

19 July 2024

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Official information Request: Featherston Walkways & Reserves Trust**

I am writing to you in response to your request received 4 July 2024 for the following information:

*The formation, composition, constitution, actions and dissolution of the Featherston Walkways & Reserves Trust (c2007-c2013), including MOUs, action plans, reports and resolutions, particularly in regard to Barr-Brown Reserve.*

We have assessed your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). I have the following information to provide a response -please refer to the following attachments:

#### **1. Featherston Walkway Trust MOU information**

Contains copies of a number of documents, including the MOU (2012) and an action plan for the Barr-Brown Reserve (2008).

The information withheld on pages 1, 34 and 38 relates to personal contact details under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA: to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

#### **2. Featherston Community Board meeting, 5 June 2012**

Featherston Community Board - Officer's Report from 5 June 2012. The purpose of report was "To obtain approval for the Featherston Walkways & Reserves Trust Action Plans 2009 and Memorandum of Understanding 2012." It includes action plans for Dorset Square Reserve, Otairua Reserve and Featherston Domain.

#### **3. Request - Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust, 23 March 2016**

A request for additional funding for maintenance of Featherston parks and reserves for Annual Plan 2016/17.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. If this request is selected it will be published at <https://swdc.govt.nz/lgoima-proactive-release/>, with your personal information removed.

You have a right to request a review by the Ombudsman on this response. Further information about this process can be found on <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-ombudsman-can-help/complaints-about-government-agencies/how-make-complaint> or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Thomas', is positioned below the 'Kind Regards' text.

Rob Thomas  
Manager, Stakeholder Relationships

# Attachment 1



21 March 2012

37 Daniell Street  
Featherston 5710

Attention: Suzanne Clark  
South Wairarapa District Council  
MARTINBOROUGH

Dear Suzanne

As discussed please find enclosed (3) copies of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust which has been signed by the Acting Chairman of the Trust and by the Chairman of the Featherston Community Board.

Graham Guy is the Acting Chairman until the AGM of FWRT on 9 May as agreed at the meeting on 14 March 2012.


The Action Plans of the (4) Reserves will remain as they are at present.

Thank you

Regards

  
Thava Guy  
Secretary

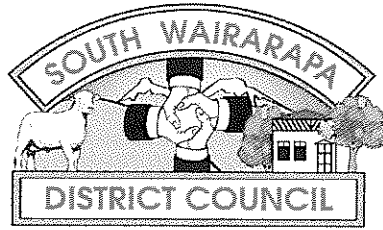
Phone: 

Email : 

Enclosure: (3) Copies of the Memorandum of Understanding







**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF VOLUNTEER-BASED MANAGEMENT  
PURSUANT TO THE RESERVES ACT 1977  
BARR BROWN RECREATIONAL RESERVE, DORSET SQUARE RESERVE,  
FEATHERSTON DOMAIN AND OTUAIRA RESERVE**

**1. THE PARTIES**

This Memorandum of Understanding is an agreement among the following parties:

- The South Wairarapa District Council, hereafter known as "Council".
- Featherston Community Board, hereafter known as "the Community Board".
- Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust, hereafter known as "the Trust".

**2. PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to set out the roles and responsibilities of Council, the Community Board and the Trust in the implementation of the volunteer based management of Featherston's Barr Brown Recreational Reserve, Dorset Square Reserve, Featherston Domain and Otuiria Reserve.

**3. COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ACTION PLANS**

The Trust will manage the operational details and governance requirements relating to the following reserves, as detailed in the Action Plan for each reserve and in this Memorandum of Understanding. This shall be carried out according to the responsibilities outlined in Section 5, noting particularly that a Councillor and/or Community Board member shall be appointed to any action plan committee, and the Trust shall liaise with the Council's Group Manager Infrastructure and Services regarding operational issues. The Trust will review and update the Action Plans as needed, obtaining approval from Council and Community Board for the updated Action Plans.

**Barr-Brown Recreational Reserve**

Council resolved (*DC2008/347*) on 24 September 2008 to approve the Trust's Barr Brown Recreational Reserve Action Plan (appendix A).



### **Dorset Square Reserve**

The Trust's Dorset Square Reserve Action Plan was adopted by the Featherston Community Board at the March 2010 meeting and by Council at their March 2010 meeting (appendix B).

### **Featherston Domain**

The Trust's Featherston Domain Reserve Action Plan was adopted by the Featherston Community Board at the March 2010 meeting and by Council at their March 2010 meeting (appendix C).

### **Otuaira Reserve**

The Trust's Otuaira Reserve Action Plan was adopted by the Featherston Community Board at the March 2010 meeting and by Council at their March 2010 meeting (appendix D).

## **4. PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES**

By this MoU the parties record their intention and commitment to establish a responsive, positive and balanced working relationship exercising co-operation, flexibility and trust.

In doing so the parties;

- Will work together towards maintaining and developing the health, vitality, functionality, sustainability and appearance of the respective areas;
- Recognise that these projects require a long term approach and commitment;
- Agree to always act in the best interests of the respective areas and the community;
- Will work together to proactively resolve any issues that arise in the delivery of the respective action plans;
- Acknowledge that the management of the areas is a dynamic process that may need to be reviewed from time to time in order to achieve the best results.
- Agree that the key deliverable of the MoU is the effective and successful implementation of the respective action plans.

## **5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED**

The roles and responsibilities of the main parties to the agreement are clearly identified below.

### **South Wairarapa District Council:**

Ensures that concept designs, detailed drawings and construction works comply with the Reserves Act 1977 and meet other statutory requirements i.e. RMA and Building Act, OSH, (particularly those areas affecting functioning of roads and footpaths so that vehicle and pedestrian safety are maintained)

- Ensures that any roading or network utility operators (including NZTA, TranzRail, PowerCo, Infrastructure and Services) requirements are met re. roading, railway, lighting underground services
- Ensures appropriate project management skills are applied to any development works
- Approves final plans, expenditure and processes payments



**Featherston Community Board: –**

- Approves concept designs for restoration and amenity enhancements.
- Endorses expenditure of funds from any funding secured by the Trust in consultation with Council.
- Monitors and addresses issues affecting local businesses and the wider community.
- Works with the Trust in seeking funds for restoration and amenity development.

**Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust: –**

- Includes a Councillor and/or a member of the Featherston Community Board any Action Plan Committee convened by the Trust.
- Includes a Councillor and a member of the Featherston Community Board on the Trust Board.
- Liaises with Council's Group Manager Infrastructure and Services on all operational issues including any aspects requiring compliance with statutory requirements (i.e., OSH requirement regarding felling of trees), roading (i.e., traffic safety) or network utility operators.
- Initiates and seeks funds for restoration and amenity development.
- Coordinates volunteers to implement the approved Action Plan.
- Obtains Community Board and Council approval for any proposed changes to approved Action Plans and any other development plans.
- Recommends restoration and amenity development works and budgets to the Community Board and the Council within available funds.
- Liaises with wider community on general matters.
- Monitors work progress against approved budgets in conjunction with the Council.

**6. OWNERSHIP**

The ownership of any capital works and improvements on the reserves or other Council land (i.e., road reserves) as a result of the implementation of the Action Plans and any other Council approved development plans are the assets of the Council. Any equipment purchased by Council or with funds allocated by Council associated with the implementation of the action plans remains the ownership of Council.

**7. ISSUE RESOLUTION**

Should any issue or disagreement arise in relation to the interpretation, application or operation of this agreement, it shall be addressed, in the first instance, between the Community Board and the Trust to see if the issue or disagreement can be resolved. The three parties will act in good faith to resolve the issue or disagreement.

If the issue cannot be resolved then Council will agree to provide an independent mediator.

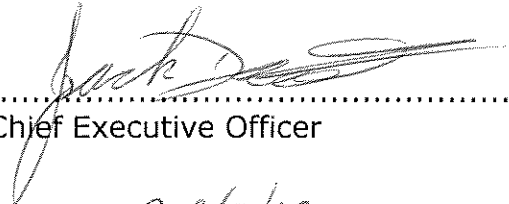
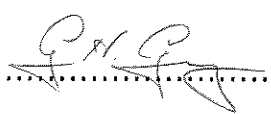

**8. REVIEW**

This agreement will be reviewed on a three yearly basis or earlier if all the parties agree.

**9. TERMINATION**



This agreement may be deemed to be terminated if the Trust ceases. This agreement may also be terminated by Council if, in Council's sole view, the Trust is no longer actively functioning and/or is no longer performing its obligations as set out in this Memorandum. This agreement may also be terminated at any time by the written agreement of the parties. Any termination of this agreement shall be without prejudice to the rights of either party against the other and the Council in terminating this Memorandum under this clause shall not be required to give reason or any explanation as to why pursuant to this clause, it has elected to terminate the Memorandum.

