

**Environmental Reference Group Meeting**  
**6 November 2006**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

Councillor Celia Wade-Brown (Chair)  
Graeme Hastilow (Ngati Toa)  
Liz Hibbs  
Chris Horne  
Laura Hubbard (Youth Council)  
Ian Hunter  
Dave Kettell  
Stephen Sargent  
Ian Shearer

**Apologies:**

Ralph Chapman  
Mike Ennis  
Debbie Firestone  
Jennie Francke  
Tushara Kodikara  
Murray McLea  
(GWRC)  
Ruth Paul  
Charity Stuart

**WCC Officers:**

Jim Ebenhoh (Strategic Advisor)  
Moana Everson (Treaty Relations)  
Amber Bill (Open Space and Recreation Planning)  
Genevieve Drake (Open Space and Recreation Planning)  
Jo Gillanders (Open Space and Recreation Planning)

**Information-Sharing and Announcements**

Members shared information on upcoming environment-related events, including:

- Thurs. 16 Nov: Greater Wellington Passenger Transport Committee
- Sun. 26 Nov: Tararua Tramping Club Native Plant Identification Day
- Throughout Nov-Feb: various guided walks and workshops at Otari-Wilton's Bush: see pp. 14-15 of latest BranchOut newsletter:  
<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/gardens/pdfs/bospring06.pdf>
- 23-24 March: BioBlitz at Otari-Wilton's Bush, conducting an inventory of flora/fauna. For info contact Johanne McComish, [mccomish@paradise.net.nz](mailto:mccomish@paradise.net.nz) or 476-2925.

**Otari-Wilton's Bush Management Plan Review**

Amber Bill (Planner – Ecology and Diversity) summarised the content of the draft Otari-Wilton's Bush Management Plan, which is a review of the 1996 Plan. Submissions are welcome from November through 26 January, with hearings to be held in February 2007 if required.

Comments from members of the group included Otari's relative lack of staff compared to the Botanic Gardens, the need to mention sustainability of the man-made structures (such as the information centre), and the important linkages to Project Kaiwharawhara.

### **Northern Reserves Management Plan**

Jo Gillanders (Manager, Open Space and Recreation Planning) gave a presentation on the framework for the new Northern Reserves Management Plan. The Plan will focus on existing areas owned or managed by Wellington City Council, plus areas the Council would like to acquire. It won't cover the Outer Green Belt or Belmont Regional Park. There will be 12 management areas within the Plan corresponding to the 12 suburbs in the area. The Plan will build on the Northern Growth Management Framework agreed by the Council a few years ago, and it will promote connectivity through links to an Open Space Access Plan.

The Plan will be released for public consultation in mid-2007.

Comments and questions from members of the group included the following:

- Graeme asked how Maori sites of significance were identified. Gen Drake replied that conversations have taken place with Ngati Toa and will continue.
- Stephen asked whether wind turbines will be allowed. Jo replied that the Plan will discuss 'utility structures.'
- Chris asked whether access points via unformed roads can be identified and provided. Jo said this will be part of the Plan.
- Celia suggested mentioning the important contribution of private suburban gardens, and Stephen mentioned green roofs.

### **Next Meeting**

The ERG will be touring the Southern Landfill and Living Earth facility at 5:30pm next Monday, 13 November.

The next meeting will be Monday, 11 December, from 5:30-7:30 pm at the WCC offices (Committee Room Two) at 101 Wakefield Street.