

# Restoring Baring Head

Presentation to Hutt City Council, March 2020





A quick  
history





- Land was managed as a farm with no public access
- Subdivision into lifestyle blocks underway when company went into liquidation

Nature Heritage Fund, DOC, GWRC, Hutt City and a private donor jointly won the tender. The land became scenic reserve managed by GWRC as regional park.

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In 2010 the Park opened, the Friends was formed, and the work began to make this an important part of Hutt City.



Importance to  
Hutt City





- It's a spectacular part of the City, with high biodiversity, geological and landform values



- It's an important recreational resource: walking, biking, horse riding, bouldering, hang gliding, diving, fishing, kayaking, whitebaiting





- Nationally important historical site being restored and interpreted



- It has potential to be an important tourism attraction to bring overseas and domestic visitors into the city





- It's a great place to showcase biodiversity protection, particularly for the river





# Involvement of Hutt City to date





Helped purchase the property and provided assistance with condition assessments of the buildings



Ongoing involvement of the council, including:

- site inspections
- participation in openings
- providing meeting rooms for the Trust
- supporting consent processes
- supporting funding applications





Contributed two  
sets of public  
seats.



What has been  
achieved





Visitor infrastructure  
is in place –

carpark, bridge,  
tracks, seats, toilets



Predator control network in place and operated for 10 years

Dotterel population given some protection and breeding improved

Regular lizard monitoring undertaken and population growth recorded





River valley fenced off and retired from grazing, and river showing significant improvement as a result

Thousands of plants in the ground

Coastal wetlands, inanga spawning areas and turf communities fenced off



Weed eradication programme well advanced

– boxthorn, horned poppies and marram close to eradication, large areas of gorse and lupins controlled, control of other weeds started





Rare plants programme  
commenced





Pumphouse restored





First stage of  
lighthouse buildings  
restoration  
completed





Design of visitor centre and interpretation material completed and exhibit construction underway.





Regular public  
events and  
volunteer  
activities

Increasing  
general visitor  
use



What's next





**Complete restoration  
of the buildings**

**Convert houses to  
public accommodation**



## **More work on interpretation:**

- Complete interpretation centre/day shelter in power house**
- Design and complete interpretation, lookout, discovery trail and toilet in lighthouse settlement**
- Design and install interpretation across wider property**





# **Continue the biodiversity programme**

- begin active river restoration work**

- fence off a south coast gully**





# Feasibility study of swing bridge





The Trust has  
made a major  
contribution



\$406,000 raised

Over 2,300 volunteer hours in last 9 months

Sourced goods and services in kind from businesses (e.g., Naylor Love, Dulux International, VUW, Hammond Decorating)

Involved other community groups, businesses and schools (e.g. Rotary, Garage Project, tramping clubs)

Advocacy





What might  
Hutt City's  
future  
involvement be





Continued support with  
resource consent and building  
consent processes

Practical and financial support  
for work on the ground

Advice and assistance for  
access to other funding  
streams (e.g. tourism,  
historical building restoration,  
interpretation)





Helping to promote the area as a visitor destination

Helping us recruit volunteers, including getting existing groups involved

Using the area for Hutt City programmes, such as library events







**FRIENDS OF  
BARING  
HEAD**