<p><b>Signed on behalf of South Wairarapa District Council</b></p> <p></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Date ..... 26/3/12 .....</p>	<p><b>Signed on behalf of Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust</b></p> <p></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Chair /acting</p> <p>Date ..... 14/3/12 .....</p>
<p><b>Signed on behalf of the Featherston Community Board</b></p> <p></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Chairperson</p> <p>Date ..... 19/3/12 .....</p>	

**Appendices: Action Plans**





Mrs Barrow queried the opening hours of the Featherston public toilets, and noted that the motor caravan camping ground area needed to be opened to the public for use as soon as possible.

### **Garry Thomas**

Mr Thomas reported that he was in the process of inviting members from the various Featherston community groups together with the aim of achieving better coordination of community projects.

#### *FCB NOTED:*

1. Action 7: That graffiti on the Featherston Playground equipment be urgently removed; M Allingham
2. Action 8: On behalf of the Community Board write to Minister Paula Bennett and MP John Hayes requesting meetings to discuss assistance for Featherston youth in need; Lee Carter
3. Action 9: Advise the Community Board the Featherston public toilet opening hours during winter and summer and when a repair to the toilets will be progressed; M Allingham
4. Action 10: Advise the Community Board when the Information Centre will be painted using the Dulux paint grant; M Allingham
5. Action 11: Trim, clean, tidy and spray the Featherston motor caravan area so it can be opened. Liaise with Brian Allen of the Motor Caravan association regarding assistance with signage; M Allingham

## **9. FEATHERSTON WALKWAYS AND RESERVES TRUST MOU**

*FCB RESOLVED (FCB 2012/07)* to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust, the Featherston Community Board and Council subject to the referenced 'Works and Services Manager' being replaced by the 'Infrastructure and Services Manager'.

*(Moved Thomas/ Seconded Barrow)*

**Carried**

## **10. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **10.1 Wairarapa Victim Support**

The Community Board reviewed the application for financial assistance from Wairarapa Victim Support. The Community Board wanted to obtain additional information such as how support is being provided to the community, the benefit of the support given, the number of victims supported, and the number of volunteers that reside

#### **DISCLAIMER**

*Until confirmed as a true and correct record, at a subsequent meeting, the minutes of this meeting should not be relied on as to their correctness*

6. **MESSINES WAY MEMORIAL**

Mr Thomas reported that he had sourced pictures of the Featherston War Memorial Camp cookhouse and had a concept design for a BBQ area drawn up based on the original building. Mr Thomas was getting the design priced.

7. **FEATHERSTON STREET FLAGS**

The Community Board discussed the quotes and expressed concern regarding the durability and life of the flags given exposure to the Featherston elements versus the capital outlay. Options such as a shorter display period, an alternative mechanism for attaching the flags to the poles and neon lights were discussed.

*FCB RESOLVED (FCB 2012/06):*

1. That the purchase of flags for permanent display along Featherston Main Street be put on hold for review in July 2012.

*(Moved Barrow/ Seconded Thomas)*

Carried

8. **COMMUNITY BOARD/COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

**Phil Robertson**

Mr Robertson felt that Featherston's appearance was disheartening due to non working street lights, graffiti, empty sections, derelict buildings and bad behaviour by youth. The Community Board expressed a desire to make a change and the CEO undertook to continue working with Powerco to correct the street light problem.

**Lee Carter**

Mrs Carter reported that on behalf of the Community Board she was sending a sympathy note to the families impacted by the balloon disaster. Mrs Carter was to take part in the earthquake readiness practice at the Featherston Community Centre which was being run by the Red Cross.

**Cr Robertson**

Cr Robertson had met with the Aratoi Foundation and updated the Community Board on the sculpture project. Aratoi were seeking expressions of interest from five artists.

**Cr Sexton**

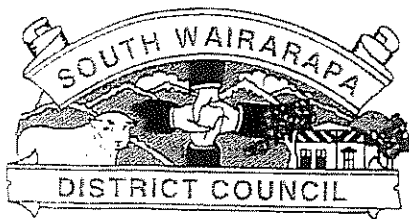
Cr Sexton reported that a fence at the Featherston Cemetery required repairs however this was being progressed through the Reserves and Amenities Focus Group.

Tenders had been received for removing the macrocarpa trees on Underhill Road. These trees would be removed when the contract had been awarded.

**Helen Barrow**

**DISCLAIMER**

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## POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA – 27 August 2008

### A Conduct of Business

- A1. The meeting will be held in the District Council Chambers in Martinborough and will commence at the conclusion of the District Council meeting. The meeting will be held in public (except for any items specifically noted in the agenda as being for public exclusion).
- A2. Apologies
- A3. Public Participation  
None.
- A4. Minutes for confirmation: meeting of Committee held on 23 July 2008. Pages 1-2

### B. DISCUSSION TOPICS

- B1. Financial Discussion  
Accounts
- B2. Committees - Terms of Reference
- B3. Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust – letter dated 15 July 2008 and Proposed Action Plan: Pages 3-27

*Recommendation from Featherston Walkways Reserves Trust that Council approve the Trust's Action Plan for the Barr-Brown Reserve, noting:*

1. *The plan is for a volunteer-based management of the Barr-Brown Reserve by the Trust.*
2. *Under S42 of the Reserves Act 1977, Council has responsibilities for the preservation of trees and bush.*
3. *Action 8 contains a proposal to change the status of the reserve, which will involve public notification, and a submission that "hopefully these costs will be borne by Council".*



The Acting CEO, and Mayor  
South Wairarapa District Council  
P O Box 6  
MARTINBOROUGH

Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust  
C/o P O Box 57  
FEATHERSTON

15 July 2008

Dear Adrienne

Attached is the Trust's Action Plan for the Barr-Brown Reserve which we are submitting for Council's endorsement.

The ecological management of the reserve is of primary importance in this plan. There are other considerations, such as the need for a bridge over the Boarbush Stream, which would help maximize its *social* usefulness, but as it is the ecological health of the reserve currently most under threat, that is our focus for the first three years included in this plan.

We are aware that the Council has limited resources. We have made submissions to the Annual Plan and (and the Rural Reserves Management Plan) putting forward arguments in support of raising the priority of the Barr-Brown (and other Featherston Reserves) for Council attention in the expectation that this will raise their prospects for funding eligibility. We will, nonetheless, be seeking grants from philanthropic organizations, and government. Organisations we will be approaching include Prime Community Trust, Lion Foundation, J R Mathews Trust, Ron Greenwood Trust, Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund, Eastern and Central Community Trust, Trust House Charitable Trust. We will start this process once you accept the Action Plan.

The quotes we have included for work required in the Barr-Brown Reserve are from All Seasons Tree Services (already known to you), and Forest Protectors, which has a well-known track record for weed control and forest management, and comprehensive knowledge of NZ plant ecology. The owner also runs the local branch of the Kiwi Conservation Club and so has experience with volunteers which we hope to draw on. We will, however, be seeking additional quotes for the tasks we have outlined in the Action Plan.

Maintenance of the Reserve (and this applies to the other reserves in the proposed walkway) is currently mostly in the hands of Department of Corrections Community Workers (formerly PD workers). As we establish ourselves we will undertake a campaign to recruit volunteers. We believe this is essential to develop a sense of ownership by the Featherston Community as a whole, including school children, and to complement the skills and tasks performed by the Community Workers. We are seeking to formalize our relationship with Department of Corrections so that we can better co-ordinate with their Featherston visits with the maintenance needs of the Trust. This might best be achieved by using the Council's already established connection with the Dept of Corrections.

Support is already coming from the community and Council. Featherston Community Board has contributed to signage (now waiting for Council approval) for Barr Brown (and the walkway system in general), and individuals have spontaneously expressed an interest in volunteering for maintenance work. Apart from SWDC (through Featherston Community Board), SW Rotary have already, and Featherston Lions will be contributing to the improved management of Barr Brown. (Featherston Lioness Club, SW Rotary, and Featherston Lions, have either

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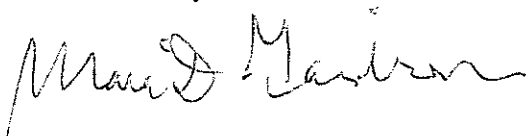
already been very generous with financial support for the walkway concept, and Featherston Lions have pledged their support for erecting the new signs.

