

## MINUTES

<b>Title</b>	Reservoir Creek: Enhancement of an Urban Taonga Public Forum
<b>Date</b>	25-6-08
<b>Time</b>	12:30 pm
<b>Venue</b>	Heaphy Room Tasman District Council (TDC) 189 Queen Street Richmond
<b>Present</b>	

Tom Kroos Project Coordinator, Melanie McColgan Waimaori Streamcare and Tiakina, David Burt Keep Richmond Beautiful, Chris Hemi Ngati Kuia, Ross Maley (DoC), Rob Francis –late (TDC), Residents: Neil Page, Doreen Lemon, Tom Nimo, Shirley Marshall, PW Jack, P Jack, Klaas van de Geest, Ron Heath, Heather Heath, Judy Cox, Mike Carnahan, Cheryl Carnahan and others.

### Apologies

Rob Francis (TDC), Steve Richards (TDC), Ann Sheridan Tiakina, Caroline Shirliffe Salisbury School, Martin Rutledge (DoC), Rudy Teteroo (DoC), Helen Campbell Forest and Bird, Residents Brenda Page, Shirley Marshall , Tim Raywood and Joan Inwood

### 1. Introduction

Tom Kroos welcomed those present to the final Public Forum, tendered a list of apologies and advised that some TDC staff would be arriving late. Tom also apologised for a delayed meeting start as the original room booked for the meeting was occupied and not available.

### 2. Meeting Format

With the view to cover all of the meeting content Tom suggested that discussion start at the Reservoir Creek Estuary and work up the catchment. Project Partners and TDC staff would be called upon to update the meeting on various projects along the creek.

Following the update Tom recommended going around the room for any comments and/or recommendations to put to TDC or Project Partners.

Tom asked that some time be made available to share an overview of the past two years to celebrate successful project outcomes.

### 3. Visual Aids

Prior to commencing the project updates Tom circulated an updated photo album, maps and copies of the planting plan and the Arbour Day planting roster.

#### **4. Estuary**

Tom told the meeting that thanks to the efforts of Chris Hemi the Reservoir Creek Project was able to procure funding from Nelson City Council Biodiversity Forum to conduct restoration of the estuary that was on NCC land. There was a crew of Nelmac workers on-site removing gorse and other noxious weeds as Tom was speaking. Photographs of this work were circulated.

The short term plan was to remove some of the noxious weeds now and spray others such as the blackberry in the spring. Mel was organising a group of Garin College students to plant the estuary in July. NCC and TDC would also be discussing a longer term plan for the area that includes linking walkways, signage, rehabilitating erosion areas and further planting. Tom acknowledged the assistance from TDC staff Trevor James and Steve Richards.

David Burn reported that KRB had planted another 200 plants just upstream from the Estuary in the top of the high tide fresh-salt water wedge area.

#### **5. Aqua Centre**

As part of Arbour Day planting events Garin College students planted this zone on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June.

#### **6. Templemore Pond**

Trevor James (TDC) has now sourced a supply of raupo and has been in communication with NIWA in regards to planting instructions. Raupo will be planted in and along the bottom end of the pond to provide nesting and escape cover for birds and act as a barrier to prevent access into deep water by children. Further plantings of Pittosporum and harakeke are planned for the area where the noxious pampas grass was removed last year.

#### **7. Channel Works above Templemore Drive**

In the absence of TDC engineering staff Tom updated the meeting stating that tenders for the job came in higher than anticipated and additional resources were required to see the job completed. Tom Nimo, owner of Stillwater Gardens, told the group that a TDC letter advised that the work would now be undertaken in August. Tom Kroos added that this timeline was good in respect minimising effect on native fish and replanting.

#### **8. Welsh Place**

At this juncture Tom reiterated the apologies from Steve Richards (TDC) who designed the re-vegetation planting plan 2008. Tom and Steve had gone through the plan the previous day and Steve made copies of the plan for Tom to circulate.

In respect to Welsh Place two Henley School middle syndicate classes with assistance from the Waimea College horticulture students have now replanted the area with 325 plants. This area was destroyed by TDC engineering contractors earlier in the year. Tom acknowledged the assistance from Sicon staff that sourced these plants at very short notice.

Dave Burt informed the meeting that KRB had put in 350 additional plants in the area below Hill Street earlier in the month.

## **9. Walkway and Day lighting Reservoir Creek**

Tom reported that meetings had been undertaken with TDC and landowners to further explore the feasibility of day lighting Reservoir Creek and developing a walkway above Hill Street ultimately with the view to connect the existing infrastructure with Easby Park. At present there is a lot of support within TDC departments, residents and some landowners. Additional discussions with landowners are required together with feasibility assessments and this will be completed soon.

