

# Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

## Wellington Youth Council

### Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 July 2022  
**Time:** 3:00pm – 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Wellington Zoo, 200 Daniell St, Newtown

#### Purpose

- Assist and advise the City Council on how to help grow a great City where young people thrive and contribute to the City Council's priorities.
- Bring extra insight to Council (a youth perspective) to solve problems facing a challenging world.
- Develop the capabilities of its members (including leadership and engaging wider youth).

#### Membership

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Anastasia Reid
<b>Members:</b>	Ben Bridle, Artemis Crawford, Finley Duncan, Nīkau Edmond-Smaill, Ella Flavell, Kalani Fransen, Caspar Levack, Henry Lockhart, August Metherell, Teresa Ng, Ashleigh Putt-Fallows, Anastasia Reid (Chair), Kady Saxon
<b>Liaison Councillors:</b>	Tamatha Paul, Jill Day (alternate)
<b>WCC Staff:</b>	Emily Deans (Democracy Advisor), Silas Phillips (Advisor Mataaho Aronui)

## Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 3.00pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
  3. Ella, Henry – for lateness;
  4. Leandra, Akira, Ali, Josh, Keelan, Andrew, Cr Day, Cr Paul, Greer, Meredith, Jamie – for absence.

No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

## Items

1. Walk around Wellington Zoo and take photos for the website
  - Youth Councillors spent an hour wandering around Wellington Zoo getting to know each other while taking photos for the website and social media.
2. Updates
  - Anastasia farewelled Jackson, John and Waimarama and thanked them all for their contributions to Youth Council over the years.
  - Anastasia gave an update on the Annual Report and Workplan. Anastasia will create a group chat for the 2021/22 Youth Councillors to work on the Annual Report. We will do a further session on the workplan priorities, ranking the different areas we could focus on to build on the discussion we had in the last meeting.
  - Anastasia gave an update on arts sector meeting organised by WCC that she attended. This was more of an update rather than an engagement, but they will be engaged with young people in the next months.
3. Conservation and experience at the zoo, *Presented by Amy and Ox*
  - Amy (Director Communication, Experience and Conservation) gave a short presentation about Wellington Zoo. Key points from the presentation were:
    - Wellington Zoo was opened in 1906 – the first in country!
    - In 2003 the Wellington Zoo Trust became a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO). The Wellington Zoo Trust is the NGO that runs the zoo on behalf of the Council, the Trust must raise 25% of the costs.
    - Wellington Zoo is the first zoo in the world to get carbon certified (over ten years ago!) and possibly the first to get the rainbow tick.
    - They also host a Neighbours BBQ night for Newtown residents and are a significant part of the Newtown Community.

- Animal welfare is critical for modern zoos. Welfare is what the animals experience whereas care is what zookeepers do for the animals. Wellington Zoo follows the five domains of animal welfare to ensure the animals are in neutral and positive welfare. We're always learning more about animals as they go through their lifecycles.
- We're in the process of building a new habitat for two sister snow leopards from Melbourne Zoo.
- Wellington Zoo collaborated with Taranaki Whānui on the zoo strategy, especially around conversation and sustainability.
- Ox (Conservation Manager) shared slides (enclosed) and spoke to Youth Council about the conservation efforts at the zoo including:
  - Zoos started out as menageries where animals weren't in good conditions.
  - Modern zoos now have naturalistic habitats where the point isn't to show power or to entertain, but rather on education and conservation.
  - Wellington Zoo has been focused on conservation for a long time - there's an article from 1920 where Wellington Zoo was advocating for conversation of kiwi.
  - Zoos play a conservation role for animals in the following ways:
    - **Insurance populations** in case animals die out in the wild. The Wellington Zoo have the Tasmanian Devil as part of an insurance population.
    - **Breeding for release/restoration.** For example, the kākā released at Zealandia were bred at the Wellington Zoo.
    - **Rehabilitation and vet care.** The Nest | Te Kōhanga at the Wellington Zoo looks after injured native birds. An example is after Australian bushfires local zoos look after animals impacted by the smoke and fire.
  - Ox thinks education and advocacy is the most important thing that the zoo does. There's an important role in sharing what you can do to help animals. For example, there's a current campaign to keep cats indoors to keep wildlife safe: [www.safecatsafewildlife.org.nz](http://www.safecatsafewildlife.org.nz)
- Amy and Ox answered (many) questions from Youth Councillors including:
  - **Why do the tigers pace? Does that mean they're unhappy?** They are anticipating the food by pacing before they receive the food. If they pace all day that's a concern but if they are pacing just before food that's normal.
  - **How do we keep snow leopards cool?** The habitat will have plenty of shade and cool spaces. Snow leopards don't actually live in the snow they live

lower down in mountains (and are moving lower and lower down to find food where people live).