Current access to the Barr-Brown Reserve is limited. It is restricted by the steep approach (soil filled tyres) from Underhill Road where there is no hand rail for the less able-bodied. The Kereru Grove entrance is also restricted for a good part of the year when Boarbush Stream has water running through it. The Trust believes that the Kereru Grove approach is safer for walkers requiring parking than Underhill Road which is rather narrow and is now in quite regular use. A bridge over the stream within the reserve would encourage the use of this safer alternative entrance and open it up more for use by a greater number of people. We have not sought quotes for a bridge because of our focus at this time is on the restoration and health of the bush. However, we think it desirable that a bridge be built as soon as possible.

We have established contacts with organizations, apart from funders, with an overlapping mutual self-interest in the reserve - Wairarapa Department of Conservation, Department of Corrections Community Workers, Wairarapa Branch of Forest and Bird, and Greater Wellington Regional Council.. (Contacts made in regard to the walkway in general include - Destination Wairarapa, Featherston Promotional Group, Featherston Phoenix, Featherston Information Centre, and other Featherston tourism attractions). We intend to keep in regular contact with all these and other groups.

We look forward to continuing the relationship we have already developed with the Council and look forward to a more formal partnership both for restoring Barr Brown Reserve and developing a walkway system for Featherston. Please contact me if you require further information, or an electronic copy of this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Maria Fairburn  
Convenor  
Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust

Cc  
Chairman  
Featherston Community Board

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**Barr-Brown Reserve  
Featherston**

**Proposed Action Plan**



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**Barr-Brown Reserve, Featherston  
Proposed Action Plan**

**To:** The Acting CEO, South Wairarapa District Council

**Date:** 22 July 2008

**From:** Maria Fairburn, Convenor, Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust

**Address:** c/o P O Box 57, Featherston 5741.

**Phone:** 06 308 8294

**Email:** fwrtrust@gmail.com

**Request:** To accept the following plan for volunteer-based management of the Barr-Brown Reserve by the Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust.

**Location:** Underhill Road, Featherston

**Legal Description:** Lot 31 DP 46642 and a portion of Watt Street (paper road)

**Size:** approximately 20,000m<sup>2</sup>

**Ownership:** South Wairarapa District Council

*Barr-Brown Reserve, Featherston:* (a better quality and larger print is included at the end of this document)



**Purpose:** To manage Barr Brown Reserve to retain and enhance its natural values while increasing its availability to the public. The benefit of this work would be a great boost to the biodiversity of the whole area, far in excess of the limits of the site itself. In addition, the reserve is well used as a walking track, so the enhancement of its natural integrity will be enjoyed by old and young.

**Introduction:** Barr Brown Reserve is a lovely remnant lowland forest within the Urban Zone of Featherston. This relatively small reserve (20,000m<sup>2</sup>), supports some large, old totara, matai, and kahikatea. These trees were once a part of the primary forest that clothed the entire Wairarapa Plains. This area has had two extensive botanical surveys, by Tony Druce in 1977 (Appendix A) and Pat Enright in 2004 (Appendix B). Druce's survey emphasises the importance of this bush area, and compares the forest type at Barr Brown Bush with one in a Scientific Reserve in Otaki, the Kiripiti Scientific Reserve.

Barr Brown Reserve has frontage on Underhill Road and Boarbush Stream flows along its southern edge. The interior of the reserve is crossed by a number of well formed tracks, and the site is popular with local families.

Tony Silbery of the Department of Conservation, Wairarapa Area Office, (see Appendix C) notes that the main threats to the sustainability of the native plants and animals in the reserve come from its small size and, as a result of this, the likelihood that it could eventually succumb to the spread of weeds. (Note, that Pat Enright, a Featherston resident and botanist, last month identified another weed, *Lonicera japonica*, to add to the list he compiled in 2004 in Appendix B).

While not a great deal can be done to increase the land area of the reserve, Mr Silbery has identified an Action Plan, outlined below, to maintain and enhance the natural values of the reserve. The Featherston Walkways and Reserve Trust is committed to help achieve this programme.

**Association with Other Activities:** The Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust (FWRT) is currently publishing a brochure showing the walking connections amongst four of the reserves in Featherston. Barr Brown is one of these reserves.

The Trust's long term goal is to develop a network of tracks, highlighting special natural features, including the Barr-Brown and other reserves, for the enjoyment, and education of residents and visitors. Promoted properly, such a development will also enhance Featherston's economic development opportunities.

**Barr Brown Reserve Action Plan:** The following eight (8) tasks outline an Action Plan for the Reserve. The primary tasks of replacing large exotic trees and invasive groundcover with native plants would take place over the next several years. Ongoing weed control will be required to maintain the health of the reserve. Animal pest control is also necessary. Animal pest control can start as soon as Council agree to this plan. Weed control will begin once funds are raised.



The management of Barr Brown is regulated under the Reserves Act 1977, which requires South Wairarapa District Council to authorise any maintenance of bush, including the felling of trees (see Appendix D).

**Task 1: Council Endorsement**

Obtain South Wairarapa District Council Resolution endorsing the Barr Brown Reserve Action Plan and the management of this Action Plan in cooperation with the Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust.

**Task 2: Removal and continued control of ground cover weeds.**

Weeds that pose the greatest threat to the integrity of the forest include the climbers Old man's beard, Ivy, Japanese honeysuckle and German ivy, all of which have the potential to smother large areas of forest canopy. On the ground, the creeping Wandering Willie and Veldt grass can smother smaller understory plants, along with seedlings of the taller trees and shrubs.

This work will be initiated along the frontage with Underhill Road as a way to generate publicity and to make these first efforts more visible to the general public.

Because exotic tree removal (Task 6) may require branches to be left to rot down naturally beside the tracks, we have opted for an initial blitz in the first two years on understory weeds so that they are less likely to spread amongst the rotting branches which would make future maintenance difficult. (see attached Forest Protectors quotes for \$3150 + gst, and \$2110 + gst).

Removal of the ground cover weeds will be a demanding and painstaking task that will in all likelihood take some years to achieve. After the first two years, volunteer labour, coordinated by the Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust will be put into effect and some additional costs will be incurred for gloves, tools and refreshments.

**Task 3: Seed collection from native plants in the reserve, and cultivation to a plantable size.**

Planting in the reserve should be confined to those species that are already there and ideally, seed for the plants would be taken from the reserve itself. It would take a year or two for the plants to grow to a plantable size.

Advice on seed collection and cultivation is available from the Greater Wellington Regional Council's Take Care Programme, the Department of Conservation and the book

*Native Forest Restoration: a Practical Guide for Landowners* (1993) by Tim Porteous, published by QEII.

A basic shade house could be constructed, perhaps on ground associated with the Featherston Community Centre or one of the local schools, and plants will be nurtured by Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust volunteers until ready for planting. Funding is necessary for building supplies, compost and planting bags.

**Task 4: Planting on areas cleared of ground cover weeds.**

This would be an on-going task undertaken by volunteers in association with Tasks 3 and 6. FWRT have made a presentation at the AGM of the Wairarapa Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Society, and the Society has expressed interest in seeking South Wairarapa members involvement.

**Task 5: Initiate and sustain animal pest control.**

No signs of possums were seen during a visit on 11 April 2008 by Mr Silbery. He notes that the wider area is part of a Regional Council/Animal Health Board possum control zone for bovine TB, so numbers are likely to be low.

However, it will be important to bait to target rats initially and continue to target possums, and where possible, rabbits. Mr Silbery also notes that due to the size of the reserve and proximity to housing, care will have to be taken to avoid any unintended kills.

The Trust puts public safety first and foremost. As a consequence, FWRT will forgo trapping at ground level and will focus on control of predators, especially rats, with Brodifacoum, well known as a domestic rat poison (used by GWRC, in, or close to, urban areas). GWRC have inspected the reserve and have agreed to supply six discretely coloured bait stations (olive, brown, so as not to attract vandal attention) which will be attached about 4 m up trees towards the centre of the reserve away from the walking tracks, and which will require a ladder to re-bait. Volunteers (we already have two who live near the reserve) will be trained by GWRC to manage the bait stations. GWRC will assist with the appropriate signage indicating predator control, and will be covering the cost of the training, bait stations, baits and signage.

**Task 6: Staged removal of the larger exotic trees done in a controlled manner.**

This should be carried out so that the potential for damage to the reserve from the removal operations and resulting wind movements are minimised.

If left to nature, as the mature exotic eucalypt, pine, macrocarpa and poplar, age and begin to fall, light gaps would allow the establishment of aggressive weeds to the detriment of the native plants. Staged removal of the largest exotic trees is a prudent

action to undertake before this could happen. (Note - South Wairarapa Rotary have already provided FWRT with \$450 towards this task).

