

**AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WAITAKERE COMMUNITY BOARD
TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN,
WAITAKERE CITY, ON TUESDAY, 2 APRIL 2002,
COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM.**

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1 APOLOGIES



2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary - 5 March 2002

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Waitakere Community Board held on Tuesday, 5 March 2002, as circulated, be taken as read and now be confirmed.



3 URGENT BUSINESS

Section 46A(7) and (7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the item is a minor matter; and
- (ii) the Chairperson has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting; and
- (iii) the Committee resolves to deal with the item.

No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer the item to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

NOTE: Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



4 **PUBLIC FORUM**

For guidance of Community Board Members, the Council's Standing Orders have the following provisions in regard to Public Forum.

- (i) Members of the public wishing to address the Board in Public Forum shall furnish their names to the Chairperson at the beginning of the meeting; and
- (ii) the Chairperson shall determine the order of speakers, and allow five minutes for speaking time.
- (iii) Questions by members are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides that no resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of any specific item of business not on the agenda except to refer the items to a subsequent meeting for further discussion. Therefore, no decision may be made on matters raised in Public Forum. However, written reports on matters raised may be requested from the Chief Executive.



5 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Firstly I would like to congratulate Kevin & Christine Healy on the birth of their daughter Elesa. She took her time getting here but according to the proud dad it was worth the wait.

The draft 2002/2003 Annual Plan has been adopted by the Council and I would like all board members to encourage groups they are liaising with to put their submissions in between 1 – 31 May 2002.

It is the first time I have been involved in an Annual Plan process but I am told by the more seasoned Councillors that although the decision making was not easy due to the depreciation issue the draft is very transparent and definitive. I am particularly pleased to see that funding has been included to develop a youth facility concept. Youth in Waitakere City are in desperate need of an easily accessible and affordable indoor facility for their use.

The Child & Youth Health Strategy held recently by Waitemata Health has been collated into a very comprehensive summary of responses to a wide range of issues. Issues such as child abuse, disability, cultural issues, education, health promotion & protection, mental health, personal health care and parental and Whanau support were all discussed.

I attended the workshop on Youth and was stunned that of 3 teenage boys in this group 2 are illiterate. I asked myself how do two 16 year old boys get through the education system and remain illiterate? My personal view is that there is a problem that starts at primary school age and becomes a bad habit and that is truancy. I would like to see an education programme established for parents, being particularly sensitive to cultural and language barriers, encouraging them to ensure good attendance at school.

I am anticipating that issues such as this will be addressed by WEST (Waitakere Education Sector Trust). WEST has been created to facilitate projects between Waitakere City Council, the Ministry of Education, schools, Maori and other education providers that will maximise educational and community opportunities and outcomes in our city. We have to stop putting the 'ambulance at the bottom of the cliff' and attack the problem at grass roots.

I recently had the opportunity to visit the new Summerland Primary School. The Principal, Luke Sumich gave us a very enthusiastic guided tour of the school. I was very impressed by the design, resources and obvious forward planning that went into the building of this school, I almost wished I was 5 again. The official opening of the Summerland Primary School is on Saturday, 4 May 2002 and I totally recommend a visit.

At the Regional Community Board Meetings I find it extremely informative and a great opportunity to meet and share a wide variety of knowledge and expertise with community board members from other Zone 1 councils. In April 2003, New Plymouth District Council are hosting the 4th Bi-annual Community Board Conference. This conference is an opportunity for delegates to learn from each other and develop the effectiveness of Community Boards throughout New Zealand. I would like the board to support a recommendation to Council that I attend the conference as the Waitakere City delegate.

I would like to wish Owen Hughes all the best for his recent 80th birthday. Owen was a member of the Waitakere Community Board for nine years and stepped in as Chairperson during his last term when Denise Yates was elected for council. I have the pleasure of still seeing Owen active in his community with his involvement with the Laingholm District Citizens Association.

Don't forget the Harbourview 'Peoples Park' Open Day Easter Sunday, 31 March 2002 10am – 3pm.





RECOMMENDATION

That the Chairperson's Report be received.



Christine Shepherd, JP
CHAIRPERSON



6 **COMMITTEE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

ISSUE	COMMENT	REPORTING COUNCIL OFFICER
Palomino Drive - Pedestrian Crossing Point	Transport Assets are liaising with the Shop owners because the intended sight benching work (lower bank by 300 to 400 mm to improve visibility) will encroach onto their property as well as the new shop sign on the corner. The work will have to be done as part of the Misc Safety Projects for 2002/2003. This year's budget is fully committed. A report will be provided to the Board upon agreement from the shop owners.	Reg Cuthers  836 8000 Ext 8740
Bruce McLaren Road Footpath Repairs	Footpath repairs were carried out along this section of road early last year. Consultancy Services spray marked areas for repairs as a result of following a wheel chair user down Bruce McLaren Road. These have been repaired in due course. There are areas along this section of road where the crossfall exceeds our standards. These are located at the driveways serving residential and commercial properties. Unfortunately the work involved to remedy this is costly (in the order of \$15,000 to \$20,000). No further work is proposed.	Reg Cuthers  836 8000 Ext 8740
Henderson Valley/ Corban Reserve Footpaths	The Board resolved that a section of footpath from Corban Avenue to Spode Place is to be installed this year as part of the footpath programme for the Waitakere Ward. Design is almost completed. Contract will be let within two to three weeks.	Reg Cuthers  836 8000 Ext 8740
Waterhole Development at Parrs Park	<p>Representatives from the Waterhole met with Council staff and Cr Stone in March to discuss a process for proceeding with work on the possible extensions to the waterhole facility, as outlined in the Reserve Management Plan for Parrs Park.</p> <p>A number of issues relating to the establishment of a Trust for the facility will be progressed by the Waterhole and assistance will be provided by Council staff for any technical details required. At this stage the development proposal is awaiting funding prior to any further details on design being forwarded to the Community Board. The Waterhole have indicated that they will be making a submission to the draft 2002/2003 Annual Plan on the proposal.</p> <p>Council staff have written to the Department of Conservation to outline that a more detailed proposal and new draft lease will be formulated throughout the process outlined above and forwarded to them for the appropriate approvals.</p>	Renee Lambert  836 8000 Ext 8118

