

# Onepoto Lagoon Required Maintenance February 25 2013

## February 6 2012

On **February 6th 2012** I sent an email to Parks and Reserves about maintenance requirements at Onepoto:

*Onepoto Lagoon:*

*I checked the flap valve chamber today and found that the flap valves are not working. The valve plates are supposed to rotate in the swing frames and they do not. This is not much of a problem. It would be expected that being open would cause flooding at high tide but the flow rate does not seem to be sufficient for this.*

*Note that I do have a chain that has held the flap valve from fully closing so that this leakage does cause the water to change each tide. But now it won't close at all.*

*The cover over the weir gates is now unopenable because the padlock hasp has rusted and swollen so that it cannot be moved in the lid holes.*

*The silting around the weir gate is now such that there is only a couple of inches of water at that point. This 'dam' of silt would make it impossible to fully flush the ponds. In fact it would only drain out around 100mm before the dam would need to be dug out to get further draining.*

*Richard Plinston.*

I received a reply from Bob Wallace:

*As for the pond issues I will have Peter Nordstrand 094153827 from Lend Lease to call you to discuss what they can do to assist you with the issues you mentioned. They carry out the regular maintenance of the aeration fountains.*

I met with Peter at Onepoto and pointed out the maintenance issues by opening the flap valve chamber and showing him the dam of silt.

These issues have prevented any possibility of fully flushing the ponds. However, the water is being changed because the flap valves were set to leak water into the pond each high tide and it flows out again during low tide. This changes the pond level about 100mm each tide and cumulatively changes the equivalent of the total pond volume each week.

The flap valves are still as they were last year.

## February 2013

On **February 3** It was reported to me that the pond level was very low. On visiting the pond it was apparent that the weir gates had failed due to gribble worm and rotting of the boards. As this was a late Friday afternoon it was decided that these needed replacement immediately.

A separate report was produced about this and it is available at [NZRYS Website](#).

On **February 24** again the pond was low. Opening the weir gate chamber showed that the sill was breaking up. This had also rotted out but we could not replace it as it seems to be concreted in place as part of the chamber.

A plywood panel with rubber sheet was placed over the weir gate boards and down over the sill on the pond side. This was held in place over the sill by a bag of sand. It cut down the leakage significantly. It was noticed at the time that there was a crack in the side of the weir gate chamber next to the outlet pipe that was also leaking water bypassing the weir gates.

On **February 25** at low tide the weir gate chamber was inspected again. The sill was not leaking much but the crack in the concrete was gushing water and emptying the pond which was now even lower than the previous day.



*The weir gate chamber, the leak is alongside the exit pipe top centre in the photo.*

An attempt was made to plug this and it seems to be successful so far.

## Required Urgent Maintenance:

- \* **Weir Gate chamber cracked concrete.**
- \* **Weir Gate sill.**
- \* **Flap Valves.**
- \* **Fountains.**

Richard Plinston  
President NZRYS, Chairman OLCC.