



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
for the Waikato
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

Notice of a meeting of the

Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) to be held at:

Waikato Regional Council Hamilton – Waikato Room

On March 27, 2019, at 3.00pm

1	Karakia Timatanga
2	Apologies – Kelvin Mourtison, Dell Hood, Katherine Hay, Shepherd Isaac, Gwyneth Verkerk Attendees - Brian Habberfield, Greg Hill, Anna Casey-Cox, Martin Wallace, Andrew Sinclair, Leo Koppens, Kemble Pudney, Neville Williams
3	Visitors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.15pm Pirongia possum control - Brett Bailey• 3.30 Weed Control in Hauraki Rail Trail and in Karangahake - Darion Embling.• 3.45 WRC Weed Control – Patrick Whaley (tbc)
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 2018 Approved
5	Matters Arising from Minutes
6	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weed Control – ACRE’s thoughts – Brian• Payment of mileage to committee members – when?• Healthy Rivers – Expert Conferencing & Submission – Andrew Sinclair• Visit with Ngaati Hauaa – Anna• Food Talks Waikato – Anna and Andrew• ACRE nominations
7	Written reports - To prior to meeting please – members identify highlights for discussion Topics: Identify your topics of interest.

8	Next Meeting – 24 April 2019
9	Karakia Whakamutunga



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Minutes of the

Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) held at:

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On March 27, 2019, at 3.00pm

- 1 Brian opened the meeting with Karakia Timatanga
- 2 **Apologies** – Kelvin Mourtison, Dell Hood, Katherine Hay, Shepherd Isaac, Gwyneth Verkerk
3. **Visitors**

Pirongia possum control - Brett Bailey

Discussion around letter from the Pirongia Restoration Society regarding the escalation of possum numbers on Pirongia Mountain has been received and concerns noted. Looking at ways to support Pirongia Restoration Society going forward. The Kokako population has grown and spread to the Kaniwhaniwha catchment area. It appears that the WRC possum control in the buffer area is inadequate to prevent reinvasion of Mount Pirongia. Once Pirongia Restoration Society's funding applications have been approved WRC will meet with DoC to discuss how they can better support the Pirongia Restoration Society.

Landowners will be approached to answer any questions and alleviate any fears and to reach an agreement to gain access to the land. The next aerial drop is scheduled for Winter 2020 and there are concerns around the catchment areas. The Waipa District Council is committed to protecting the waterways and WRC will be following this up to see what ground infrastructure can be set up.

It was suggested that doing some work to reduce the rat and stoat population would be beneficial to the Kokako population. This will be discussed once the funding round has finished.

Private landowners are being provided free traps and bait and WRC are looking to extend this to Onewhero, Port Waikato and across to Miranda.

Weed Control in Hauraki Rail Trail and in Karangahake - Darion Embling.

The trails along the Railway lines are not owned by the railway so the land owners or occupiers are responsible for the weed control of those areas

WRC aims is to hit the key areas with high threat pests such as Alligator Weed, Old Man's Beard, Conifer & Japanese Knotweed. A hands on approach will be undertaken whether it's with the landowners or done by WRC. If the treasury bid is approved, there will be a lot more support for

weed control and kauri dieback initiatives. WRC is working closely with MTI concerning areas around the Waihou river and WRC has got some more funding for this.

WRC are looking more at special places in the Waikato and focusing on the threatened ecosystems. They are also focusing on the geothermal areas in the central North Island. WRC are working more on the Coromandel Peninsula in the scrubland areas where Radiata is coming back.

WRC are working closely with Iwi and building up the capacity for Iwi to do more work in this space.

Stock banks are owned by the Waikato Regional Council and have been told not to plant on the stock banks. However, this then requires a lot of weed control.

Discussion on the spread of Pampis and questions regarding why it is not a targeted weed.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 2018

Moved Kemble/Anna seconded

5 Matters Arising from Minutes

None

6 Other Business

Weed Control – ACRE's thoughts – Brian

There is a lack of funding for the control of weed varieties such as Pampis and Woolly Nightshade.

More information needs to be provided to community groups that are being funded to do work with the Billion Trees project. They need information on the right trees to plant to help with the weed control in the future. River Care is operating north of Hamilton, but there is a corridor of Pampis around Meremere and Mercer.

It has been identified that quarries have many pest weeds. Quarries should be getting yearly inspections and follow up to see that the work is getting done.

The focus of WRC is moving to where the special places are and defending those. ACRE discussed the need to look at total eradication and look at resourcing it. There is a need to support communities where they are willing to help, to make sure they are getting the funding and that they are provided with the right information to do the work well.

Payment of mileage to committee members – when?

It has been decided that mileage will be paid monthly at each meeting in the form of petrol vouchers to each member that attends the meeting. Kemble moved / Andrew seconded

Healthy Rivers – Expert Conferencing & Submission – Andrew Sinclair

We will make an oral submission to Healthy River's Plan Change 1. The original submission will be used as a basis for a presentation and this will be circulated to the people involved. A 10 – 15min

presentation will be held on 10th April in the afternoon.

Visit with Ngaati Hauaa – Anna

A meeting was held with Ngaati Hauaa Mahi Trust to invite participation in ACRE. The trust has a strong voice into WRC. They have limited time to be involved in ACRE directly, but are interested in what we are doing and would like updates.