ISSUE	COMMENT	REPORTING COUNCIL OFFICER
Corban Reserve Workers Memorial	<p>A range of options are currently being developed to be presented at a workshop with the Community Board, Union representatives, Council staff and McLaren Road Residents and Ratepayers representatives.</p> <p>It is proposed that this years Workers Memorial Day celebration will involve some form of preliminary planting on the reserve to provide a focus for the future opportunities of the memorial and to get feedback on the proposed concept for the memorial. Council staff and Union representatives are currently confirming the details of this and information will be sent out to the Community Board closer to the date</p> <p>The Community Board are being invited to elect a representative to attend workshops being held to develop the concept plan. This is a voluntary and short-term requirement for this particular community based project.</p>	<p>Renee Lambert ☎ 836 8000 Ext 8118</p>
Laingholm Park	<p>The notified resource consent for the sportsfield development and associated works is currently being processed. There is nothing further to report at this stage.</p>	<p>Peter Sewell ☎ 836 8000 Ext 8759</p>
Parrs Park Sportsfield	<p>Earthworks to create the sportsfield area are currently being carried out and are due for completion in April 2002 There is nothing further to report at this stage.</p>	<p>Peter Sewell ☎ 836 8000 Ext 8759</p>
Parrs Park Caretaker Cottage	<p>Resource Consent for the caretaker cottage has been approved. We are currently waiting confirmation from the Table Tennis Club about the time frame for construction. There is nothing further to report at this stage.</p>	<p>Renee Lambert ☎ 836 8000 Ext 8118</p>
Parrs Park Scout Hall	<p>The Scout Group is at pre-application stage for construction of the Scout Hall and is working through some internal issues. Council is waiting for the Resource Consent to be lodged but has not been given a time frame. There is nothing further to report at this stage.</p>	<p>Renee Lambert ☎ 836 8000 Ext 8118</p>
Karekare Toilet – Associated options	<p>The public meeting to agree to the consultation process for the toilet upgrade was held in mid March. The outcome of that meeting will be reported back to the board at it's May meeting.</p>	<p>Renee Lambert ☎ 836 8000 Ext 8118</p>
Skateboard Facilities Western Heights / Sturges North	<p>By resolution 2726/2001 the Board decided that no further action be taken until the skateboarding facility plan has been completed. This is anticipated to be in late 2002.</p>	<p>Melinda King ☎ 836 8000 Ext 8728</p>
Lockington Green Reserve	<p>Work commenced in this reserve during the last week in February and should have been completed by the end of March. There will be an update at the May 2002 meeting of the Board</p>	<p>Katharine Slack ☎ 836 8000 Ext 8779</p>

ISSUE	COMMENT	REPORTING COUNCIL OFFICER
Beach Valley Road Parking opposite RSA	Concern has been expressed about parking opposite the RSA in Beach Valley Road. A report will be prepared for the May 2002 meeting of the Board.	Ross Hill  836 8000 Ext 8737
Anzac Day 2002	To seek appointment of a Board representative to attend RSA Anzac Day Parades in the Waitakere Ward. In addition to the City's Dawn Parade at the Cenotaph, each of the City's RSAs will host its own parade and the Council and Boards have been invited to nominate official representatives to attend those parades. The Council on 27 March 2002 appointed Councillors to attend the various parades in the City. The appointment of Community Board members to attend the Community Anzac Day Parades is now referred to the Board for consideration.	Owena Schuster  836 8000 Ext 8864

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Community Board appoint one member to the Corban Reserve Workers Memorial workshops on a voluntary basis.
3. That the Board appoint representatives to attend the Community Anzac Day Parades in the Waitakere Ward.

Report prepared by: Owena Schuster, Committee Secretary.



7 ANNUAL PLAN / STRATEGIC REVIEW (ECO CITY +10) CONSULTATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report describes the planned community consultation for the Annual Plan and for the Strategic Review (eco city + 10) and invites Community Boards to contribute ideas on how Community Boards can lead the consultation.

BACKGROUND

The Annual Plan process is underway to establish the work programme for the City for 2002/2003. Running in conjunction with the draft 2002/2003 Annual Plan consultation will be consultation for the eco city + 10 review of the Council's strategic plan (leading up to a new Strategic Plan for 2003/2004).

A consultation plan has been approved by Council that combines, where possible, these two processes to gain efficiencies both in financial and timing terms, and to ensure that we are not "over consulting" with our key communities.

