Board Chair, to amend the schedule when necessary.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

8. Greater Wellington officers will circulate the schedule to key stakeholders and advertise the Board meeting dates.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Board:

- 1 **Receives** the report.
- 2 **Notes** the content of the report.
- 3 **Adopts** the meeting schedule for 2026 as follows:
 - a 6 March
 - b 29 May
 - c 14 August
 - d 6 November
- 4 **Notes** that the meetings will be scheduled with a 9.30am start.
- 5 **Authorises** the Head of Governance and Democracy, Greater Wellington, in consultation with the Board Chair, to amend the schedule when necessary.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Renée Coffey – Kaitohutohu Ratonga Manapori Democratic Services Advisor
Approvers	Elizabeth Woolcott – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Ratonga Manapori Manager Democratic Services Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urungi Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

Whitireia Park Board
5 December 2025



WHITIREIA PARK BOARD FINANCE REPORT – QUARTER ONE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To present to the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) the management accounts for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Board:

- 1 **Receives** the report.
- 2 **Notes** that:
 - a Income has been received from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025:
 - \$1,375 from Titahi Bay Golf Club for lease of the land
 - \$469.2 Gross Interest
 - b Total costs from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 were:
 - \$412.5 for the GST payment
 - c The BNZ Bank account balance as at 30 September 2025 was \$87,546.06.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Whitireia Park Board Financial Statements – Q1

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Athirah Zaradi – Assistant Reporting Accountant
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director Delivery Lian Butcher – Group Manager Environment

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Finance Report

Whitireia Park Board
Statement Comprehensive Revenue and Expense
for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025

	2024/25 Full Year	2025/26 Q1	GW Entries 2024/25 Full Year	2025/26 Q1
Income	\$	\$	\$	\$
Water Rates	-	-	10,146	147
Lease	5,500	1,375	-	-
Interest	2,001	469	-	-
GWRC	-	-	204,055	37,030
Total Income	7,501	1,844	214,201	37,177
Less Expenditure	\$	\$	\$	\$
Water rates expense	-	-	11,875	184
Sundry	40	-	-	-
Depreciation Expense	1,676	419	-	-
Project Materials	-	-	10,363	-
Printing	-	-	368	-
Stationery	-	-	663	424
Postage & Couriers	-	-	-	-
Property Rates	-	-	1,733	-
Security	-	-	3,100	-
Cleaning & Toiletrie	-	-	11,111	2,488
Advertising	-	-	-	-
Settlement-Materials & Supplies	-	-	8,826	-
Contractors - Labour	-	-	30,123	9,433
Contractors - Machin	-	-	30,700	-
Contractors - Constr	-	-	522	-
Contractors - Facili	-	-	-	-
GWRC Vehicle Costs	-	-	-	-
Training	-	-	6,066	-
GWRC Staff Time	-	-	98,752	24,648
Total Expenditure	1,716	419	214,201	37,177
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	5,785	1,425	-	-

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Finance Report

Whitireia Park Board
Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2025

	30 June 2025	GW Entries 30 Sept 2025
FUNDS AND RESERVES		
Accumulated Funds	82,962	88,747
Net Surplus (Deficit)	5,785	1,425
TOTAL FUNDS AND RESERVES	88,747	90,172
Represented By:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Current Account	85,908	87,546
Sundry Debtors	82	82
GST Receivable	-	-
Total Current Assets	85,990	87,628
Fixed Assets	285,806	285,806
Accumulated Depreciation	(283,207)	(283,626)
Total Fixed Assets	2,599	2,180
Total Assets	88,589	89,808
CURRENT LIABILITES		
GST Payable	(198)	(404)
Sundry Creditors	40	40
Total Current Liabilites	(158)	(364)
Total Liabilites	(158)	(364)
NET ASSETS	88,747	90,172

Whitireia Park Board
5 December 2025



WHITIREIA PARK BOARD OPERATIONS REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) on:
 - a operational management of the park June – November 2025
 - b the annual work programme and operations budget for 2025/26.

