



11. 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 this financial year.

TRACKS

The construction of tracks proceeds as funds are available. The Anne Flanagan Walkway now extends westward towards the Telecom land with raised boardwalk curving in front of the dell at the corner of the wetland. This work is partially funded by the Travis Wetland Trusts Sponsor A Board Scheme. Sponsors are able to have their names engraved on the boardwalk for \$25. 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 crews.

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

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/STRUCTURES

An interpretation plan, produced in consultation with Travis Wetland Trust guides the production of information and interpretation in the buildings and throughout the wetland.

Architect, Peter Kent, has produced plans to change the existing house into an education centre and a design for a visitor information structure. Earth works are underway for the information structure, which will be constructed in summer. The Community Trust is funding this building.

The information structure will house interpretation displays on:

- Pond habitat
- Wetlands
- 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. The Community Board has contributed \$3,000 to this project.

The Canterbury Regional Council has given funds towards remodelling the house for educational purposes. 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
- Travis Wetland Trust meetings
- Rangers office



A viewing platform on the edge of the Clarevale willow forest has been constructed, with an opening ceremony held on 10 June. This was funded by the Stout Foundation. The boardwalk and walkway was funded by the Pacific Development Trust. Recent sponsorship applications to fund information boards on the viewing platform have been successful.

A toilet block adjacent to the information structure and education house are being planned for construction in summer.

The old red sheds at the corner of Beach Road has been removed. This area will be developed as the main entrance into the wetland in the future.

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 AND WEED CONTROL

Plantings in the willow forests, along track edges, ponds and waterways continues. Community groups, contractors and schools have been involved. Purchasing of plants has been supplemented by donations from individuals, Trees for Canterbury and Travis Wetland Trust.



The Native Trees Please! Millennium planting in March was very successful. Children, parents and teachers from four schools joined board members and staff to plant 2000 trees near the central pond.

WEED CONTROL

Invasive willow seedlings have been removed from the open wetland, female grey willows in the willow forests, cut and poisoned. Further control will be necessary.

The Inwoods Road entrance to the Park has been tidied up, old fence removed, post and cable installed, track formed.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Recent and current research projects include studies on predator monitoring, cat behaviour patterns, mudfish translocation, water quality, 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 1999/2000 summer including the rare Glossy Ibis and Australasian Bittern

The 1998 count of nesting birds at the pond (then an enlarged stock pond) was 4 species, 10 birds. The count for this year was 9 species, (including NZ scaup, pied stilt, and pukeko) 256 birds (Andrew Crossland pers com 20 December 1999) Canadian Geese are present in high numbers (1320 counted recently)

New discoveries on the plant front also continue. The most interesting being a flowering spider orchid *Corybas iridescens* (not previously recorded in Canterbury) and two native blechnum ferns. The Manuka Group, four part-time workers continue monitoring and restoration work on the rare plants in the wetland.

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 workdays. The Christchurch Polytechnic has started ongoing input into the wetland with recreation students.

The Travis Wetland Trust and Coast Care staff continue to promote and inform people about the wetland recent productions include:

- Travis Wetland leaflet - general information
- Travis Wetland newsletters - produced every 6 months
- Web site information
- Media coverage
- Education

Travis Wetland Trust and Parks staff have run a number of environmental education programmes at Travis - for primary and secondary schools, and visiting groups. (Staff are presently negotiating with the Ministry of Education for financial support to employ teachers to supplement the current education programmes offered in Parks. If this is successful more educational opportunities at Travis Wetland would be promoted.)

The wetland has gained local and national recognition - this is reflected in recent awards - From Canterbury Regional Council - Resource management award and from Dept of Conservation - (the inaugural) Native Wetland Restoration award. A Civic Award was presented to the Travis Wetland Trust earlier this year.

A ranger, John Skilton was appointed to Travis Wetland in April 2000. His main responsibility is to oversee operational development in the wetland.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Non Council funds

From	Amount	Purpose	Progress
Lottery	\$85,000	Fencing, information panels, education	yet to be uplifted
Stout Trust	26,500	For viewing platform - Clarevale	completed
Forest and Bird	10,000	Bird hide central ponding area	in design
Pacific Development	17,500	Board walks, to access viewing platform - Clarevale	completed
CRC	35,000	Information Centre/Displays	in design
Lottery	200,000	Central Ponding Area	in final stages
Turning Point 2000/Community Trust	150,000	Visitor Centre	in design
New Brighton Horticultural Society	2,000	Track and Seat	in progress

Council Funds For

Capital Projects

1999/00	55,000	Landscaping, track development, fencing, community plantings (completed)
2000/01	56,100	Landscaping, track development, fencing, community plantings (completed)

Other projects for 2000/01

Travis Information boards	5,000
Toilet	76,000

Funds are still needed for car parks and landscaping to support the public use of the proposed buildings and wetland.

Recommendation: That this information be received and staff continue with developments as in the Travis Wetland Landscape Development Plan, in consultation with main community interest groups.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the aforementioned recommendation be adopted.
 2. That the Board congratulate staff and the Travis Wetland Trust for their progress in developing the Wetland and for seeking additional funding.