
Bushy Park Trust Annual General Meeting

10 December 2011

Commenced: 10.15am

Bushy Park Homestead, Wanganui

1. Present

Ian Brown (Chairman), Brian Rhodes (Treasurer), Rosemary Rippon (Secretary), Wilf Emmett, Denis McGowan, Barry Wards, Dougal McIntosh, Peter Robinson (in attendance)

Bronwyn Crow, George Walter, Peter Frost, Paul Gibson, Allan Anderson, George Brown, Stan Butcher, Elizabeth Tennet, Chris Devine, David Burnham, Bryan Christie, Kelly Brider, Barry Edwards, Bob Marshall, Penny Robinson, James Allen, Dave Feickert, Jing Jiang, Mike Dolling, Lesley Dolling, Laraine Dolling

2. Apologies

Hugh Stewart, Jim Howard, Mary Payne, Al Dennard, Dave and Carol Digby, Arthur and Pam Davis, Margaret Bailey, Richard Thompson, Marion Davenport, Shirley Thain, Henry and Helen Ngapo, Rick and Anne Brown, Alistair Whyte, Joan Worthington, Rupert and Di Haynes, Wayne Armishaw, Pauline Allen

It was resolved that:

The apologies be received. Denis McGowan / Dougal McIntosh

3. Welcome

Ian Brown introduced the Board and extended a warm welcome to all.

4. Minutes

It was noted that the minutes of the previous meeting had not been circulated. **Rosemary Rippon** read the Minutes of the previous AGM held 6 November 2010.

It was resolved that:

The minutes of the AGM held on 6 November 2010 be accepted as true and correct record. Allan Anderson / Elizabeth Tennet

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Ian Brown read the Minutes of the SGM held 28 February 2011.

It was resolved that:

The minutes of the SGM held on 28 February 2011 be accepted as a true and correct record.
Barry Wards / Dougal McIntosh

5. Matters Arising

It was resolved that:

The minutes of the 2010 AGM and 2011 SGM are posted onto the Bushy Park website.
Peter Robinson / Peter Frost

Allan Anderson requested that the minutes of the AGM be amended to include a response from the Board regarding the Rapley dispute and to record the discussion about vindication of his position.

Barry Wards raised a Point of Order that this request was out of order since the meeting had already resolved that the Minutes of the AGM be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting and we could not now decide otherwise.

Ian Brown responded that the dispute is between Allan Anderson and Rapley, not with the Board. The Board has received letters formally advising it that Rapley is retracting previous correspondence. The Board has accepted the retraction and has initiated a formal response, yet to be prepared by Hamish McDouall.

Peter Frost enquired what the Board had achieved re funding / fundraising since the last AGM. **Brian Rhodes** responded that a successful application had been made to PowerCo for fire doors and insulation. **Ian Brown** responded that Biodiversity Condition Fund money has been approved for a Reserve Manager / Volunteer Coordinator (to be appointed) and Lotteries Commission funding had been received for a Gecko and Skink Project. **Allan Anderson** advised that a number of grants / funds had been successful for hihi translocation.

Peter Frost asked what has been done to increase volunteer base aside from the email questionnaire. **Denis McGowan** responded that letters had been sent to volunteers / employees asking them to detail their expertise and activities in order to inform the Board about the extent of volunteer and employee involvement at present.

Derek Round asked why the Minutes from the last AGM were not circulated prior to this meeting. **Rosemary Rippon** responded that with the number of documents that needed to be posted on the website and / or mailed out, the omission was simply an administration oversight.

Derek Round asked whether the stakeholder groups, currently identified in the constitution, had been formally approached /asked to provide nominations to the Board.

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Ian Brown responded that they had not, primarily because of previous failure to attract nominations and because the Working Party Report's recommendations to the Board were very specific about the Board adopting a more practical alternative structure.

Derek Round asked why the developments on the Working Party Report had not been reported to the membership as agreed at the SGM. **Ian Brown** responded explaining that the Board had not been in a position to report as discussions were not complete and apologized for not communicating this to the members. Dealing with day to day issues, maintenance and a number of urgent problems, along with addressing the Working Party Report, has left little time for other activities; the Board's activities are accounted for in the various reports prepared for this AGM.

Dave Feickert commented that Madame Li (executive and conservationist from industrial background in China who donated US\$1000 following a visit to Bushy Park last year) would now like to develop a relationship with Bushy Park for the future. He also commented that it would be nice to hear some enthusiasm in the meeting; all members of the Bushy Park Trust have potential for fundraising and promotion.

Penny Robinson asked that the Chairman's Report and the Treasurer's Report be read.

