



**Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Inc**

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**Wellington Branch**

**Greening Wellington  
2009-2014**

**Prepared by Greening Wellington Sub-committee**

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## Version History

Version	Date	Contributors	Changes and comments
0.1	17 July 2008	Shirley Hampton (SH), Jennie Henton (JH), Ken New (KN), John Robinson (JR), David Rohan	Initial draft for comment. Based on 3 brainstorming sessions. Structure and content still to be agreed. Many sections not started.
0.2	14 August 2008	Claire Graeme(CG), SH, JH, Shona McCahon, JR	Changes to sections 1 and 2 discussed at 7 August sub-committee meeting. Material from JH added to section 5 and Appendix B. Map of Branch area in Appendix D.
0.3	28 September 2008	CG, SH, JH, JR	Section 1 — Current Initiatives section included as Appendix E to shorten document. 1.1 Introduction fleshed out. 2.1 Issues heading changed to Key issues for Wellington and list of current issues added. Section 4.1 Vision of the future added to; 5.2 Transition strategy similarly added to; Section 7.0 Action plan had years 2008–2009 added to heading.
0.4	5 October 2008	CG, SH, JH, JR	Section 5.3 Key considerations: Survival, Self-reliance, Population and Water Conservation deleted; Appendices C and D edited; 5.6 Networking added to 6 How do we get there?; Appendix F added for funding and resources.
0.6	17 November 2008	CG, SH, JH, KN, JR	Minor changes agreed at 16 November sub-committee meeting.
0.7	25 November 2008	CG, SH, JH, KN, JR	Include small amounts of extra material. Restructure into 6 sections to improve flow and eliminate duplication between sections. Add sub-headings to long bullet list in new section 4 (prev 5). Move brainstorming material into new Appendix G.
0.8	6 December 2008	CG, SH, JH, KN, JR	Minor revisions following feedback from sub-committee.
0.9	8 December 2008	KN, JR	Executive Summary edited. Surplus sub-head in 2.5 removed. Version submitted for public feedback.
0.91	8 January 2009	KN	Minor changes on title page.
0.95	16 April 2009	CG, JH, KN	Extensive changes following Branch meeting in March. Sections 2–4 combined into a single section to allow greater focus on actions and proposed projects. Action plan split into higher and lower priority projects.
0.96	30 April 2009	CG	Small change to section 4.2 to reduce replication of plan components.
0.97	7 June 2009	KN	Minor changes to replace references to “SuperNatural Wellington” by “Wellington Wildlink” and remove some potentially commercially sensitive references.
1.0	21 July 2009	CG, JH, Peter Hunt, KN, Marc Slade	Incorporate WCC feedback. Revise Vision in Section 2.4. Add initiation/reporting process to Section 4. Remove Appendix E, which is now out of date and redundant, and rename subsequent appendices.

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## Executive Summary

### The Greening Wellington initiative

During 2007 the Wellington Branch Committee of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Inc (Forest and Bird) discussed ways to increase the involvement of members. The first 2008 Branch meeting in February was a forum inviting ideas from members. The discussion was wide-ranging and resolved to focus on three topics, one of which was “Greening Wellington”. Members chose to keep it as a broad topic, not clearly defined, so as to provide a holistic view of all the factors that contribute to a “green” Wellington city.



### Development of a longer-term plan

Following several meetings of the Greening Wellington group, a small sub-committee started work on a planning document, which is presented here. This lists input from members contributed at several meetings, in one-to-one discussions and through email, and includes information on a number of past and current Branch initiatives. We have aimed to keep all contributions within the document (although much of it is in the appendices) rather than to provide a summary document. The various lists, visions, etc provided here are those of the current participants and all originate from the members of the Branch. As well, other initiatives by regional branch members feed into this plan.

We will present the planning document to the Branch Committee and to members at a Branch meeting; it will also be available on the Forest and Bird website. Our intention is that the Greening Wellington plan will inform and guide further activities of the Branch. It will for some time be a living document, open to further contributions from members, before it reaches a final form.