Staged removal, as the name implies, is a long-term and gradual process. Large exotic trees would be removed from the interior of the forest first, then from the area on the perimeter of the bush where competition from exotics for light and space is currently causing die-back of natives and preventing natural regeneration.

A thick band of windbreak trees will remain as they are on the southern, and western boundaries (on the south and western sides of the main exterior track) to maximise protection for the natives closer to the centre of the reserve.

The principle of gradual staged removal, is somewhat in conflict with the simplest method of extraction. All four arborists consulted, and a firewood merchant have highlighted the fact that the easiest way to remove the wood is through private property on the northern side of the reserve. We have consulted with Paul and Liz Pepper, Janice Chappell, and Brian Adamson (one co-owner has yet to be consulted). They have agreed in principle to access through their properties where it is practicable provided all damage is minimised and rectified. However, we would want to minimise inconvenience and disruption to these landowners by removing as much material as possible in a single exercise rather than repeatedly returning. A trade-off is therefore necessary to minimise wind-damage to the native trees, on the one-hand, and the inconvenience to neighbours (and expense to FWRT) on the other. We believe the proposed 3-stage removal will achieve this and would require 2 extractions, one through the Pepper's property and one through the Chapple/Hoedemeackers property. Bryan Adamson has agreed to a local wood merchant to use his olive grove for access. Extraction of trees would occur in summer when the ground is hard to minimise damage to the forest floor and to the private properties concerned.

Another option for extraction for some logs is through the Boarbush Stream bed, when dry, at the end of Watt Street. This is acceptable to the GWRC but this would have to be negotiated and discussed with the Council as well.

Other possibilities for extraction include using a chopper to lift out one very large macrocarpa near the bush centre which would have value as timber - Amalgamated Helicopters have provided us with costs for such an operation, and leaving logs/branches in situ to rot down.

Priorities for staged removal will be based on the amount current damage that competition causing with native flora so the few exotics amongst the natives in the centre of the reserve would be removed first. These include 1 pine, 1 douglas fir, 1 macrocarpa, and 2 poplars. This will be the most expensive removal as the trees have to be dismantled rather than felled to avoid damage to surrounding natives. (See attached All Season's Tree Services quote for \$8,500 + GST). A quote for using a chopper to remove these has not been quoted for but should be considered.

Second priority for removal are the 27 macrocarpas within the perimeter of the track on the western side of the reserve. These can be felled rather than dismantled. (See attached Forest Protectors' quote for \$3000 + GST). Extraction through the Chappel/Hoedemaecker property on the northern side of the reserve is assumed.

Third priority is the removal of 1 poplar, 2 gums, and 10 pines from the northern side of the reserve. (See attached All Seasons Services' quote for \$11,806 + GST).

Fourth priority is the pruning of the pines on the southern side of the reserve where they are preventing light getting into the centre of the reserve but which are simultaneously providing shelter from the south.

**Task 7: Plant suitable native species where exotic trees have been removed.**

Areas cleared of large exotic trees need to be replanted with suitable native species as soon as possible after clearance and weed control. Small native replacement trees for these areas will be collected locally (transplanted) with advice from the Regional Council Take Care Programme. All trees and plants will be eco-sourced from seeds collected from the reserve (Task 2).

**Task 8: Public awareness and proposal to re-classify the status of the reserve.**

A small sign currently identifies the reserve, and another, which actually names the reserve, is now awaiting Council approval. This sign provides a contact for potential volunteers to make contact with FWRT, should they wish to help with maintenance.

Currently, the reserve status, under the Reserves Act 1977, is Recreation Reserve (see Appendix D). This is a status more appropriate to an area used for playing fields, such as the nearby Card Reserve. We wish to propose a status change to Scenic Reserve to better reflect its value and management purpose. Changing the status will involve public notification and hopefully these costs could be borne by Council.

This subject has already been raised informally with the Mayor and she has been looking at other more appropriate status classifications.

**Anticipated Costs over 2008 - 2010:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Task 1:</b> South Wairarapa District Council Resolution (July 2008).	\$0	-	
<b>Task 2:</b> Spraying weeds	\$3150	\$2110	\$0
Spraying/clearing weeds, gloves, tools, and refreshments (on going)	\$0	\$0	\$150
<b>Task 3:</b> Seed Collection - Construct shade house - building supplies, compost and planting bags ( 2008 start)	\$100	\$50	-
<b>Task 4:</b> Planting on areas cleared of ground cover weeds (June – November of each year)	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Task 5:</b> Possum and rat bait and bait stations (year round)	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Task 6:</b> Staged removal of the larger exotic tree (Summer)	\$0	\$8,500	\$3000
<b>Task 7:</b> Plant replacement trees (June – November of each year)	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Task 8:</b> Signs at entrances to reserve and proposal to reclassify (July 2008)	\$500 (in hand)	-	-
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>\$3,750</b>	<b>\$10,660</b>	<b>\$4,150</b>
			<b>\$18,560</b>

Appendix A

NATIVE PLANTS IN BARR BROWN BUSH AND ATKINSON BLOCK BUSH,  
FEATHERSTON

B - Barr Brown Bush  
A - Atkinson Block Bush  
( ) - Uncommon

TREES AND SHRUBS

<i>Alseodaphne excelsa</i> var. <i>excelsa</i>	titchi ✓	B, A
<i>Boissachniedia tawa</i>	tawa ✓	B, A
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i> var. <i>repanda</i>	rangiora	(B)
<i>Coprosma acroclita</i>	small leaf coprosma	(B) (A)
<i>C. australis</i>	raurekau	(B)
<i>C. crassifolia</i>	small leaf coprosma	(A)
<i>C. rhumoides</i>	" "	(B)
<i>C. robusta</i>	karamu	(B)
<i>Gordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree	B, A
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau	(B)
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	broadleaf	(B) (A)
<i>Medycarya arborea</i>	pidgeon wood	B, A
<i>Knightsia excelsa</i>	nowarawa ✓	(B) (A)
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i> var. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa ✓	B, A
<i>Melicope simplex</i> (LAWSONIA)	poatanika	B, A
<i>Melicope ramiflorus</i> var. <i>ramiflorus</i>	maho ✓	B, A
<i>Myoporum laetum</i> var. <i>laetum</i>	ngai	B, A
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	red matipo, mapou	(B) (A)
<i>Nestegis laucoloma</i>	white maire	(B) (A)
<i>Paratrophis banksii</i>	large leaved milk tree	(B) (A)
<i>P. microphylla</i>	milk tree	(B) (A)
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	halkomako	B, A
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	lemonwood, tarata ✓	
<i>P. tenuifolium</i> var. <i>tenuifolium</i>	black matipo, kohuhu	(A)
<i>Podocarpus spicatus</i>	Matai	B, A
<i>P. rotundifolius</i>	rotuna	B, A
<i>Pseudopanax sarsseifolius</i>	lanewood	(B) (A)

- (1) The prospective owners would be forced to clear most of the remaining trees in order to gain sufficient sunshine especially in winter; and
- (2) The value of the bush for both present and future inhabitants of Featherston will be lost, and how much better for everyone, including the surrounding future owners of sections, to leave the bush intact. It will then be both a suitable backdrop for these owners, and a future indication of the far-sightedness of the present people of Featherston (developer, Council and citizens).

NOTES ON BARR-BROWN BUSH AND ATKINSON BLOCK BUSH, FEATHERSTON

A.F. DRUCE, March 1977

(Member of Wellington Botanical Society)

Barr Brown Bush is mature primary totara-matai-titoki forest developed on a gently sloping gravel fan, the estimated age is 300-400 years.

Atkinson Block Bush is immature secondary totara-matai-titoki forest developed on the same gently sloping gravel fan. This forest probably dates from the time the original forest was cleared when Featherston was first <sup>settled</sup> ~~settled~~, its age is over 100 years - at a guess 125 years.

The soil is very stony, excessively well drained, and subject to a moisture deficiency in late summer. This limits the number of species that can survive. The total of 57 higher plants (that is excluding mosses, liverworts and lichens) is quite low and ferns in particular are noticeably few in number compared with wetter areas.

To my knowledge there is only one reserve of Totara-matai-titoki forest on gravel at the present time, and that is on the Otaki Plain, where five acres is fenced as a Scientific Reserve. It is important, therefore, that Barr Brown bush be well looked after. Several honorary rangers should be appointed, if this has not already been done. I was saddened to see the number of trees that had been cut down and hacked into on my visit.

Atkinson Block bush, being much younger, complements Barr-Brown very nicely and should be reserved for that reason alone. However the main reason why the Atkinson Block Bush should be retained is an ethical one, namely that no native bush in an urban setting should be destroyed, for the simple reason that so little is left in such a setting today, and once destroyed that little bit can never be resurrected.