- **Who are the biggest funders of conservation?** Along with zoos; WWF, Nature Conservatory and Flora and Fauna are biggest global funders of conservation.
- **When will the snow leopard enclosure be finished?** Construction is hoping to finish on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Dec and hopefully we will be open for visitors by 20 January 2023.
- **How much does WCC contribute to the zoo?** WCC contributes about 3.8 million for operating expenses every year (find out more in the long-term plan).
- **How do you decide what animals are here?** There's a whole range of factors. We make sure we have staff expertise for the animal, enough physical space, animals are good visitor animals, there is strong conservation message for having the animal and making sure we can care for the animal for their whole lives (Cockatoo live for 70 years!). Wildlife trafficking is a huge market, so we never pay for our animals. There is a zoo database of animals. For the native animals there's a lot of government involvement. For example, with the Tasmanian devils we needed Australian government approval.
- **How do animals get to the zoo?** Depending on the size of the animal they fly or drive. We need a large hold for a snow leopard so they can't fly into Wellington (as the runway is too short) so they will drive down from Auckland. The giraffe came to us by boat.
- **How do you choose the plants in the enclosures?** We try to match their natural habitat with non-toxic, hardy plants that won't get destroyed.
- **How do dogs react to the giraffes?** We've had service dogs come through Wellington Zoo and we have two dingoes who walk around the zoo, but we're not sure how they reacted to the giraffes. The meercats band together as the dingoes are seen as a threat.
- **Have any animals ever escaped?** Amy's been here 16 years and it's happened less than 5 times. One time one of the monkeys escaped and was on the roof. It's not really a big problem as the animals feel safe in their spaces so generally don't really want to explore outside of their habitats.
- **How do you become a zookeeper?** There's a Unitec certificate in animal management. Lots of staff have degrees in biology, zoology or conservation. Other staff (like Amy) come from other areas like marketing and communication.

- **One of the giraffes only has one eye?** Sunny only has one eye, as when he lived in a zoo in Australia and suffered an eye injury. He's had no eye since he was very young.
- **How do you operate on a giraffe?** We've built equipment where staff can stand at different heights to access different parts of giraffe. The veterinary staff also train the giraffes to keep still.
- **Are there ever injuries of zookeepers caused by animals?** There are no opportunities for dangerous animals to come across staff or visitors but there are occasionally injuries or bites from smaller animals.
- **How do you decide which animals to have in public spaces with visitors?** We do research and learn from experience and colleagues about which animals are okay with people walking through their space. We did welfare studies on the sheep recently to see if they seek shelter when visitors come in, turns out sheep don't care.

Youth Councillors thanked Amy and Ox for their time and Wellington Zoo for having them!

The meeting concluded at 5.10pm.

## Information

**Next meeting date:** Wednesday, 3 August 2022

### Portfolio / Working Groups:

- Election working group (led by Henry)
- Youth Hub (led by Josh)
- Annual Report (led by Anastasia)
- Communications working group (tbc)



WCC Youth Council 2022

# Conservation at Wellington Zoo

Ox Lennon  
Conservation Manager, Wellington Zoo  
[ox.lennon@wellingtonzoo.com](mailto:ox.lennon@wellingtonzoo.com)

*Pronouns: they/them*



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Zoo









Gorillas Land | Dublin Zoo  
©Mantrize



## Modern zoos

Left top, left bottom, bottom right – Wellington Zoo







# Scope of zoos

700 million visitors per year

In NZ ~1.5 million visitors per year

Third largest funders of conservation globally – US\$350 million per year

1,000 (~10%) of zoos and aquariums worldwide participate in federations and/or accreditation bodies



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# Zoo conservation

- Breeding programmes
- Insurance populations
- Breeding for release
- Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation
- Funding for in situ conservation
- Staff time/expertise
- Research
- Education
- Advocacy



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**Zoo**



# Insurance populations

Tasmanian Devil at  
Wellington Zoo, part of  
Save the Tasmanian  
Devil Program

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**Zoo**

Kākā released at  
Zealandia were bred  
at Wellington Zoo



Breed for release



# Rehabilitation & vet care



Nationally Vulnerable toroa treated at The Nest Te Kōhanga at Wellington Zoo



70% of patients at The Nest Te Kōhanga are native species





# In-situ conservation



# In-situ conservation – local grants

- Remote camera monitoring of Chatham Islands tāiko
- Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park Supporters Inc.
- He Kākano: Nursery Infrastructure *Pae Tū Mōkai ō Taurā Incorporated Society*
- Conservation of kororā
- NZ native bee school ecosystem project
- Wellington Cable Car Bird Strike Prevention
- Wooden trapping tunnels made by Scouts
- Pīngao and spinifex restoration trial
- Kārearea/NZ falcon protection project





# Staff time & expertise



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# Research



Wellington Zoo staff on their way to Matiu Somes Island to monitor lizards for DOC

- Veterinary research
- Research students
  - Chimpanzee behaviour
  - Kea behaviour
  - Tūī lead exposure
  - Biodiversity in the Zoo and restoration site



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# Education & advocacy

Zoo visits increase understanding of biodiversity and conservation actions (Moss et al 2014)



**ZOO**  
**AQUARIUM**  
ASSOCIATION  
AUSTRALASIA




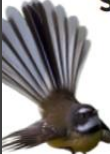
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# Sustainability

- Toitu CarboNZero certified
- Solar panels
- Collecting rainwater
- On-site compost
- EVs and charging stations
- Climate Action



Our CEO with WAZA Environmental Sustainability Award



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**Zoo**

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Questions &  
discussion