Board approval of the 2025/26 Park Operations budget

2. The 2025/26 proposed work programme is set out below:

Activity	Funding
Mowing	\$30,000
Toilet cleaning	\$10,000
Toilet supplies	\$2,000
Security	\$2,000
Ranger supplies	\$2,500
Annual fire break mowing	\$6,000
Septic Tank Maintenance	\$300
Road repairs	\$5,000
Whitireia restoration group support	\$8,000
Key Native Ecosystem programme top-up from Parks budget	\$5,000
Revegetation burnt area	\$15,000
KNE – weed control in priority areas	\$29,700
KNE - predator trapping materials & support of WPRP	\$3,470
KNE - surveillance for and control of pest animals	\$2,650
	\$121,620

Park Ranger Update

3. [Attachment 1](#) provides an update on progress of action items from previous Board meetings.

Kaimahi Ranger

4. Greater Wellington has agreed to provide funding to Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira to employ a new Kaimahi Ranger part-time (0.2 FTE). The role's funding is confirmed for two years and is expected to start before year-end.

Vandalism

5. Officers have seen an increase in the amount of litter and vandalism in the Park over the last few months. Recently three stolen cars were recovered from the Park.

Whitireia Park capital expenditure

6. Greater Wellington responded to the Park Board on 30 July 2025 confirming that the Board is responsible for funding any significant future capital expenditure, not Greater Wellington. At this stage, Rangers are not aware of any other significant capital expenditure requirements within the park in the next five years other than the Onehunga Bay toilet.

Whitireia toilet replacement project

7. Project planning has commenced. As the toilet will become a Board asset, recommendations in this report relate to confirming the Board's direction of what type of project oversight they wish to have going forward and how the toilet replacement will be funded
8. The Board will need to determine its approach for funding the toilet replacement. General funding options for asset renewal are set out in the Whitireia Park Board Overview report at this meeting.
9. Staff have considered two options for the new toilet site. Initial discussions have been held with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira to confirm their acceptance of the two locations.



Figure 1: location of the proposed Toilet sites and discharge areas

10. Below is a table comparing the two sites (Sites A and B). A recommendation to the Board proposes confirmation of Site A as the preferred option.

SITE A	SITE B
Green cells indicating “advantage”	
Orange cells indicating “disadvantage”	
Toilet building, septic system and discharge field would all be in close proximity, at a near-level gradient. Enable simple design, compared to B, with lower construction cost and easier ongoing maintenance.	Toilet building, septic system and discharge field would be at different elevations (20m gradient). Design needs to consider pumping head and discharge distance. Cost would be higher for the construction and ongoing maintenance.
Proximity to the carpark enables easy access.	No change from the current toilet location, therefore no change to no change is usage/accessibility.
Minimal user disruption during old toilet demolition or new toilet construction. Construction phase may involve blocking some parking spaces.	User disruption during timeframe of replacing old with new. Temporary closure of the road will be required during construction.

Underground LPED – low pressure effluent disposal - (preferred option) could be placed in an open grass area with minimal impact on recreation or habitat as it will be below the surface.	Near area of mokomoko release site. Driplines could likely be required at this site to avoid excavation of LPED, due to mokomoko habitat disturbance of earthworks. Installation of driplines would not require earthworks as lines are threaded through existing vegetation but could impact habitat quality. May require fencing if driplines are used.
Wide view of the sky allowing more solar generation capacity. Power is required to run the septic system pump and lights in the toilet block.	Large hill behind it and has reduced solar generating capacity in afternoon sun. Power is required to run the septic system pump and lights in the toilet block.
Toilet building and septic cost, to be confirmed, currently with consultants. Similar total cost with either system.	
All the proposed facilities are within Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira land parcel.	All the proposed facilities are within the Crown's land parcel.

Biodiversity management

Updating the Key Native Ecosystem operational plan

11. The Whitireia Coast Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) operational plan is being updated this year as part of the KNE 5-yearly operational plan review process. The revised plan will outline actions planned to protect and restore biodiversity values in the KNE site.
12. A draft KNE review document will be ready for the Board at its next meeting. It is intended that the Board's involvement in the KNE review will become part of the Whitireia Park restoration workshop discussed at previous Board meetings.