6. Chairman's Report

Ian Brown tabled and read the 2011 Chairman's Report for the Bushy Park Trust.

It was resolved that:

That the 2011 Chairman's Report for the Bushy Park Trust be adopted.

Ian Brown / Penny Robinson

Peter Frost queried whether the proposed committees were broad enough to cover all aspects of the park and buildings, with particular reference to education, tourism and conservation. He also noted the need for synergy to be developed between house and forest. **Peter Robinson** responded that there had been much discussion over the types of committees and the scope they covered to ensure all aspects of the Trusts responsibility were covered and they had sufficient integration between them. He noted that they were all committees of the Board, with no authority to act without endorsement by the Board. He was happy that the broad categories covered all aspects of management under the control of the Trust Board.

7. Homestead & Buildings Report

Denis McGowan tabled and introduced discussion on the current status of the homestead and buildings:

- **Homestead** – People are naturally passionate about a building of this age, size and style. However, in order to maintain it, significant money is required in the short-

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terms as well as over the medium and long term. It is estimated that the immediate heritage protection to cover repairs, fabric deterioration and health and safety issues would be of the order of \$200-250,000. The sprinkler system code of compliance issues are now resolved which will allow the building warrant of fitness to be achieved for the next 12 months (has not been current for past 2 years).

- **Stables / Interpretive Centre / Ernie's Room** – An assessment has concluded that these areas are currently dangerous, unsafe, and illegal. Will require ~\$100-150,000 to meet the current code of compliance.
- **Bunkhouse** – The bunkhouse is currently not compliant and would require ~\$20,000 to bring it up to the current code of compliance plus address creature comforts.

The Trust Board has responsibilities with respect to heritage values and commercial aspects and these can often be at odds with one another. The lease locks the Board into 2017 with 10 year rollover to 2027 at the lessee's initiative. The Trust has responsibilities, therefore, under the lease agreement.

Denis concluded that we need to demonstrate Bushy Park is a winner.

8. Wetlands Report

Wilf Emmett tabled and read the wetland report.

Chris Devine asked whether provision had been made to protect gecko and skink habitat within the wetlands. Much of the habitat lies within close proximity of the lake such that any change in the level of the lake will destroy the existing habitat of two critically endangered species, the Southern North Island skink and the Gold stripe gecko. **Wilf Emmett** responded that plans do not show the habitat in question and it will be necessary to carry out on-site inspection prior to commencement to ensure this is taken into account.

9. Species Introduction Committee Report

The species introduction report, prepared by **Hugh Stewart**, was tabled and read by **Ian Brown**.

Peter Frost (Project Manager for hihi reintroduction) noted that accommodation has been booked on Tiritiri Matangi 25/03-12/04 to catch hihi for translocation. The primary focus is conservation but the hihi introduction also has an education advocacy role and is likely to attract further funding once the birds are established at Bushy Park. There is also a research component as hihi dispersal across open ground is currently being monitored (Kate Richardson).

Allan Anderson noted that funds raised to date include \$15,000 from WWF – NZ, \$5,000 from the Hihi Recovery Group and \$10,000 from the Taronga Field Conservation Fund. Air NZ has donated \$2,000 (flying time for transporting the birds from Tiri to Wanganui).

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There is also another funding application pending. Kate Richardson has research funds for monitoring and tracking, including fitting transmitters to birds before release. There is a core team of scientists on Tiri with translocation expertise but they still require a further 3 volunteers with mist-netting experience. A team is also required in Wanganui for release to Bushy Park.

Chris Devine noted that the saddleback population at Bushy Park now exceeds 300 and there is a proposal underway to relocate Bushy Park saddleback to Cape Kidnappers.

10. Annual Financial Report

The accounts, audited by Silks Accountants, were prepared and presented by **Brian Rhodes**.

The discussion on the accounts noted that:

- The remaining Bushy Park books are undervalued – they provide a very good historical record of Bushy Park and should be marketed in the community via bookshops / local outlets and on sale at the Homestead and I-Site. Thoughts were expressed that the price should be increased to \$20 and commission offered on sales.
- There should be an honorarium paid to the Board's secretary, treasurer and lawyer - while currently there are insufficient funds available, there was a need to reconsider the current position as well as consider putting monetary value on the work done by volunteers to give a more realistic value of projects. **Ian Brown** noted that the Board had discussed this.

It was resolved that:

The new Board consider payment of an honorarium to the secretary, treasurer and lawyers.

Derek Round / Penny Robinson

It was resolved that:

The Board consider putting a dollar value on the work done by volunteers.

Peter Frost / Peter Robinson

It was resolved that:

The Annual Financial Report be adopted.