Key points of the consultation plan are:

- development of interactive display boards and support materials for use at workshops and community events. (Annual Plan and Strategic Review (eco city + 10))
- translation of material into key languages. (AP and Strategic Review (eco city + 10))
- community boards, Te Taumata Runanga and others to facilitate general public consultation using, where appropriate, the display boards and support material. (Annual Plan and Strategic Review (eco city + 10))
- train community facilitators to lead workshops. Set up meetings will be used as opportunities to present Annual Plan information. (Annual Plan and Strategic Review (eco city + 10))
- development of summary card to identify previous consultation findings and how the Council has gone towards achieving these (eg. Green print). (Strategic Review (eco city + 10))
- no specific launch event, instead attend existing community events/meetings eg. Karekare races and market days. (Annual Plan and Strategic Review (eco city + 10))
- media campaign to support both processes. (Annual Plan and Strategic Review (eco city + 10))

General public consultation will be achieved through the use of interactive display boards and support material. The mobile units will include the use of display boards (with information targeted to reflect communities being consulted), drinks facilities, face painters, the State of the City video, whiteboards, and submission forms. It is suggested that community board members will lead this form of public consultation, identifying what would be ideal events in their wards to attend.

Submissions from the public on the draft 2002/2003 Annual Plan will be received from 1 to 31 May 2002, with hearings to be held in June 2002. Meetings and questionnaires focussing on Strategic Review (eco city + 10) will continue beyond this date.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Annual Plan and Strategic Review (eco city + 10) public consultations will be undertaken in the next few months. The Council is committed to gaining a representative view from the community and therefore it is important that Community Boards lead the consultation process to encourage wide participation from the general public.

ISSUES

Community Boards are invited to make their own submission on the draft 2002/2003 Annual Plan during the consultation period. However, it is important to recognise the key role they also play in encouraging the general public to have their say in both the Annual Plan and Strategic Review (eco city + 10).

Community Boards are invited to lead the consultation through:

- committing to support two consultation events per week during May 2002;
- identifying members who could attend a briefing and manage the consultation, using the displays provided;
- identifying community events and activities within their ward that would be appropriate to attend.

RESOURCES

This project is resourced in the 2001/2002 budget. The Strategic Review (eco city + 10) consultation will also continue into 2002/2003.

CONCLUSION

The assistance of Community Boards is sought in encouraging the general public to have their say on the Council's draft 2002/2003 Annual Plan and on the Strategic Review (eco city + 10).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Waitakere Community Board make a submission on the draft 2002/2003 Annual Plan and action as appropriate.
3. That the Waitakere Community Board assist the Council in general public consultation for both the Annual Plan and Strategic Review (eco city + 10).

Report prepared by: Kim Morreseey, Communicator Strategic Group.



8 KEEP WAITAKERE BEAUTIFUL 2002 COMMUNITY STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek ratification from the Community Boards for nominated streets to be included in the Keep Waitakere Beautiful Community Street Tree Planting Programme.

BACKGROUND

Keep Waitakere Beautiful is a Council-community partnership affiliated to the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Society. For the past eight years, the Community Street Tree Planting Programme has been a successful core programme of Keep Waitakere Beautiful.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Community Street Tree Planting Programme is an important component in implementing Green Network and Well-being Support goals by involving the community in creating and improving their neighbourhoods. The planning of this annual programme takes into account requests from residents received throughout the year, recommendations from the Council Arborist, and budget constraints.

ISSUES

Keep Waitakere Beautiful is currently planning the 2002 Community Street Tree Planting Programme. The programme aims to:

- complete at least 15 suburban street tree plantings each year
- involve the local community in planning, executing and maintaining street tree plantings
- provide a forum for community building
- provide a forum for promoting Waitakere City Council partnerships

Street nominations close on 29 March 2002. The Keep Waitakere Beautiful Committee will initially review the requests from residents on 25 March 2002. These recommendations will be tabled at the April Community Board meeting for ratification.

The 2002 Keep Waitakere Beautiful Community Street Tree Planting Programme will be carried out during June and July 2002, when there is optimum rain to maximise survival rates of the trees. As in previous years, wherever possible a local resident Street Co-ordinator will be appointed for each planting. This person is supported by Keep Waitakere Beautiful to liaise with and encourage the support of residents to undertake the planting and ideally oversee the long term care of the trees.

RESOURCES

The funds for this project have been provided for in the 2001-2002 Annual Budget. Keep Waitakere Beautiful and Techscape staff will provide trees, equipment, guidance and technical assistance at each event. Each planting begins with a brief introduction as to the purpose of the planting given by a Community Board representative and ideally concludes with a resident organised street barbeque.

CONCLUSION

Recommendations are sought from the Community Board for nominated streets to be included in the Keep Waitakere Beautiful Community Street Planting Programme. The list of nominated streets will be tabled at the April meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Waitakere Community Board provide final recommendations for streets within the Ward for inclusion in the Keep Waitakere Beautiful Community Street Tree Planting Programme.
3. That a representative/s of the Waitakere Community Board volunteer to assist at the local plantings.

Report prepared by: Jacki Byrd, Keep Waitakere Beautiful Co-ordinator.



9 KEEP WAITAKERE BEAUTIFUL 2002 COMMUNITY TREES FOR BABIES PLANTING PROGRAMME

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to approve the following parks as this year's sites for the annual "Trees For Babies" community planting days in Waitakere, Henderson, Massey and New Lynn Wards and to nominate a representative from each Community Board to speak on the day.

