

Work on the Art Whistler Memorial Rare Plant Garden Jan- May 2021

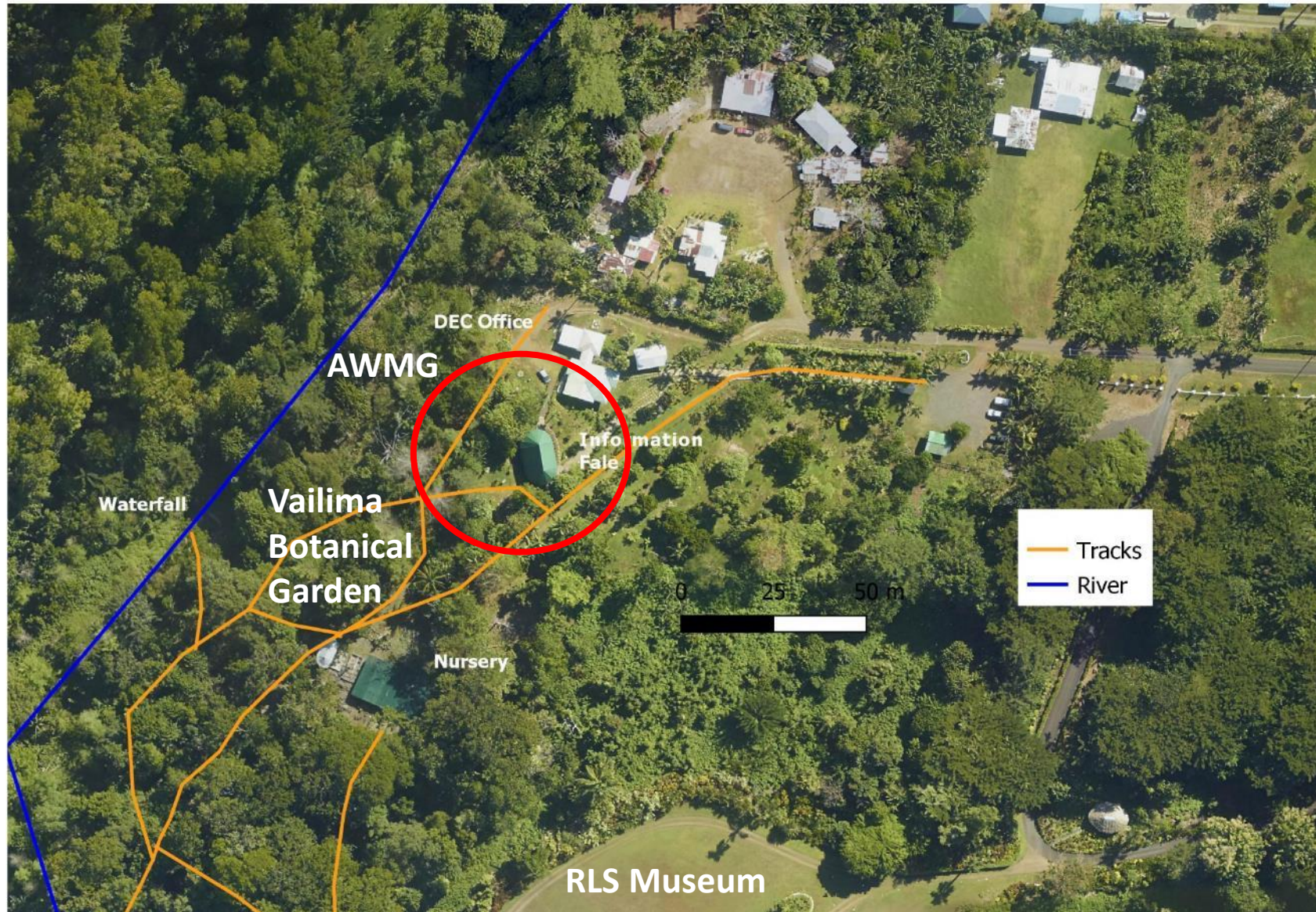
The AWMG is supported by Art's family and friends and the following organisations:



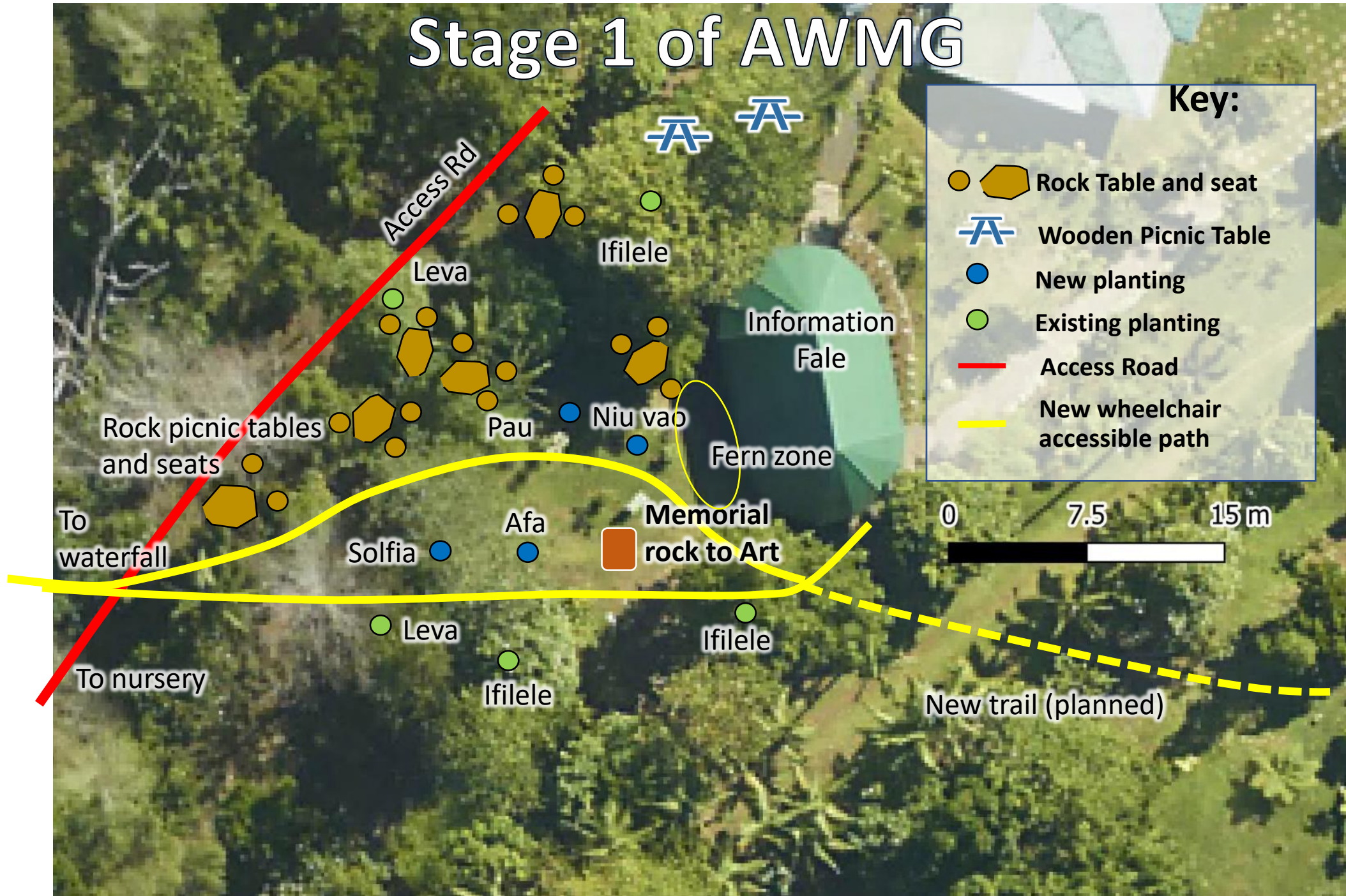
Ministry of Natural Resources
and Environment
Matagaluega o Puna'oa
Faalenatura ma le Siosiomaga



The Art Whistler Memorial Garden is located at Vailima within the Vailima Botanical Garden near the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum

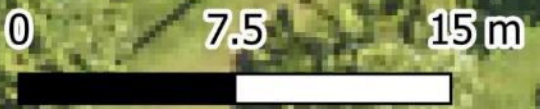


Stage 1 of AWMG



Key:

- Rock Table and seat
- Wooden Picnic Table
- New planting
- Existing planting
- Access Road
- New wheelchair accessible path



The garden before work began in January 2021



**The stake marks
where the
Art Whistler
memorial rock
was later placed**



Work on Information Fale
March 2021 by
Tuatagaloa Joe Annandale and
team





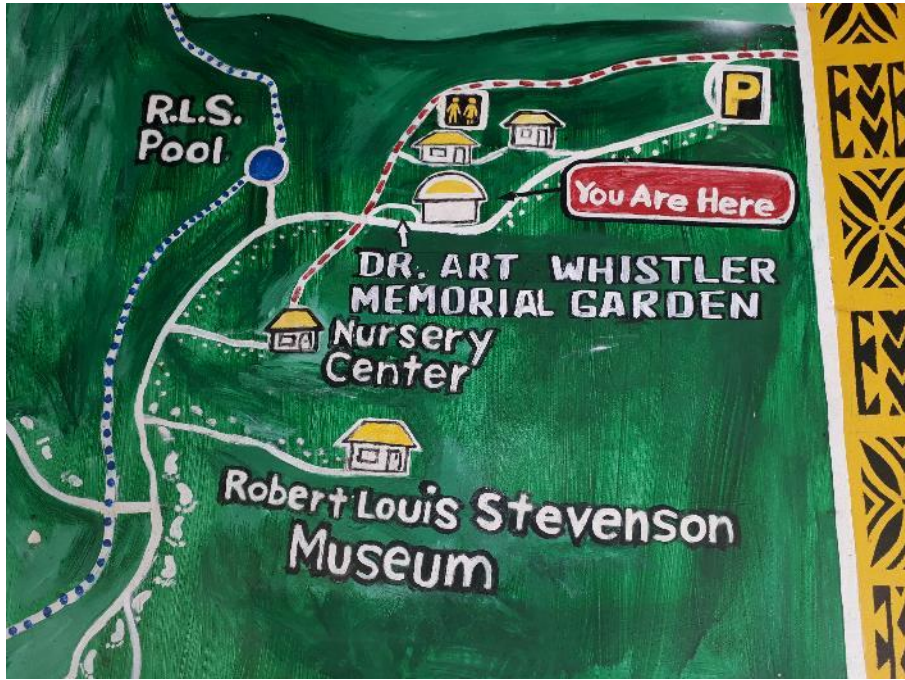


The information
fale has been
renovated with
new paint work,
lashings, new
purlins and
painted carvings

