

Whitireia Park Board

Friday, 27 March 2026, 9.30am
Titahi Golf Club, Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua

Members

Quorum: *Two members appointed by the trustee of the Toa Rangatira Trust, and two members appointed by Wellington Regional Council.*

Quentin Duthie

Claire Johnstone

Jenny Ngarimu

Phil Rhodes

Sharli-Jo Solomon

Caleb Ware

Whitireia Park Board

Friday 27 March 2026, 9.30am

Titahi Golf Club, Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua

Public Business

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Whitireia Park Board
27 March 2026



ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

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

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. At its meeting on 12 May 2017, the Board resolved that its Chair should be elected at its first meeting of each new local government triennium.
3. The Board considered this matter at its first meeting of the 2025-28 local government triennium on 5 December 2025 and resolved to let it lie on the table, as not all members were present.
4. This report replaces the report from 5 December 2025.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

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

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

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

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

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps

11. Once the voting system is decided, a call will be made for nominations for the position of Board Chair. Once elected, the Chair will assume the chair for the rest of the meeting.

He tūtohu Recommendations

That the Board:

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

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writer	Lucas Stevenson – Kaitohutohu Ratonga Manapori Democratic Services Advisor
Approvers	Priscila Firmo – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urungi, Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy (acting) Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 27 March 2026.

Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on Friday 5 December 2025

Titahi Golf Club
Gloaming Hill, Titahi Bay, Porirua, at 9.37am

Members Present

Quentin Duthie
Claire Johnstone
Phil Rhodes
Sharli-Jo Solomon
Caleb Ware

Lucas Stevenson, Kaitohutohu Ratonga Manapori | Democratic Services Advisor, chaired the meeting until item 5 – Election of the Chair.

Caleb Ware presided at the meeting from item 6 - Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 6 June 2025.

Karakia timatanga

Quentin Duthie opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

1 Whakawhanaungatanga

Everyone present introduced themselves.

2 Apologies

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Sharli-Jo Solomon

That the Board accepts the apology for absence from Jenny Ngarimu.

The motion was **carried**.

3 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

4 Public participation

Leanne Parsons spoke on the need for expanded trails in the Park.

5 Election of the Chair

Moved: Phil Rhodes / Quentin Duthie

That the item of business being discussed does lie on the table, and not be further discussed at that meeting.

The motion was **carried**.

Caleb Ware presided at the meeting in the absence of a Chair.

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

Moved: Caleb Ware / Quentin Duthie

That the Board confirms the Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 6 June 2025.

The motion was **carried**.

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

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Caleb Ware

That the Board confirms the Public minutes of the Whitireia Park Board meeting on 22 August 2025.

The motion was **carried**.

8 Overview of the Whitireia Park Board

David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, Greater Wellington, and Lucas Stevenson, Democratic Services Advisor, Greater Wellington, spoke to the report.

Moved: Phil Rhodes / Claire Johnstone

That the Board:

1 *Receives the report.*

2 *Notes the content of the report.*

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: The Board requested further information on the management responsibilities of the Board, including the relevant legislative framework of the Board's oversight of the park, asset ownership and health & safety obligations.

9 Application of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

Elizabeth Woolcott, Manager Democratic Services, Greater Wellington, spoke to the report.

Moved: Quentin Duthie / Sharli-Jo Solomon

That the Board:

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

The motion was **carried**.

10 Adoption of the 2026 Meeting Schedule

Lucas Stevenson, Democratic Services Advisor, Greater Wellington, spoke to the report.

Moved: Claire Johnstone / Quentin Duthie

That the Board:

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

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: The Board asked officers to investigate alternative dates for the meeting in March 2026.

11 Whitireia Park Board Finance Report – Quarter One

Darryl Joyce, Manager Accounting Services, Greater Wellington, spoke to the report.

Moved: Claire Johnstone / Sharli-Jo Solomon

That the Board:

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

The motion was **carried**.

