

# Redcliffs Residents Association

## Minutes of Committee meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at the Redcliffs Library

### 1. Present / Apologies / Welcome

Present:	Christine Toner (Chair)	Tony Burns (Treasurer)	Ashley Rule
	Pat McIntosh	Peter Croft	Martin Ward
	Chris Doudney	David Bryce	Evan Price
	Ann Ebert (Minutes)		
Apologies:	Marie-Claude Herbert	Chris Bartlett	Robyn Pearson
	Duncan Currie		
Guest:	Rory Crawford - Community Recreation Advisor, Christchurch City Council		

Welcome extended to Rory Crawford, Community Recreation Advisor, Christchurch City Council. Rory explained his role as a support person for community groups and would be a contact for RRA when dealing with the Community Board and Council. Items discussed are recorded later in the minutes in item 6.

### 2. Declaration of Interest – none presented

### 3. Deputations / Submissions / Petitions – none presented

### 4. Notice of motions – none presented

### 5. Minutes of previous meeting:

- a. Previous Minutes of meeting held Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting with one correction raised by Pat - Point 8.c. Number recorded should be 300 (not 3,000) - minutes amended.  
MOVED: Christine Toner / Seconded Chris Doudney
- b. Matters arising – there were no matters arising

### 6. Christchurch City Council representative Rory Crawford

Rory Crawford outlined how he can assist RRA. He explained that the review of the Community Board structure was aimed to provide a more equal representation of population pockets among the Community Boards. Not a lot is expected to change for RRA. Rory suggested we keep the Board aware of what RRA is doing and that we introduce ourselves before and after the election when we have achieved something with the funding that's been provided. Location of Board office has not been decided yet. He reminded RRA that there are two points of contact when we need to raise issues – the Community Board and local Councillors.

Topics Rory will look into and report back on the following topics which were raised during his time in the meeting:

- Strengthening Community Grant – application submitted did not achieve the amount of funding as expected. Rory to review last year’s application. To check dollar value to understand the reduced amount awarded. He suggested an application for funding would be best to combine request for RRA History project and newsletter (more weight than separate items). Note: Applications open from 21 March to 22 April 2022. Rory to also look into funding through Libraries for the funding required by the RRA history project.
- Speed limit changes – raised the difficulty in getting heard – no response to several previous approaches to this the 40kmp restriction extended to include an area to the east of the village
- Coastal Pathway changes – traffic management plan installed but no work being done
- Combine these subjects into a project to give more ‘grunt’ for funding.
- Dog Park – Martin to email Rory directly to get name of Park Ranger.
- Red Zone / Port Hills areas – what’s happening with pest control, community gardens and LINZ plan for these areas.

## 7. Correspondence:

### a. Inward

Eileen Whiteside, Moncks Bay	<u>C</u> oncerns re Coastal Pathway encroaching on Moncks Bay Beach.
Rory Crawford CCC Community Reaction Advisor	Enquiring if we needed help with Covid response in the community.
Jaz Paterson	Asking if he can busk at our Sunday market (sic).
Darrell Latham	Provided a copy of the survey results from SSRA about coastal engagement
Te Awa Kura Barnett Park – Martin Ward	Report appended following the minutes and had previously been circulated to the committee

### b. Outgoing:

Kristie Boland, Bay Harbour News	Gave update on her current concerns and sent them to the Eco Village Annual Report
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## 8. Finance:

Tony Burns - Reviewed of documents distributed to Committee members on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 9.14am. Noted that Tony is currently administering the grant for Predator Free Redcliffs and we will also receive the Sustainability Grant for Te Awa Kura Barnett Park on behalf of the Regreening Barnett Park, Ki Uta Ki Tai group.