Several introduced weeds are present in these patches of bush and should be controlled as far as possible. It should be possible to eliminate the first five of the following list without too much trouble. It may be impossible to control the last two.

1. Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) CUT STEMS
2. Blackberry (*Robus fruticosus*) SPRAY
3. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) CUT STEMS
4. Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) CUT
5. Jerusalem cherry (*Solanum pseudocapsicum*) PULL
6. Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia flummensis*)
7. German Ivy (*Senecio Mikanioides*) MARGINAL ONLY

Finally, it seems to be the developers' plan to have sections, houses within the bush is undesirable for two reasons:



CLIMBING PLANTS

<i>Colostegia suguriorum</i>	native convolvulus	B
<i>Metrosideros colanesei</i>	white climbing vine	B,
<i>M. perforata</i>	" " "	(L)
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	poluehua	B,
<i>Passerina heterophylla</i>	" " "	B,
<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>	native passionfruit	(L)
<i>Rubus schmidollioides</i>	lawyer	(L)

FERNS

<i>Arthropogon tenella</i>		B,
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>		U,
<i>A. falcatum</i>		(L)
<i>A. hookerianum</i>		(B)
<i>A. lucidum</i>		(B)
<i>A. Sp (A. flaccidum aggregate)</i> (common forest species)		B,
<i>A. bulbiferum</i> X <i>A. hookerianum</i>		(B)
<i>Hypolepis rennifolia</i>		(B)
<i>Leucocopsis microbora</i>		
subsp. <i>pentangularis</i>		---
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>		B,
<i>Phymatodes diversifolium</i>		X
<i>Polystichum richardii</i>		(B)
<i>Pyrosia serpens</i>		B,

ORCHIDS

<i>Eurina mucronata</i>		B,
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GRASSES

<i>Microclena stipoides</i>	rice grass	B,
<i>Notodanthonia racemosa</i>	danthonia	(B)
<i>Oplismenus imbecillus</i>		(B)

SEDGES

<i>Uncinia laxiflora</i>	hookgrass	(B)
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HERBS - OTHER THAN ORCHIDS, GRASSES, SEDGES

*Astelia-Fragrans*

(B)

*Callaspermum hastatum*

B, 21

*Hydrocotyle elongata*

(B)

*Ononis* sp. (stems slender, flowers yellow)

(L)

*Parietaria debilis*

(L)

*Schizanthus triflorus*

(L)

If the Council wants an official report, they should write to:

The Director,  
Botany Division, D.S.I.R.  
Private Bag,  
Christchurch.

017

## Appendix B

### Barr Brown Reserve on Underhill Rd., Featherston

Original list "Indigenous Vascular Plants of Atkinson Block Bush and Barr Brown Bush, Featherston, Wairarapa, 200ft" A. P. Druce March 1977

Grid Ref. Topomap S27 058085

#### Subsequent Surveys:

Pat Enright, Olaf John (1hr) 24/1/04 Around loop track  
Pat Enright, Olaf John (1½hrs) 7/02/04 Up the creek bed (now dry) around perimeter and then through the centre of the reserve  
Pat Enright 28/2/04 (1hr) Around the outside perimeter track

\* = species on original list not sighted on subsequent surveys

h = herbarium specimen taken

n = species added on subsequent surveys

**Site Description:** This is a small reserve situated in Underhill Road Featherston and administered by the South Wairarapa District Council. It is bounded on one side by the Boar Stream and is surrounded by private property except for its frontage on Underhill Road. Large old pines, macrocarpas, gums and poplars provide shelter from the wind on the southern and western boundaries. There are a number of large totara (*Podocarpus totara*), matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*) and kahikatea (*Dacrydium dacrydioides*) as emergent species and scattered tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*), titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*) and maires (*Nestegis* spp.) as the main canopy. The understory is mainly kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*) with scattered coprosma species in the more open areas.

There is walking access from Underhill Road and the interior of the reserve is crossed by a number of well formed tracks.

The stream banks provide the main area of variation with the filmy ferns and several of the shrubby species noted only in this area. The big totaras provide an excellent perch for a number of epiphytic species including both earina orchids and Lady's slipper orchid (*Winika cunninghamii*), a species not common on the plains.

There is not a lot of ground cover but notable amongst the species seen was *Oplismenus imbecillus* which forms a couple of large patches in the reserve. This grass is very uncommon on the plains and the only other site that I know of is on the coast near Flat Point. Another Plains' rarity was the climbing fern (*Arthropteris tenella*) which has a somewhat tenuous hold on a couple of trees in the reserve.

There is quite a bit of regeneration of matai on the bank in the southwestern corner and of other species where sufficient light is available, mainly on the periphery.

At the time of the last visit a large opening had been created by the felling of a large pine on the southern boundary. This must have been brought down in the recent storm. It will be interesting to note the colonisation of this area in future.

There is quite a weed problem in the reserve with the main problem species being Canary Island Ivy (*Hedera helix* subsp. *canariensis*) which is throughout and a patch of cape ivy (*Senecio mikanoides*) up in the northwest corner.

There was not any pest control evident

#### Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

n *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*  
*Podocarpus totara*  
*Prumnopitys taxifolia*

kahikatea  
tōtara  
matai

13

010

This would need to be done from the interior of the forest (where the trees would essentially be dismantled and taken out in small pieces, a job for a skilled arborist) to its margins so that the forest is not suddenly opened to the wind. The forest would gain greatest benefit if the areas where trees were removed were immediately planted with suitable native species so that when the last trees are removed there is some wind protection already established on the bush edge.

Weeds present that pose a threat to the integrity of the forest include the climbers *Clematis vitalba* (Old man's beard), *Hedera helix* var *canariensis* (Ivy) *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle) and *Senecio mikanooides* (German ivy), all of which have the potential to smother large areas of forest canopy.

On the ground, the creeping *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Wandering Willie) and *Ehrhata erecta* (Veldt grass) can smother smaller understory plants, along with seedlings of the taller trees and shrubs.

Tree and shrub weeds, while present, do not of themselves present a huge threat at the moment – though this can change frighteningly quickly following damage to the canopy from wind or snow and there are a number of species involved, such as *Prunus* (2 spp), and *Berberis darwinii*, that are known to be highly aggressive when conditions permit.

Removal of the ground cover weeds will be a demanding and painstaking task that will in all likelihood take some years to achieve. In the first instance, though, *Tradescantia fluminensis* can be raked into piles and then taken off site in wool fadges. Following this, there will need to be searches for any fragments that are sprouting in the soil and these will need to be removed piece by piece. Though the effort involved in this will quickly decrease, vigilance will need to be continuous.

Planting can take place on these cleared sites once the initial clearing has been completed, but it is probably best left for a season so that any resprouting and regeneration of the weeds can be taken care of without worrying about disturbance to freshly planted seedlings.

Planting into the reserve should be confined to those species that are there already, and seed for the plants would be taken from the reserve itself. It would take a year or two for the plants to grow to plantable size, and probably (for some species at least) as long for seed trees to be identified and for seed to be collected.

This time lag can be used quite profitably to undertake most of the heavy work, which would involve most of the disturbance, in the reserve, knowing that when it is done there will almost immediately be a supply of plants available to heal the scars.

The size of the reserve and its proximity to housing means that any animal pest control would have to be carried out with great care, to avoid any unintended kills, yet would have to be more or less continuous as the reserve will always be prone to reinfestation.

Bait to target both possums and rats should be used, at least initially, with a switch to a more rat oriented bait once possum numbers are low.

No possum sign was seen during this visit, and the wider area is part of a Greater Wellington / Animal Health Board possum control zone for bovine TB, so numbers are likely to be low already.

Barr Brown Resever is one of a number of small sites in and about Featherston – sustained weed and animal control over all these sites would provide a great boost to the biodiversity of the whole area, far in excess of the treatment of just one or two.

**Appendix D**  
**Excerpts of The Reserve Act 1977**

**17) Recreation reserves**

- (1) It is hereby declared that the appropriate provisions of this Act shall have effect, in relation to reserves classified as recreation reserves, for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.