This is a most exciting prospect and would be a huge positive outcome for the Richmond community. This proposal would provide the link for a planted corridor from the estuary to the Richmond Ranges. The walkway could become a Richmond showcase while flora and fauna would be able to migrate and disperse respectively providing for rich and sustainable biodiversity outcomes.

## **10. Easby Park**

Tom referred to the 2008 planting plan and to date three schools have planted 1,222 plants on the north side of Reservoir Creek. This project has been a real success and the extra efforts of Sicon staff, Steve Richards and Mel were recorded.

## **11. Reservoir**

Without TDC engineering staff at the meeting to report Tom could only say that the Reservoir had been lowered approximately 1m+ and that the water might be held at this level for the winter. It will be recommended that the Reservoir be utilized as a sediment pond when forest milling commences upstream in the spring.

This was one area of the SMF project that fell well short of expectations.

Chris Hemi and Mel were both disappointed that the TDC access track to the base of the Reservoir resulted in the landowner's cattle taking up residency in the creek. The environment below the dam was destroyed and it became unsafe for humane health to conduct instream monitoring with school children. TDC engineering was asked on several occasions to rectify the cattle access issue and this was never done. Some members felt that TDC has a mandate to protect the creek rather than to see it destroyed.

## **12. Milling/Enterprise Committee**

Tom tabled copies of his report to the TDC Enterprise Committee meeting that he attended on 13 June 2008. Tom quickly reviewed some of the issues the forum wanted raised at the EC meeting. The reception at the EC meeting was not good and there was not any discussion on the report.

There is no way of knowing if the EC will take on board any of the recommendations provided and community input into the process may not exist. Tom suggested that the next public avenue might be through the LTCCP process but this needs to be driven by someone within TDC.

The bottom line in respect to access road development and future milling is that the Reservoir Creek gully contains "*areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna*" and therefore TDC have to take this into consideration under Section 6 of the

RMA. If this is not done when milling commences in the spring then the public has other options to pursue.

### **13. Tree Aging**

On 11 June Shannel Courtney, a native plant expert with DoC, accompanied Tom, Mel and Trevor to the two specimen trees above the Reservoir. Shannel estimates that the totara is approximately 400 years old and the kahikatea is estimated at 500 years old.

To put this into perspective the kahikatea tree was likely a seedling at the time of Henry V111, Columbus sailing to the America's and famous artworks by Da Vinci and Michelangelo. The Māori had been in New Zealand for perhaps 300 years and the surrounding matai totara lowland podocarp forest was alive with flora and fauna that have long become extinct.

### **14. Track Work**

Work on the track above the Reservoir started on 28 May and most of this job has been completed. This work was carried out by Sicon under directions of Glenn Thorn and follows the track maintained by Alan Hart. It was agreed that the track would follow the bed of Reservoir Creek for a short distance through the glow worm gorge but if necessary a track could be benched further up the hill at another time.

The track tidy-up has gone as far as the kahikatea tree as beyond this point the track is very steep. Signage at the top of the Reservoir will identify the track conditions together with information on existing and significant flora and fauna values of the gully.

### **15. CHI**

Chris Hemi told the group that the last CHI was conducted on Monday 9 June. The final report was being written by Ursula Passl and would be completed the first week in July. Tom told the meeting that this report would be placed on the TDC website soon after it was received.

### **16. Waimaori Streamcare**

Mel reported that most of her time (11 hours) since the last public forum had gone into meeting the various school groups at the planting sites in all of the Reservoir Creek zones. A total of 17 stream monitoring events were held from 1 July 2007 to 25 June 2008. Due to time constraints and clashes of schedule the programme was unable to successfully carry out all the monitoring envisaged during the final school term of 2007 and second term of 2008.

The original plan was to monitor both above and below the Reservoir as two classes were involved, but impacts on the creek from cattle access below the dam resulted in health hazards for the children sampling. Prior to cattle access there was an abundance of macro-invertebrates, but on arrival (December 07) the site was found to be too polluted to carry out the monitoring.

Construction of the access road into the upper catchment for milling also prevented in-stream monitoring for 8 weeks as a result of sediment runoff. This was after the TDC Enterprise Committee had been told about the monitoring programme and the need to ensure their contractors did not pollute Reservoir Creek.

Tom reminded the meeting that the final report for the Waimaori Streamcare monitoring would be placed onto the TDC website.

## **17. Birds and Pests**

Neil Paige reported that his bird counts for Reservoir and Jimmy Lee Creeks has now reached 31 species and includes the threatened western weka. Neil has also been running 2 trap lines of 20 traps and has captured/removed 144 rats since January 2008.

David Burt said that KRB had supplied traps for this project but would like to know if there were other resources available to procure additional traps. Tom will put this question to TDC staff.

