

Whitireia Park Board

Friday 6 June 2025 at 9.30am

Titahi Golf Club, Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua

Members

Jenny Ngarimu (Chair)

Quentin Duthie

Hikitia Ropata

Caleb Ware

Chris Kirk-Burnnand

Sharli-Jo Solomon

Whitireia Park Board

Friday 6 June 2025, 9.30am

Titahi Golf Club, Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua

Public Business

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Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 6 June 2025

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

Titahi Golf Club
Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua, at 9.30am.

Members Present

Jenny Ngarimu (Chair)
Quentin Duthie
Chris Kirk-Burnnand
Hikitia Ropata
Sharli-Jo Solomon

Karakia timatanga

The Board Chair invited Luke Barnsley to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

1 Whakawhanaungatanga

Everyone present introduced themselves.

2 Apologies

Moved: Hikitia Ropata / Quentin Duthie

That the Board accepts the apology for absence from Caleb Ware.

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 1 November 2024

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Chris Kirk-Burnnand

That the Board confirms the Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 1 November 2024.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Whitireia Park Board Accounts

Zoe Chen, Senior Business Accountant, spoke to the report.

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Hikitia Ropata

That the Board:

- 1 *Receives the report.*
- 2 *Notes that:*
 - a. *Income has been received from 1 July 2024 to 31 December:*
 - *\$2,750 from Titahi Golf Club for lease of the land*
 - *\$1,081 gross interest*
 - b. *Total costs from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 were:*
 - *\$412.50 for the GST payment*
 - *\$40 for Bank Fee – Auditor Confirmation*
 - c. *The BNZ Bank account balance as at 31 December 2024 was \$82,238.90.*
- 3 *Accepts the additional statement of responsibility for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Annual Reports.*

The motion was **carried**.

7 Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information]

Robyn Smith, Whitireia Park Restoration Group Coordinator, spoke to the report. Angus Hulme-Moir tabled a presentation on mokomoko (lizards).

Angus advised the Board that mokomoko are the most threatened fauna in New Zealand and are severely at risk.

There are three mokomoko in Whitireia Park – Raukawa gecko, northern grass skink, and the copper skink. There are several mokomoko missing from the Park: ornate skink, ngahere gecko, barking gecko, Kupe skink, and gold striped gecko.

Angus explained the mokomoko conservation project that is being undertaken in the Park:

- Intensive pest control over small areas for mice

- Control site to determine impact
- Ongoing monitoring of rodents and mokomoko
- Methodology and date modelling

Angus advised the Board that there are opportunities to explore:

- National research project to understand the potential of Brodifacoum and bioaccumulation in the lizards
- Reintroduction of missing species to Whitireia Park – starting with either gold stripe gecko or ornate skink.

The Board discussed the opportunities identified by Angus.

Moved: Hikitia Ropata / Quentin Duthie

That the Board:

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

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: The Board requested a report to the next meeting on options to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Whitireia Park Restoration Group, including resourcing and funding for an event.

Noted: The Board requested a report to a future meeting on the request for a study into bioaccumulation of toxins used to control pests in Whitireia Park mokomoko.

8 Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Jeremy Paterson, Team Leader Western Parks, Jordan Clear, Mobile Ranger Western, Kim Broad, Senior Advisor, Environment Restoration, and David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, spoke to the report.

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Chris Kirk-Burnnand

That the Board:

- 1 *Receives the report.*
- 2 *Notes the content of the report.*
- 3 *Approves interim permission granted on 25 November 2024.*

The motion was **carried**.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Board Chair invited Luke Barnsley to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 11.02am.

J Ngarimu

Chair

Date:

Whitireia Park Board
6 June 2025



WHITIREIA PARK BOARD FINANCE REPORT – QUARTER THREE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To present to the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) the management accounts for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

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.*

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Whitireia Park Board Financial Statements – Q3

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Zoe Chen – Senior Business Accountant
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director, Delivery Environment Group David Hipkins – Acting Group Manager, Environment Group

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Finance Report

Whitireia Park Board
Statement Comprehensive Revenue and Expense
for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025