### Conclusions

Eight projects have been identified by members as those of highest priority. One in particular — the establishment and promotion of wildlife corridors within Wellington (called “Wellington Wildlink”) — was overwhelmingly considered to be the no 1 priority. Only one other project has been given equal priority, as it is seen as a precursor project to the Wildlink project — this is the updating of the extensive research carried out by Branch members in the late 1980s to produce *Natural Wellington*, a seminal document which introduced the concept of green corridors linking areas of environmental significance.

Section 4 of this document contains an action plan, divided into higher and lower priority projects. Lower priority projects may be raised in priority at a later stage during the proposed 5-year life of this plan.

(Please note that this document is designed, if printed, to be printed double-sided [“duplex”] to economise on paper use. This means that a few pages are blank to ensure that certain pages start on a right-hand page.)



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Greening Wellington

Greening Wellington is a plan to guide the activities for the next few years of the Wellington Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc (Forest and Bird). It describes the types of projects that will be the focus of our efforts. In particular we intend to engage the members and invite their active participation.



Since Greening Wellington may spawn many individual projects and activities, we consider it to be a *programme* of work and we will refer to it as a programme rather than a project.

## 1.2 Background documents and other initiatives

There are currently a number of different Forest and Bird policy documents and initiatives. In this section we explain how Greening Wellington relates to them.

### **Natural Wellington (1988)**

In the late 1980s, the Wellington Branch of Forest and Bird prepared a document entitled *Natural Wellington* which set out “A plan to preserve and enhance the Natural Treasures of Wellington City”. Its stated mission was:

- the preservation and improvement of the natural ecosystems and the native plant and animal species of the Wellington City area; and
- to bring the native birds back to Wellington.

*Natural Wellington* guided the activities of the Wellington Branch through the 1990s and had considerable influence in many areas — it proved influential in directing the policies of local councils and many of the principles that it set out were adopted by mainstream planners as environmental awareness spread and the implications of climate change became more apparent.

In particular, *Natural Wellington* introduced the concept of green corridors linking areas of environmental significance and creating adequate living space for many species.

### **Wellington Wildlink (formerly SuperNatural Wellington) (2008)**

The *Natural Wellington* document was hugely successful in implementing conservation action at community level and at central and local government levels. Recently, a group of Forest and Bird members from across the region began to build on this commitment to develop further the concept of green corridors. Russell Bell of Lower Hutt Branch has extended the concept of such corridors across the region.

A key feature of this concept is the recognition of a number of existing “treasures” — areas of great environmental value — which can be given greater recognition and brought into a linked network.

As yet no action has been taken to obtain formal Branch support. However, several descriptive documents have been produced, including a possible course of action written in 2008 by James Griffiths in his role as field officer. Extracts appear in Appendix A. Additional background is in Appendix F — Ideas from brainstorming and discussion.

Greening Wellington supports the regional concept and supports the Lower Hutt Branch in its leadership role in these areas. Within this plan, however, we focus on the Wellington Branch area.

*Natural Wellington* is still a cornerstone document for the Wellington Branch. We will carry over to Greening Wellington projects or actions that are still relevant. The Greening Wellington plan provides a fresh look at key conservation issues and provides an updated action plan for the Wellington Branch to follow.

### 1.3 Purpose

The mission of Forest and Bird as a national society is “to preserve and protect the native plants and animals and natural features of New Zealand”.

The purpose of the Greening Wellington programme is to bring about a city that, by 2020, is:

- rich in biodiversity of native flora and fauna
- known as a world leader in halting the decline of endangered native species.

The focus of Greening Wellington is terrestrial, including waterways. Another current initiative, *Blue Wellington*, covers the harbour, ocean and foreshore.

Section 2, *What Do We Want to Achieve?*, describes the issues that need to be addressed and lays down the aims and objectives that we believe are needed to allow us to realise this purpose. The remainder of the document examines ways in which the people of Wellington can achieve this.