BACKGROUND

"Trees For Babies" is an annual community event to celebrate babies born in Waitakere City. Trees have been planted by the community in one reserve in each of the four wards as part of a Keep Waitakere Beautiful, Plunket and Council project since 1995. This is a popular community event, and approximately 90 trees have been planted at each site in 2001, with over 300 people attending each event. The Trees for Babies event was also featured on the TV One 'Maggies Garden Show' in September 2001 and we have received over 20 enquiries from throughout New Zealand.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The following parks listed are proposed as "Trees for Babies" sites in 2002 in consultation with Waitakere City Council arborist, Roscoe Webb. The parks recommended have been identified in the Parks Strategy as citywide parks and each has adequate size and space to accommodate large areas of big tree planting.

ISSUES

The "Trees For Babies" funding has been approved through the 2001/2002 Annual Plan programme. The "Trees for Babies" will take place in the autumn planting season in April and May.

The proposed "Trees For Babies" sites and dates are:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|
| • Henderson Ward: | Te Atatu South Park | Saturday 27 April | 11am-1pm |
| • Massey Ward: | Zita Maria Reserve | Saturday 4 May | 11am-1pm |
| • New Lynn Ward: | Shadbolt Park | Saturday 11 May | 11am-1pm |
| • Waitakere Ward: | Swanson Reserve | Saturday 18 May | 11am-1pm |

The event will be community focused with family orientated activities and guest speakers. A community board member is requested to speak at the event.

CONCLUSION

The "Trees For Babies" event has been held successfully since 1995 to celebrate the birth of babies in Waitakere City. The parks proposed for the "Trees for Babies" events are because of their size, they are priority parks with the Parks Department, ongoing park developments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the parks suggested per ward be accepted as the confirmed venues on the recommended dates, for the "2002 Trees for Babies" event.
3. That a speaker be nominated to speak from the Waitakere Community Board at the relevant "Trees for Babies" event.

Report prepared by: Andrea Johnston-Taylor, Keep Waitakere Beautiful Project Manager.

10 LEASE TO WEST COAST COMMUNITY ARTS GALLERY

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to consider leasing the old fire station on Seaview Road, Piha to the West Coast Community Arts Gallery.

BACKGROUND

A1

The old Piha fire station is located on the corner of Beach Valley Road and Seaview Road in Piha. A map attached at page A1 shows the location of the old fire station.

It is a council owned building located on Section 1 on Survey Office plan 70252. This area was previously unformed road but last year this area was stopped as road and classified as a local purpose (community buildings) reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. The building was previously occupied by the Piha Fire Station. In 1999 the Fire Station moved to their new building further along Seaview Road and handed their old building back to Council. The building itself is a light timber framed structure with a corrugated iron roof and has an area of approximately forty square metres.

In late 1999, while Council went through the process of converting this road into a reserve, a month by month lease was granted to a group of Piha artists on behalf of a charitable trust to be formed.

The group's objectives were:

- to develop a community art and craft gallery;
- to primarily promote local art and craft of the West Coast community;
- to provide opportunities for the community to participate in art and craft workshops;
- to become a Piha destination for both locals and visitors;
- to be a community meeting place for the exchange of ideas;
- to become a financially viable Piha business;
- to be a venue for small scale performance programmes.

Since that time the group has formed itself into the West Coast Community Arts Gallery Trust, has done substantial work on the building and its surrounding area and has now applied for a longer term lease of the premises.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Council's Greenprint states that Council will aim to develop focal points for community life and also undertake initiatives that will contribute to improving leisure and recreation opportunities and choices and encourage greater levels of participation. This gallery is providing an arts focus for Piha and with its location on one of the main roads into Piha is also contributing to cultural tourism.

ISSUES

The Piha Reserves Management Plan adopted in September 1999 stated in Objective 3.9: *"that a lease will be granted to local community artists for the old Piha Fire Station. The intention of this is to allow for the primary use of the building to be the display of artwork."*

Members of Piha Residents and Ratepayers Association have indicated that there has been a very favourable response to the gallery's presence and it is already recognised as a very positive addition to the Piha scene. Council's Arts Project Coordinator considers the group well worthy of Council support as a small and dedicated team displaying a high quality of work and already well on their way to being a successful small gallery.

The Community Leases Policy provides for a standard five year term and it is proposed that a lease of this term should be granted. The rent the group will pay has been assessed at the minimum rental of \$150 per annum. The group will be largely responsible for the maintenance of the building.

CONCLUSION

The West Coast Community Arts Gallery Trust has already displayed it is capable of running a small, successful gallery in Piha and it is recommended that this Board grant the group a longer term lease to allow them to continue with this service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Chief Executive be given authority to negotiate and conclude a lease with the West Coast Community Arts Gallery Trust for the old fire station building on Seaview Road, Piha (part Section 1 on Survey Office plan 70252) under section 61 of the Reserves Act and the lease be executed as negotiated.

Report prepared by: Alastair Dougal, Property Officer.



11 TE HENGA / BETHELLS BEACHCARE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To bring to the Waitakere Community Board the results of further discussion about the issue of rabbit control at Te Henga/Bethells as earlier highlighted to the Waitakere Community Board at the meeting on 5 February 2002.

BACKGROUND

The Te Henga/Bethells BeachCare Group is acknowledged as the first BeachCare group in the Region and one of the first in the country. Under its care the dunes around the Surf Club buildings have grown and stabilised substantially, in the process reducing the problem of windblown sand in the village area. Slowly, the focus has broadened from reducing the effects of windblown sand to include planting that is ecologically appropriate and self maintaining. Educating the large numbers of people who now use the beach about the value and fragility of the dunes and its inhabitants is also a high priority for the Group. Rabbits have been a growing pest problem, causing much damage and frustration in an already difficult environment. Currently there is one effective but restricted and expensive attempt at rabbit control (fencing), and over the last five years, several other ineffectual attempts to address the issue.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This work supports the Green Network objectives of enhancing and protecting the health of native ecosystems to ensure their long-term survival, protect coastal and stream areas from erosion and degradation and encourage community appreciation of Waitakere's natural environment and participation in the Green Network projects.