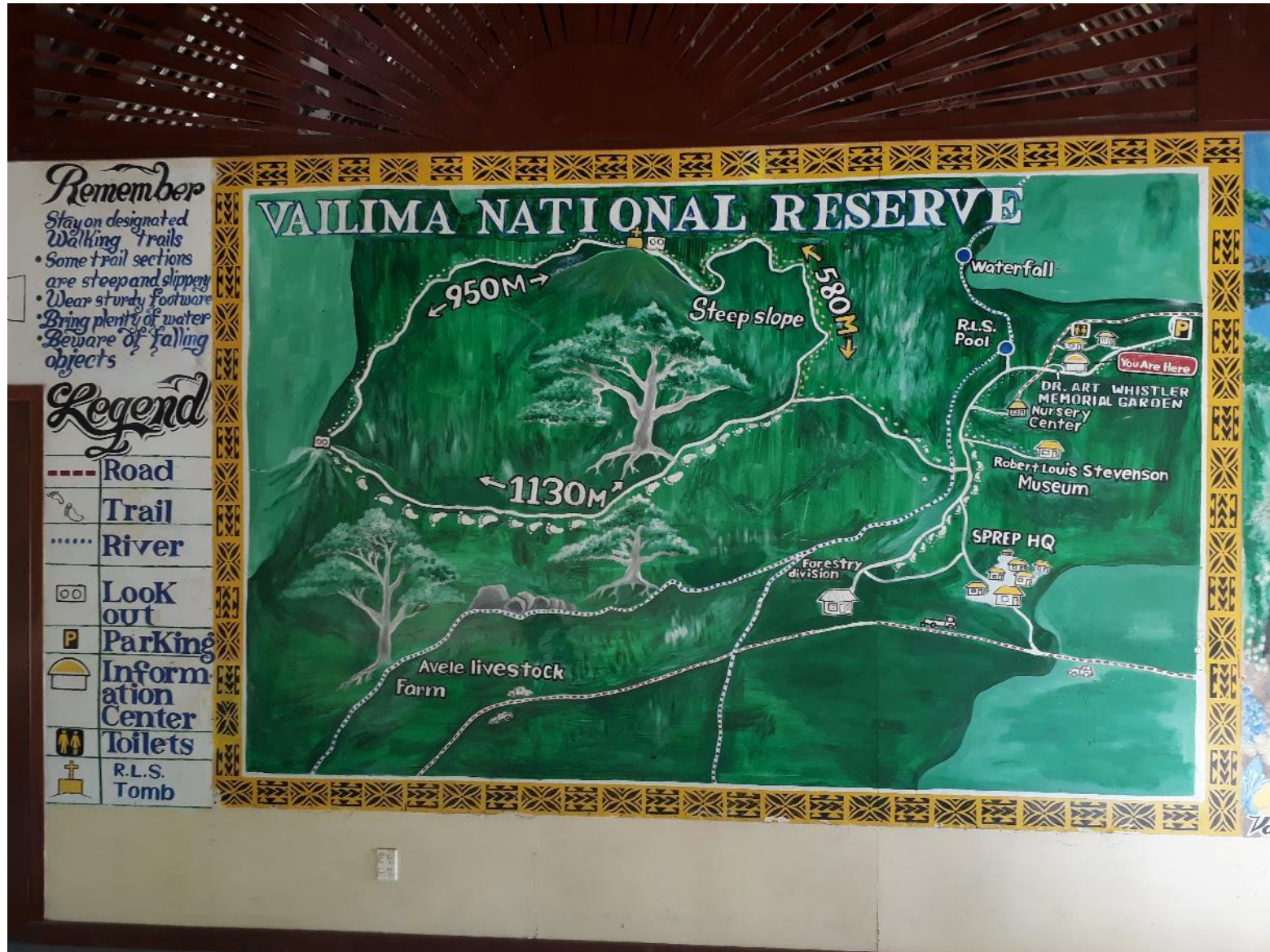


Carvings of birds have been done on the fale posts- owl and kingfisher





Additional text on the AWMG has been added to the wall map in the fale





**Details of lashings in fale using traditional sinnet (afa)
Some lashing work still to be done**

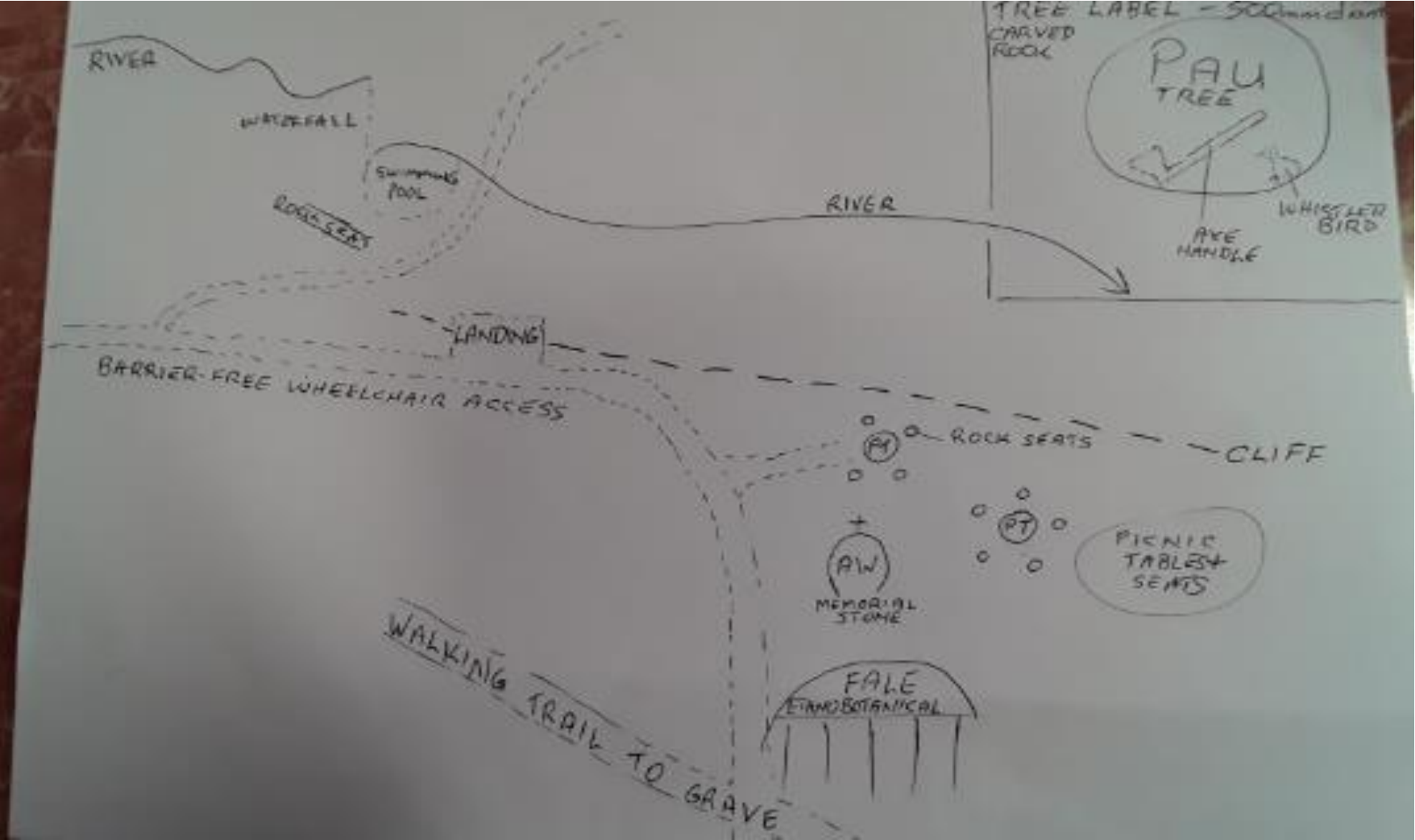


Interpretive panels will be placed in the middle two fale openings- one on Art, the other on the rare plants garden and will be double sided so can be viewed from inside or outside the fale



Rock work by
Papalii Penehuro
Jan- May 2021