*Please find attached a summary of the 2021 cash flow statement (which will be reported on at the next AGM) plus an initial 2022 Cash Flow Forecast. Each file also has a supporting worksheet that outlines the current balances of the Pest Free Port Hills funding and the Strengthening Communities funding.*

*The 2021 statement indicates that we finished the year with \$1762.49 in the account. Of this \$455.84 was the Pest Free Port Hills balance and \$389.12 was the 'as yet unspent' balance of the Strengthening Communities funds - due to be spent around mid-year.*

*Our year-to-date 2022 income and expenditure has been \$40 on 'Trap Sales' and \$30.88 on web-hosting respectively, resulting in a current balance in the account of \$1771.61. This means a balance of \$495.84 in the Pest Free 'account' and \$358.24 in the SC 'account'.*

*I have created an initial expenditure plan (budget) that covers the basic web-hosting, secretarial costs, venue hire (AGM) and resilience group spend - which is more-or-less covered by the SC funding until mid-year. We will of course apply for further funding for expenditure beyond that point.*

*Please could you let me know of any additional expenditure planned for the year so that we can build it into the plan and ensure we have the funds to cover it.*

## **9. Reports of Sub Committees:**

- a. CCC, Coastal Pathway – Phone call from Peter Franklin – picnic bench on Beachville esplanade to be installed. Concern expressed that the beach at Moncks Beach will be destroyed with the development of the Coastal Pathway.  
**ACTION: Pat McIntosh to make immediate contact with Darrell Latham, Sara Templeton, Kirstie Mahoney and Tim Linley.**
- b. Coastal issues – nothing new to report
- c. Community and social events, fundraising, newsletter – Christine Toner still progressing newsletter which will include an update on the Predator free work.
- d. Website, email, communications, Facebook – no update given on this
- e. Environment, Eco Village, climate change action - David Bryce distributed pledge booklets for consideration by committee members.
- f. Regreening Barnett Park and Predator Free Redcliffs – work continues. The efforts of Sue Cook were acknowledged
- g. Response and Resilience Team – CDEM responded that Fulton Hogan can provide sand for sandbags.

## **10. General Business.**

- a. Proposal to change meetings to second Monday of the month. Proposal carried. Next meeting scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- b. Storm water management – Martin Ward advised that there is a Stormwater Management Plan being prepared for each catchment in the city to meet Resource Consent requirements of the Stormwater Discharge Consent issued by Ecan. Ours is the Ihutia

Estuary and Coastal Stormwater Management Plan. Following their completion a city-wide Surface Water Management Plan would be produced. Martin would like RRA to be involved in the planning stages of this project. This plan could include the silt discharge into Barnett Park. Ashley provided video evidence of the discharge of clay from the hill at the back of Cliff Street. This has been an on-going issue for years. Attempt to have this reviewed by Council have been unsuccessful.

**ACTION: Peter Croft to lead a subgroup of Martin, David and Ashley to develop a plan of action for this and contact the relevant people. i.e. Bay Harbour News, Councillors, Council.**

- c. Dealing with the nuisance from jet-ski use on the estuary – Christine report on Robyn’s behalf of incidents of excessive speed. Suggested that vehicle registration numbers be taken and incidents be reported to the Harbour Master. Article for Newsletter
- d. Dog control issues – Estuary Trust concerned about dogs around the estuary edge and danger to bird life and penguins in the area. Suggestion made that ‘Snap, Send, Solve’ as a means of reporting this to Council.
- e. SFF (Sumner Ferrymead Foundation) Pat McIntosh advised that grants are available up to \$3,000 from the Environmental & Sustainability Award. Funding received from this organisation last year and could be worth considering again this year. Ideas of how we could use any funding from this grant should be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- f. Planning for 100th AGM – Tuesday 17th May 2022.

**ACTION: Pat to check this date with Redcliffs School re availability of hall and David to check with proposed speaker (Colin Merks)**

**11. Any Other Business: No other business was raised.**

**12. Summarise decisions / Responsibilities/ Special items for next meeting agenda.**

**13. Next Committee Meeting at Redcliffs Library. Time 7.30pm Monday 14th March 2022**

Minute finished 9.22pm. Noted that several committee members had already left the meeting at approx. 9.10pm

## APPENDIX

### Te Awa Kura/Barnett Park

Regreening Group Newsletter, January 2022. The larger, upper part of Barnett Park above the dog exercise area has rested untended since the 2010/11, when earthquakes brought down parts of the bluffs on both sides of the valley and left other parts of them unstable. Restrictions on access have not stopped walkers and joggers but have curtailed maintenance work. By the beginning of 2021 there was a heavy weed infestation preventing the slow regeneration of native species. A large possum population had established and regular visits by sheep had held back any modest natural regeneration.