Food Talks Waikato – Anna and Andrew

It was agreed that the Food Talks Forum is related to the ACRE purpose as it relates directly to Healthy Rivers and land use changes. ACRE can make contact with farmers and people already growing food to see if they are interested in the opportunities associated with necessary land use change.

ACRE nominations

A blurb will be put out to networks to encourage expressions of interest in joining ACRE. ACRE members can approach people who could make a good contribution - there are contacts in South Waikato that are worth following up on.

- 8 Next Meeting – 24 April 2019, 3pm at WRC**
- 9 Brian closed with a Karakia Whakamutunga**

Meeting closed at 17.05pm

MONTHLY REPORT

Name	Details
<p>Brian Habberfield-short</p>	<p>Back to usual Tuesdays with HELP Waihi after missing some due to my own work. HELP have biggest ever planting targets for the coming season, no more volunteers.</p> <p>Lots of watering and weeding own plantings and nursery. 500 native seedlings were picked up for the private 4000 tree project at Dickey's Flat that I'm supporting.</p> <p>Weeding riparian plantings at Waikino Recreation Reserve, spraying ahead for this season's plantings. Removed cattle beast from plantings, organising fence upgrade, chaired meeting, hosted two Sunday afternoon familiarisation walks for newer residents.</p> <p>Attended Kauri Dieback Consultation Hui at Mātai Whetū Marae, Kopu ki Hauraki, 7th March.</p> <p>Attended Wrybill Day at Miranda Shorebird Centre, bride river presentation etc. 10th March</p> <p>Walked a Raglan Ocean Beach trap line with friends, and observed the local school's Climate Change Strike and march, 15th March.</p>
<p>Andrew Sinclair</p>	<p>Attended Clevedon Hub day that was attended by around 50 people a couple of weeks ago. This included FLB Chair Angela Fulljames who is happy to report that she has already got a tally of 2 possums and I think it was 1 rat or hedgehog.</p> <p>Event Saturday / Sunday March 16th & 17th Planting 2500 native trees on Motukakaho, Potters Island.</p> <p>We have been doing some more monitoring around bats.</p> <p>We were invited to share part of the FLB stand at the Franklin A & P Show 3 weeks ago. Auckland Council helped out with supply of around 200 rat traps to give away and a few other bits & pieces.</p>
<p>Kemble Pudney</p>	<p>Attended Waiwhakareke Advisory Group meetings. Capital works to open up park progressing well. Major plant losses from last year's Arbor Day – hot days and frosts during layout, serious hare browse, basin plantings where the soil has been greatly altered by many years of farming. Mitigation measures in place. Still working on Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Attended Predator-Free Hamilton Meetings. Continuing set up of community</p>

	<p>predator control round Fairfield Project, others in prospect – Glenview, Ranfurly Gully. Met WRC and HCC new staff now associated with predator control.</p> <p>Attended NZ Biodiversity Workshop, run by DOC.</p> <p>Attended meeting on Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy pilot project. While there are probably enough hooks in it to hang biodiversity restoration on (including a 10% area of city in natural areas target), it seems very light on fauna/predator control, lacks an implementation plan at this stage, and the analytic framework used to identify sites for restoration & conservation has produced a very small area of priority sites that are by no means the obvious candidates. There is to be a consultative workshop in April; is it ACRE business?</p> <p>Attended Tui 2000 meeting.</p> <p>Produced a letter (potentially from PFH) in support of the proposed legal action against the wording of the Citizen Initiated Referendum on predator control toxins, but then PF NZ pulled the pin. My initial impression was that they had a case and certainly the Clerk of the House needs a good talking to, but if the judgement was about dignifying a very biased and poorly worded petition with more attention than it merited – perhaps they are right.</p> <p>Working on progress report for WCEET on Tui 2000 grant for Waiwhakareke.</p>
<p>Anna Casey-Cox</p>	<p>Attended vege growing expert conferencing with Andrew</p> <p>Attended the DOC Biodiversity Strategy hui</p> <p>Organised a gathering of gully groups to feedback about the Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy Pilot Project.</p> <p>Working with HCC to organise community meeting for groups to have say on Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy - April 12th</p> <p>Arranged for Go Eco to start Bat tours with Waikato Museum</p> <p>Organising Te Papanui, EnviroExpo at the Waikato Show, April 5-7.</p> <p>Organising Project Echo to be at Peacockes Development Open Day - April 3rd.</p> <p>Completed funding application to get coordination funding for Project Echo</p> <p>Visited Ngāti Hauā Mahi Trust</p>
<p>Dell Hood</p>	<p>Regular Weedbusting, potting and Waiwhakareke releasing</p> <p>NFRT trustee meeting</p> <p>A visit with NFRT chair to a potential new purchase</p>

	<p>Participation, along with many other ACRE members, in a recent DoC sponsored hui about the NZ Biodiversity Strategy which is about to be revised.</p>
<p>Kelvin Mouritsen</p>	<p>This month Waiaro Sanctuary hosted 20 students and 3 tutors from Polytech and had some fantastic results with all the extra eyes and ears.</p> <p>The Kiwi on the Western Moehau are doing real well and heaps were heard.</p> <p>Two students saw and recorded a long tailed bat which was exciting and our gecko.</p> <p>ACO 's have worked very well with over 10 sighted as well as the Ecologist saying it was the best setup he had ever seen and said the baby ones indicated that they were breeding in our ACO's.</p> <p>Also prolific life was recorded in the stream, so yep buzzing. Was wondering if anyone knows how long is the official time between poisoning operations eg 1, 2 or 3 years.</p>