	2023/24 Full Year	2024/25 Q3	GW Entries 2023/24 Full Year	GW Entries 2024/25 Q3
Income	\$	\$	\$	\$
Water Rates	-	-	7,309	5,577
Lease	5,500	4,125	-	-
Interest	1,934	2,001	-	-
GWRC	-	-	209,043	153,300
Total Income	7,434	6,126	216,352	158,877
Less Expenditure	\$	\$	\$	\$
Water rates expense	-	-	7,850	6,876
Sundry	40	40	-	-
Depreciation Expense	1,676	1,257	-	-
Project Materials	-	-	40	5,541
Printing	-	-	712	368
Stationery	-	-	-	543
Postage & Couriers	-	-	427	-
Property Rates	-	-	-	1,733
Security	-	-	8,778	3,100
Cleaning & Toiletrie	-	-	10,088	8,623
Advertising	-	-	518	-
Settlement-Materials & Supplies	-	-	-	8,826
Contractors - Labour	-	-	61,375	29,553
Contractors - Machin	-	-	2,550	19,250
Contractors - Constr	-	-	25,421	522
Contractors - Facili	-	-	-	-
GWRC Vehicle Costs	-	-	-	-
GWRC Staff Time	-	-	98,592	73,944
Total Expenditure	1,716	1,297	216,352	158,877
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	5,718	4,829	-	-

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Finance Report

Whitireia Park Board
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	30 June 2024	GW Entries 2024/25 Q3
FUNDS AND RESERVES		
Accumulated Funds	77,244	82,962
Net Surplus (Deficit)	5,718	4,829
TOTAL FUNDS AND RESERVES	82,962	87,791
Represented By:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Current Account	78,448	84,327
Sundry Debtors	82	82
GST Receivable	-	-
Total Current Assets	78,530	84,409
Fixed Assets	285,806	285,806
Accumulated Depreciation	(281,531)	(282,788)
Total Fixed Assets	4,275	3,018
Total Assets	82,804	87,427
CURRENT LIABILITES		
GST Payable	(198)	(404)
Sundry Creditors	40	40
Total Current Liabilites	(158)	(364)
Total Liabilites	(158)	(364)
NET ASSETS	82,962	87,791

Whitireia Park Board
6 June 2025



WHITIREIA PARK BOARD OPERATIONS UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Whitireia Park Board (the board) on operational management of the park.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

2. Action items from previous Board meetings are reported on in [Attachment 1](#).

Park Ranger update

Kaitawa point gate update

3. Rangers have contacted iwi representatives regarding a site visit to review the placement of the bollards discussed at the Park Board meeting prior in November 2024.

Fire risk management

4. Officers have continued to follow up with Wellington Electricity regarding remedial actions that were taken/not taken following the Whitireia fire in 2024. Officers are yet to have a response.

2024 Fire damage rehabilitation

5. Aerial gorse spraying will occur in spring 2025. The Park Board and public will be notified when spraying is taking place. Signage will be left at each end of the Te Onepoto loop track for two weeks after spraying to warn foragers.

Road repairs

6. Officers have engaged a contractor to fix edge breaks and fill in potholes along Whitireia Road. This work is to be completed before the end of June 2025.

Capital expenditure

7. Greater Wellington continues to investigate options for resolving the issues relating to asset ownership and future capital expenditure for new and replacement assets in the park. Options are being considered with a future perspective of enabling transition of park management services to Ngāti Toa at the appropriate time.

Restoration strategy workshop

8. Officers have considered the Board's request for a workshop on restoration strategy. Officers request further discussion with the Board at this meeting to clarify the intent and to consider merging this work into the review of the Park Management Plan.

Parks Planning

Parks survey

9. Greater Wellington's annual park visitor satisfaction survey is took place in late April/early May 2025, which will include Whitireia Park. The results will be published on the Greater Wellington website when it's completed and included in a future report to the Park Board. An additional question has been added about restoration and the layout has been improved, but there are no significant changes to the survey this year. Previous surveys are published on the Greater Wellington website.¹

Key Native Ecosystem management

Weed control

10. The annual weed control programme is still underway at the time of writing this report but is due to be completed by the end of April 2025. The Toa Rangatira kaimahi team, which is undertaking most of the ground-control mahi this year, has been supported by guidance and support from Greater Wellington staff. They have been very receptive and have learnt a lot about the site and the control methods used. We expect that they will be able to undertake this mahi next year with more ease and effectiveness.

Pest animal control

11. Volunteers continue to operate the network of traps and bait stations across the Park without any issues. Greater Wellington is grateful for the effort that the group puts into this mahi.
12. A night-time search of the Park for pest animals was carried out by staff in late April 2025. These night-time surveys are carried out quarterly and are aimed at keeping the Park free of possums, hares and rabbits and reducing hedgehog numbers.

