

WW1 Memorial Forest update

TO	Economic Development Committee
FROM	Jacqui Thorby & Ben Dunbar-Smith
DATE	15 August 2016
SUBJECT	Update report on WW1 Forests project

1 Purpose of Report

To provide an update to members of the Economic Development Committee regarding progress towards planting of the WW1 Memorial Forests.

2 Background

At its meeting on 28th January 2015, Council approved the commencement of the World War 1 Memorial Forests - Te Wao Whakamaumaharatanga, endorsing the Project Initiation Documentation (PID) report which set out in detail the project plan, including projected costs, sources of funding, and the proposed planting programme.

Stage 1 of the project commenced in the 2014-15 year, with more than 3,000 trees planted around the Peninsula at six key sites. This met Council's criteria of ensuring that every Community Board area would have at least one living forest to commemorate those who gave their lives in WW1.

These Stage 1 Memorial Forests include:

- **Whangamata:** To commemorate the Battle of Le Quesnoy, a total of 122 trees have been planted on TCDC reserve land at the northern entrance of Whangamata. **COMPLETED.**
- **Pauanui:** To commemorate the Sinai-Palestine campaign, some 200 trees have been planted along the Tangitarori Lane walkway in Year 1 with another 440 trees to be completed in coming years. **1/3rd completed**
- **Tairua:** Planting of trees at the cemetery honours the 48 war dead from the Tairua-Hikuai area. **COMPLETED**
- **Mercury Bay:** The Gallipoli campaign is commemorated at Cathedral Cove with more than 1400 trees planted to date out of the 2779 projected total. **1/2 completed.**
- **Whitianga:** At the new cemetery, two signature trees have been planted with a further 37 trees blessed at Anzac Day to honour the war dead from the area.
- **Coromandel:** 1000 trees have been planted to commemorate the "Supreme Sacrifice" forest, as well as an additional 39 trees for the Coromandel war dead. **COMPLETED.**
- **Thames:** The Memorial Forest planted at Rhodes Park at the entrance to the town honours the 247 soldiers from Thames who gave their lives in WW1. **COMPLETED.**



WW1 Memorial Forests planted as part of Stage 1



Tairua



Coromandel

3 Issue

To set out Stage 2 of the WW1 Project, with details of numbers of trees to be planted at each of the remaining sites, including timeframes.

4. Discussion

Stage 2 of the project:

At its February 2016 meeting, Council gave approval to proceed with Stage 2 of the WW1 Project. This includes the planting of forests to commemorate the Battle of Passchendaele, the first Battle of the Somme, and the completion of the Gallipoli Forest at Cathedral Cove, as well as the completion of the Sinai-Palestine forest at Pauanui.

The planting of these sites was supported by the NZ Lotteries grant of \$122,205, which combined with the \$40,000 from the Waikato Regional Council's Environmental Initiative Fund from Stage 1, and the donation of \$25,000 from Barker's Menswear, plus contributions from members of the public purchasing the \$25 trees means that the total funding-raising towards the project comes to \$192,585. These funds have been directed towards the planting of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 forests.



Barker's have sponsored 1,000 trees at the Gallipoli site at Cathedral Cove.

Work on planting the new Stage 2 forests has commenced in the winter period of 2016, with a tender process undertaken to select contractors for each of the four forests.

The successful tenderer for planning the remaining 1279 trees at the Cathedral Cove site was the Whenuakite-based Land and Tree Works. This planting was undertaken before the end of June 2016, and the site is now complete. An official opening for this iconic site is planned for Armistice Day on 11 November 2016.

The work of planting the remaining 440 trees at the Sinai-Palestine forest at Pauanui has also been completed, with the work being undertaken by Smart Environmental.



Planting of some of the 640 trees at the Pauanui site of the Sinai-Palestine forest.

The next site due for planting is the Battle of the Somme, which is to be commemorated at the Stella Evered Reserve at Purangi. Staff have drawn up an agreement to grant covenant with the owners of the reserve, the Perpetual Guardian Ltd, so that the trees -once planted - will be protected in perpetuity. This agreement has now been signed, and planting work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August/early September. This work was also awarded to Land and Tree Works.



This picturesque gully at the Stella Evered reserve will serve as the site for 2300 trees which will be planted in commemoration of the Battle of the Somme. This site will run adjacent to the Great Walks track down to the Purangi.

The final forest to be undertaken in Stage 2 will be the Battle of Passchendaele, which will involve the planting of 1500 trees at the new Mercury Bay cemetery. This work will commence in the autumn of 2017 once the cemetery's road works and final cemetery design are completed.

Stage 3 sites: It is not anticipated that any further forests will be planted until the Stage 2 forests have been completed. Once Stage 2 has been completed a report will come back to Council to consider other sites which might form part of Stage 3 planting.

For Stage 3, the next logical Memorial Forest site is the planting of the Battle of Messines on the slopes below the Thames War Memorial. However this is Department of Conservation land, and will not be available until after Treaty settlement negotiations have been concluded. If approval is subsequently given by iwi and DOC, then the Battle of Messines site would need to be costed and agreements reached on funding.

Another potential site which has been proposed is the Colville Cemetery. This is adjacent to a pine forest, which could be felled to potentially create income towards the funding of the forest. Alternatively this funding might come back to Community Board and Council for consideration. However, no decisions on these Stage 3 forests are proposed without full Council consultation and endorsement in the new term.

5 Suggested Resolution

That the Economic Development Committee:

1. Receives the WW1 Memorial Forest update report dated 15 August 2016.