Penehuro's Plan for AWMG



**Art's
memorial
rock to be
engraved
with text
but not
painted**



**Penehuro's
Rock work for the
AWMG at his
workshop at
Vaitele - picnic
tables, seats, bird
baths and tree
labels (30 rocks)**



Rocks placed in April 2021

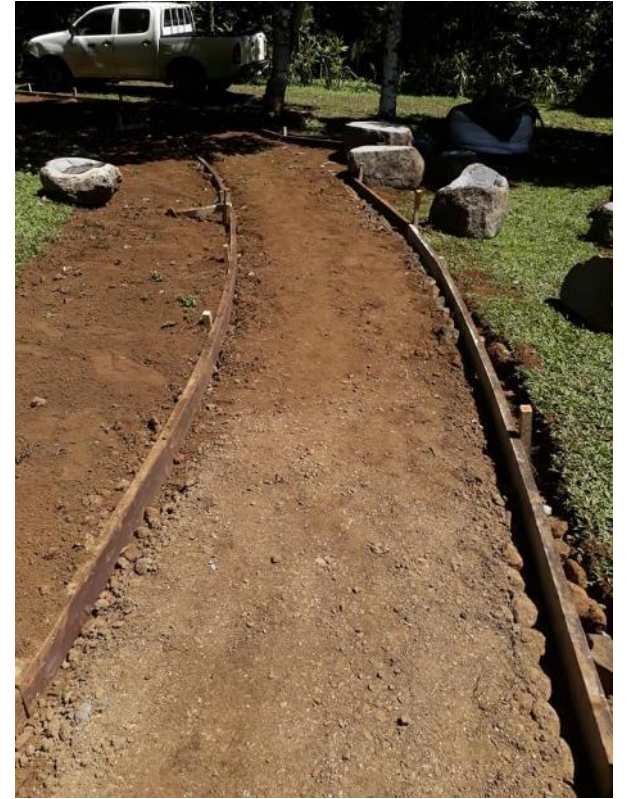


Completed Rock Garden with Memorial Rock for Art Installed



Wheel chair accessible trail
by
Isaia Iona Joinery
April – May 2021

Trails Work April- May 2021



1 ton of old coca cola bottles were crushed by SRWMA and used in the trail- the first time in Samoa for crushed glass to be used in trails