Revegetation

13. All weed control and spot spraying in the community planting sites will be completed by the end of April.

¹ <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans-and-reports/parks-plans/toitu-te-whenua-parks-network-plan-2020-30/implementing-toitu-te-whenua-parks-network-plan-2020-30/enhancing-recreation-experiences/parks-survey/>

Park permissions

Mokomoko research proposal

14. At the previous park board meeting Angus Holme-Moir (representing Whitireia Restoration Group) presented findings from a long-term study of lizard/mokomoko conservation and habitat restoration in Whitireia park.
15. Following the mokomoko presentation, Angus (now representing the Department of Conservation (DOC)) informed the Board about the need to undertake research relating to bioaccumulation of rodent toxins in frogs and lizards. The Research proposal from DOC is included in [Attachment 2](#).
16. The DOC research proposal into toxin bioaccumulation in mokomoko aims to test native geckos within Whitireia Park, who can live for up to 65 years. To assess the impact of toxin bioaccumulation, DOC proposes to euthanize six geckos from the Park.

PCC/RadioNZ history signage

17. Porirua City Council is seeking Board permission to install a sign near the Radio New Zealand site acknowledging the history of the site. PCC have worked with Ngāti Toa to design the sign. Further information is available in [Attachment 3](#).

Matariki Hautapu Ceremony at Whitireia Maunga

18. Ngati Toa is seeking permission from the Park Board to host a Matariki Hautapu ceremony at Whitireia maunga on Thursday 19 June 2025 from 5:30 am – 7:30 am see [Attachment 4](#).

Filming at Kaitawa Point

19. This is film 2 of 6 for Snap Shot Shorts, an independent short film series that aims to bridge the gap between working professionals and young filmmakers who are just starting their industry journey in Wellington, New Zealand. Detective Rothin investigates an other-worldly body found on a desolate beach. As he digs deeper, unsettling gaps in his memory from a mysterious debriefing emerge. Filming is scheduled for 7 and 8 June 2025 during the day with a cast and crew of 45. Parking will be at Kaitawa Point with unit base and parking at the end for approximately 30 cars managed by a dedicated locations assistant. A self contained portaloos on a trailer will be brought in and taken out each day. The filming location has been approved by Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira; however they are still to provide conditions.

He tūtohu Recommendations

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 rangatia to hold a Matariki Hautapu ceremony at the Whitireia Maunga, proposal in [Attachment 4](#).

Ngā āpitihanga Attachments

Number	Title
1	Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board Meetings
2	Research proposal - bioaccumulation of rodent toxin in frogs and lizards
3	PCC signage permission proposal
4	Matariki Hautapu Celebration

Ngā kaiwaitohu Signatories

Writers	Jordan Clear – Mobile Ranger Western Jeremy Paterson – Western Parks Team Leader Kim Broad – Senior Environment Restoration Advisor David Boone – Manager, Ecosystems & Community
Approvers	Lian Butcher - Group Manager, Environment

Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

Date	Action item	Status and comment
30 August 2024	<p>Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report – May to 31 July 2024</p> <p>Noted: The Board requested that Greater Wellington staff initiate conversations with Radio NZ to address weeds at the Radio NZ site.</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>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.</p>
30 August 2024	<p>Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report – May to 31 July 2024</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Status: in progress</p> <p>Comment: Update in operations report June 2025 meeting.</p>
30 August 2024	<p>Whitireia Park Board Operations Report – August 2024</p>	
	<p>Noted: The Board requested that Greater Wellington staff identify in the annual operational and capital budgets what activities can be met from the Board accounts.</p>	<p>Status: in progress</p> <p>Comment: Officers are currenting looking at different projects that could be funded.</p>
	<p>Noted: The Board requested Greater Wellington staff organise a site visit to Kaitawa Point to see placement options for the bollards.</p>	<p>Status: in progress</p>

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

		Comment: Officers have contacted Iwi representatives regarding a site visit to review the placement of the bollards discussed.
1 November 2024	Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information] Noted: The Board requested that it be advised of the number of traps used in the Park.	Status: Completed Comment: Excluding the traps and stations that the restoration group operate in their escarpment lizard protection project, there are 122 traps and 39 bait stations in the park. The traps consist of rat, mustelid, hedgehog and possum traps. All are operated by the restoration group.
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.
	that officers follow up with Wellington Electricity to confirm that remedial action has been taken on the power lines within the Park.	Status: In Progress Comment:

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

		Wellington Electricity has been contacted and, Greater Wellington is still awaiting a response from Wellington Electricity.
28 February 2025	Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information] The Board requested:	
	a report to the next meeting on options to celebrate the 20 th anniversary of the Whitireia Park Restoration Group, including resourcing and funding for an event.	Status: In Progress Comment: The 20 th Anniversary celebration to be held at the first planting event for the season. Greater Wellington and Whitireia Park Restoration Group to work together to make this event a success. Report at this meeting for options for the Board to contribute to the celebration.
	a report to a future meeting on the request for a study into bioaccumulation of toxins used to control pests in Whitireia Park mokomoko.	Status: In progress Comment: Department of Conservation research proposal sent to board members and resolution requested in May 2025 broad meeting (see points 15-17 in report and Attachment 2)

