



**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

On August 28, 2019, at 2.30pm

1	Karakia Timatanga
2	Apologies Dell Hood Neville Williams (WRC)
3	Visitors - 2.30pm-4pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Judy van Rossem - WRC- Nardene Berry – Landcare NZ Trust- Bala Tikkietty - WRC- Jane Wheeler – DOC- Sam Mcelwee – Waikato Biodiversity Forum <p>Focus of our discussion: a collaborative review of the conservation, restoration and biodiversity networking and promotional opportunities.</p> <p><i>One of ACRE's role is to help spread the word around the Waikato Region re enhancing Biodiversity and connecting people with the outdoor environment. Local and Regional networking days are a part of how this is achieved. The current situation has for example the likes of the Waikato Biodiversity Form events in 4 areas over a 2 year period. There is the annual Landcare Networking day which up until now has been mainly held reasonably close to Hamilton primarily in dairy type country. A number of organisations have also participated in the Te Papanui Enviroexpo at the Waikato Show and a number of organisations, including DOC, have stands at the Mystery Creek Fieldays.</i></p> <p><i>With the growing interest in the environment, the likes of Predator Free 2050, Healthy Rivers Plan Change, WRC / DOC etc collaboration and 1 Billion Trees is there potential for the Region to be more coordinated and effective in its approach to networking events and promotion?</i></p> Visitors - 4pm-4.30pm <p>Susan O'rourke from Brent Sinclair's team - consents required for integrated constructed wetlands. ACRE's idea is that WRC might be able to construct a manual related to this, so that the consents are more affordable and the work more possible.</p>
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting – July 2019
5	Matters Arising from Minutes
6	Other Business
7	National Biodiversity Strategy
8	Written reports – members to identify topics of interest



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9	Next Meeting Wednesday the 25 th of September, 3pm at WRC
10	Karakia Whakamutunga



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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**Minutes of the
Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) held at:
Waikato Regional Council Hamilton – Waikato Room
On August 28, 2019, at 2.30pm**

1 Karakia Timatanga – Brian Habberfield

2 Attendees

Anna Casey-Cox
Andrew Sinclair
Brian Habberfield
Kemble Pudney
Greg Hill
Kelvin Mourtison
Martin Wallace

Apologies

Neville Williams (WRC)
Dell Hood
Leo Koppens

3 Focus of discussion: a collaborative review of the conservation, restoration and biodiversity networking and promotional opportunities

Visitors

Jane Wheeler (DOC)
Sam McElwee (Waikato Biodiversity Forum)
Nardene Berry (NZ Landcare Trust)
Bala Tikkisetty (WRC)
Gemma Morgan (WRC)

A discussion took place regarding what networking events are taking place in the Waikato, with a focus on how they are created and planned. The aim is to give ACRE a better understanding how they can work together to support and understand events that are taking place. There are currently 52 land care groups functioning in the Waikato. They run field days in and around the region with the original intent of engaging with people to communicate what is taking place and synergise efforts. DOC, Waikato Biodiversity and NZ Landcare Trust were invited to discuss their current events and how they reach the wider community.

Waikato Biodiversity Forum - The land care networking and biodiversity forum was held in November 2018 at Lake Ngaroto, which was a collaborative event between NZ Landcare Trust, Waipa District Council, Waikato Regional Council and the Department of Conservation. The event was organised to enable representatives from all the land care and community groups in the Waikato to discuss current issues affecting their areas and offer support. It was intended to develop an understanding of each group's programmes and strategies. The 2019 event will take place on 19 November at the Otatau Community Hall.

Sam has regular meetings with local councils and organisations to assist each other in achieving their goals. He is in the process of creating a new website for the forum and redeveloping their newsletter. The newsletter could potentially be issued monthly instead of three monthly as it is now. It is an important way the forum communicate to their stakeholder's important events or



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notices. ACRE agreed the newsletter would be a good avenue for themselves to help get information out to the wider community. It was suggested that ACRE and the Forum could collectively submit submissions.

Department of Conservation (DOC) - Jane Wheeler is involved in field days and conservation week, which takes place in September, and actively encourages other groups to hold events during this period. DOC financially gives funding to the two biodiversity forums each year. Jane mentioned that the DOC Living Waters team attended the field day at Lake Ngaroto and was impressed. They saw potential for collaboration in particular around peat lakes. DOC has a commitment with Waikato Tainui to support their events in various ways. Jane recently organised a consultation event in Raglan for the Maui dolphin which had 200 people in attendance – one of their biggest events.

NZ Landcare Trust – The trust has a solid foundation of working collaboratively to support rural communities and sustainable land management. Nardene runs a number of events which includes at least one land care event per day - which she does in collaboration with other groups. Landcare NZ actively works with other groups to leverage how best to get information to land owners and groups. An example of this is the peat lakes where they are working with land owners on catchments, sediment traps and planting. Landcare NZ actively gets information out to the public and relevant stakeholders through their website, such as case studies and guidelines.