The scope of the programme (which we also define in Section 2) is intentionally wide. Although Forest and Bird is a sizable and energetic organisation, we do not propose that Forest and Bird attempt to undertake the programme on its own. Many aspects of the programme are already being tackled by other groups that are better qualified to address these aspects. In Section 3, *Who Can Help Us Get There?*, we attempt to identify some of those areas and groups.

### 1.4 Other documents

Appendix A — The development of Wellington Wildlink — contains extracts from some Forest and Bird documents that are referred to within this document.

Appendix B — Extracts from contemporary documents — contains some non-Forest and Bird material relevant to Greening Wellington.

Appendix F — Ideas from brainstorming and discussion — includes material from a number of sources, principally those that have fed into the development of this planning document. In particular, it includes the *High-level plan* developed by members during the preparation of this document.

Appendix G — Relevant documents and web references — contains a list of documents and web-links that provide input to Greening Wellington or have bearing on its activities.

## 2. What Do We Want to Achieve?

### 2.1 Where are we now?

#### Global issues

The world is facing a number of serious issues, which together form a crisis for the environment. An understanding of the global situation can help to guide local actions.

The trends include:

- growth of human population and spread of human habitat
- extinction of other species
- food shortages (influenced by water resources) which may lead to starvation and social breakdown
- the end of the era of cheap energy and the oil peak
- greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

We may take some guidance from the Earth Charter — which can be viewed at [earthcharterinaction.org/about\\_charter.html](http://earthcharterinaction.org/about_charter.html) — a widely recognised, global consensus statement on ethics and values for a sustainable future developed for the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. One significant commitment is to “ensure that decision making addresses the cumulative, long-term, indirect, long distance, and global consequences of human activities.”

In order to relate global concerns to local action, we need to understand the situation clearly and to know what the real impact is of our activities. A collection of relevant information and further research will form a major link between global concerns and local action.

#### Implications for Wellington

With respect to Forest and Bird’s mission of preserving and protecting the native plants and animals and natural features of New Zealand, there are a number of challenges to be met in the Wellington area, including:

- population growth
  - population numbers and density are still increasing
  - housing developments are increasing
  - the city is being carved up by increasingly dense urban development
  - regional and district plans allow big cut and fill housing developments, resulting in the infilling of small streams and gullies
- threats to plant and animal species
  - invasive weeds are spreading
  - domestic animals and introduced wild animals pose a threat to native fauna
  - there is a lack of green corridors to connect reserves and support biodiversity
  - green spaces are under threat from urban development and infill housing



- the city's streams are under threat from urban development and increased stormwater input
- there is a lack of environmental monitoring of the water quality of streams and sea shore, of the air, and flora and fauna<sup>1</sup>
- treatment of sewage and run-off affects marine and fresh water ecosystems
- the Terawhiti Reserve proposal, originally outlined in *Natural Wellington*, is yet to be put into practice
- there are few marine reserves and marine protection areas
- food shortages
  - food prices have increased sharply and, together with the current recession, people's resulting focus on economic issues may reduce their concern for the environment
  - land use for agriculture becomes increasingly intensive as the pressure for higher productivity increases
- peak oil
  - car numbers continue to increase and the city's infrastructure is based on increasing car ownership
  - there remains a high dependency on non-renewable energy resources
- greenhouse gas emissions and global warming
  - carbon emissions are increasing
  - air and water pollution are increasing
  - Wellington will not be immune from rising sea levels and an increasing number of severe storms.

## 2.2 Aims and objectives

The objectives of the Greening Wellington programme are to:

- increase biodiversity by preserving and improving natural ecosystems
- minimise the negative impact of human activities on the environment
- increase liaison between Forest and Bird and other groups with similar aims.