Attachment 2 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Research Project: Rodent poison persistence and accumulation in lizards and frogs

Background

Anticoagulant rodenticides are rat and mouse poisons (including the toxin brodifacoum or Talon) that are commonly used in New Zealand to protect biodiversity as they are very effective at controlling rodents (rats and mice) to very low numbers. They are also used widely around homes and buildings. In recent years we have come to understand that mice have a devastating impact on lizard, frog and invertebrate populations. Mouse control is needed to prevent extinction of the most threatened lizard and frog species, and the use of anticoagulant rodenticides (including brodifacoum) is expanding. There are no alternative toxins that provide the same level of effectiveness for mouse control. The challenge, however, with anticoagulants such as brodifacoum is the potential for bioaccumulation.

Bioaccumulation is when the anticoagulant (brodifacoum) accumulates within the bodies of animals and insects that consume it. This obviously results in the death of the target species (rats and mice), but it can also lead to accumulation within the bodies of the species we're aiming to protect. This risk is better understood overseas as very little work has been done to understand the risks to New Zealand's fauna. This study aims to understand the risk of bioaccumulation in lizards and frogs. To do this we aim to test the invasive plague skink (who have a very short lifespan), native geckos (who can live for up to 65 years) and native frogs.

To assess the impact, we need to euthanize a small number of skinks, geckos and frogs from areas where there is known use of brodifacoum. The number of animals to be euthanized has been determined by the Manaaki Whenua toxicologists who are undertaking the examinations. 6 animals from a given population provides enough data to make robust conclusions. To further minimize impacts on any given population the focus will be male animals and at sites which have a known population that is robust.

Each site in the proposed list has different anticoagulant rodenticide usage histories (high, medium, low or nil). The study will determine whether current usage levels pose a concern for lizards and frogs. If bioaccumulation and persistence is a real threat, this will signal the need for further research into impacts and alternatives to anticoagulant rodenticides, as well as a reassessment of existing practices.

Permissions and consultation

- This research has been approved by the DOC ethics committee.
- The project has been developed with Manaaki Whenua scientists and socialized with the wider Lizard technical advisory group which includes herpetologists external to DOC
- At the Kapiti Wellington level we have sent the proposal to
 - Yourself as the Board for Whitireia Park
 - A group of iwi reps who are interested in the lizard conservation space and/or are involved in pest control.
 - Land manager reps including GWRC and Wellington City Council