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) - Bala advised of the Sediment Loss Mitigation and Pole Planting Field Day which is taking place on 24 October regarding soil erosion, water quality and sustainability. The focus is on farmers, rural professionals, research scientists, including land care groups and community groups.



Sediment loss
mitigation and pole

It is important that community groups and scientists come together to improve the environmental situation. Community participation is important to help spread information and to mitigate issues. Bala advised that WRC are considering providing funding to other groups who take similar policies of environmental management and reducing stress on stakeholders such as councils. His work also includes working with Real Estate agents regarding what their role is and how they can help achieve WRC's purpose. This will allow agents to have a basic knowledge of what is occurring, and how to communicate the message consistently to their clients.

WRC works intensively with the farming industry and researchers, including Fonterra, Dairy NZ and local farmers. Bala is involved in a phosphorous uptake programme and the associated issues involved, and also how it can be utilised to not go into the environment. WRC also actively provides technical advice and skills to groups.

Gemma advised that a governance group has been formed between DOC, University of Waikato, Trust Waikato and the Rivers Science Chair. There is a new Team Leader called Amy who will pick up the involvement of this group and get the ball rolling. Amy will be invited to a future meeting moving forward to provide ACRE with an overview of what has already been done by community groups and the way forward.



Consents required for integrated constructed wetlands

Visitors

Suzanne O'Rourke (WRC)

ACRE has noted the consent process for integrated constructed wetlands can be onerous for applicants, and discussed the possibility of ACRE advocating for the region by developing a simpler manual to make it easier for consents to be granted.

Suzanne O'Rourke, the Team Leader from WRC's Coasts and Inland Waters team, advised that there are specialised teams within WRC that are dedicated to different areas of expertise, such as farming. The consents are tied into the Long Term Plan and cannot be easily changed.

ACRE to carry out research into what other countries have implemented in similar situations overseas, and how it can be applied to New Zealand.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting – July 2019

Change to previous minutes: "Kemble has tried to undertake strategic plant ordering with nurseries but it has not worked out" to be changed to "WRC is clearing house for information about upcoming plants for potential suppliers".

List of attendees to be added to future minutes.

Minutes accepted - moved by Kemble, seconded by Andrew

5 Matters Arising from Minutes

Anna to invite a guest speaker to a future meeting regarding the approach to plan changes on land use and wetland construction.

6 Other Business

Shepherd Isaac verbally tendered his resignation from ACRE due to personal commitments and did not stay for the duration of the meeting.

Greg raised the issue of the Mangaonua stream and gully located near Cambridge Road in Hillcrest. There is no group actively maintaining the stream which means that it is accumulating tyres and rubbish. Greg has volunteered to form a group who can help look in after the area. It was mentioned that Leo is involved in a similar group nearby but he too requires more people. It was suggested that Greg raise the issue with Ngati Hauhau and George Lusty.

Andrew suggested that in September ACRE revisit the earlier agenda item regarding collaboration as there was not a great deal of certainty arising from today's discussion and no one leading the topic.

Waikato biodiversity forum – ACRE could discuss their vision of incorporating advocacy for more sustainable land use and connecting people with the environment. This could help the public better understand sustainability of land use, food production and reducing fossil fuels.

Conversation hubs – It was determined that there needs to be more regional hubs and ACRE is advocating for this. Ideally there would be one hub or multiple hubs in every area for landowners to get information from.



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7 National biodiversity strategy

It was agreed ACRE will prepare a placeholder submission where it can be taken further if inclined, and a discussion is to be held with NZ Landcare Trust and DOC.

Forest and Bird are also preparing a strategy to submit.

8 Written reports – these were circulated prior to the meeting

9 Next Meeting

Wednesday the 25 of September at WRC, 3:00pm

10 Karakia Whakamutunga - Brian Habberfield

MONTHLY REPORT

Name	Details
<p>Brian Habberfield-short</p>	<p>Ngāti Hauā Mahi Trust visit and nursery working bee with ACRE and others.</p> <p>Noho at Wharekawa Marae, Kaiaua, appreciation of low land around recently flooded area, learning some history of Ngāti Paoa, with Te Whare Tāhuhu Kōrero o Hauraki.</p> <p>Regular weekly planting of Waitekauri riparian with plants from my nursery, and working with HELP Waihi in nursery and local plantings.</p> <p>Further infill planting from my nursery at the F&B Morgan Reserve in the Waitekauri valley, and pest trapping there and further up.</p> <p>Helped load bait stations at Aongatete Forest Project, south of Katikati.</p> <p>Supported friends at fundraising concert for the planned Paeroa Re-use Centre.</p> <p>Photographed a resting and slightly injured Leopard Seal on Waihi Beach, to help the Leopard Seal group identify the individual.</p> <p>With HELP Waihi and Tirohia School extending the native planting there on the Hauraki Rail Trail.</p> <p>Attended Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Conference at Auckland Museum.</p>
<p>Kemble Pudney</p>	<p>PFH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Distributed traps to new members of community trapping groups b) Attended monthly Trust meeting c) Launched catch recording software d) Filed Charities Commission Annual Report for Trust <p>Tui 2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Attended monthly meeting b) Reviewed information and correspondence relating to Tui 2000's GST position <p>Attended Waiwhakareke Advisory Group monthly meeting</p>