Ways to achieve the objectives include:

- identifying "treasures" in the Wellington City area and ecological corridors to link these areas identified by Wellington Wildlink
- increasing the allocation of green space for forest restoration (based, for example, on the number of hectares per thousand population)

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<sup>1</sup> For example, populations of native and endemic birds and plants are thought to be increasing but there are no accurate measures in place. In an e-mail to Shirley Hampton on 31 August 2008, Ian Armitage of the Ornithological Society, noted that various surveys of birds have been completed, or are still underway, in the Wellington locality:

"The most comprehensive comparison of changes in the occurrence of all bird species in Wellington (and throughout New Zealand) can be assessed from a review — species by species — of the recently published Atlas of Bird Distribution of New Zealand 1999–2004, and also an earlier atlas published in 1985.

"Separately, specific local studies are being carried in Wellington and Porirua/Pauatahanui Harbours and elsewhere.

"At a later stage members of the Ornithological Society can help with specific queries that you may have. Colin Miskelly, Department of Conservation states there has been a huge increase in native bird populations. Data for 2005 lists 5 specific birds."

- supporting native flora and fauna
  - increasing the prevalence and diversity of native flora and fauna
  - encouraging the planting of native species of trees and shrubs
  - reducing threats from exotic and invasive plant and animal species
- education
  - increasing public interaction with native flora and fauna
  - educating the public in the general principles of environmentalism
  - providing classroom materials for schools to incorporate managing and improving an ecosystem in the primary and intermediate school curriculum
- networking with other local environmental groups and with the other Forest and Bird branches in the region.

Other ways of reducing the impact of human activity on the environment might include:

- increasing investment in public transport
- improving facilities for walkers and cyclists
- lowering targets for air and water pollution levels
- reducing waste and encouraging recycling and reuse of resources
- discouraging or prohibiting practices that increase the city's carbon footprint
- demanding sustainable design and construction practices.

While these reflect a part of our overall environmental focus, we do not currently see these actions as part of the Greening Wellington programme.

## 2.3 Scope

The table below describes the scope of the programme.

Includes	Excludes
The Wellington Branch area <sup>2</sup> , bounded approximately by Tawa, Newlands, Seatoun and Cook Strait	Porirua northwards; Horokiwi eastwards; the harbour islands
Regular liaison with Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Kapiti-Mana and Wairarapa branches	Horowhenua Branch; branches in the Manawatu-Wanganui Region
Land, lakes, rivers and streams	Ocean and foreshore <sup>3</sup>
Urban, green belt/reserve and rural	
Wellington City Council parks and reserves, the Botanical Gardens, Department of Conservation land, private land and covenanted land	

<sup>2</sup> The boundaries of the Branch area do not coincide exactly with the city boundaries.

<sup>3</sup> The ocean and foreshore are covered by the *Blue Wellington* initiative.

Includes	Excludes
The natural environment (flora and fauna): ecosystems, habitats, species and ecological communities	Aspects of the built environment that do not impact the natural environment directly, such as building design and energy efficiency
Issues relating to drainage, sewerage and stormwater management	
Native and endemic flora and fauna	Introduced flora and fauna
Implementation of those aspects where Forest and Bird has skills and expertise	Implementation of aspects where other groups or agencies are already involved, or have a more appropriate skill-set
Support for, and liaison with, other groups or agencies	

## 2.4 Where do we want to be? – a vision of the future

The vision: In 2025 Wellington City's forests are rich in vegetation and alive with kiwi, kereru, tui, and fantail — visible national icons. The city is known as a world leader in halting the decline of endangered native species in the area and its reputation has brought it world-wide recognition as a centre of excellence for biodiversity and environmental studies.

From a viewing point above the city one can see the ring of scarlet emblazoned around the harbour rim; the rata are in bloom. The ribbons of green and red extend in every direction: some northward to the Tararuas, others across the city as they mingle with the homes of residents. The many gardens boast native flax, cabbage trees, kowhai and a myriad of other local native trees and shrubs, and tree-lined roads all contribute to this green carpet spread out below. It's late evening: the tui, bellbirds, saddlebacks and kaka call as they settle for the night and their calls mingle with the sound of the morepork as it begins its nightly vigil.