ISSUES

Rabbit Control

A2 - A13

Since the last presentation to the Board on 5 February 2002 about the Te Henga/Bethells BeachCare project further consultation and communication has been had with the local community on the issue of rabbit control. The report 'Rabbit Control Programme for Te Henga/Bethells Beach - March 2002' attached at pages A2 to A13 has since been completed using the draft report on the same topic presented to the Board at the earlier meeting and incorporating some refining of information and comments from the community who provided feedback.

Past Programmes

Exclusion fencing is currently in place and is relatively effective, but because of cost can only be erected around small areas of the restoration trial sites. The other three, but unfortunately ineffectual, attempts over the last five years to control rabbits have included shooting and poisoning.

Two one-off campaigns involving shooting have been run in winter 2001 and autumn 1997. The latter was just prior to a poisoning operation that was stopped part-way through. Despite a good locally run public consultation and information programme being implemented prior to undertaking the control, one local resident objected after claiming to have picked up a small amount of bait. The programme involved a repeated pattern of 3 days of laying bait, then 7 days off. The poison was laid at dusk and taken up at dawn to reduce the risk to children, pets and native birds. Animal tracks including dog prints were carefully observed to monitor visitation to the poison sites. Advice was given via the community newsletter as to the symptoms of poisoning from Pindone and how to seek treatment i.e., with a Vitamin K1 injection. The poisoning programme was cancelled when the resident claimed to have picked up a small amount of bait that he allegedly found in the cutting accessway to the beach. He regularly exercised his dogs on the beach and in the dunes. He complained to Council officers, and to the Mayor. No complaint was received by BeachCare coordinators or Council from any other resident or beach user. The complainant no longer lives locally.

Current Proposal

An ongoing programme of control in conjunction with neighbouring landowners is being planned using a combination of poisoning, shooting and repellents. The report 'Rabbit Control Programme for Te Henga/Bethells Beach - March 2002' which is attached to this report details the issues, the control methods and how they will be implemented.

Consultation and communication carried out so far include:

- articles written for the Te Henga/Bethells Community Newsletter and included in the February 2002 and the March 2002 issues;
- displays on show at the Te Henga/Bethells Community Day and at the Montana Heritage Trail opening at the Cascades;
- an article in the Western Leader covering the issue; and
- a public meeting held on 13 February 2002.

A2 - A13

In addition a draft of the 'Rabbit Control Programme for Te Henga/Bethells Beach - March 2002' report was prepared and circulated (including presentation the Waitakere Community Board at 5 February meeting). The outcomes and recommendations of the discussions and meeting are contained in the final report attached at pages A2 to A13.

Communication and consultation during those parts of the year when the control operations are being implemented will include:

- signage on site - the signs will have Auckland Regional Council & Waitakere City Council logos, advise of poisoning or shooting in the park beach area, and also give a cell phone number to ring if there were any problems;

- coordination with the police;
- letterbox drops to all locals - the letterbox drops will include a telephone number for anyone concerned to call and talk through the issues.

RESOURCES

All activities are covered by the existing 2001/2002 Beach Maintenance budget.

CONCLUSION

BeachCare at Te Henga/Bethells is functioning strongly and has been very successful over the years but the effects of rabbit browsing on the vegetation have become significant. An ongoing programme of control is planned combining three methods that together are expected to address in the longer term the problem posed by the rabbits.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Waitakere Community Board endorse the Te Henga/Bethells BeachCare work programme.
3. That the Waitakere Community Board approve the approach presented for rabbit control at Te Henga/Bethells Beach, including the public consultation and communication process.
4. That the Waitakere Community Board provide guidance to Council staff of any further consultation considered necessary during the rabbit control programme.

Report prepared by: Chris Ferkins, Landscape and Community Project Coordinator.



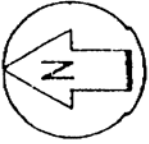
12 NOTICES OF MOTION



13 BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Provision has been made on this agenda for Board Members should they so wish to submit a report on their activities during the month in regard to matters within the scope and delegations of the Board. However, to comply with the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, no decision may be made on matters raised in Board Members' reports.





PT. 1
DP 25709

2
DP 25709

ROAD

(20-12)

GLENESK

PIHA
STREAM

PT. 3
DP 31269
GN. A 267158
RECREATION RESERVE
WAIKAPUA CITY COUNCIL

LOT 1
603 m²

NON TIDAL

92°

9.00

03'

16.11 BAL (25.11)

142°

38.50

54'

50.00

ROAD

(69.44)

(121.21)

222'

21.00

10'

19.44 BAL

96°

SEAVIEW

LOCATION of OLD PIHA FIRE
STATION + AREA TO BE
LEASED TO WEST COAST

69° 55.0' N
AI

69° 50.0' N

Rabbit Control Programme for Te Henga/Bethells Beach

March 2002

Ngaire Sullivan (ARC)
Steve Hix (ARC)
Chris Ferkins (WCC)

1.0 Introduction

The local Te Henga/Bethells BeachCare Group, Auckland Regional Council and Waitakere City Council have been involved in a dune stabilisation project at Te Henga beach since 1995. Records show that approximately 64,550 plants have been planted in this time, including the endangered native sand binder pingao. The planting programme has been a great success, with the Te Henga/Bethells BeachCare Group receiving an Environmental Award in 2001 to mark their achievements.