Completed wheel chair accessible trail on May 12, 2021



Interpretive Panels (to be installed June 2021)

Panel 1

Talofa and Welcome to the Dr. Art Whistler Rare Plant Memorial Garden

This garden was established to honour the memory of renowned botanist Dr. Art Whistler and to showcase Samoa's rare and endangered plants. Art spent his career studying Samoa's plants and identified 108 plants that are rare and endangered and in need of conservation. In this garden, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Samoa Conservation Society, with the support of partners, are growing many rare plants in order to study and propagate them, and to save them for posterity. The garden will be developed in stages over the coming years. Do your part by learning about our plants and supporting plant conservation efforts!

Samoa's plants are important
Samoa's culture and economy developed based on an intimate relationship between people and plants. Most of our plants have some use - for food, medicine, clothing, construction of houses or canoes, handicrafts, ornamentation or for village beautification. Plants with a use generally have a Samoan name.

Our plants are highly threatened
Samoa's native plants are threatened by a battery of threats including deforestation, introduction of aggressive invasive species and the over-exploitation of forest resources. Also, natural hazards such as cyclones, floods and soil erosion, all exacerbated by climate change, are increasing threats.

Did you know that Samoa has:

- around 550 native flowering plant species and 220 native ferns
- around 30% of our native plants are endemic to Samoa (i.e. only found here)
- around 100 native orchids
- more native species of ferns than New Zealand, a country 88 times bigger than the Samoan islands
- about 500 plant species that have been introduced deliberately or by accident, many of which are spreading and considered invasive

To learn more about what you can do to save Samoa's plants and biodiversity please visit:
facebook.com/conservesamoa/
facebook.com/samoa.nature/
conservesamoa@gmail.com

Two emblematic endangered endemic plants on display in the gardens:
 Pau (*Mandilaria samoensis*)
 Niu vao (*Cinostigma samoense*)

The AWMG is supported by Art's family and friends and the following organisations:

Panel 2

Dr. Art Whistler Tupu o le Vao – the King of the Forest

Art Whistler was an American academic, ethnobotanist and writer who was instrumental in documenting the flora and ethnobotany of Samoa, as well as many other islands in the South Pacific. For over 50 years Art studied and sought to preserve the floral biodiversity of Samoa, as well as sharing his knowledge with local conservationists and communities while mentoring all who were interested.

Ethnobotany of Samoa
Art realized that the traditional herbal knowledge was an oral record, and that it was gradually being lost. He diligently interviewed the healers and recorded their information, and so preserved this herbal knowledge. He published books on the herbal medicine of many South Pacific nations. In addition, he also wrote of the many uses and methods of using the plants in Polynesian culture, recording this information for posterity.

The Flora of Samoa
Art's most significant work, the "Flora of Samoa" represents 50 years of botanical research. Art conducted over 77 collecting expeditions and collected over 9,700 specimens. This important work will be published in 2021 and will serve as a definitive reference for generations to come.

Dr. Wayne Arthur Whistler
 Born: Trona, California, October 12, 1944
 Died: Honolulu, Hawaii, April 2, 2020 (Covid 19)

Art wrote more than a dozen books on the flora and ethnobotany of Polynesia.

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One of Art's 9700 herbarium specimens. In this case the rare and endangered *Vavaea samoensis* only recorded at around 950m on the crater rim of Mt. Le Pae on Upolu.

**Transplanting Work
by Garden Committee
May 2021**



Pau, Afa and many tree ferns and ground orchids have been transplanted. Falaga, more ground orchids and tree ferns, Solfia and Niu Vao are still to be transplanted









Garden Opening Event Planned for July 2021 After All Plantings Completed

**Metal bird cut
outs of native
birds (eg
Manumea and
Maomao) will
be placed on
trees in
garden...**