These green ribbons, known locally as corridors, are very popular with walkers, cyclists and nature lovers alike, some preferring to use these routes to get to work rather than use their car. It is possible to travel from Tawa to Taputeranga marine reserve without using a tar-sealed road, a real hit with tourists.

A gasp of delight nearby reminds us that we have a visitor from the States enjoying this daily eventide view: she has been sent on a scholarship from her university to learn about the latest techniques in preservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Meanwhile on the beaches people gather to watch as little blue penguins return to their nesting sites around the harbour. Earlier in the day the usual pod of dolphins could be seen cruising around the harbour and orca had been sighted off the south coast. The day's whale-watching had been a huge success with the visitors. As they travel home, bird calls mingle with the sound of the buses in Courtenay Place.

Some individual elements of the vision are:

- the capital city has corridors of native forest within it, and is surrounded by native forest filled with native birds, lizards and insects (GW)
- a significant proportion (say, 15%) of the city's area is covered with indigenous vegetative cover appropriate for the region and most (say, 80%) of this land has some form of long-term protection (GW)

- city dwellers and visitors enjoy the attraction of the natural ecosystems, clean-living lifestyle and the various wildlife-watching experiences (GW)
- the people of the city and region understand fully the implications of the global situation (GW)
- Victoria and Massey Universities both run degree and postgraduate courses in ecology and biodiversity, attracting academics from around the world who come to further their research in a city committed to recovering its sense of nature (GW)
- moves to sustainability are based on well-researched and up-to-date data (GW)
- the city has freshwater eels and other indigenous fish living in all the streams in the Greater Wellington region, and short-finned eels in the recreated Waitangi Stream wetlands (GW)
- vibrant sustainable ecosystems, linked by corridors of native bush, support rare and endangered native and endemic flora and fauna at sustainable breeding or propagation levels; for example, morepork and kereru (GW)
- the concept of corridors has been extended into the harbour and ocean around the greater part of the Wellington coastline<sup>4</sup> (BW)
- a large colony of little blue penguins (say, 5,000-strong) is distributed along the coast and on off-shore islands (BW)
- schools and local communities actively manage and improve ecosystems (GW).

In the list above, those elements that relate to the Greening Wellington initiative are marked with “(GW)”, while those relating to the other major current Branch initiative — *Blue Wellington* — are marked with “(BW)”.

The overall vision also includes some aspects that are not currently within the scope of Greening Wellington or Blue Wellington:

- the city uses public transport extensively and reduces carbon emissions from the energy sector — for transport and electricity by 5% per year from 2008–2012<sup>5</sup>
- dwellings are fully insulated, fitted with water catchment and equipped with solar-powered water heating
- a high proportion (say, 80%) of the city waste is either recycled or re-used and there is no toxic chemical discharge either into the atmosphere or the waterways.

## 2.5 How do we get there?

### Introduction

The plan details possible actions and related concepts, and the techniques to be used — for example: field work, advocacy, education, etc, to get there. These will be put forward to members on an annual basis to choose the programme of work for the year. Members will also be able to propose new projects at any time. The overall programme will be reviewed every five years.

<sup>4</sup> A target exists of having 10% of coastline protected by marine reserves or marine protection areas by 2010. Higher targets have been proposed for later dates. See references in Appendix B.