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	<p>General</p> <p>a) Was interviewed by GoEco intern concerning community participation in Plan Change 2 consultation. He is from Bengal and is keenly interested in environmental issues because of the challenges that province faces.</p> <p>b) Went to “The Biggest Little Farm”, in the film festival currently showing in Hamilton. It concerns the establishment of a farm based on ecological principles in California, on land that had been wrecked by exploitative mono-culture horticulture. It covers roughly a ten year period and brings out the trials, successes and failures along the way. I was left with many questions but it is an excellent film that I firmly recommend. Two further showings at the Lido in Hamilton, Monday 2 September at 3.45 and Tuesday 3 September at 6.15.</p> <p>c) Attended Hamilton Civic Awards ceremony - an inspiring group of people including Katherine Hay.</p> <p>Prepared brief notes on National Biodiversity Strategy but could not attend meeting - passed them on to Katherine, who did attend.</p>
<p>Anna Casey-Cox</p>	<p>Supervising and supporting Alapan Chowdhury's internship at Go Eco - two research projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) organic farming and water quality 2) healthy rivers and community participation <p>Attended Regenerative Agriculture event in Rotorua with Shepherd</p> <p>Organised meeting to discuss Lake Rotorua water quality reports</p> <p>Joined students to advocate to HCC for declaration of a climate emergency & climate action plan</p> <p>Attended Civic Awards for Katherine Hay</p> <p>Attended Waikato Wellbeing Advisory Group - Economic wellbeing</p> <p>Attended NZ Biodiversity Strategy consultation</p> <p>Interviewed Hugh Jellie from Āta Farms about Regenerative Agriculture http://www.accessradio.org/ProgrammePage.aspx?PID=2bffd9cf-5551-41a7-a70e-8720dc87454c</p> <p>Tree planting at Waiwhakareke - organised by Earth Diverse</p> <p>Panelist on Oxfam Climate Change event at University</p> <p>Met with Mayor Andrew about climate action plan - he is keen to extend predator free work</p> <p>Supporting organising of Te Puna Kai o Waikato kai project networking day on Saturday 14th of September.</p> <p>Supporting organisation of a Climate Summit on September 21st in Hamilton. This event has come out of the Mayoral Forum and will bring people in from around the region to showcase climate action.</p> <p>Supporting event to celebrate women and environmental action - Hine e Hine on Sunday 22nd of September - including panel discussion with Katherine Hay, Claire St Pierre and Donna Kerridge at 1pm</p>



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	Supporting organizing of Project Echo bat walk on Saturday 21st of September around Hamilton Lake - 3-4pm
Dell Hood	<p>Organised 455 trees to be transported to Ed Hillary Hope Reserve on Friday 09 August, laid them out with help and then oversaw and participated in their planting by 20 volunteers on Sunday 11 August – during a break in otherwise continuing rain. The walk in the reserve planned for the rest of the day was postponed. Hamilton Junior Naturalists and Waikato Forest and Bird provided most of the volunteers.</p> <p>Planted trees at Friends of Waiwhakareke’s last planting day for the season, and again for an Interfaith planting day at Waiwhakareke several weeks later. This included the planting of 51 kahikatea in memory of those who lost their lives in the Christchurch mosque attacks. Many new New Zealanders came, some had never planted a tree, dug a hole or even held a spade before. Some adults had come with sand pit spades.</p> <p>Attended two most interesting public lectures at Waikato University, one on river geomorphology and the other on extremophile organisms</p> <p>Attended another of Waikato Botanical Society’s winter talks, held monthly on Mondays at 1800, open to all, on botanical topics presented informally at a widely accessible level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participated in a Native Forest Restoration Trust meeting• This coming weekend I will be participating in a further dune replanting at Nukuhakari, a remote location on the west coast just north of Awakino. We planted there 3 years ago, so it will be interesting to see how the spinifex and pingao have progressed. They were part of a research project using different planting conditions.
Andrew Sinclair	<p> Whakaupoko Landcare Annual Re</p> <hr/> <p> Hub attendance.xlsx</p> <hr/> <p> Waikato Landcare Networking Day_fin</p>



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