Attachment 2 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

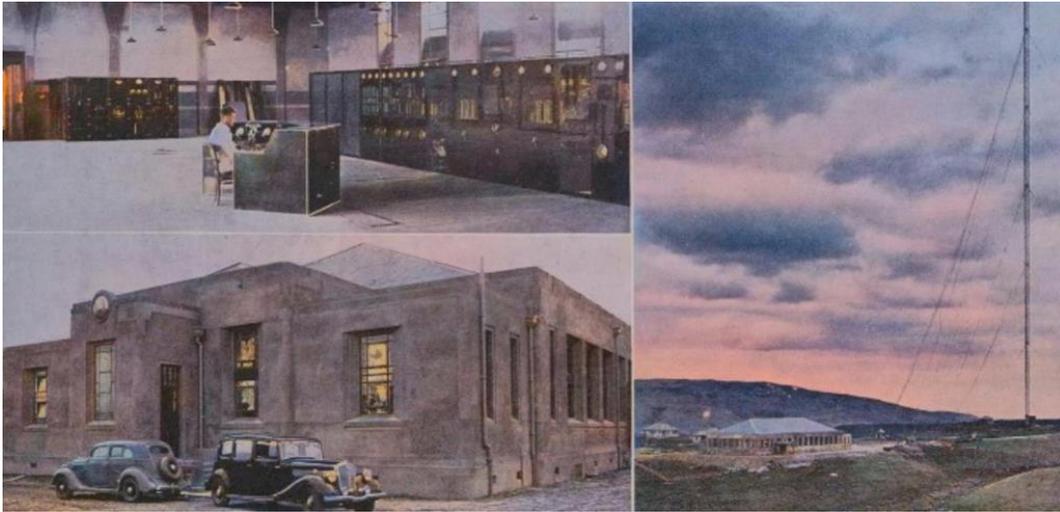
Draft list of sites

Location	Species	Number to be euthanaised	Frequency of anticoagulant rodenticide use
Macraes, Redbank	<i>Woodworthia</i> Otago/Southland large" geckos	6 geckos	Medium
Macraes, Nenthorn	<i>Woodworthia</i> "Otago/Southland large" geckos	6 geckos	Nil (but in proximity to operations)
McKenzie Basin, Lake Pukaki, Morgans Island	<i>Woodworthia</i> "Southern Alps"	6 geckos	Nil
Maud Island	<i>Woodworthia raukawa</i> geckos. <i>Leiopelma hamiltoni</i> , Hamiltons frog	6 geckos 6 frogs	Low
Wellington, Miramar Peninsula	<i>Woodworthia raukawa</i> geckos	6 geckos	High
Wellington, Whitireia	<i>Woodworthia raukawa</i> geckos	6 geckos	High
Wellington, Zealandia	<i>Leiopelma hamiltoni</i> Hamiltons frog	6 frogs	Low/Moderate
Auckland, Waitakere Ranges, Ark in the Park	<i>Lampropholis delectata</i> (plague skink). <i>Leiopelma hochstetteri</i> , (Hochstetters frog)	40 skinks 6 frogs	High
Auckland, Shakespear Regional Park	<i>Lampropholis delectata</i> (plague skink)	40 skinks	Moderate/High
Auckland, Torbay Bay	<i>Lampropholis delectata</i> (plague skink)	40 skinks	High
Brynderwyn commercial forestry block	<i>Leiopelma hochstetteri</i> , (Hochstetters frog)	6 frogs	Nil

Attachment 3 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Radio New Zealand Transmission Station	Teihana Tukupāho a Te Reo Irirangi o Aotearoa
<p>This facility was opened on 25 January 1937, replacing the 2YA radio station on Mount Victoria, Wellington, with Prime Minister Joseph Savage stating that “radio broadcasting is one of the most revolutionary agencies of modern times”.</p>	<p>I whakatuwhera tēnei whakanōhanga i te 25 o Hānuere 1937, i whakakapi i te teihana reo irirangi 2YA i runga o Tangitekeo, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, me te kī a te Pirimia a Joseph Savage "ko te pāhotanga irirangi tētahi o ngā āhuatanga takahuritanga o ēnei rā".</p>
<p>As the largest medium frequency station in the southern hemisphere, the improved 2YA transmitter service became the sole New Zealand radio station for national emergencies.</p>	<p>I te mea koinā te teihana reo irirangi nui rawa i te tuakoi tonga o te ao, ka noho ko te ratonga tukupāho 2YA pai ake ko te teihana reo irirangi matua o Aotearoa mō ngā ohotata ā-motu.</p>
<p>Over 40 staff were once employed to manage the transmission services but now the station is controlled remotely from Wellington and transmits a range of radio stations. A regular short-wave service began in 1948.</p>	<p>Neke atu i te 40 ngā kaimahi i te mahi i reira i tētehi wā ki te whakahaere i ngā ratonga tukupāho engari kei te whakahaerehia mamaotia te teihana mai i Te Whanganui-a-Tara, ā, e tukupāho ana ki ngā tūmomo teihana reo irirangi rerekē. I tīmata tētehi ratonga auau ngaru-poto i te tau 1948.</p>
<p>The tallest of the three radio masts, at 220m, was the tallest structure in New Zealand until the Sky Tower (328m), was built in Auckland in 1995. The 220m mast was felled in 2016 and replaced by a smaller 137m structure.</p>	<p>Ko te pourewa teitei rawa o ngā pourewa reo irirangi e toru, he 220m, koinā te hanganga teitei rawa atu i Aotearoa kia tū rā anō te Sky Tower (328m), i Tāmaki Makaurau i te tau 1995. I turakina te pourewa 220m i te tau 2016, ā, ka whakakapingia ki tētahi hanganga paku iho o te 137m.</p>

Attachment 3 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report



TEA Radio Station 1937



RUTH WF_1d_16: View of the Titahi Bay Radio Transmitting Station complex and mast, circa 1950s. Broadcasting Corporation Collection, Pātaka Museum



TE RŪNANGA O
TOA RANGATIRA

Attachment 4 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Ā UPANE KA UPANE WHITI TE RA

Memo to: Whitireia Park Board
Dated: 30 April 2025
From: Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa Rangatira

Request for Permission to hold Matariki Ceremony at Whitireia Maunga

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to request permission to hold our annual Matariki Hautapu ceremony at Whitireia Maunga. This significant cultural event for Ngāti Toa Rangatira is scheduled for Thursday 19th June, from 5:30am to 7:00am. We are also seeking approval to stay on site overnight from Wednesday 18th June, and to light a small ceremonial fire in the same location as last year.