<sup>5</sup> New Zealand ratified the Kyoto Protocol in December 2002. This commits New Zealand to reducing its average net emissions of greenhouse gases between 2008 and 2012 to 1990 levels or to take responsibility for the difference. The most recent data indicates that total greenhouse gas emissions have risen by 24.7 per cent since 1990 and projections indicate that we will be above our emission reduction target during the 2008 to 2012 period. [www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/climate/international/kyoto-protocol.html](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/climate/international/kyoto-protocol.html)

## Components of a high-level plan

The suggested components of a *High-level plan* appear in detail in Appendix F. Major components are:

- *Research and plan*: Surveys and planning activities
- *Advocacy*: Lobbying councils; preparing submissions on district plans, resource consent applications, etc
- *Monitor rules*: Lobbying to ensure that existing district and environmental planning rules are followed
- *Reduce threats*: Activities to reduce the level of threat to Wellington's native plants and wildlife
- *Protect streams*: Protection of water and streams
- *Improve environment*: Environmental improvement activities and projects
- *Public education*: All aspects of education outside the school system
- *Education in schools*
- *Liaison and networking*

## Forest and Bird's role

The Greening Wellington plan attempts to answer the question: what can the Wellington Branch of Forest and Bird do to supplement the excellent work already under way by the territorial authorities, the Department of Conservation and the many active community and environmental groups?

It is important that we do not attempt to supplant or duplicate the activities of other groups working in the environmental arena, so networking and liaison with other parties will remain a key part of the Greening Wellington plan. Section 3 lists some of the groups and organisations with which Forest and Bird would need to work to achieve its objectives.

To carry out the plan, members of the Branch have proposed a wide range of possible actions. The action plan in Section 4 lists those actions that have been selected as those of highest priority by Branch members and the Branch committee.

Section 4 also contains a list of lower priority actions. These actions may be undertaken by Branch members at a later date, subject to availability of resources.

### 3. Who Can Help Us Get There?

This section lists briefly some of the organisations that may help Forest and Bird realise the Greening Wellington plan. Further details may be found in the appendices.

#### 3.1 Local government

Local government bodies take a keen interest in biodiversity and environmental issues. Any plan of action proposed by Forest and Bird must dovetail with the regional and city council plans if it is to be successful.

##### Greater Wellington Regional Council

Greater Wellington's specific responsibilities include environment management, flood protection and land management, provision of regional parks, public transport planning and funding, and metropolitan water supply.

In February 2008, Greater Wellington published its Biodiversity Implementation Plan for 2008–12. In March 2009 it published its Proposed Regional Policy Statement, which may be found at [www.gw.govt.nz/story26511.cfm](http://www.gw.govt.nz/story26511.cfm) .

##### Wellington City Council

All local public services not covered by Greater Wellington are the responsibility of Wellington City Council. An extract from the council's current environmental strategy appears in Appendix B as "Wellington City Council's Environmental Strategy".

Following on from that strategy, in September 2007 the council published a comprehensive biodiversity action plan, which may be found at [www.wellington.govt.nz/plans/policies/biodiversity/index.html](http://www.wellington.govt.nz/plans/policies/biodiversity/index.html) .

A wide range of other relevant documents are published on the council's website, including the Open Spaces Access Plan ([www.wellington.govt.nz/plans/policies/openspaceaccess/index.html](http://www.wellington.govt.nz/plans/policies/openspaceaccess/index.html)) and management plans for the different areas and operations under its control.

#### 3.2 National government agencies

##### Department of Conservation

The mission of the Department of Conservation (DOC) is "to conserve New Zealand's natural and historic heritage for all to enjoy now and in the future".

DOC is currently revising its Conservation Management Strategy for the Wellington area and expects to complete this by the end of 2009. Its previous (1996) strategy may be found at [www.doc.govt.nz/publications/about-doc/role/policies-and-plans/conservation-management-strategies/wellington/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/about-doc/role/policies-and-plans/conservation-management-strategies/wellington/)

As well as providing experts in the field, DOC also administers the \$4 million Community Conservation Fund, which is intended to help community groups restore native areas on public land.



## **Ministry for the Environment**

The Ministry is the Government's principal adviser on environmental sustainability and international matters that affect the environment. Where matters of environmental government policy are at issue, it will be important to liaise with the ministry.

More information on the Ministry and its role may be found at [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz).