Brian Rhodes / Dougal McIntosh

11. Notices of Motion

The notices of motion were introduced by **Peter Robinson**.

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11.1 Constitution amendments: Management & Administration

The two motions received were noted as follows:

- (a) *That the rules of Bushy Park be amended in terms of the changes detailed in the draft rules attached to this motion as item 'A'.*
- (b) *That the Trust adopt the consolidated updated rules incorporating these changes as item 'B' attached in place of the existing rules.*

Peter Robinson / Brian Rhodes

It was resolved that:

The members of the Bushy Park Trust adopt the document containing all recommended and proposed changes as the sole Constitutional document for Bushy Park.

Peter Robinson / Brian Rhodes

It was noted that the Area Office for the Whanganui Conservancy includes Tongariro and Taranaki Conservancies and is now situated in Taupo. This was recommended as an amendment.

It was suggested that a further amendment be made to item 15 (Constitution of the Board) such that the appointing organizations are named at ii) '6 members appointed by the following community interest organizations – Wanganui District Council, Horizons Regional Council, NZ Historic Places Trust (Head Office), Department of Conservation, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (Head Office), Nga Rauru (local iwi).

It was resolved that:

Subject to the amendments noted above, the Bushy Park Trust adopts the consolidated updated rules as per the changes recorded.

Peter Robinson / Brian Rhodes

11.2 Constitution Amendment: Objects & Purposes

The motion received to be added to the "Objects and Purposes" of the Constitution was noted as follows:

To reintroduce native fauna species with emphasis on rare and endangered species where the translocation of such species is compatible, and in collaboration, with national recovery plans.

Allan Anderson / Paul Gibson

Penny Robinson commented that this was an admirable idea but expressed some concerns around incorporating an amendment on reintroduction without a Biodiversity Plan being in place for Bushy Park. There is a need to protect what is already present and a full plan to encompass that had not been done.

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Peter Frost noted that there is a need to develop a Biodiversity Plan for Bushy Park that is in line with the National plans.

Barry Wards supported Penny Robinson's comments and added that the generic nature of the existing 'Objects and Purposes' already captures the amendment in a broader sense.

Peter Robinson responded that the statement was considered to be a refinement of a general power and confers authority in a way that is more acceptable to funding authorities.

It was resolved that:

The Constitution be amended to incorporate motion, as written, into the Objects and Purposes.
Allan Anderson / Paul Gibson

12. Election of Officers

Ian Brown introduced the election of officers by explaining that, this year, the members are asked to elect two new members to the Board since three of the current Board members will be retained, as follows: **Denis McGowan** (2 years), **Brian Rhodes** (1 year) and **Wilf Emmett** (1 year).

Two nominations had been received and the resumes were tabled. Since there were no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were declared closed and two new members, **Derek Round** and **Allan Anderson**, were elected to the Bushy Park Trust Board.

13. General Business

Derek Round noted that this year was the 40th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and NZ and it was appropriate to cement relations with China and, in particular, Madame Li.

It was resolved that:

The Annual Meeting of the Bushy Park Trust thank Madame Li for her generous contribution to Bushy Park, her interest in and support for Bushy Park, and invite her to accept appointment as Honorary Ambassador for Bushy Park in the People's Republic of China.
Derek Round / Ian Brown

Bronwyn Crow commented that she was an employee at the Whanganui I-Site and said it was very difficult to promote Bushy Park because District Council promotional publications do not include Bushy Park and no brochures, maps etc are forthcoming from Bushy Park. Promotional / display space is available and needs to be utilized. She asked whether it would be possible to sell the Bushy Park book through the I-Site.

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Peter Frost commented that the existing brochures need to be updated and recommended artist **Des Bovary** as a very good person to prepare promotional material.

Paul Gibson noted that signage off the highway was lacking and it needed to include 'Sanctuary / Homestead' to attract visitors.

Bryan Christie noted that Ballantynes Honey had previously given permission for signage to be placed on their shed and that a further approach would be necessary if this were to proceed.

Stan Butcher commented that the timing of the AGM needs to be addressed - it was now too late in the year and there were too many conflicting commitments for many to attend.

Allan Anderson noted that a formal invitation had been received for the new Board to visit Pukaha from Pukaha / Mt Bruce Trust Board.

Elizabeth Tennet proffered thanks to Ian Brown from the members in his capacity as Chair, and to other retiring members of the Trust Board for the work done on behalf of Bushy Park.

14. Meeting Close

Ian Brown thanked everyone for their attendance and valuable input and declared the meeting closed.

The meeting concluded at 13.35pm and members / guests invited to partake of light refreshments.

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