The Hautapu ceremony is a central part of the Matariki celebration, honouring those who have passed in the previous year and offering gratitude for the year ahead. Traditionally performed at dawn, the ceremony involves the lighting of a sacred fire (the ahi hautapu) and the cooking of specific kai such as kūmara, taro, and meat, whose steam rises into the sky as an offering to the Matariki stars. This rising steam is believed to carry the names of the deceased to the heavens and to nourish the stars, which in turn influence the wellbeing of the people and the environment. Hautapu is a deeply spiritual and cultural practice that reconnects people to the natural world, their ancestors, and the Māori calendar.

The Hautapu ceremony will be led by Te Hokowhitu Tōpu and Kahu Ropata, with support from staff of Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira.

Key Considerations

If strong winds make it unsafe to proceed at the usual site, we request permission to relocate the ceremony to Onehunga Bay.

We anticipate around 50 participants this year. The ceremony will also be live streamed, allowing whānau to view it from home.

The ceremony will include traditional karakia, and an altar will be used to prepare and cook traditional kai as part of the ritual.

We are committed to our role as kaitiaki of the environment and to upholding the values of the park. To support this, we have attached a comprehensive health and safety plan outlining our approach to minimising environmental impact and managing potential risks. Additionally, we will notify Fire and Emergency New Zealand to ensure they are fully informed of the event.

Attachment 4 to Whitireia Park Board Operations Report

Conclusion

Whitireia Maunga holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for Ngāti Toa Rangatira. It is the maunga we proudly acknowledge in our pepeha, and it stands as a symbol of identity and connection to our whenua. We believe it is the most fitting place to hold our Matariki *Hautapu* ceremony—not only because of its cultural importance to us as an iwi, but also for its clear view of the Matariki star cluster, which is central to the occasion.

We are seeking the Board’s support and approval for the following:

1. Permission to hold our annual Matariki *Hautapu* ceremony at Whitireia Maunga on Thursday 19th June (with overnight stay beginning Thursday, 19th June).
2. Approval to relocate the ceremony to Onehunga Bay if weather conditions—particularly high winds—make the usual site unsafe.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us should you require any further details or clarification.

Ngā mihi nui,

Amiria Salzmänn

Principal Advisor Ohu Reo, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira

Whitireia Park Board
6 June 2025



RESTORATION GROUP 20TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) on options to recognise the 20 year milestone of the Park Restoration Group.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Greater Wellington rangers have, in consultation with the Restoration Group, a barbecue to be held following the July 2025 planting.
3. The barbecue event will create an opportunity for Board members to speak in acknowledging the Restoration Group's mahi over the last 20 years.
4. The barbecue will be more than sausages and breads (will include burgers, salads etc).
5. The Porirua newspaper will be invited to the event and potentially do a story on the restoration efforts of the Group.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

Options

Option 1 – contribution to barbecue (preferred option)

6. Planning for the barbecue includes kai. This has been budgeted at 50 persons at \$15 per person, totalling \$750.
7. This can be met from the Board's account and officers recommend that the Board approve this expenditure.

Option 2 – commemorative seat

8. There is potential to install a bench seat in the saddle to the south of Onehunga Bay overlooking the restoration mahi in the park. Cost is estimated around \$2,500 including install and concrete foundation.

Option 3 – Then and Now signage

9. Located at the same place as the seat in option 2 above, information display showing before/after scenes of the area prior to restoration with cattle yards and

cattle over the area. This could include a picture frame so that people can take a picture of the “now” as it changes. Cost estimate for the is also \$2,500.

Options 2 and 3 considerations

10. The Board has expressed interest in transitioning Park services from Greater Wellington to Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira. The installation of either Option 2 or 3 could be a good opportunity for Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira to lead, with assistance from Greater Wellington as required.
11. The Board should consider other aspects of the Park Management Plan, and the intent to review the management plan in the near future, in deciding whether Option 2 or 3 is a priority.
12. Either option will involve ongoing maintenance cost.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

13. Option 1 can be met from the Board’s account.
14. Options 2 and 3 initial costs can be met from the Board’s account, but ongoing costs need consideration (see paragraphs 10-13).

He tūtohu

Recommendations

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.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Jordan Clear – Mobile Ranger Western Jeremy Paterson – Western Parks Team Leader David Boone – Manager Ecosystems & Community
Approvers	Lian Butcher – Group Manager Environment

Whitireia Park Board
6 June 2025



WHITIREIA PARK RESTORATION GROUP REPORT

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) on the works undertaken by the Whitireia Restoration Group.