Early in 2020 a group of us came together and started to give the valley some long overdue TLC. This little newsletter reports on some of that activity, outlines a programme for this year and invites your support for delivering on it.

#### What we have done?

A big achievement has been to bring the park and its management needs onto the agenda for the attention and active involvement of the Redcliffs community and the Council Ranger team. We located a 1992 Management Plan for the Park formally prepared under the provisions of the Reserves Act which is relevant enough still to form the basis of ongoing work. We met with the Ranger team and agreed some boundaries and guidelines for working near the bluffs. We were assigned a ranger contact Alison Evans based at Duvauchelle. She's a biodiversity specialist so a great match for our project.

The Redcliffs Residents Association has accepted the Te Awa Kura group as an 'operational arm' and Secretary Pat sorted all the formal paperwork with the Council to allow volunteers to work in the park safely and effectively in what is a difficult and locally, potentially hazardous, setting.

We ran Wednesday and Sunday working bees and community volunteer hours exceed 500 in weed control, predator control and ecological survey; read more below. Council Rangers have become more active in rockfall risk mitigation and track reinstatement planning, ecological surveying, weed control, and planting.

Plans for this year include holding an afternoon or evening workshop to invite community input into planning and delivery of the regreening project. We started a weeding programme to remove boneseed, banana passionfruit and pigs ear in particular. These three weeds are widespread across the valley, and each restrict the regrowth of particular ecological assemblage. The boneseed (saltbush) is well entrenched with nearly full size trees with thigh thick trunks.

Access to the centre of the valley was needed and was created with a narrow, cleared path through to below the main cave. Guidance on methods was sought from other community weeding groups and Rangers and a successful start was made following safety briefings, and guidance on plant identification and safe use of herbicides.

Slow progress and the enormity of the challenge led to a redesign of the programme to focus hard on boneseed during its 16 weeks of flowering and the majority of the community hours noted above were spent clearing about six hectares, a huge achievement for which Sue Cooke, in

particular, needs acknowledgement.

In December Rangers arranged for ten Jobs For Nature workers to start on systematic banana passionfruit removal. Very hot weather, slow work and lots of passion fruit underscored the size of that job.

Plans for the year include another boneseed blitz in July through September 2020 and banana passionfruit work ongoing when the days get a bit cooler and seeking specialist volunteers and/or funds to pay contractors for passionfruit removal.

#### [Predator control programmes are underway](#)

Commencing in the bush beside the playing fields a baseline was established to monitor predator species and numbers. We identified mostly possums and hedgehogs but a few rats as well. Traps were set and the initial haul was 8 rats, 3 mice, 6 hedgehogs and 2 possums caught and reported on the [Predator Free Port Hills website](#).

Traplins have now been extended.

Following Redcliffs Residents Association (RRA) success with fund raising a quantity of superior possum traps have been purchased and have now been set in several locations depending on the type of trap, some on traplines within the park, some in private property on the boundaries of the Park. A parallel programme on the near edges of the Park (Moncks Spur Road, Bay View Road) is being supported by the RRA along with the establishment of a trap library. A stock of traps has been purchased for buying or borrowing by locals when they have a pest problem and to encourage backyard trapping. All traps used in the Park and available from the [RRA via Predator Free Redcliffs](#) dispatch pests humanely within CCC guidelines and no poison baits are used. Assisted by volunteer spotters the Rangers have finally removed all the sheep from the valley but any new escapees should be advised to the Council please. Plans for the year are to intensify trapping and include stoat traps as well.

