

Trelissick Park adopt-a-spot news

Kia Ora Volunteers!

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for Trelissick Park adopt-a-spot volunteers. I hope to send out an email newsletter like this once a month! The aim is that you all know about what is going on in the park, so we can help each other answer any queries you may have. I plan to include information about one plant and one weed each month too, so if you have any specific species that you would like more information about, please let me know!

As most of you know, I have been employed on a Ministry for the Environment SMF grant, to try to encourage volunteers into Trelissick Park. My objectives are to get 20 new 'Spottees' in the park this season – so thank you to all you new volunteers for signing up!

We currently have 14 people who regularly volunteer in the park, plus 5 individuals from the Trelissick Park Working Group. Please remember to tell friends and neighbours about the opportunity as they might like to get involved too!

For November the aim is to have your spot ready for summer! This means releasing any trees on your site from weeds, and if possible putting mulch around the base of the trees. This will help to retain moisture over the summer. For those of you with no trees on your spot yet, it's a great opportunity to clear some larger weeds such as Broom and Tree Lucerne, and to make a start on that convolvulus! You could also start to identify which areas still have wet ground, as these might be spots to plant Nikau or Kahikatea next season.

The Trelissick Park Working Group have been asked by WCC to provide an indication of how many volunteer hours are spent in caring for the park. You will soon (if you haven't already) receive an email from Barry Durrant asking you to indicate approximately how many hours you personally spend volunteering in the park each month. Please help Barry by filling this out as best you can. We might shock the pants of WCC with how many hours we manage together!

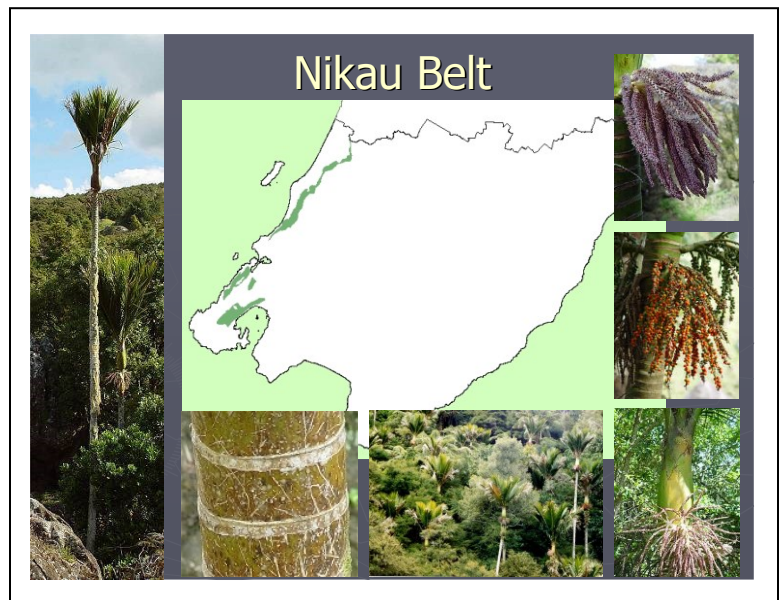
Adopt a Spot BBQ: As it is approaching the end of the year, I hope we can all get together to celebrate what we have achieved and to discuss where we go from here. I suggest we all meet at Wightwicks field for a BBQ picnic at 12 noon on Saturday 9th December. I will provide the BBQ, and some sausages. Please BYO salads and refreshments.

Plant of the month

Nikau Palm

Palmae Rhopalostylis

Trelissick Park is located in part of the very special Nikau Belt. This area is so specific that we fall into it, and Otari Wiltons Bush outside of it. Because this palm is so rare in the Wellington region it is important for us to do what we can to encourage it. Over the years we have planted at least 6 Nikau that I know of. The Nikau palm is New Zealand's only



native palm. It can grow up to 15m tall, and can live for a couple of hundred years. It is very difficult to transplant Nikau, so we are doing well with our 6 in the fenced area below Wightwicks field! Nikau have beautiful flowers and also produce fruit which attract birds.

Weed of the month

Willow trees

Wellington City Council started to poison some off the willows in the Korimako Stream last week, by drilling holes at the base and filling them with a Roundup mix. The willows are being controlled because they can have a negative impact on stream ecology. Where willows replace native riparian vegetation the result is reduced habitat and food supply, reduced diversity of vegetation, and fewer feeding and breeding opportunities for native fauna. Willows will dominate the riparian zone as they spread rapidly by seed or vegetatively (i.e. branches and twigs break off and take root), and their dense shade and thick root mat restricts the growth of the understory.

We kill the trees standing because it costs a lot to fell and remove them. They need to be removed if they are felled because they send up new shoots when they hit the ground & become more difficult to control. Leaving them to die standing means the fragments are already dead before they hit the ground (and therefore won't sucker). This also allows natives more opportunity to establish before the willows fall.

