

## 7. TRAVIS WETLAND NATURE HERITAGE PARK

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The purpose of this report is to update the board on the developments at Travis Wetland. Since the approval of the Travis Wetland Landscape Development plan by this Committee a number of developments have been actioned or are in preparation.

### TRACKS

The construction of tracks proceeds as funds are available. The Anne Flanagan Walkway now extends westward towards the Telecom land with a raised board walk curving in front of the dell at the corner of the wetland. This work has partially funded by the Travis Wetland Trust's Sponsor a Board Scheme. Sponsors are able to have their names engraved on the boardwalk. The eastern end of this track now links into Inwoods Road. The track, crushed gravel, was constructed by one of the Pages Road Corrections Department work crew.

The track into the willow forest from Clarevale Reserve now goes to the site of the viewing platform. The track, built by Te Roopu tu Tangata from Nga Hau E Wha Marae is raised crushed gravel and board walk.

The Angela Stream track, running along the stream edge is popular with locals and visiting walking groups.

The next priority of track work will be linking the Clarevale and Anne Flanagan tracks.

### BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

An architect, Peter Kent, engaged to develop the existing house as an education centre and design a visitor information structure, has produced plans. These will be shown at meeting. The Travis Wetland Trust have been consulted over the plans and are basically supportive of them. However more work is necessary on the detail of both the structures. The Canterbury Regional Council has given funds towards remodelling the house for educational purposes. The Community Trust is funding the information structure. An interpretation plan, produced in consultation with Travis Wetland Trust guides the production of information and interpretation in the buildings and throughout the wetland. The main use of the education centre is expected to be for:

- Meetings and seminars – talks to visiting groups
- Teaching of school groups
- Space for research students
- Storage of educational and resource equipment

The information structure will house interpretation displays on:

- Pond habitat
- Wetland
- Values of Travis
- Recreation information (will be outside but near building)

A poupou (carving) in or near the entrance will integrate Maori symbols for the site with other icons

Funds are currently being sought for public toilets, car parks and landscaping to support the public use of these buildings

A viewing platform to go on the edge of the Clarevale willow forest has been designed. The construction is underway and should be open by March 2000. Sponsorship applications have been made to fund information boards on the viewing platform.

#### **WATERWAYS**

A \$200,000 grant from the Lottery Board enabled the construction of the 2.5 ha central pond and development of Travis Stream, from the pond along the side of Frosts Road to Travis Road. Another new pond has been constructed in the wetland, on the corner of Beach and Frosts Roads. This will replace the Frosts Road box drain.

#### **PLANTINGS**

Plantings in the willow forests, along track edges, ponds and waterways continues. Community groups, contractors and schools have been involved. The Native Trees Please planting with a nearby school will be in March.

#### **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Recent and current research projects include studies on predator monitoring, water quality, road kills of wildlife and kahikatea restoration.

#### **WILDLIFE AND BOTANICAL VALUES**

The construction of the central pond and subsequent winter flooding of the grazing marsh land has attracted numbers of wetland birds with four new species being recorded in the 1999 spring. The 1998 count of nesting birds at the pond (then an enlarged stock pond) was four species, 10 birds. The count for this year was nine species, (including NZ scaup, pied stilt, and pukeko) 256 birds (Andrew Crossland pers com 20 December 1999).

New plant discoveries continue, the most interesting being a flowering spider orchid *Corybas iridescens* (not previously recorded in Canterbury) and two native blechnum ferns

#### **COMMUNITY INPUT**

Travis Wetland benefits from having an increasing number of enthusiastic supporters. Volunteer groups, educational institutions and individuals are involved in maintenance, planting, environmental educational and research. The Travis Wetland Trust and Native Habitats continue monthly and fortnightly work days.

#### **Deputy Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.