Whitireia Park restoration workshop

13. Rangers and Environment Restoration staff have progressed planning for the restoration workshop requested by the Board. Staff are working with Ngāti Toa to recommend facilitators.
14. Preparation for the workshop has focussed on gathering a summary of environmental restoration mahi undertaken to date compared against the direction of the current Park Management plan, and preparation for the KNE review noted above.

Pest animal control

15. Pest animal control is ongoing in the KNE site and across the rest of the park. The group of pest control volunteers continues to operate the network of traps and bait stations targeting both landscape-scale control and priority habitats, such as those

supporting mātātā / fernbird. A small review of the pest control network is being done to ensure adequate coverage is in place. Greater Wellington acknowledges and appreciates the group's commitment to this mahi.

16. Greater Wellington carried out a night-time survey of the park for pest animals in November 2025. No possums, hares or rabbits were observed, however, recent browsing damage to planted native seedlings in Onehunga Bay suggests rabbit activity. Night-time surveys are carried out quarterly and are aimed at keeping the park free of possums, hares and rabbits and reducing hedgehog numbers.

Pest plant control

17. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira and Greater Wellington are progressing pest plant control actions this summer. These will be in line with our two main focuses of:
 - a Protecting areas of highest biodiversity values (coastal escarpments, wetlands and dunes)
 - b Suppressing highly invasive species such as liquorice plant, climbing asparagus, Spanish heath and Japanese honeysuckle.
18. Last year's pest plant control works reinforced concern about the spread of liquorice plant and climbing asparagus across the park. An aerial survey revealed more extensive spread of liquorice plant than expected and work controlling climbing asparagus encountered far larger and dense infestations than anticipated. A large share of this year's budget will be used to continue controlling these species.
19. Staff are planning to work with the golf club to control a large infestation of Japanese honeysuckle located on the edge of the course, which is likely the source of many plants of the species that have emerged in the park.

Preparation for revegetation planting

20. Greater Wellington and the restoration group are preparing sites for the winter 2026 planting season, which will include:
 - a Completing the multi-year planting project located on the Onepoto Stream side of the saddle between the two main streams
 - b Planting an area between the ngahere remnant and Onehunga Stream to close a gap in the revegetation of that stream catchment.

Restoration group 20th anniversary

21. The Whitireia Restoration Group's 20th anniversary was successfully held on 20 July 2025. The event was run in conjunction with Greater Wellington, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira and Board members. Approximately 100 attendees took part in the celebration, planting 1,200 trees.

Collection of Raukawa gecko

22. In June 2025, the Board approved a permit for the Department of Conservation (DOC) to collect six Raukawa gecko from the Park. The gecko have not yet been collected. DOC staff are completing an initial phase of research using mokomoko

from other locations, after which they will confirm whether they still require six from the Park.

Park permissions applications

Collection of Microlaena stipoides seed

23. Rangers have received a permit application from a consultancy to collect seed of *Microlaena stipoides* (common name, rice grass. Te reo common name, unknown) from within the Park.
24. *Microlaena stipoides* is proposed for use at the Porirua Wastewater tank project site to provide lizard habitat as part of site remediation.
25. Impact on the grass species from within the Park is expected to be minimal. Approximately one kilogram of seed will be collected. This will have a less than minor impact on the surrounding plants in the park.
26. With minimal ecological impact on park vegetation, and the proposed use being to create/enhance lizard habitat, a recommendation is contained in this report for the Board to approve the permit application.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Board:

- 1 **Receives** the report.
- 2 **Notes** the content of the report.
- 3 **Approves** the 2025/26 operational work plan and budget of \$121,620.
- 4 **Determines** its approach to funding of the toilet block replacement.
- 5 **Approves** Greater Wellington staff continuing with the planning for toilet location “site A”.
- 6 **Approves** the permit application to collect *Microlaena stipoides* seed from within the Park.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Action items from the previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writers	Jordan Clear – Whitireia Park Ranger Kim Broad – Kaitohutohu Matua Whakarauora Taiao Senior Environment Restoration Advisor Jeremy Paterson – Westen Parks team Leader David Boone – Manager Ecosystems & Community
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director Delivery Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Taiao Group Manager Environment