12 Whitireia Park Board Operations Report – December 2025

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

Moved: Sharli-Jo Solomon / Claire Johnstone

That the Board:

- 1 *Receives the report.*
- 2 *Notes the content of the report.*
- 3 *Approves the 2025/26 operational work plan and budget of \$121,620.*
- 4 *Delegates the project management governance of the Onehunga Bay toilet replacement to Greater Wellington, through the Director Delivery.*
- 5 *Notes that the Board will be engaged and presented with decision recommendations for matters of significance relating to this project's completion.*
- 6 *Approves the permit application to collect *Microlaena stipoides* seed from within the Park.*

The motion was **carried**.

The Board noted that the Ngāti Toa Board will undertake more analysis of the options for siting the Onehunga Bay toilet replacement, and will advise its preference to the Board.

David Boone noted that forecast project cost of the toilet replacement would be refined after the identification of the preferred site, option A or B.

13 Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information]

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

Karakia whakamutunga

The Board Chair invited Kevin Shedlock, President, Titahi Golf Club, to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 11.28am.

Chair

Date:

Whitireia Park Board
27 March 2026



WHITIREIA PARK BOARD FINANCE REPORT – QUARTER TWO

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To present to the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) the management accounts for the period 1 Oct 2025 to 31 December 2025 ([Attachment 1](#)).

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Board:

- 1 **Receives** the report.
- 2 **Notes that:**
 - a *Income has been received from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025:*
 - \$2,750 from Titahi Bay Golf Club for lease of the land
 - \$469.20 Gross Interest
 - b *Total costs from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 were:*
 - \$412.50 for the GST payment
 - \$40 for the bank fee
 - c *The BNZ Bank account balance as at 31 December 2025 was \$89,087.31.*

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Whitireia Park Board Financial Statements – Q2

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Zoe Chen – Management Accountant
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director, Delivery Environment Group Lian Butcher – Group Manager, Environment Group

Attachment 1 to Report WPB Finance Report - Quarter Two

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

	2024/25 Full Year	2025/26 Q2	GW Entries 2024/25 Full Year	2025/26 Q2
Income	\$	\$	\$	\$
Water Rates	-	-	10,146	3,513
Lease	5,500	2,750	-	-
Interest	2,001	469	-	-
GWRC	-	-	204,055	81,855
Total Income	7,501	3,219	214,201	85,368
Less Expenditure	\$	\$	\$	\$
Water rates expense	-	-	11,875	4,134
Sundry	40	40	-	-
Depreciation Expense	1,676	419	-	-
Project Materials	-	-	10,363	-
Printing	-	-	368	-
Stationery	-	-	663	783
Postage & Couriers	-	-	-	-
Property Rates	-	-	1,733	-
Security	-	-	3,100	-
Cleaning & Toiletrie	-	-	11,111	4,147
Advertising	-	-	-	-
Settlement-Materials & Supplies	-	-	8,826	-
Contractors - Labour	-	-	30,123	26,493
Contractors - Machin	-	-	30,700	-
Contractors - Constr	-	-	522	-
Contractors - Facili	-	-	-	-
GWRC Vehicle Costs	-	-	-	-
Training	-	-	6,066	-
GWRC Staff Time	-	-	98,752	49,811
Total Expenditure	1,716	459	214,201	85,368
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	5,785	2,760	-	-

Attachment 1 to Report WPB Finance Report - Quarter Two

Whitireia Park Board
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	30 June 2025	GW Entries 31 Dec 2025
FUNDS AND RESERVES		
Accumulated Funds	82,962	88,747
Net Surplus (Deficit)	5,785	3,016
TOTAL FUNDS AND RESERVES	88,747	91,763
Represented By:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Current Account	85,908	89,087
Sundry Debtors	82	338
GST Receivable	-	-
Total Current Assets	85,990	89,425
Fixed Assets	285,806	285,806
Accumulated Depreciation	(283,207)	(283,626)
Total Fixed Assets	2,599	2,180
Total Assets	88,589	91,605
CURRENT LIABILITES		
GST Payable	(198)	(198)
Sundry Creditors	40	40
Total Current Liabilites	(158)	(158)
Total Liabilites	(158)	(158)
NET ASSETS	88,747	91,763