However, sand dune plants are palatable to rabbits, which are present at Te Henga Beach. Rabbit browsing is severe enough to be fatal to plants. In some instances, plants have been found chewed to the core within 24 hours of being planted. This is not only devastating for the volunteers who have spent time planting these plants, but also compromises the dune planting programme, threatens the continued existence of pingao, and wastes the resources supplied by WCC and ARC.

ARC, WCC and the Te Henga/Bethells BeachCare Group feel that damage to established vegetation and to new plantings, additional work required to repair or protect plantings from rabbits in this already difficult environment and damage to morale of the BeachCare team means it is pointless continuing with the planting programme unless the rabbits are controlled.

2.0 Project Aim

The aim of the project is to establish a cover of native vegetation to help provide stability to the dunes and provide a self-sustaining habitat to the flora and fauna of the dunelands. This will be achieved by planting programmes and reducing rabbit numbers to ensure that vegetation planting programmes are successful.

While rabbit control has been undertaken in the past, such efforts have been undertaken in isolation and did not utilise an integrated approach. A more comprehensive rabbit control plan for Te Henga is now proposed, which integrates a variety of methods over an initial two-year time frame. If necessary individual sites with particularly vulnerable species can then be targeted for more intensive control, without the problem of re-invasion from neighbouring areas that may harbour high rabbit numbers.

It should be noted the Te Henga dunes provide an ideal habitat for rabbits. It is not considered feasible to eradicate rabbits from this area. Ongoing control of the rabbits will therefore always be necessary in order to keep the population at a low level.

3.0 Description of Project Area

The rabbit control project area includes the sand dunes and also the surrounding open pasture and village area. While the sand dunes are under WCC management, the surrounding land is privately owned.

Private land owners in the Te Henga valley wishing to integrate their rabbit control measures with this programme will be assisted to do so where possible. For example, ARC is able to lend bait stations and trapping equipment, and can provide advice and assistance with operating such equipment.

4.0 Ecological Significance of the Te Henga Sand Dunes

Te Henga is an area of considerable ecological significance and diversity. Features such as the sand dunes, impounded dune lakes, a large freshwater wetland, rocky headlands and islands contribute to the importance of this area. All these components were recognised in the Protected Natural Areas Survey (ARC, 1989) as having at least 'Regional' ecological significance.

Dunelands are now recognised as being a threatened ecosystem throughout New Zealand. In particular, the sand dunes of Te Henga Beach are the only example of an extensive area of sand dune development in the Waitakere Ecological District. Also, the endangered native sand binding plant, pingao (*Desmoschoenus spiralis*) is present on the Te Henga dunes. Pingao has a threatened status of 'conservation dependent'. This means that the plants continued survival is dependant upon human help, such as that provided by the Te Henga/Bethells BeachCare Group via replanting, pest control and monitoring.

5.0 National Dune Plant Monitoring Trial

Te Henga/Bethells Beach is also one of four sites in New Zealand subject to scientific study as part of the FR 360 trial series. This research is jointly funded by the Forest Research Institute Sand Dune Revegetation Programme, the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network, ARC and WCC. The Te Henga/Bethells BeachCare Group provides in-kind support.

The research aims to investigate various methods of revegetating sand dunes at high-energy beaches with native plants such as pingao and spinifex. Trials at the four New Zealand sites contain identical treatments, so that the results will be able to be extrapolated to other, similarly exposed dune sites around the country, and will provide guidelines on dune restoration for local managers.

The plants within the trial plots are regularly assessed for leaf length, plant spread and overall health. It is vital that rabbits do not browse these plants as the research results will be affected. While fences aimed at excluding rabbits were erected around the trial plots, these have not proved to be a viable long-term option. Indeed, one of the monitoring reports from the trial noted:

“Rabbits are a major problem to establishment and continuing growth of spinifex. Sand fences are only practical on a small scale and are easily breached where large sand movement occurs so investigating other methods of rabbit control is high priority.”
From ‘Early Report on Spinifex Trials’ CDVN 2000.

6.0 Native Plants Affected by Rabbits at Te Henga

Plants that have been browsed by rabbits at Te Henga include:

- Pingao (Threatened Status: Conservation Dependant)
- Spinifex
- Toitoi/Kakaho
- Pohutukawa

In addition to the above native plants, rabbits also browse the introduced Marram Grass that help bind the sand in some places where the native vegetation is minimal or absent.

Rabbits browse on the foliage of these plants. While light browsing does not kill the plant, it does restrict the plant’s ability to survive in an already harsh environment. Once browsed, the leaf of a plant does not resprout. Sand binding plants need to be able to respond quickly to sand deposition in order to maintain some vegetative matter above the sand level and carry out processes such as photosynthesis.

However, if the plants are browsed heavily and in particular if the central core of these plants is severed the plants are destroyed.

7.0 Rabbits

The rabbit found in New Zealand is a native to Iberia. It is known as the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). Originally introduced into New Zealand for food in the 1800s the animals have spread almost throughout the entire country. Population levels differ between areas depending on the conditions. Rabbits thrive in habitats that offer:

- light soils
- a sunny aspect
- adequate cover close to feeding areas
- less than 1000mm of rain per year

Rabbits can breed prolifically, with the doe capable of producing up to 50 young each year.