## **18. Forum Comments and Recommendations**

### **1. Planting Plan**

Forum participants agreed that the planting plan was advancing well but there were no strategies in place to maintain new plants in their respective zones. It was suggested that a maintenance plan be developed to accompany the planting plan and that TDC Parks and Reserves were the best people to implement the process.

It was also discussed that an approach should be made to the TDC engineering services department to seek their approval for Parks and Reserves to manage all of the planting zones along Reservoir Creek. This would avoid maintenance works being carried out by separate contractors with different sets of instructions.

Keep Richmond Beautiful volunteered to maintain the new plantings zones for the next 2-3 years under the direction of Parks and Reserves. There was also some scope for school groups to assist with maintenance in zones that they have adopted.

### **2. Walkway Maintenance**

The walkways have been very successful and are generating a considerable amount of use. TDC Parks and Reserves should be acknowledged for the good work they are doing. There are opportunities to promote the walkways as a “gem in the Richmond crown”. Elderly people in particular use the walkway (some in electric scooters) but it can become dangerous in sections such as the 1+m drop to the creek below Salisbury Road. It may be possible to erect a short pedestrian fence in this area. There might also be an opportunity to use lights along the walkway in specific high use sections.

### **3. M Lowe Subdivision**

Forum participants are excited about the new envisaged walkway linking Champion Road to Reservoir Creek and Templemore Drive. The meeting recognises the importance in planting these linking corridors and there are community groups and volunteers available to assist Parks and Reserves with this should the opportunity be made available. Schools such as Garin College would also be likely candidates to assist.

Two forum participants are concerned about the placement of a footbridge prior to opening the new walkway for public use as crossing the creek in this deeply incised section could result in injury.

### **4. Channel Widening**

Concerns were noted from several in attendance that this work should be done once and correctly not only planting strips but also managing the waterway. In the absence of TDC staff to comment Tom felt that Council and MWH had consulted widely including attendance at previous forum's but most importantly considering in-channel habitat opportunities, timing, fish salvage, and water diversion to minimise effect.

However the watercress and sediment build up under the bridge has been a problem and no one appears to take responsibility for managing this. For the past two years Garin College students and Stillwater Gardens have volunteered to remove watercress. The sediment build up can also

affect fish passage at certain times of the year. While planting shade trees will reduce watercress growth in the long term something needs to be done in the short term.

### **5. Rubbish at College Corner**

Community participants spoke about the amount of rubbish in and along the creek near Waimea College corner. The pros and cons of providing a rubbish bin at this site was discussed. At present students collect some rubbish as part of their detention duty rather than collecting it as a “feel good” opportunity while making a positive contribution to the community and environment. Perhaps there may be some scope to change the way our children think about disposing unwanted rubbish in the environment. Tom will contact the E4E coordinator at Waimea College.

### **6. Miscellaneous**

A question was asked if Reservoir Creek public forums could still take place after the conclusion of the project even if they were not at the same frequency of six/year. Rob Francis (new TDC Environmental Officer) thought this was a very good suggestion and believed this could be achieved.

Another suggestion was to have an organized public walk along the track rather than just another rubbish collection walk.

Tom thanked the forum for their comments and recommendations and would try to put this together and report to TDC and others where applicable.

### **19. Project Success**

In 2004 Tasman District Council (TDC) in partnership with DoC, Waimaori Streamcare, Forest and Bird, Salisbury Girls School and local community advocated an environmental management plan for Reservoir Creek (RCMP). The stated objective was to integrate the management and enhancement of Reservoir Creek for ecological, amenity and water quality purposes. While the above actions facilitated community interest and participation overall co-ordination had been fragmented with staff and financial resources unavailable to manage, monitor and evaluate the RCMP implementation.

In November 2005 Rudy Teteroo (DoC) advised various members of the RCMP working party of the SMF from MfE as a means to advance the objectives of the plan and a subsequent application was successful with the project starting on 1 July 2006.

Looking back over the past two years there have been some lessons learned and some real positive outcomes. The concept of a planted walkway/corridor from the estuary to the Richmond Hills has become a reality. School monitoring of their adoptive Streamcare sites through the Waimaori programme will continue as will the planting plan involving schools and community groups working with TDC. Some other positive project outcomes identified by the forum;

- The Estuary restoration work by NCC and TDC
- Providing for fish passage and increased numbers of fish living in our stream
- Identifying the indicators for recognizing and expressing Tangata Whenua ki Whakatu values.
- Increased community awareness of biodiversity and cultural values by providing signage along walkways.
- TDC working together internally and the community working together with TDC
- Identification of issues that may affect the communities well being.
- Management recommendations to take into the future.

Both Tom and Rob congratulated the forum participants for a job well done.

**The meeting closed at 1445 hours.**