Whitireia Park Board
27 March 2026



WHITIREIA PARK BOARD OPERATIONS REPORT

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Whitireia Park Board (the board) on the operational management of the park November 2025 – March 2026

Park Ranger Update

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

Kaimahi Ranger

3. Officers continue to work alongside Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira kaimahi team in the operational management of the park. Kaimahi rangers have undertaken regular patrols and working bees on the park.

Snorkelling Event

4. Following the sewage discharge at Moa Point, two snorkelling events were relocated to the park. Mountains to Sea delivered the events in collaboration with Greater Wellington and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira.

Fire Risk Update

5. Officers have actively managed summer fire risk, including weekly grass-curing assessments. Due to consistent rainfall, the fire risk has remained low.
6. Officers have maintained fire breaks and are working with Greater Wellington's planting operations team and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira kaimahi team to establish green firebreaks. This initiative aims to reduce ongoing mowing costs and enhance biodiversity corridors.

Whitireia Toilet Replacement Project

7. Officers have received a directive from Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira stating that they support option B.
8. The Board has previously considered two locations, option A and option B shown in [Attachment 2](#), for the replacement toilet facility at Onehunga Bay. Staff analysis indicates option A has slight technical advantages (simpler build, lower complexity, stronger solar generation). Option B is technically feasible but presents higher design and maintenance complexity due to elevation differences and reduced solar aspect. In this case, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira cultural preference is the primary

non-technical consideration and is recommended to be treated as decisive between two viable options.

Park Closing Times

9. Officers have noticed an increase of vandalism and antisocial behaviour after dusk. The current park closing time is 9pm the summer months. Officers suggest that the board consider changing the closing time to 8pm in the summer months.

Biodiversity Management

Pest Animal Control

10. Pest animal control is ongoing in the Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) site and across the rest of the park. The group of pest control volunteers continues to operate the network of traps and bait stations targeting both landscape-scale control and priority habitats. Greater Wellington acknowledges and appreciates the group's commitment to this mahi.
11. Greater Wellington carried out its quarterly night-time pest animal survey in March. During the survey, staff observed three rabbits, three cats, three hedgehogs, and numerous rats and mice. The three rabbits recorded represent the highest number seen in the park in more than two years. They were located on the golf course and near the entrance gate, well away from restoration plantings.
12. These night-time surveys aim to keep the park free of possums, hares, and rabbits, and to reduce hedgehog numbers to protect native vegetation and wildlife and restoration plantings.

Weed Control

13. Weed control work for the year has been planned and is ready to be commenced. Most of the ground control work will be carried out by Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, while Greater Wellington will carry out aerial drone and helicopter control.
14. Details of the operational areas where work will be undertaken and the specifics of the work are available to the board if requested.

Fencing around the Dunes

15. Officers are assisting the Whitireia Park Restoration Group (WPRG) in applying for funding for additional Greater Wellington funding allocated through the Porirua Community Environment Fund to install rope fences around the dunes in Onehunga Bay. These fences are designed to channel access from the carpark to the beach, protecting plantings on the fragile dune systems. Officers intend to carry out this work if the funding application is successful with WPRG.

Park Permissions Applications

Seed Collection Permit

16. Officers have received a permit application from Porirua City Council (PCC) Nursery to collect seed off native plant species from within the park.
17. The purpose of the application is to eco source native plant species to propagate plants for Greater Wellington planting programmes, local conservation groups and local councils, for specific eco district regeneration projects.

18. Impact on the park is expected to be minimal. No more than 10% of seeds will be collected direct from the plant.
19. Officers recommend that the Board approve the permit application from Porirua City Council to collect seed from native plants within the park.