### **3.3 Forest and Bird's regional branches and Central Office**

Elsewhere in this document we have referred to initiatives being undertaken by other Forest and Bird branches in the Wellington region. It is important that formal and informal liaison occur between regional branches to facilitate the coordination of regional initiatives.

### **3.4 Environmental and community groups**

A comprehensive list of Wellington environmental groups, with contacts and description paragraph, will be gathered and made available to members. An initial list of such organisations appears in Appendix C and a map showing the location of some of these groups appears in Appendix D.

### **3.5 Wellington public and businesses**

No plan to improve Wellington's natural environment will be wholly successful without the significant involvement of, and contributions from, the general public and the Wellington business sector.

It will therefore be important to promote the ideas raised in this document to the public at large and to encourage them to get involved in the projects that are proposed as part of the Greening Wellington plan.

### **3.6 National non-government organisations (NGOs)**

Relationships with other NGOs will be important where they have aims that are similar to or that overlap those of Forest and Bird.

There are also a number of organisations that can offer funding to environmental groups, usually for specific projects. Worthy of specific mention in this category is the Bank of New Zealand Save the Kiwi Trust, which donates \$1 million annually to kiwi conservation projects. This is intended for projects such as the provision of predator-proof fences and education programmes in schools. There are also the World Wildlife Fund's Environmental Education Action Fund and its Habitat Protection Fund.

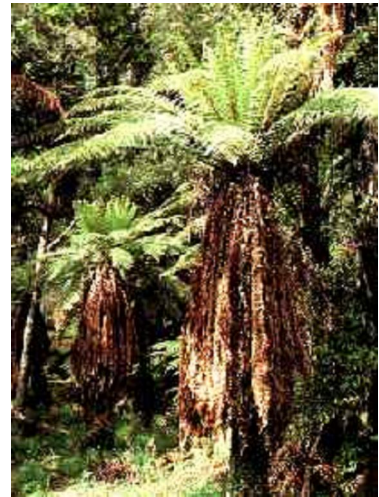
### **3.7 Enviroschools**

The Enviroschools Foundation is a charitable trust that provides support and strategic direction for a nation-wide environmental education programme. In collaboration with a number of national and regional agencies, the Foundation is committed to supporting the creation of a network of sustainable schools and empowering young people to contribute to a sustainable world.

An extract from the Enviroschools website ([www.enviroschools.org.nz](http://www.enviroschools.org.nz)) may be found in Appendix B as "The Enviroschools Programme".

## 4. Action Plan 2008-2009

The Greening Wellington team collated the project proposals below following Branch meetings set aside for the development of this document between May 2008 and March 2009. Members have selected the projects listed below and set priorities for them.



### 4.1 Keeping the action plan up-to-date

Specific projects and priorities are listed in Section 4.2. These priorities were set by members at the second Branch meeting of 2009 and we recommend that at a specified Wellington Branch meeting each year (we suggest the March meeting), the Branch should review actions from the previous year and provide a brief stock-take on how well the actions were achieved.

The meeting can then recommend a revised list for the year to come: some projects may need to be carried over from the following year; others may be deleted as priorities change; and new ones may be added.

Ideas that are not incorporated in a five-year plan should be noted and considered for inclusion in the next five-year plan.

### 4.2 Proposed actions

#### Categorisation

In this section we provide brief descriptions of actions and projects that appear to meet the needs of the Greening Wellington plan. The descriptions are informal — a more comprehensive definition of the work to be carried out will be discussed and agreed at the start of each project as part of its initiation process (see *Initiation* in Section 4.3).

Section 2.5, under the heading *Components of a high-level plan*, lists a number of components. The action list below shows which of these are supported by each of the proposed projects.

Note that the first project is preparatory: project 1 is a precursor to project 2 — which is the one that was given the top priority by the Branch meeting in March 2009. Because of this dependency, project 1 shares that top priority.