**19) Scenic reserves**

- (1) It is hereby declared that the appropriate provisions of this Act shall have effect, in relation to reserves classified as scenic reserves—
  - (a) For the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest:
  - (b) For the purpose of providing, in appropriate circumstances, suitable areas which by development and the introduction of flora, whether indigenous or exotic, will become of such scenic interest or beauty that their development, protection, and preservation are desirable in the public interest

**24A Change of purpose of reserve by territorial authority or regional council**

- (1) Notwithstanding section 24 of this Act, where any local purpose reserve is vested in a territorial authority or regional council, that territorial authority or regional council may, by notice in the *Gazette*, change the purpose for which that reserve is classified within its classification as a local purpose reserve.
- (2) Before the specified purpose of any local purpose reserve is changed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section,—
  - (a) The territorial authority or regional council shall publicly notify the proposed change of purpose, specifying the reason or reasons for the proposal:
  - (b) Every person claiming to be affected by the proposed change of purpose shall have a right of objection to the change, and may, at any time within 1 month after the date of the first publication of the notice of the proposal, give notice in writing of his objections to the proposed change and of the grounds thereof to the chief executive of the territorial authority:  
Provided that, where the date of the first publication of the notice of the proposal falls between the period commencing with the 10th day of December in any year and ending with the 10th day of January in the next succeeding year, notice of objection to the proposed change may be given at any time before the 10th day of February next following that period:

- (c) The territorial authority or regional council shall as soon as practicable consider all objections lodged in accordance with paragraph (b) of this subsection:
- (d) Any person who does not lodge an objection in accordance with this subsection shall be deemed to have assented to the change of purpose set forth in the public notification.

#### 42) Preservation of trees and bush

(2) The trees or bush on any recreation reserve, or Government purpose reserve, or local purpose reserve shall not be cut or destroyed, except in accordance with a permit granted under section 48A of this Act or unless the administering body of the reserve [**which in this case is South Wairarapa Council**] is satisfied that the cutting or destruction is necessary for the proper management or maintenance of the reserve, or for the management or preservation of other trees or bush, or in the interests of the safety of persons on or near the reserve or of the safety of property adjoining the reserve, or that the cutting is necessary to harvest trees planted for revenue producing purposes.

(3) Where in the case of any recreation reserve or Government purpose reserve or local purpose reserve the administering body [**which in this case is South Wairarapa Council**] is satisfied that the cutting or destruction of trees or bush is necessary for any of the reasons mentioned in subsection (2) of this section, the administering body shall not proceed with the cutting or destruction and extraction except in a manner which will have a minimal impact on the reserve and until, as circumstances warrant, provision is made for replacement, planting, or restoration; and the administering body shall not proceed to authorise the cutting or destruction, except subject to conditions as to the method of cutting or destruction and extraction which will have minimal impact on the reserve and, as circumstances warrant, replacement, planting, or restoration; and any other conditions which the administering body considers to be appropriate in the circumstances.

Marie Fairburn

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2008 9:26 PM  
Subject: quote weed control

Trevor Thompson  
forestprotectors  
Riversong  
Mt Bruce rd1  
Masterton  
forestry@forestprotectors@xtra.co.nz  
ph: [REDACTED]

QUOTE 22/6/08  
Bar Brown reserve

to Bar Brown trust

please find below quote details for noxious plant control over a 3 year period.  
All work carried out by personnel qualified and experienced in controlling weeds in a native forest environment.  
Weeds spp to be targeted including but not limited to ,tradescanlia flumenensis, ivy, japanese honeysuckle,  
hawthorn, stinking iris, holly.

Year 1  
4 x 2 days/2 pers control sessions 7 to 10 weeks apart  
total cost \$3150 +gst (includes travel and herbicide/chainsaw costs)

Year 2  
3 x 2 days/2 pers control sessions 7 to 10 weeks apart  
Total cost \$2110 +gst (including travel and herbicide/chainsaw costs)

Year 3  
as per year 2

as the effectiveness of the control operation takes effect, more time is spent searching rather than spraying.  
signage to warn the public and work scheduling to take place in quiet times will be carried out.  
It cannot be expected to totally eradicate these weed spp completely from the reserve, however the weed spp will  
be much reduced and difficult to find, their negative effect on the native flora will be negligible.  
There will always be a need to maintain a low level of weed maintenance after the operation has finished.  
Boundaries of operation  
underhill rd in the east, the boundary fences in the north and west, and top of the bank overlooking the creek in  
the south.

6/26/2008



— Original Message —

**From:** trevor thompson

**To:** Maria Fairburn

**Sent:** Sunday, June 29, 2008 8:01 PM

**Subject:** Emailing: Barr Brown reserve

Hi Maria

attached is an aerial view. shown in red the likely most logical access to be able to remove macs from reserve. i need you to organise access from neighbours, access into reserve is thru corner of olive grove.

there are a couple of large Macs that i have told you may produce good timber i can make enquires on your behalf if you like for buyers, this may help offset costs , i would mill these on site . the big tree we have talked about is a lot of work to remove and milling on site will effectively dismantle it for removal. an arborist needs to delimb this tree prior to felling ,perhaps as part of the other tree's that also need work by an arborist.

this quote is conditional on access being granted through neighbouring properties to get vehicles to job site. There will be a need for heavy machinery .

QUOTE

27/6/08

T.Thompson

forestprotectors

Mt Bruce rd1

Masterton

gst no 28 229 496

26

024

Bar Brown reserve tree removal

quote to fell, winch as needed, remove logs and carry out, clean up of slash (gather into discrete heaps on outer edge of reserve) and cut fences for access and restore same.

27 macrocarpa tree's within the perimeter track in the western side of the reserve.

every effort made to fell tree's and assist by winching if needed to area's causing least collateral damage to existing native growth.

The reserve within 2 tree lengths of the operation will have to be closed to the public for this operation. (OSH requirement)

total cost \$3000 + gst (milling on site will have to be a certain amount xtra.)

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:  
Bar Brown reserve

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.



ALL SEASONS TREE SERVICES  
R D 3 Featherston  
www.allseasonstreeservices.co.nz  
tel [REDACTED]

16.6.8

To whom it may concern,  
The following is the quote to remove some large trees from the Barr Brown Reserve in Featherston.

The trees on the northern boundary and about half way along the boundary. This lot of trees consists of 1 Poplar, 2 gums, 10 pines. The trees would be totally removed using the neighbours paddock to extract them and the cost of restoring the paddock to grass is included in the price.

Price .... \$11,806 + GST

A further lot of trees are inside the reserve and consist of 1 pine, 1 Douglas fir, 2 poplars, 1 macrocarpa.

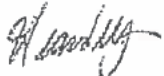
These trees would be dismantled and the branches chipped and left on site as mulch and as much of the timber would be extracted as possible without impacting on the surrounding flora. The rest would be left to break down in the forest over time.

Price .... \$8,500 + GST

These prices will be valid for 3 months from the above date.

Please feel free to contact me with any queries or if you would like us to proceed.

Yours sincerely



Henri van de Weyer

## FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY BOARD

5 JUNE 2012

### AGENDA ITEM 5.4

#### OFFICER'S REPORT

##### **Purpose of Report**

To obtain approval for the Featherston Walkways & Reserves Trust Action Plans 2009 and Memorandum of Understanding 2012.

##### **Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. **Adopt** the Dorset Square Reserve, Otairua Reserve and Featherston Domain Draft Action Plans 2009.
2. **Adopt** the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council, Featherston Community Board and Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust 2012.
3. **Recommend** that Council adopt the Dorset Square Reserve, Otairua Reserve and Featherston Domain Draft Action Plans 2009.
4. **Recommend** that Council adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council, Featherston Community Board and Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust 2012.

##### **1. Background**

On 16 March 2010 the Featherston Community Board resolved to receive the Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust's Draft Action Plans for Dorset Square Reserve, Otairua Reserve and Featherston Domain (Appendix 1).

In July 2012 the associated Memorandum of Understanding between the Council, Featherston Community Board and the Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust (Appendix 2) was accepted by the Featherston Community Board.

It has come to Council officers' attention that the Draft Action Plans have not been formally adopted by the Featherston Community Board or the Council.

The associated Memorandum of Understanding has been accepted by the Featherston Community Board, but not adopted by Council.

When the documents were brought forward in 2009 they were generally accepted and have been used to get work done on the ground. The documents are effective and do not need changing; they just need to be retrospectively formalised.

## **2. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Dorset Square Reserve, Otairira Reserve and Featherston Domain Draft Action Plans 2009

Appendix 2 – Memorandum of Understanding 2012

Contact Officer: Jen Olson, Resource Management Officer

Reviewed By: Glenn Bunny, Group Manager Planning and Environment

**Appendix 1 – Dorset Square  
Reserve, Otairira Reserve  
and Featherston Domain  
Draft Action Plans 2009**





**FEATHERSTON WALKWAYS & RESERVES TRUST**  
**DORSET SQUARE DRAFT ACTION PLAN**  
**June 2009**



**Description**

Dorset Square is approximately one hectare of land in Featherston, bounded by Moore, Ludlam/SH2, Renall and Brandon Streets. It is owned by the South Wairarapa District Council, as per Section 338 of the District Plan.