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

Date	Action item	Status and comment
30 August 2024	Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report – May to 31 July 2024 Noted: The Board requested that Greater Wellington staff initiate conversations with Radio NZ to address weeds at the Radio NZ site.	Status: Completed Comment: Officers have met with Ngāti Toa and the Whitireia Restoration Group to better understand the issue. A site visit has been organised. Officers are not sure if RNZ is willing to do anything in this space.
30 August 2024	Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report – May to 31 July 2024 Noted: The Board discussed arranging a celebration for the Whitireia Park Restoration Group volunteers next year to thank them for their mahi and celebrate the Group's 20 year anniversary.	Status: Completed Comment: Update in operations report May 2025 meeting.
30 August 2024	Whitireia Park Board Operations Report – August 2024 Noted: The Board requested Greater Wellington staff organise a site visit to Kaitawa Point to see placement options for the bollards.	Status: Completed Comment: Officers have contacted Iwi representatives regarding a site visit to review the placement of the bollards discussed. GW cannot spend CAPEX at Whitireia, this discussion may continue if another funding source is found.

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

1 November 2024	Whitireia Park Board Operations Report – November 2024 Noted: The Board requested: that the fire management plan for this season be recirculated to members.	Status: In Progress Comment: A park specific fire management plan is still in development. For now, Rangers are using standardised activity controls similar to other parks when dry conditions trigger controls being put in place.
6 June 2025	Whitireia Park Board Operations Update [For Decision] Noted: The Board and officers discussed a motion that was carried at the 28 February 2025 meeting, noted below: <i>That the Board: Requests a Board strategy workshop with Ngāti Toa, Greater Wellington, and community groups to explore evidence-based restoration direction for the Park.</i> The actions from the above motion were clarified as follows: 1. The Board will coordinate with Ngāti Toa to decide whether an independent facilitator should be engaged for the workshop (contact with Ngāti Toa to be led by Caleb Ware).	Status: In Progress Comment: Rangers have begun organising the restoration workshop.

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

	2. Greater Wellington staff to: a. recommend facilitators suitable to help, provided that (1) is completed by the Board and Ngāti Toa is supportive of engaging a facilitator. b. prepare for an environment restoration-focused workshop with Board members, Ngāti Toa staff, Greater Wellington staff and the Whitireia Park Restoration Group. c. gather a summary of environmental restoration mahi undertaken to date compared against the direction of the current Park Management plan. 3. Noted that the output of this workshop is expected to be a report that can inform both incoming Board members and Ngāti Toa Rangatira in the ongoing management of the Park and in the future review of the Reserve Management Plan.	
6 June 2025	Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information] Noted: Jordan Clear and Ashleigh Sagar will liaise with Porirua City Council about getting a sign installed at Onepoto Estuary to educate users about protecting the wildlife.	Status: Not Started Comments:

Whitireia Park Board
5 December 2025



Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) on the Whitireia Park Restoration Group (WPRG) work in August and October 2025

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. A background document has been attached to this report for incoming Board members ([Attachment 1](#)).

Ngāti Toa Rangatira land acquisition

3. The Whitireia Park Restoration Group is delighted Ngāti Toa Rangatira has purchased the Radio New Zealand land. Our group would be very happy to work with Ngāti Toa on restoration work.

2026 Planting Season

4. Planning for the 2026 planting season and weed control has been completed with a site visit with Kim Broad (KNE) and Abhi Manikantan from Biosecurity. We have three distinct sites for 3 public planting days

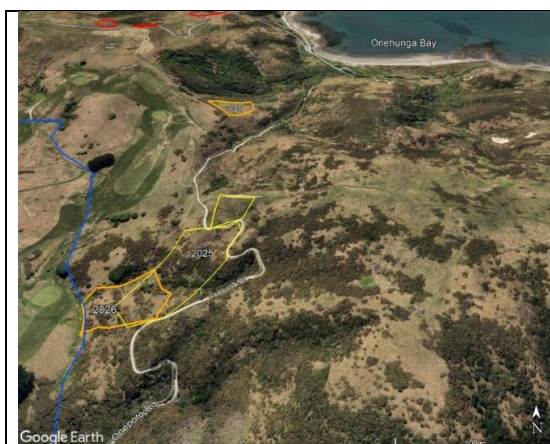


Figure 1: 2026 Onepoto & Onehunga planting sites

WPRG will finish the last area of planting which is at the bottom of the gully which joins the Onepoto stream.