7.1 Rabbit Signs

As rabbits are nocturnal it is difficult to observe them directly. However, damaged vegetation, scratchings and burrows indicate the presence of rabbits. Rabbit droppings can also be found in the feeding areas. These are dark, oval-shaped and 8-10mm in length. Male rabbits mark their territory by making 'buck heaps', which are piles of droppings.

7.2 Levels Of Rabbit Infestation

Rabbit Surveys will be undertaken by the ARC Biosecurity Unit using the McLean Scale assessment to estimate the size of the rabbit population at Te Henga before and after control operations.

8.0 Modified McLean Rabbit Infestation Scale

This scale assesses rabbit population levels.

1. No sign found. No rabbits seen.
2. Very infrequent sign present. Unlikely to see rabbits.
3. Odd rabbits seen; sign and some buck heaps showing up. Pellet heaps spaced 10m or more apart on average.
4. Pockets of rabbits; sign and fresh burrows very noticeable. Pellet heaps spaced between 5m and 10m apart on average.
5. Infestation spreading out from heavy pockets. Pellet heaps spaced 5m or less apart on average.
6. Sign very frequent with pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen over the whole area.
7. Sign very frequent with 2-3 pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen in large numbers over the whole area.
8. Sign very frequent with 3 or more pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits likely to be seen in large numbers over the whole area.

9.0 Rabbit Control Methods

9.1 Poisoning

Poisons offer a cost effective approach for reducing medium to heavy infestations of rabbits.

9.2.1 Chronic Poisons

These poisons are slow acting poisons that have a cumulative effect requiring rabbits to consume several applications of treated bait to accumulate a lethal dose.

Pindone

Pindone is one of the most common chronic poisons used for rabbit control. Rabbits are particularly susceptible to Pindone while non-target species such as dogs (5-6 times), birds, stock and humans (100 times) are significantly more resistant. Vitamin K1, available from the vet, is an effective antidote for pets with suspected poisoning. Pindone is the safest effective agrichemical option, and is easy to use for rabbit control, including in urban areas, providing all instructions are carefully followed.

Pindone is administered as a solid pellet and can be distributed on the ground without cover in dry weather. However, heavy dew or rain may affect the palatability of the bait. Pindone is also available in liquid form and is applied to carrots (Liquid Pindone is only available to approved operators such as Regional Councils). This method is most effective during winter months. Two applications of Pindone would be required for a poisoning operation.

As the poison will have to be picked up each morning it is proposed that a small area of dunes be treated each night, starting at the surf-club end of the beach using a “rolling front”, southward along the dunes.

9.2 Bait Stations

Bait stations can be used in areas where it is undesirable to have poison baits lying uncovered. Bait stations need to be positioned in rabbit feeding areas. Bait stations are designed to:

- safeguard non-target animals e.g. humans and dogs
- provide bait protection from adverse weather
- not deter target animals

Bait stations would contain Pindone pellets, which would be most effective during drier weather, ie. February.

9.3 Shooting

Night shooting with a spotlight can be effective for controlling light rabbit infestations. Shooting is most successful on land with little vegetation cover. A .22 rifle fitted with a telescopic sight, sound moderators and sub-sonic hollow point ammunition is recommended for shooting rabbits at night.

The firearm operator must be fully conversant with the Arms Code Firearms Safety manual issued by the New Zealand Police and hold a current firearm licence or be supervised by a licence holder.

Rabbit feeding areas should be assessed during the day prior to the night shooting. Heavy rain, strong winds, and bright moonlight should be avoided. Rabbits shot at, but not killed will become gun shy and several months should pass before any further shooting expeditions are undertaken.

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle. Special permission must be obtained from the police to shoot from a vehicle. Police also need to be advised of shooting operations, and the public should also be advised via signage.

9.4 Trapping

The use of leg hold traps can be effective in reducing rabbit numbers, however, this method is time consuming and requires previous trapping experience. This method is not being considered. Waitakere City Council Bylaw No. 10 states “No person shall set or cause to be set any jaw type trap ...”.

Cage traps can also be used but all traps must be checked every day. Cage traps could be used in conjunction with barriers across tracks that rabbits frequently use. The barriers would help to funnel rabbits into the trap. Traps could be provided to local landowners wishing to use this method.

9.5 Exclusion Fencing

Palatable plants can be protected via fencing to prevent rabbits from gaining access. Rabbit-proof fences should be:

- 80cm high
- made from galvanised wire netting with a maximum mesh size of 3cm or electric fencing wire
- buried 20cm into the ground to hinder digging

Individual shrubs and trees can be protected using netting cylinders, plastic sheaths or steel guards.

9.6 Repellents

Repellents are substances that render plants unpalatable or unattractive to browsing rabbits. Solutions should only be applied to 50% of the foliage cover to avoid damaging the plant.

Various repellents will be trialled in conjunction with the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network during the next planting season.

10.0 Existing & Previous Rabbit Control

Exclusion fencing is the major current method of rabbit control. This has highlighted the difference that the absence of rabbits makes to the health and size of plants. However problems have been experienced because of the mobility of the sand in this environment. Regular sand movements have resulted in either sand build-up that partially buries the fence and has allowed rabbits to readily gain access to plants over the top of the fence, or sand blow-outs where the removal of sand has created gaps underneath the fences.

