

## Trelissick Park adopt-a-spot news

Kia Ora!

I hope you have all made a great start to 2007! The amount of work we have achieved over the Christmas break is phenomenal. Thank you all for all your hard work!

For those of you with access to the internet – I am in the process of adding a list of 10 key weeds which you can help to control in Trelissick Park. This list includes details about the weed, why it is a problem, and how you can deal with it. The list groups weeds into 3 categories. Please be patient while we get this up on the internet at [www.trelissickpark.org.nz/weeds.htm](http://www.trelissickpark.org.nz/weeds.htm). For those of you without internet access please let me know if you would like to receive a printed copy of this resource.

I have been working with WCC to make arrangements to have any nasty weeds removed from the park. If you do any weeding of Tradescantia, or any other category one weeds (see weed list), please let me know, or contact the weed team yourself on 499 4444. The WCC weed team will take away any plant matter you leave near the entrances to the park. Please ensure there is a full load of weeds before requesting pick up.

If you are unable to carry full bags of weeds to the entrances, please leave bags (not too overloaded) near to the track. If you see full bags of weeds near to the track and you are able to carry one or two, please leave them near the entrance to the park. We can achieve a lot if everybody does a little!

WCC have also agreed to spray any areas you clear of Tradescantia. Please let me know if you clear a large patch, and I will ask the guys to come in and spray it. After an area has been sprayed, please leave it alone for 4 weeks. This will give the spray a chance to work right down into the roots. WCC will usually indicate with spray paint where they have sprayed.

Remember if you see any pollution incidents such as the stream looking milky or oily, please ring the Greater Wellington pollution hotline on 0800 496 734.

Also, we have found homes for some 360 plants, but we still need people to care for another 300 – 400 baby plants. If you do have room in your back yard, please send me an email or call me, and I will arrange for Otari Wiltons Bush staff to contact with you. We have nowhere to store these seedlings in the park so we need your help to ensure we have enough plants to fill all the spaces we have cleared this year!

It is up to us to care for Trelissick Park, and we now have a great number of people interested in what is happening in the park. Please keep spreading the word, and I would appreciate any ideas you have of groups or individuals who may be interested in getting actively involved with the park.



## Plant of the Month

### Pigeonwood



Pigeon wood is a common tree in cultivation, and as the name suggests is popular with our native wood pigeons, who eat the drupes. The drupes are about 1.5 cm long and when ripe they are bright red. The leaves are quite variable in size and shape, ranging from smooth edged to serrated. The leaves are quite tough and leathery.

The verdent green colour of its leaves and the bright red coloured fruits make this an attractive plant. The species is dioecious, producing seed only on female plants. The seed is readily available from summer to mid winter and it germinates readily in a glass house over winter.



We have recently found a few of these naturally germinated near the stream. These probably came from Otari with the help of a friendly Kereru.

## Weed of the Month



Giant Asiatic Knotweed is ranked in the top 100 most invasive species in the world. We have identified a small invasion of this nasty weed near to the track below Rod Donalds rata in the gorge. This weed will be controlled by WCC. If you see any other infestations of this weed please contact me as soon as possible so we can eradicate this weed from the park before it takes off!

This plant spreads by rhizomes, and research indicates that it also produces allelochemicals from the roots, which aids in the aggressiveness and rapid colonisation strategy. It is very difficult to remove once infestations start to spread.