Board Liabilities and Health and Safety Responsibilities

20. At its December 2025 meeting, the Board requested further information on its management responsibilities, including the legislative framework for the Board's oversight of the park, asset ownership, and health and safety obligations. This section provides further clarification on the Board's liability position and governance responsibilities.
21. The Whitireia Park Board is established under the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014 and is the administering body of the relevant reserve land under that Act and the Reserves Act 1977. These statutes provide the framework for the Board's governance role in relation to Whitireia Park.
22. The Reserves Act 1977 also contains provisions relating to the liability of members of boards administering reserves. Section 34 provides that members of a board are not personally liable for acts done or omitted in good faith in the course of the operations of the board, or for debts or liabilities lawfully incurred by the board. In general terms, this means that where the Board makes decisions or incurs obligations in carrying out its role, individual members are not personally responsible for those liabilities provided they act in good faith. However, this provision does not remove obligations that may arise under other legislation, including the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.
23. In particular, the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 imposes due diligence duties on officers. While the Board does not direct or undertake operational risk management, the Board's role is to exercise due diligence by maintaining oversight of these systems, understanding how key risks are managed, and assuring itself that appropriate processes, resources and controls are in place.
24. In practice, operational management of Whitireia Park, including ranger services, assets, maintenance, biodiversity work, signage, and fire risk management, is undertaken through Greater Wellington's operational arrangements and staff support to the Board. Health and safety risk management in a park setting is guided by what is reasonably practicable, recognising that natural environments contain inherent hazards that cannot be wholly eliminated. The Board's role is therefore one of governance oversight and assurance and ensuring due diligence is followed, rather than direct operational control of every hazard within the park.
25. If the Board would find it useful, officers can provide further clarification on specific aspects of the Board's responsibilities.

He tūtohu**Recommendations**

That the Board:

- 1 **Receives** the report.
- 2 **Notes** the content of the report.
- 3 **Notes** that both Site A and Site B are technically feasible; that Site A has slight technical advantages (simpler construction, lower OPEX) while Site B introduces manageable complexity and operating costs.
- 4 **Notes** Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira preference for Site B, and that cultural considerations are decisive where technical differences are not determinative.
- 5 **Approves** Site B (as presented in the December 2025 Board report) as the final site for the Onehunga Bay toilet replacement project.
- 6 **Approves** the park summer opening hours to change from 9pm to 8pm next summer.
- 7 **Approves** the permit application from Porirua City Council to collect seed from native plants within the park.
- 8 **Notes** the advice provided on the Board's liabilities and governance responsibilities.

Ngā āpitihanga**Attachments**

Number	Title
1	Action items from previous Board meetings
2	Map of toilet locations

Ngā kaiwaitohu**Signatories**

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

Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

Date	Action item	Status and comment
1 November 2024	<p>Whitireia Park Board Operations Report – November 2024</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>The Board requested that the fire management plan for this season be recirculated to members.</p>	<p>Status: In Progress</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This work has dropped off the radar, Officers will sort this out during Winter 2026</p>
6 June 2025	<p>Whitireia Park Board Operations Update [For Decision]</p> <p>Noted: The Board and officers discussed a motion that was carried at the 28 February 2025 meeting, noted below:</p> <p><i>That the Board: Requests a Board strategy workshop with Ngāti Toa, Greater Wellington, and community groups to explore evidence-based restoration direction for the Park.</i></p> <p>The actions from the above motion were clarified as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board will coordinate with Ngāti Toa to decide whether an independent facilitator should be engaged for the workshop (contact with Ngāti Toa to be led by Caleb Ware). 	<p>Status: In Progress</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>Rangers have begun organising the restoration workshop, however GW staff are awaiting Ngāti Toa to take the lead on integrating this board workshop into the work involved in the management plan review.</p>

Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

	<p>2. Greater Wellington staff to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. recommend facilitators suitable to help, provided that (1) is completed by the Board and Ngāti Toa is supportive of engaging a facilitator. b. prepare for an environment restoration-focused workshop with Board members, Ngāti Toa staff, Greater Wellington staff and the Whitireia Park Restoration Group. c. gather a summary of environmental restoration mahi undertaken to date compared against the direction of the current Park Management plan. <p>Noted that the output of this workshop is expected to be a report that can inform both incoming Board members and Ngāti Toa Rangatira in the ongoing management of the Park and in the future review of the Reserve Management Plan.</p>	
6 June 2025	<p>Whitireia Park Restoration Group Report [For Information]</p> <p>Noted: Jordan Clear and Ashleigh Sagar will liaise with Porirua City Council about getting a sign installed at Onepoto Estuary to educate users about protecting the wildlife.</p>	Status: Not started.
5 December 2025	<p>Overview of the Whitireia Park Board</p> <p>Noted: The Board requested further information on the management responsibilities of the Board, including</p>	Status: Completed

Action items from previous Whitireia Park Board meetings

	the relevant legislative framework of the Board's oversight of the park, asset ownership and health & safety obligations.	Comment: information in the current operations report, the board to provide further clarity if required.
5 December 2025	<p>Adoption of the 2026 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>Noted: The Board asked officers to investigate alternative dates for the meeting in March 2026.</p>	<p>Status: Completed</p> <p>Comment:</p>

Attachment 2 to WPB Operations Report



Whitireia Park Board
27 March 2026



WHITIREIA PARK RESTORATION GROUP UPDATE – MARCH 2026

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Whitireia Park Board (the Board) on the Whitireia Park Restoration Group (WPRG) work December 2025-February 2026.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

Planting 2025

2. We are currently planning planting dates for the 2026 planting season. Porirua City Council Nursery are supplying 1700, and the remaining number to come from the Wellington Forest and Bird nursery.
3. Nick Hartley supplies several hundred very high quality enrichment species each year. In addition, a small coastal edge project has been funded by the Porirua Community Environment Fund over three years to help prevent erosion of the coastline between Kaiaua Bay and Onehunga Bay.

Pest animal control

4. The pest animal team maintains 127 trap and 44 bait stations in the Park.
5. The table shows a breakdown of pest types caught from 1 December 2025 to 28 February 2026.

Rats	Stoats	Weasels	Hedgehogs	Mice
25	1	12	3	15

Flora notes

Tūmatakura, matagouri, Discaria toumatou

6. The trial plantings of tūmatakura in the backdunes of Onehunga Bay area doing very well. The regular rain over summer will have helped them. Only one has died of the 15 which were cut off close to the ground (by a rabbit or ?). The growth has been phenomenal and most have doubled in height.

Leptinella nana

7. Site 1 was hand weeded and shade created with dead tauhinu branches for the summer.

8. The vegetation on each side of site 2 has grown taller and so this site no longer needs shade added. Site 2 has done particularly well this summer spreading down the slope, most likely due to the shade and the regular rain.
9. Pattern Reid, from the Department of Conservation, also added upturned bottles of water with special nozzles which slowly drip feed water.
10. Site 3 - the new site in the hidden valley, was checked to see how the plugs were doing in January. Six of the 55 plugs had disappeared. Some sites were spreading out and some were holding on. This summer has not been a 'normal' summer with more rain than usual and so no predictions can be made about the *Leptinella* will be successful long term in this new site.



Image 1: Liptinella nana

Autetaranga, Pimelea villosa

11. Seed has been collected from the sand pimelea at Kaiaua Bay. This plant was locally extinct in Whitireia as the dunes were grazed and trampled prior to the fire in 2010.
12. Reintroducing 'missing' species is not easy as often plants that are rare in the wild are surviving at the very edge of their ideal habitat. Finding their sweet spot takes several attempts in different places and most attempts at re-establishing have failed.
13. The one plant in the backdune of Kaiaua Bay is thriving perhaps because it is surrounded by other backdune species and therefore more moisture is retained over the dry periods and the groundcovers provide a cooler root run. The seed will be grown and planted out in similar sites.