Planting

2. Site preparation has yet to be done for the 2025 plantings because its been dry and the grass was all dead. Now that we have had a bit of rain, the grass will be germinating.
3. We have scheduled our anniversary planting day for Sunday 20 July 2025 with a backup day of Sunday 27 July 2025. We hope to get a very big turnout for this and also have a kiosk with a barbecue and information.
4. The coastal planting site was planted on Sunday 25 May 2025. We added a further 700 plants to the 700 we planted last year. Species planted were oioi, harakeke (swamp flax) makaka (saltmarsh ribbonwood), mānuka, and coastal tree daisy along the coastal edge and pūrei (*Carex secta*), harakeke, toetoe upokotangata (*Cyperus ustulatus*) in the wetland on the landward side of the track. We had people come to plant.



Image 1: volunteers planting on 25 May 2025

5. Below is the map showing the general area where the planting will be. Some areas which were burnt will be included for planting.



Image 2: Planting areas – H2 is a spillover area

6. Around the coast, 600 plants will be planted in Areas A and B with any spillover in Area C. The area marked in yellow was planted last season.



Image 3: Indicated planting areas

Wildlife

7. A young kārearea was spotted on a bollard at Onehunga Bay on 19 March 2025. It then flew up into a tree at the carpark and was bobbing its head. Apparently head bobbing helps them determine spatial distance.
8. It must have had a full belly as there were many pīwakawaka flitting around very close to it.
9. It was identified by an expert as being juvenile as it has yellow circles around the eye and its cere above the beak is yellow



Image 4: Juvenile kārearea

Dune Monitoring

10. Aotea College students came to learn how to monitor the dunes at Onehunga Bay on 8 May 2025. This involved point sampling the vegetation cover every metre along transects which run perpendicular to the beach. We also documented the slope between each point along the transect which will show the profile of the dunes, however this was done well enough so I will repeat this having worked out an easier way of doing this. Over time this should get higher and higher and anecdotally this has already been observed; however, it would be good to be able to prove this with a scientifically robust method. See [attachment 1](#) for the results of the vegetation survey.
11. We hope to repeat this every year.

Onepoto estuary sign

12. There still isn't a sign at Onepoto to educate park users about the estuary wildlife.
13. This was previously approved by the Board. Can we please get this done before next spring. It would be really good to have a simple sign telling people to pick up their dog poo too.

Predator Control

14. In the past quarter there has been 30 hours of volunteer work.
15. An A24 has been replaced after it was mown by the contract mower on the fire break.
16. There have been 155 catches for the year to date.
17. The traps deployed to catch hedgehogs near the Thornley Street entrance appear to have controlled the hedgehog plague; however, new hedgehogs will move into the area next spring.

Weed Control

18. A lot of weed control of boneseed and karo has been carried out over the past few months mostly on the escarpment. Also, many small karo seedlings have also been pulled between the road and the top of the escarpment. Many are in or close to mingimingi where the birds have been feasting on mingimingi berries and have pooped out the karo seed.
19. Boneseed seedlings which have germinated over the past 2 months have been pulled out along the coast between Onehunga Bay and Kaiaua Bay.
20. They are easy to hand pull when young. Osteospermum species, African daisy is constantly reinvading along this coastline too. These are also being pulled out.



Image 5: Osteospermum species, African daisy

Volunteer hours

21.

	Trapping	Lizard project	Seed collection	Planting	Weed control	Admin/Promotion
February to 20 April 2025	30	NA	8	0	37	9

Ngā āpitihanga**Attachments**

Number	Title
1	Aotea College Vegetation Survey

Ngā kaiwaitohu**Signatories**

Writers	Robyn Smith, Chris Gibbons, Rob Hughes, Rob Stratford, Niki Edwards, Nick Hartley, Mike Jacobson, Turi Hodges
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director Delivery Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakaere Matua Taiao Group Manager Environment

Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Restoration Group Report

Vegetation survey

Transect 2, 8 May 2025

Ground cover

By species

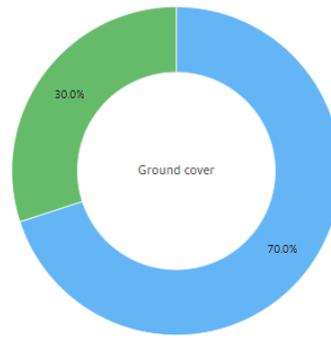
- *Spinifex sericeus* 70.0%
- *Ficinia nodosa* 30.0%