**Vision      What we hope to accomplish & why**

Since the planting out of the former paddock/wasteland in 1995-1997 the Square has been left to grow more or less unchecked, with only minimal maintenance of paths. While this has resulted in some impressive growth and healthy regeneration of native bush (1-4 metres in height), it has also raised some serious concerns about safety, aesthetics, functionality, and honoring of commemorative trees.

The most pressing concern is safety. There is virtually no visibility from the outside roads (SH2/Ludlam, Moore, Brandon and Renall Streets) into the Square, and within the Square itself the paths are overgrown to the extent that it is impossible to see beyond a few metres in any direction. The border fence increases both the perceived and the actual threat to safety in the Square. There is no lighting within the Square and unauthorised vehicles are able to drive in through the Renall Street entrance. Currently, the Square is the most sheltered/secluded public space in the central town area for vandalism and other crime to occur without detection. We are fortunate that to date there have been only relatively minor episodes of vandalism in the Square, but there is growing concern about the potential for more serious crime in this area.

Aesthetically, the Square is long overdue for a good 'spring clean'. Many of the paths have been overgrown by as much as half their width, self sown seedlings (including many pest species) are rampant, and the Square generally looks untidy and unkempt.

The key problem with the functioning of the Square is the stone drain that runs along the Brandon and Moore Street edges of the reserve. Because it is completely overgrown and filled with forest debris it floods easily and spills out onto the roads. Local residents have been monitoring this and contact Transfield for maintenance. A more efficient system needs to be set in place so that it is maintained proactively rather than reactively.

Lastly, many of the memorial trees and benches throughout the Square



have been neglected and their plaques are no longer visible. This is potentially insulting or distressing to those who planted the trees and is deserving of immediate attention.

#### **Strategies How we can achieve this**

We propose a cooperative approach between the FWRT and the SWDC. The Trust would outline the work to be done, suggest a reasonable timeline for achieving it, advertise to the general public in order to organise volunteer labour for manageable tasks, provide for signage, plaques, maps and seating within the Square, oversee the project from start to finish, and draft plans for the maintenance and upkeep of the Square in the future. The Council would contract for the use of heavy or specialised equipment such as chain saws, diggers and chippers, be responsible for the removal or mulching of green waste, oversee the maintenance of the drain, remove the border fence wires, install parking on Moore Street and signs on SH2, and contribute to the ongoing maintenance of the Square. We have indicated below under Operations, Ongoing Maintenance and Wish List how we envisage the work will be shared by FWRT and SWDC.

We have consulted the CEPTED Principles (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) throughout the process of drawing up this Action Plan. Please see the attached summary of these principles.

#### **Prioritisation of six areas (see map)**

1. RSA/Maori Battalion (July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 & ongoing)
2. Corner of Ludlam/SH2 and Moore Streets
3. Corner of Moore and Brandon Streets
4. Corner of Ludlam/SH2 and Renall Streets
5. Corner of Brandon and Renall Streets
6. Interior

#### **Operations**

1. Removal of exotic nursery species (i.e. lucerne) (FWRT)
2. Thinning of native trees (FWRT)
3. Clearing undergrowth (FWRT)
4. Digging up flax along Ludlam and Brandon Streets (SWDC)
5. Mulching and redistributing/removal of green waste (SWDC)
6. Clearing paths back to their original size/width (shared)
7. Clearing growth around all commemorative trees & maintenance of plaques (FWRT)
8. Clearing drain (SWDC)
9. Shifting Moore Street sign out 2 metres towards road (SWDC)
10. Installing new Messines sign at entrance to Messines Walk with \$100 donation from Delia Smith and free artwork by Michele

Stokes (FWRT)

11. Removal of border fence wires (leave posts to prevent vehicle access) (SWDC)
12. Dividing the Square into quarters and putting in new paths to allow for easier access at all times (see map) (shared)
13. Installment of locked bollard/chain on Renall Street to keep out unauthorised vehicles (provide key access for maintenance vehicles and police) (SWDC)
14. Installment of vandal-proof street light in middle of Square (SWDC)
15. Installing map signage at both entrances for orientation and safety (FWRT)
16. Installation of a parking area along Moore Street (SWDC)
17. Signage along SH2 (both directions) indicating Square parking (SWDC)

#### **Ongoing Maintenance**

1. tree thinning (FWRT)
2. path clearance (shared)
3. clearing drain (SWDC)
4. organising regular events or gatherings at the Square (FWRT)
5. rubbish removal (SWDC)

#### **Wish List (apply to community organisations for funds)**

1. new picnic table (FWRT)
2. new benches (FWRT)
3. interpretive signage (FWRT)
4. plaques on trees (FWRT)



## FEATHERSTON WALKWAYS & RESERVES TRUST

### OTAUIRA RESERVE DRAFT ACTION PLAN

OCTOBER 2009

#### Description

Otauirā Reserve (Part Section 338 Featherston Suburban) is approximately six and a half hectares of South Wairarapa Council reserve near the southern entrance to Featherston. The site is bounded by State Highway 2 and Abbott's Creek.

The reserve is frequently used by travelers as a rest and picnic stop and caravans sometimes overnight at the site. Before the pine plantation across the stream grew to a height that blocked the views, the reserve was known as Lookout Reserve and Lake Wairarapa was visible from the picnic area.

The picnic area is a grassy hill. The fairly short entrance off of State Highway 2 loops around this hill. The hill is a historic dump that is now grassed over. A small section of the hill is still used for clean fill and is progressively being earthed over and seeded in lawn.

The Wairarapa faultline crosses the site and a slip caused by the 1855 earthquake is easily visible across the creek from the grassy hill. This large slip altered the course of Abbott's Creek, which once flowed almost due south from this point, to its present course which is in a more southeasterly direction.

The northern half of the site is regenerating bush with a few large beech and matai trees. The understory is mainly manuka and tree lucerne. A walking track circles the inside of the bush and is the starting point for the larger track network promoted by the Featherston Walkways & Reserves Trust (FWRT) that connects Otauirā Reserve, Dorset Square, the Featherston Domain (One Tree Hill) and Barr-Brown Reserve.

#### Vision      What we hope to accomplish & why

As one of the first stops for travelers to Featherston, the area used as a rest and picnic stop needs to be tidied up. This requires: 1. the remaining area used as a dumping ground to be earthed over and seeded; 2. barriers (e.g., post fence or boulders) placed to keep vehicles off the lawn; 3. the loop road resealed; 4. two additional picnic tables; 5. vandal-proof rubbish bins and an information sign (such as a blue rest stop sign or a yellow Otauirā Reserve sign) installed on SH2; 6. an interpretive/informational sign giving details about Featherston installed within the reserve..

We envision the entranceway can be made more attractive with native plants (flax and kowhai) and the sign to the bush walk can be moved closer to the picnic area and native plants used around this sign and along the start of the walk. Fruit trees planted now could provide sun-ripened treats to picnickers in the future. In addition, the site lends itself to an informative sign on the Wairarapa

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faultline.

The track through the regenerating bush area should continue to be maintained with volunteer labour from the Department of Corrections. The tree lucerne should remain for now as a valuable food source for the numerous kereru and tui. A native forest will naturally regenerate underneath these bushes or could be assisted by planting and pest control at some time in the future. Expanding the track so it links to the Lake Wairarapa Domain will also be pursued in the future.

The old toilet block within the bush needs to be demolished and the concrete from the small building put into the remaining dump site.

A FWRT sign should be located at the end of Brandon Street to direct people walking to the reserve from Dorset Square.

Finally, the Welcome to Featherston sign (First Stop Featherston!), currently located near the Hi-Tech lumber store, should be moved just north of and opposite to the entranceway to the Otairua Reserve (near where the Fire Danger Level sign is). A welcome sign to town at this location would alert people to slow down before they approach the curving descent into town, where several speed related crashes have occurred, and where people walk along the road to the reserve. Ideally the speed limit should be reduced at this location, but we suggest the relocation of the welcome sign as an alternative until the speed limit can be reduced.

#### **Strategies    How we can achieve this**

We propose a cooperative approach between the FWRT and the SWDC. Council would arrange for the tidy-up of the rest stop and picnic area, installation of the two signs on SH2 and removal of the old toilet block. Council would also be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the lawn, rubbish bins and road.

The Trust would use our volunteers and advertise to the general public to help beautify the entrance to the reserve and to the walking track with native plants. Young fruit trees would be planted discretely along the edges of the lawn to reduce the risk of them being stolen. The Trust would continue liaising with the Department of Corrections to maintain the track through the bush, and the Trust would seek grants and sponsorships to pay for the new picnic tables, signs and plants.

