



Where to from here

The aim is to establish a resilient and adaptive form of durational stewardship, that is, systems of care for the local ecologies (including people) that can be passed from generation to generation.

Towards this, plans to restore natural areas have been created (see map below):

- Te Raekaihau Headland and View Rd South Reserve Restoration Plan
- Te Raekaihau Coast Restoration Plan
- Lifting the creek (that runs in a pipe with leachate, from Sinclair Park to the sea)
- Cleaning up Houghton Bay beach
- Restoration of the Buckley Rd / Houghton Bay Rd Reserve
- Te Kawakawa Commons
- Houghton Valley School Rainforest

Individual stewards have connected with each other and build a bank of goodwill in order to establish systems of durational stewardship by:

- Regular face to face meetings
- Generation of community events
- This website
- Email Newsletter
- TRiG Newsletter
- Facebook
- Establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding with the WCC Parks & Reserves Dept for the management of the Te Raekaihau Headland and View Rd South Reserve.

Local views on Stewardship

In August 2011, locals were asked to give their views on potential systems of stewardship that would benefit the area. Below are the responses:

1. My idea for a vision statement (of course quite happy for others to help evolve it) is:

Houghton Valley is a thriving community with an active social, resource and community response network; a variety of locally generated events and activities; a healthy and cared for natural habitat; and regularly used communal lands and facilities for gardens, recreation and social interaction.

It seems to be the thing these days to show people like the Council that we know (and agree upon) where we are headed, so I thought the

beginning of a Stewardship Plan is to have a vision for the future that we will work towards. I thought the Plan (or system) would be in fact a collection of more focussed plans such as:

Natural Habitat Restoration Plan

Civil Defence Plan

Community Gardens and Orchards Plan

Events Calendar

and anything else people want to develop....

The main thing would be to establish what areas are designated, or could be used for a particular activity should people want to go further with it.

I thought it might be cool to have a Houghton Valley Little Festival, which could be kicked off by the School Fair (rather than bringing in all the boring same old Hawkers that the others all have), and we could have walks and talks and playing field events etc.

Regards Jenny

2. Hi Jenny, Hoped you didn't take too long to warm up after the garden. This looks very good. I have cc'd this to others who have discussed it and perhaps we could include something in the next newsletter . There has been some discussion about stewardship systems and the question i ask is, what is a resilient model that is able to adapt and evolve? I am currently thinking that if we had an effective and comprehensive communication network, systems of stewardship would activate themselves, as needs arise. Grant

3. Dear Grant,

I suppose I see the Stewardship as a coordination of all the projects within the area so that people are working for a common cause but in their own field. Hence the individual plans, but all worked up in light of what else is going on.

Regarding your other email, yes a general discussion is necessary so Facebook would be a good idea. I like the other ideas, I could also add transport/carpooling, and something about private sustainable development i.e. ideas and advice on solar energy and rainwater harvesting, home gardens etc. Maybe we shouldn't call them plans yet as it seems a bit official.

Regards Jenny

4. Hi Grant,

I think this is an excellent first draft - the value of such a statement comes

when all proposed projects are measured against it prior to any decision to go ahead with, modify, or reject, them. And as Jenny points out, there are further layers of more focussed plans and documentation which can usefully grow from such a start. Cheers Nick.

5. Hi grant, thought this may be of interest/use for you with the phd but also with looking at the houghton valley community. Personally speaking, all these plans for and vision statements etc for community leave me cold (as I may have said before) and I tend to think that they attract a certain type of person who likes to plan and structure things and then that's all that happens; alot of plans (aka WCC council) and the enjoyment of being in community gets a little turgid and dare I say it, boring! I also think that vision statements should be just that; visionary and that doing what the council does (as in lots of words and paper) isnt how the community needs to do it. Our experience with getting people along to plant is; you have to appeal to them emotionally ie have a good time, have some sense of connection, make them feel that they are involved with something really important. I don't know whether you notice, but I work really hard at that on the day while trying not to look like I am! Cheers Kate Ps I may be in the minority here as I notice that some of your other guardians of the valley are planners and I'm also prepared for it to take all sorts as they say :)