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.



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 processessupporting 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:

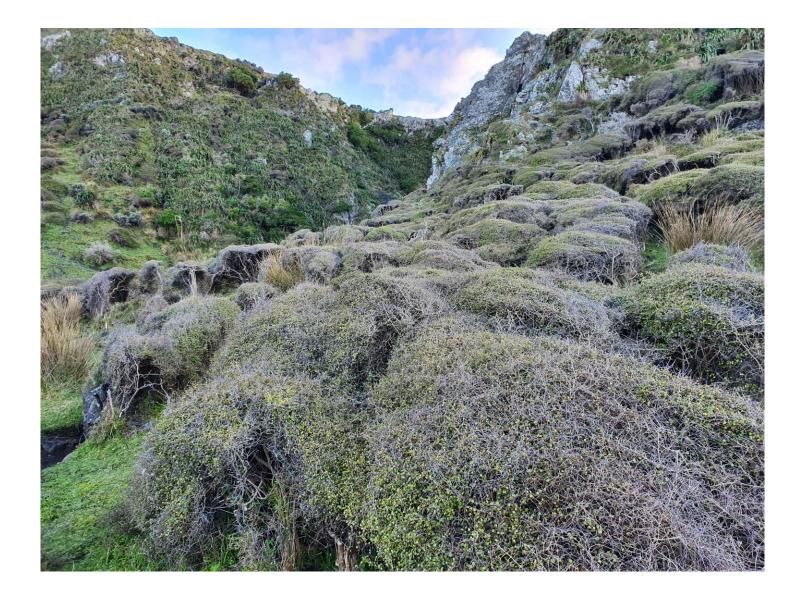
- Complete interpretation centre/day shelter in power house
- Design and complete interpretation, lookout, discovery trail and toilet in lighthouse settlement
 Design and install interpretation across wider property



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