This project is running behind time due to the fire in the upper valley in the summer of 2023 which caused a change to some of the planting sites in the winter of 2025.

We will also plant an area of mostly grass in the Onehunga Bay Valley. This is the final area which will connect the bush remnant to the corridor planting on each side of the Onehunga valley track (part of the circular walk).

 Figure 2: Proposed escarpment planting site	We will also infill areas along the top of the escarpment, leaving open areas for people to be able to access the edge for viewing or picnicing. Earlier plantings have taken several years to establish due to the extreme salt wind on top of the escarpment
 Figure 3: Coastal edge planting sites	We have also applied to Te Awarua-o-Porirua Community Environment Fund for \$3,000 over the next three years to plant small areas of the coastal edge between Onehunga Bay and Kaiaua Bay. Luke Barsnley was consulted prior to the application and has approved the coastal sites planting.

Lizard Update

5. The lizard project set out to protect a population of lizards along the Whitireia Scarp. The population is made up of three species Mokomoko (northern grass skinks, *Oligosoma polychroma*) and copper skink (*Oligosoma aeneum*) and Moko pāpā (*Raukawa gecko*, *Woodworthia maculata*).
6. We applied an experimental design to help us understand whether our intensive but very small-scale pest control could make a difference.
7. Seven years later, it appears our approach is working which is a great outcome and has wider applicability for other lizard focused projects around the country. We are committed to at least another year of intensive control and lizard monitoring to ensure the results hold over time.

Leptinella nana

8. A new site for *Leptinella nana* was planted on 10 September 2025. Dusan Turvey (Ngāti Toa) Pattern Reid (Department of Conservation), Kim Broad (Greater Wellington) and Mike Jacobsen and I (WPRG) spent several hours planting 45 plugs

of *Leptinella nana* in a small gully near Kaitawa Point. We are hoping that the dappled shade and ephemeral stream which flows through the gully bottom will keep the site moist and provide good conditions for growth. The plugs were all measured and photographed using a metal grid to show the extent of the coverage and will be re-measured at the end of summer.



Figure 4a: Dusan, Pattern and Kim

4b: Planted plugs

4c: Baseline measuring of plugs

Pest Control

9. Rob Hughes has handed over the management of the pest animal team to Chris Gibbons. Rob has done a fantastic job for many years, setting up traplines, recruiting volunteer trap checkers and reporting catches and we are very grateful for his enormous volunteer effort.
10. We have 127 traps and 44 bait stations in the park. In the past 3 months 60 pests have been trapped, and the bait stations are cleaned out of bait every few weeks, mainly because they are on the edge of urban Titahi Bay.
11. A breakdown of pest types caught from 1 August to 31 October 2025.

	Rats	Stoats	Weasels	Hedgehogs
2025	59	0	1	1
2024	15	0	9	6

12. Since we first started trapping in the park, we have caught 1037 pests and 206 in the past year.

Tarāpunga -Red Billed gull nesting colony

13. The tarāpunga are again nesting on the Whitireia escarpment following a successful breeding season in 2024/2025.
14. Mike and Christine Jacobsen observed them from the sea and estimated 900 tarāpunga and there are also some tara, white fronted terns nesting as they were last season. Some of the nesting area overlaps with a popular rock-climbing area.
15. A rope appeared recently to help climbers and Jordan has offered to liaise with ClimbNZ and get them to take the map down from their website while the breeding season is on and she will try and connect with local climbing clubs. One of the reasons for failed nesting is nest abandonment due to human or animal disturbance.



Figure 5: Extent of breeding colony habitat



Figure 6: Nesting birds

Fauna

16. A pair of mātātā have been seen and heard several times at the eastern end of Onehunga Bay. Either they are a new pair, or they are the offspring of the two pairs which were at Onehunga Bay wetland.