#### [Ecological survey](#)

Joint inspections by our ecologist and the Ranger ecologist have identified a wide variety of native plant species including the sweet-smelling native jasmine (*Parsonsia heterophylla*), kawakawa (*Piper excelsum*), broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*) and *Coprosma virescens* and a few that are rare in the Port Hills area such as bamboo grass (*Microleaeana polynoda*). The importance of fighting back the weeds and nurturing seedling growth is strongly endorsed by these findings. *Muehlenbeckia* or Pohuehue is widespread doing a great job as nature's 'band aid' in Barnett Park. It stabilizes disturbed and scarred areas and protects bush edges from winds and drying heat. Pohuehue is also an important host for a variety of moths and insects which are a significant food source for many native species of birds and lizards that we hope to attract back. Locations suitable for additional plantings to extend/consolidate existing small 'patches' of established vegetation have been identified and ground preparation for planting will be undertaken over autumn before the planting season, commencing May. Gecko and skink lizards are present in the rocky areas and will be studied by Ranger specialists over the summer. This work is a necessary prelude to track remediation work that requires bringing down loose rocks from the bluffs some of which will inevitably land on or near lizard habitat. Plans for the year are to complete a plant species list and support the planting of new eco-sourced native seedlings.

## Plantings

Ranger Di sourced 800 eco-sourced seedlings (including kowhai, pittosporum and flax) and organised the site preparation and planting on the west side of the dog exercise area near the poplar tree margin to the sports ground. Local Redcliffs folks invited through various communication channels joined this effort. The meticulous preparation, planting guidance and subsequent release weeding have resulted in a very high survival rate and good growth at the time of writing. Vigorous grass growth has shaded the seedlings through the heat of the summer and will be cleared on a working bee on February 19 - diary it now. Three hundred seedlings have been secured for planting in the early winter in the locations identified by the ecologists. The planting experience from the earlier planting will be followed. Plans for this year include working bees to clear planting sites using grubbers.

## Track repair

The Rangers have budget available for expenditure this financial year to reinstate the track on the east side of the upper valley to the main cave but not beyond it. This requires specialist contractors to identify and make safe loose rocks in the bluffs and slopes above the track, careful and expensive work that is presently on hold awaiting Department of Conservation approval under the Wildlife Act to damage wildlife habitat. When the area has been made safe the track itself will be cleared and improved as far as the main cave. Plans for this year are to support the Ranger team in this work and in particular a review of the risk assessment used and lobby Councillors for additional budget to extend the work next financial year into the west side of the valley.

## Community involvement

We started this work without publicity or announcements to build and test our own resources and help ensure we could deliver the organisation and leadership to make it work. Our biggest challenge to date and into the future is to find activity leaders, people who can organise a small group to make progress on initiatives within the framework of the overall plan following the guidance and controls needed for safe and effective working conditions.

Looking to partnerships and the future we have introduced a group of Year 7 learners at Redcliffs School to the project and under careful supervision and guidance a group have started weeding a section of the park that they can adopt and follow through the years. Planting and predator control is on their agenda for this year. Plans for the year are to identify and support individuals who want to lead small groups to tackle weeding, planting and plant monitoring ???? other/more.

## Fundraising and spending

We have been successful in winning \$8900 from the CCC Sustainability Fund for specified expenditure on health and safety training (chain saw use), pest control, weeding (strong herbicide, tools), planting (seedlings, net surrounds), with reporting against these activities, community involvement and carbon dioxide sequestration. This money is held and administered by the RRA and a small number of quality weeding tools and equipment for use of the Redcliffs School learners is at the top of the list. Predator Free Redcliffs were also glad to receive \$3000 as a grant from the Sumner Ferrymead Foundation for predator control in Barnett Park. Plans for this year are to raise money for contract workers to do further banana passionfruit weeding.

Best wishes for 2022, Come and Join us Cynthia, Sue, Pat, Josie, Alan, Rosemary, Ruth, Martin and Martin. Follow us on Facebook [#teawakurabarnettpark](#)