Native species

100.0% of samples with vegetation cover

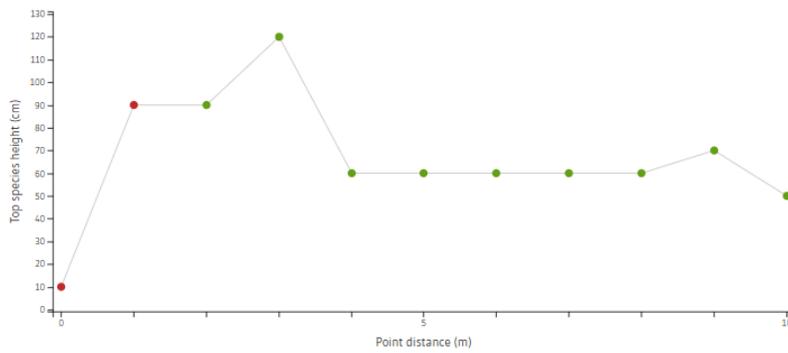
Dune profile

No dune angles were recorded in this survey.



■ *Spinifex sericeus* ■ *Ficinia nodosa*

Vegetation height



Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Restoration Group Report

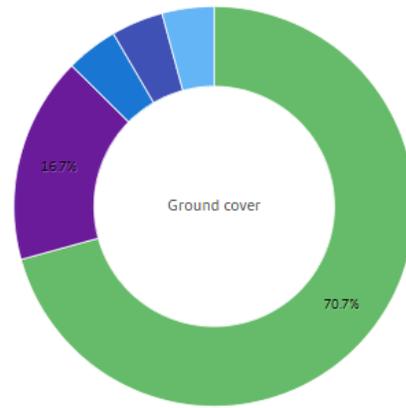
Vegetation survey

Transect 4, 8 May 2025

Ground cover

By species

- *Ficinia nodosa* 70.8%
- *Cenchrus clandestinus* 16.7%
- *Trifolium pratense* 4.2%
- *Osteospermum fruticosum* 4.2%
- *Spinifex sericeus* 4.2%



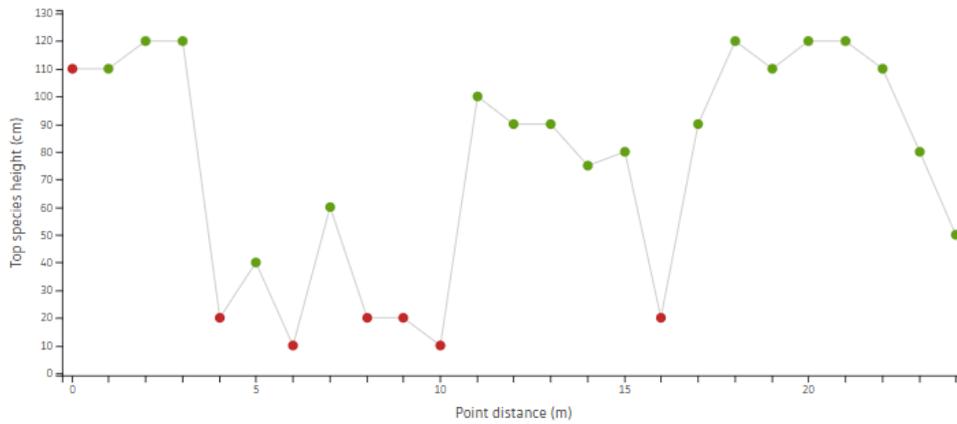
Native species

75.0% of samples with vegetation cover

Dune profile

No dune angles were recorded in this survey.

Vegetation height



Attachment 1 to Whitireia Park Board Restoration Group Report

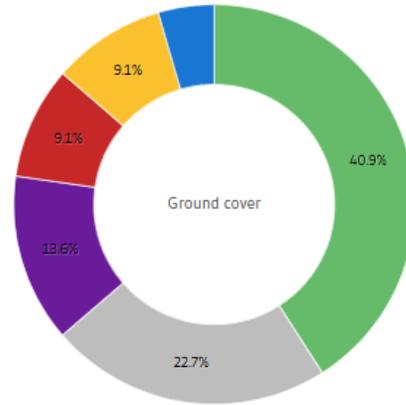
Vegetation survey

Transect 6, 8 May 2025

Ground cover

By species

- *Ficinia nodosa* 40.9%
- *Cenchrus clandestinus* 13.6%
- *Erigeron bonariense* 9.1%
- *Coprosma acerosa* 9.1%
- *Trifolium pratense* 4.5%



Native species

64.7% of samples with vegetation cover

No vegetation

22.7% of total samples

Dune profile

No dune angles were recorded in this survey.

Vegetation height