Figure 8: Mātātā nesting area.

17. An elephant seal briefly visited Onehunga Bay after a huge storm in September.



Figure 9: Elephant seal in Onehunga Bay.

Gear for weed control and site preparation for planting

18. Four members now have a Growsafe Certificate and Jordan has recently provided chemicals and equipment. We are tackling small infestations of weeds such as liquorice plant, Japanese honeysuckle and boneset. This will also enable us to spot spray at ideal times prior to planting in 2026. Many thanks to Jodan and Greater Wellington.

Wellington Airport Community Awards

19. The group was delighted to win the Heritage and Environment category for Porirua and although we didn't win the regional final, we did get to see some amazing volunteer groups from around the region at the awards.

Penguin Avoidance Training

20. Nikki Edwards and Robyn Smith recently put their dogs through penguin avoidance training with Willy Marsh. We are encouraging other members of the community to do the same.

Volunteer Hours

Month	Trapping	Lizard project	Planting prep	Planting	Maintenance	Promotion Admin
August to November	23	0	7	37	21	17

Ngā āpitihanga Attachments

Number	Title
1	Restoration Group Report WPRG Background

Ngā kaiwaitohu Signatories

Writers	Chris Gibbons, Niki Edwards, Angus Hulme-Moir, Robyn Smith, Edmund Stephen-Smith, Robert Stratford, Nick Hartley, Mike Jacobson, Rob Hughes.
---------	--

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Restoration Group Report

Introduction

Since 2005 the Whitireia Park Restoration Group has been working on restoring biodiversity values back to Whitireia Park. Whitireia Park sits on the southern headland of Te Awarua o Porirua (Porirua Harbour) and covers around 180 hectares of mainly grassland with some substantial areas of gorse.

A tiny remnant of coastal kohekohe forest, some spectacular coastal escarpments, a small estuary, coastal sand dunes, stony beaches, seeps, a permanent and some intermittent streams and freshwater and coastal wetlands provide a diverse range of ecosystems to work with within the park.

The park has over 100 archaeological sites which demonstrate the level of human occupation of the land. One of the most prominent archaeological features is Whitireia maunga, and there are large areas of terraces and pits within the park.

Restoration

The north-western edge of the park has an escarpment and rocky coast open to the Te Moana-a-Rehua, Tasman Sea. The remaining coastline falls within Te Awarua o Porirua catchment and has rocky shoreline, stoney beaches and sandy bays. A large part of the park interior drains to Te Onepoto stream which enters Te Awarua o Porirua through a freshwater wetland and estuary. The suburb of Titahi Bay is adjacent to the southern boundary.

Prior to restoration efforts most of the park was grazed by cattle until a small area around Onehunga Bay was fenced off from cattle in 2005. This allowed The Whitireia Park Restoration Group (formerly known as the Onehunga Bay Restoration Group) to begin restoring some native vegetation to the park. The group's initial vision was to link the bush to the coast. Our group's first planting day in the winter of 2006 planting the side of the gully below the bush remnant.

For the next four years we continued to plant the sides of the wetland and began work on the wet areas and the dunes at the eastern end of Onehunga Bay. Harakeke, tī kōuka, mānuka and toetoe have replaced open grassy paddocks. The mānuka, kānuka, tree daisy and ngaio on the gully sides now provide enough cover for natural regeneration to occur. Under this canopy kohekohe, māhoe, titoki, kaikōmako and porokaiwhiri seedlings are now growing. Kererū which used to pass over this area now stop and visit as more and more food is available to them. Tūī, which were largely absent prior to our restoration efforts, are now everywhere, particularly when the flax is in flower. Mātātā (fernbird) arrived in 2021 and have spread out around the wetland and backdunes of Onehunga Bay. There are also two pair around Onepoto estuary.

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Restoration Group Report

The native sandbinders, spinifex and pīngao have replaced marram and kikuyu grass on the dunes at Onehunga Bay. Behind the dunes, harakeke, toetoe, tātarakeke (sand coprosma) and waiū atua (shore spurge, *Euphorbia glauca*) tūmatakuru (matagouri), coastal tree daisy (*Shawia*, syn *Olearia solandri*) have been planted.