#### **Actions**

1. Remove toilet block
2. Earth over and lawn the remaining dump area
3. Reseal loop road
4. Install vehicle barriers along loop road
5. Replace plastic rubbish bins with vandal-proof bins
6. Relocate "First Stop Featherston" sign
7. Install blue or yellow information sign opposite entrance
8. Install FWRT sign at end of Brandon Street
9. Install two additional picnic tables
10. Plant around entranceway

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11. Relocate sign to walkway and plant around sign and start of walk
12. Plant fruit trees

**On-going maintenance**

1. Lawn maintenance and rubbish collection
2. Track maintenance through the bush

**Wish List (apply to community organisations for funds)**

1. Design and placement of sign regarding Wairarapa faultline
2. Linking reserve to Lake Wairarapa Domain
3. Design and placement of interpretive Featherston sign

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**FEATHERSTON WALKWAYS & RESERVES TRUST  
FEATHERSTON DOMAIN ACTION PLAN  
Adopted by the FWRT Board March 2010**

**Description**

The Domain is approximately twenty hectares of forest and scrub land on a ridge to the west of Watt Street in Featherston. Much of the land is steep, and the reserve is traversed by the Wairarapa Fault. It is owned by the South Wairarapa District Council. The Domain is commonly known as "One Tree Hill" and has a popular, but steep, walking track accessing two different viewpoints.

The Domain consists of a mixture of exotic and native forest, and several open areas including a hilltop offering panoramic views. Most of the native forest has regenerated in recent decades and therefore has less amenity value than the "old-growth" forest in the nearby Barr-Brown Reserve. As a result, the main amenity values associated with the Domain are larger area, and opportunity for a vigorous walk to achieve a panoramic view. The "lone pine" is also viewed by many as a local landmark.

**Vision: What we hope to accomplish & why**

The main management requirement for Domain is the maintenance of the footpath and viewpoints. Erosion in steep areas is the main threat to the footpath, while regenerating vegetation endangers views, particularly at the upper viewpoint. We propose to trial and employ suitable trail building techniques to control erosion and to establish a plan for managing vegetation near viewpoints.

**Strategies: How we can achieve this**

We propose a cooperative approach between the FWRT and the SWDC. The Trust would outline the work to be done, suggest a reasonable timeline for achieving it, advertise to the general public in order to organise volunteer labour, oversee the project from start to finish, and draft plans for the maintenance and upkeep of the Domain in the future. The Trust would continue liaising with the Department of Corrections to help with this work. The Council will assist where possible with materials and equipment.



### **Actions**

- Improve structures to remove water from walking track, focusing on steep areas (various) and blocked drain (100 m up from Bell St.).
- Improve steps, addressing areas where steps are too high for many walkers or have adjacent erosion which will someday undermine the steps.
- Close and revegetate "bootleg" tracks.
- Work with the community to identify and implement a plan for the hilltop viewpoint that is becoming overgrown with broom.
- Add fill to areas of track with excessive exposed roots on the section connecting Bell St. to West Harrison St.
- Examine the potential to develop a forest management plan for the area of large pines and eucalypts above the Revans St. entrance, with the purpose of abating tree fall as a hazard and potential reason for trail closure.
- Improve accessibility and traction (apply gravel) for winter use.

### **Ongoing Maintenance**

1. tree thinning
2. path clearance
3. clearing drains
4. planting and revegetation

### **Wish List**

1. Materials for steps and water control structures (apply to community organisations for funding).
2. Plant appropriate vegetation in hilltop area currently overgrown with broom. Suggestion include mountain flax, native tussock grasses or other sub-alpine and escarpment-dwelling natives
3. Weed control
4. Evaluate opportunity to extend tracks through private land

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING WORKING PARTY

23 MARCH 2016

### AGENDA ITEM NO 5.7

## REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE OF FEATHERSTON PARKS AND RESERVES FOR ANNUAL PLAN 2016/17

### **Purpose of Report**

To inform the Infrastructure and Planning Working Party (I&PWP) members of the reasons behind the request for additional funding for maintenance of some of Featherston's parks and reserves.

### **Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the I&PWP:

1. *receives the information*
2. *recommends to Council the addition of \$22,162 to the parks and reserves operating budget in the 2016/17 Annual Plan for the routine maintenance of parks, reserves and gardens not currently included in the City Care contract.*

### **1. Executive summary**

Additional operating funded is requested in the 2016/17 Annual Plan budget for the parks and reserves contract. This is for the four Featherston reserves which were excluded from the contract when it was established in 2012, and for additional street gardens acquired since the vesting of a Greytown subdivision.

### **2. Dorset Square, Otairira Reserve, Barr-Brown Reserve and Featherston Domain**

#### **2.1 Background**

On 16 March 2010 the Featherston Community Board resolved to receive the Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust's Draft Action Plans for Dorset Square Reserve, Otairira Reserve and Featherston Domain.

In March 2012 the associated Memorandum of Understanding between the Council, Featherston Community Board and the Featherston Walkways and



Reserves Trust was signed by the three parties.

On 5 June 2012 the Featherston Community Board resolved to (retrospectively) adopt the Draft Action Plans and the Memorandum of Understanding.

On 27 June 2012, Council adopted both the Action Plans and the Memorandum of Understanding.

In October 2012, the new parks and reserves contract between the Council and City Care Ltd came into force. Maintenance of the Domain and its walkways was excluded from this contract, with City Care's only responsibility to be the gardens at the Revans St and Bell St entrances. Likewise, Otairā Reserve, Barr-Brown Reserve and Dorset Square were largely excluded from the City Care contract as covered by the Walkways Trust. Funding for materials was provided to the Walkways Trust with the intention that the four reserves would be maintained by them with a combination of volunteer work and supervised work by Corrections PD workers.

Late in 2013 it became apparent that no work was being done in the Domain, and City Care had to respond to a number of requests from the public to clear walking tracks, unblock culverts etc. City Care has since been managing the maintenance of the Domain and the three other reserves with a combination of dayworks, and savings made on staff hours elsewhere.

The Walkways Trust appears to be defunct – many of the original office-holders are no longer in Featherston, no requests for funding/materials have been received from the Trust since early 2013, and officers no longer have a contact for the Trust. However the Trust's Facebook page was picked up by Featherston resident Elsa Kelly around August 2015, and she has been attempting to raise the profile of the reserves and walkways through this page. The MoU was due for 3-yearly review at March 2015 but the agreement is silent on how this is initiated.

At the 2 February 2016 meeting of the Featherston Community Board, a paper outlined the situation with the apparent failure of the Walkways Trust and sought the assistance of the Community Board in getting it up and running again. The Mayor advised the Board to identify the gaps between the scope of the new group's proposed activities and what was required to keep the reserves serviced to standard, and to submit the difference to Council via a submission in the Annual Plan process. A meeting with interested parties, the Community Board and the Council's Amenities Manager is planned to be held in March.

City Care has been asked to continue limited maintenance of the Domain, and the other parks covered by the MoU, within the contract as far as possible and with limited dayworks.

## **2.2 Future action**

Routine maintenance of parks and reserves is core council work, and should be carried out by staff or contractors rather than being left to the variability of volunteer groups and Corrections workers. The focus for volunteer groups should ideally be on improvements and fund-raising.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the routine maintenance of these four reserves is added to the current City Care contract by way of a variation. City Care has priced this variation at \$18,662 per annum. This has been requested to be added to the parks and reserves budget for the annual plan 2016/17.

No additional funding for work in the action plans beyond routine maintenance has been requested. The Barr-Brown Reserve Action Plan dates from 2008, and the action plans for the other three reserves were prepared in 2010. If the Walkways and Reserves Trust is resurrected, then it would seem reasonable that the main priority for 2016/17 would be the revision of these plans<sup>1</sup> and the renewal of the MoU with Council and the Featherston Community Board.

## **3. Additional street gardens**

The parks and reserves contract with City Care includes maintenance of a number of street gardens and annual beds in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough. Two new street gardens have been added in a Greytown subdivision now vested in Council – Garrity Lane and Prendiville Lane in the Maawson Estate. This happens periodically and the additional gardens are added to the contract as variations.

City Care's variation price to add the gardens is \$3500 per annum.

## **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Memorandum of Understanding between SWDC, FCB and the Featherston Walkways and Reserves Trust

Contact Officer: Helen McNaught, Amenities Manager

Reviewed by: Mark Allingham, Group Manager Infrastructure Services

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<sup>1</sup> The action plans can be found at <http://www.sportsground.co.nz/fwrt/51412/>

**Appendix 1 – Memorandum  
of Understanding between  
SWDC, FCB and the  
Featherston Walkways and  
Reserves Trust**