No	Project name	Components
1	Update status of actions listed in <i>Natural Wellington</i>	Research and plan
2	Establish and promote wildlife corridors in Wellington (Wildlink)	Advocacy, Reduce threats, Improve environment
3	Short-finned eels in the Waitangi Stream wetlands	Protect streams
4	Revise vegetation clearance rules in the District Plan	Advocacy, Monitor rules
5	Schools' manual on ecosystem management	Education in schools
6	Recycling improvements	Advocacy, Improve environment
7	Provide fish icons on pavements and stormwater information	Protect streams, Public education
8	Liaison and networking	Liaison and networking

More detail on each of the above projects is given below under the heading *Higher priority projects* in Section 4.4.

### Setting priorities

The setting of project priorities (into the general categories “higher” and lower”) is based on discussion and feedback from members.

The factors used to determine priorities include:

- member feedback on the environmental value of the initiative
- the fit with the objectives of Greening Wellington
- the existence of a “champion” — someone with the time and enthusiasm to drive the initiative

### 4.3 Project initiation and reporting

This section describes initiation and reporting processes for projects that are part of the Greening Wellington programme. It aims to strike a balance between giving the assurance that a project is worthwhile and under control, while at the same time not overloading project workers with additional tasks over and above those needed to carry out the project work.

It consists of 2 principal components: Initiation and Reporting.

## Initiation

Initiation is the process by which a project is accepted as a part of the Greening Wellington programme. The process is:

1. Gain oral agreement from the Greening Wellington convenor or other member of the Greening Wellington sub-committee that the proposed project is part of the Greening Wellington programme.
2. Nominate a project co-ordinator who will drive the project to successful completion.
3. In conjunction with the Greening Wellington sub-committee, prepare a project brief: a short description of the vision and desired outcomes and of the methods that will be used to achieve them.

For a small project, this brief might be no longer than half an A4 page. For a larger project the project brief might also include detailed task descriptions, showing how these will contribute to the desired project outcomes, and expected timeframes for the tasks and the project as a whole.

4. For larger projects, establish an interest group of people who will help undertake the project.
5. Nominate other groups and organisations that may be able to help, provide funds or just have an interest in the project (consider Forest and Bird Central Office, other branches of Forest and Bird, Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, schools, and community and environmental groups). Details of the many community and environmental groups in Wellington are listed in Appendix C.
6. Estimate any costs that will be incurred and show how these will be met.
7. Submit the project proposal to the Greening Wellington sub-committee.

Although it is the responsibility of the project co-ordinator to ensure these steps are completed, the task of completing steps 3 to 7 may be undertaken by someone else. In particular, the Greening Wellington sub-committee will help with documentation, preparation of the brief, etc.

For projects that will involve a lot of work, or cost a lot of money, or last a long time, the sub-committee may request additional information before the project starts. The additional information may include more detail of the tasks to be undertaken, likely timeframes and expected costs.

## Reporting

Reporting is the way in which the project co-ordinator can advise the sub-committee of project progress without direct involvement by the sub-committee and without undue time and effort being required by either the sub-committee or the project co-ordinator.

The principal form of oversight will be for the project co-ordinator to provide progress reports to the sub-committee at agreed intervals. The progress reports may be agreed to be written or oral.

The frequency of reporting will also be agreed at project initiation. It may be monthly or two-monthly and may be aligned with sub-committee meetings, but some projects, especially smaller ones, may not merit this frequency of reporting.

Reports, whether written or oral, will typically include:

- progress made since the previous report, including significant milestones
- progress expected in the next reporting period
- any significant problems encountered and how they were overcome, or how it is planned that they will be overcome
- any budgetary issues (if the project has an allocated budget)
- details of contacts and liaison with other interested groups and organisations
- for larger projects, a detailed breakdown of tasks and money spent may be required.

The sub-committee may occasionally call for summary reports. This is most likely before the AGM so that a summary of significant projects can be included in the Annual Report.