Plant growth, particularly on the hills is slow because the climate here is harsh. Strong dry salt winds come from the north and the north-west and cold southerlies rise over the top of the park and blast down the valleys. The summers are usually very dry and any rain that does fall in summer is quickly evaporated. During our first years we discovered that even though we were planting plants grown from local seed adapted to the local conditions, many sulk for years before they finally started to grow. Some years even ngaio and koromiko (*Hebe stricta*) would have half their leaves drop from salt burn. Those that survive the first three years go on to be vibrant strong plants.

Each year seed is collected and sent it off to nurseries to grow on for the following years plantings. Much of the seed was collected on-site, but because there was a limited number of naturally occurring plants of many species we wanted, we were concerned about the limited genetic spread of these species. Now seed is collected from many local sources around coastal Porirua.

Currently we are funded by Greater Wellington Regional Council's, Key Native Ecosystem Programme and Greater Wellington's Parks function. We have at times gained external funding to top-up funds.

An intentional fire which ripped through much of the park in February 2010 destroyed some of our plantings and burnt off most of the gorse cover on the hills and inland valley. Much of the Onepoto stream's riparian vegetation was burnt, and all the fences were also destroyed. The cattle were removed and have never returned. Although we were devastated by the damage, it gave our group more opportunities to replant and now it is not grazed, natural regeneration is occurring in competition with the gorse. Near the headwaters of Te Onepoto stream a large area of *Machaerina rubiginosa*, swamp buttercup and puha have all reappeared since grazing pressure was removed.

Following the fire, we extended our efforts to Kaiaua Bay, a ten minute walk along the coast east of Onehunga Bay. This dune site has been transformed from a flat grassy resting spot for cattle (one of their favourite spots) into a fully functioning dune. Hundreds of spinifex and pīngao have been planted on the foredune and the dunes have grown into beautifully rounded natural dunes. This site is a strange place for sand to accumulate as it is nearly 1.5 kilometres from the open coast however large waves, after a few days of north-westerlies, push sand up the harbour neck from a bar at the harbour entrance. Behind the foredunes, bidibid, native spinach, sand Coprosma, twiggy tree daisy, flax, toetoe are thriving.

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Restoration Group Report

In 2017 we started to plant at the top of the coastal escarpment. Recent surveys have discovered a large population of northern grass skinks and common gecko and fewer copper skinks. There are historic records of spotted skink on the escarpment, but these have not been detected recently. Much of the escarpment is grassy, however there are good numbers of mingimingi, thick-leaved mahoe and some coastal flax. Many other species were grazed out so we are returning some of these to the escarpment. Too large to plant the whole escarpment, we have planted nodes or large groups of several species and over time these will provide more suitable habitat and food sources for the lizard species. The group also partnered with Goodnature and Greater Wellington to trial the use of A24 resetting traps to control mice. Mice, hedgehogs, cats and weasels are the main predators of lizards here and some lizards have only been able to survive because of refuges between rocks and by hiding amongst driftwood. The DOC200 traps along the escarpment provide some protection of these predators however mice are difficult to control and numbers usually increase when populations of their predators such as weasels are reduced.

We have planted between the track and shoreline at Onepoto aby to try to protect birds in the estuary for dogs. Te Neke bay has also had much of the land between the track and shoreline planted. A corridor of native species has been planted from Onehunga Bay to Onepoto stream on both sides of the track in the Onehunga Valley. The corridor extends down to Onepoto stream once over the saddle between he two catchments.

The group is entering its 21st year and has grown its knowledge and experience. We are looking to make significant improvements to the biodiversity of Whitireia Park by applying that knowledge for the benefit of future generations.

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Restoration Group Report



Figure 1: Planted areas 2005 to 2025



Figure 2: wetlands at Onehunga Bay

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Restoration Group Report



Figure 3: Onehunga Bay dunes



Figure 4: Kaiaua Bay dunes

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Restoration Group Report



Figure 5: Onepoto estuary