These fences are currently costing between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per year depending on weather conditions and the amount of new planting. Because of the cost such fences have only been constructed around a few small selected areas, that is, they are not a tool that can effectively protect the whole dune area.

During June 2001 a short shooting operation was carried out. This was successful in temporarily reducing the rabbit population.

Prior to winter 1997 a short shooting operation was carried out. This was successful in temporarily reducing the rabbit population. This was done just prior to a poisoning operation.

During winter 1997 (September – October) a poisoning operation was carried out. A good locally run public consultation and information programme was implemented prior to undertaking the control, however the poisoning programme was abandoned because of objections from one local resident. The programme involved a repeated pattern of 3 days of laying bait, then 7 days off. The poison was laid at dusk and taken up at dawn to reduce the risk to children, pests and native birds. Animal tracks including dog prints were carefully observed to monitor visitation to the poison sites. Advice was given via the community newsletter as to the symptoms of poisoning from Pindone and how to seek treatment i.e., with a Vitamin K1 injection. The poisoning was stopped when a local resident claimed to have picked up a small amount of bait that he allegedly found in the cutting accessway to the beach. He regularly exercised his dogs on the beach and in the dunes and was he became very upset at not being able to take his dogs into the dunes. (BeachCare members were upset that he claimed this right despite not keeping his dogs on leads as was required, as there were bylaws for no dog access to the dune area). He complained to Council officers, and became very “loud and abusive” towards BeachCare coordinators. He also complained to the Mayor. No complaint was received by BeachCare coordinators or Council from any other resident or beach user. The complainant no longer lives locally.

Surrounding landowners maintain their own ongoing rabbit control operation on their properties, with shooting being the principal method. Those landowners who attended the public meeting on the 13th of Feb 2002 to discuss the issue, expressed support for the programme and explained how the operations on neighbouring private/public land would help compliment each other for the benefit of all.

11.0 Proposed Rabbit Control Work

A number of different control techniques have been evaluated. It is considered that the best long-term option will be to use several methods in conjunction with each other. The recommended methods are repellents, poisoning and shooting. It is considered that these controls will need to be ongoing.

11.1 Recommended Control Methods

These recommendations result from a public meeting held at the Surf Cub at Te Henga on 13th February 2002. Present at that meeting were representatives from surrounding farms, other members of the local community, BeachCare members, BeachCare coordinators from ARC and WCC and the manager of the biosecurity division of ARC. The recommendations result from a frank discussion that included information about control on surrounding properties, concerns about various methodologies and their effects, and advice about the pros and cons of the various techniques.

The recommended control methods are:

- Pindone poisoning – liquid and solid form
- Shooting
- Repellents

A methodology that reduces risk to the environment and community, and maximises effectiveness given local conditions will be prepared. This will be a ‘learning document’ and subject to change as techniques are refined for local circumstances.

11.2 Community Involvement

There is an opportunity for the public to assist with rabbit control in this project. Members of the public can easily undertake many of the tasks. Community initiatives to control rabbits will be supported by providing advice and materials.

12.0 Estimated Costs

Costs for the initial two-year programme of rabbit control at Te Henga are expected to be approximately \$3,100 materials plus 240 hours labour. These labour hours will be the subject of discussion with the BeachCare group to determine what can be done through voluntary input and what will need to be contracted out. ARC is willing to assist WCC to fund this project. The costs are broken down as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Tasks and Costs

Control Method	Estimated Cost
Pindone pellets	\$ 750
Pindone liquid	\$ 750
Shooting	\$ 600
Repellants	\$500 per year? (Further investigation required)
Total (Materials only, for 2 years)	\$ 3,100
Labour (for 2 years)	240 hrs

13.0 Project Team and Management

A project team will be formed to coordinate and manage all aspects of the project's implementation. The project team will consist of Auckland Regional Council staff, Waitakere City Council staff and members of the Te Henga/Bethells BeachCare Group but outside resources will also be used.

14.0 Communications and Consultation

In implementing the Project the Auckland Regional Council and Waitakere City Council have a responsibility to consult and liase with the public regarding all aspects of the operation. In particular the Councils need to:

- Set out the nature of the problem as it affects the dunes
- Set out the course of action the council is taking to resolve the problem
- Provide information and public education programmes in support of the Project to ensure public safety, to build and maintain public confidence and support
- Let the residents know how they can become actively involved

To achieve this, to date articles have been written for the Te Henga/Bethells Community Newsletter and included in the February 2002 and the March 2002 issues; displays have been on show at the Te Henga/Bethells Community Day and at the Montana Heritage Trail opening at the Cascades; the Western Leader has covered the issue and a public meeting has been held. A draft of this report was prepared and circulated, and the mood and recommendations of the discussions and meeting are contained in this report. The draft report was presented at the 5th February meeting of the Waitakere Community Board, and this report will also be presented to the Waitakere Community Board.

Communications during those parts of the year when the control operations are implemented will include appropriate signs on site, coordination with the police and letterbox drops to all locals. The letterbox drops will include a telephone number for anyone concerned to ring and talk through the issues. The signs will have ARC & WCC logo's, advise of poisoning or shooting in the park, and also give a cell phone number to ring if there were any problems.

15.0 Time Frame

The time frame of events within the project is summarised below.

Table 3: Time frame of Events - March 2001 to March 2002

Task	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Scoping report	■												
Population Assessments	■			■				■				■	
Pindone Poison					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Apply repellants		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Shooting							■	■	■	■	■	■	
Consultation with affected parties	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■