Image 2: Autetaranga poking out of wiwi

Lizard Monitoring

14. Monthly baiting is continuing in Bay C. Our data from the survey in 2025 has been entered into the model but we are still awaiting final confirmation of the outputs.
15. The model output, however, does look to be consistent with the 2024 outputs, and the research phase will likely be closed off later this year and a decision made about ongoing control to protect the lizard populations.
16. The research has been going for 9 years and involves comparing numbers of lizards in sites which have no predator control with sites which have mouse control. The intensive annual lizard survey carried out in December, cleaning up the data and then adding it to the model takes 250 hours.



Image 3: Raukawa gecko in a pitfall trap

Tarāpunga Red-billed gull colony

17. The colony of tarāpunga and the tara (white-fronted terns) nested again on the escarpment. From the number of juvenile birds seen around Porirua, it looks a like

the nesting season was again very successful. Prior to next breeding season, weeds on the spurs which grow at an accelerated rate due to the guano deposits from nesting birds will be cut and stump treated.



Image 4: extent of nesting site

Group weed control

18. A very windy summer significantly reduced days when any spraying could be done safely especially as most people in our group with Growsafe work, so they only have some spare time at weekends.
19. The annual sweep of the slopes above the top of the escarpment was done in December, handpulling boneseed, karo and spanish heath seedlings.
20. Some of the fleabane has been pulled in the Onehunga Bay backdunes, with more to do.
21. The Japanese honeysuckle at Kaitawa Point was sprayed for the third time. Because it is rooted underground and had sprung up through mingimingi and muehlenbeckia vine, those plants had to be sacrificed to kill the honeysuckle.
22. Two small areas of licorice plant have also been sprayed between the locked gate and Kaitawa Point and the boxthorn at Kaitawa Bay has had follow up treatment. Boxthorn are also notoriously difficult to kill and often need several follow up sprays.
23. Gorse in the backdunes of Onehunga Bay has been cut and stump treated to prevent spread.
24. The track to the new *Leptinella* site has been maintained as the gorse was growing back making it difficult to get past and the vegetation on the track to the *Leptinella* Site 2 has also been pruned back to allow better access.

Botanical tour

25. Robyn Smith and Andrew Jink (Porirua City Council nursery) are hosting the Wellington Botanical Society on Saturday 13 June at Whitireia. The route will go along the bottom of the coastal escarpment from the seagull track to Rocky Bay and the tide will be low in the middle of the day. We are hoping to map all the paranako (*Asplenium obtusatum*). Paranako distribution is only south of Whitireia

Park and it has a regional threat status of critical as there is only one other plant known at Ōwhiro. It is plentiful in the South Island. Other plants which will be seen include kōkōmuka (*Veronica elliptica*), pūhā (*Sonchus kirkii*), waiu-atua (*Euphorbia glauca*) the Cook Strait mahoe (*Melicytus orarius*). All welcome and if anyone would like to come on the trip, contact Robyn for further details.

Admin/Promotion

- 26. WPRG Facebook Page membership has been steadily growing and now has 874 members up from 664 members at the same time last year. We also have 90 people on an email list and we send our Board reports to them following the meeting.

Volunteer hours

Quarter	Trapping	Seed collection	Lizard survey	Weed control	Bird monitoring	Admin/Promotion
December 2024 to end of February 2025	50	15	250	57	12	31

Ngā kaiwaitohu Signatories

Writers	Chris Gibbons, Angus Hulme-Moir, Robyn Smith , Robert Stratford, Nick Hartley, Mike Jacobson, Niki Edwards, Edmund Stephen-Smith, Lisa Casasanto – WPRG coordinators
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