

Gorge Gazette - March 2025

News about Trelissick Park, the Ngaio Gorge and streams



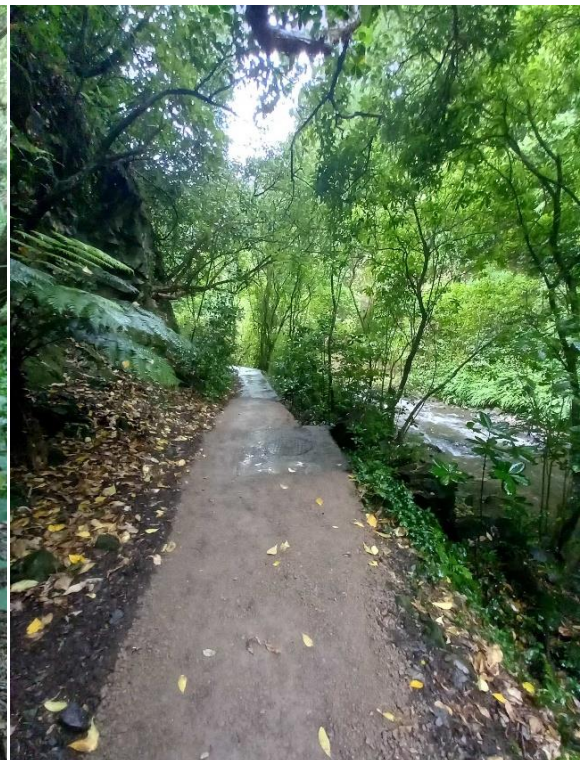
Abbreviations:

WCC	Wellington City Council	GW	Greater Wellington Regional Council
DoC	Department of Conservation	GG	Gorge Gazette
TPG	Trelissick Park Group	OWBT	Ōtari Wilton's Bush Trust
S to S	Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara Sanctuary to Sea	OHS	Onslow Historical Society

Membership drawn from Highland Park Progressive Association Inc., Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association Inc., Onslow Historical Society Inc., Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Inc. (Wellington Branch), Wellington Botanical Society Inc., Wadestown Residents' Association.

Thrice delighted

Good heavens! Comments below ...



Nīkau palm – This is one of a group planted next to Wightwick's Field more than thirty years ago. The first to reach the flowering/fruitletting stage!

For more, see: nzpcn.org.nz/rhopalostylis-sapida.

Jonathan Anderson has posted to iNaturalist at <https://inaturalist.nz/observations/258345594>.

Kaiwharawhara valley track upgrade – A breeze now for those of halting gait.

Thanks, WCC's Tim Harkness and contractor.

The Christmas tree – From teenager Oscar, at the park entrance from Hanover Street.

He will go far.



In the days of yore

Website maintainer Catherine van Hale supplemented our 66 *Gorge Gazettes* from 2007 with:

Six *Gorge Gazettes* by John McInnes from 1994 to 1998

Nine *Adopt-a-Spot news* by Kate Mackenzie between 2006-2007.

Boosting the adopt-a-spot scheme

Read Kate Mackenzie's *Adopt-a-Spot news* above and be inspired. Kelvin Hastie has volunteered to be the new coordinator.

Dogs 'on leash' verboten?

'Off leash at all times', the new sign says, in large letters.

A new domain

Deidre Burke over the years kindly funded the website domain under her personal name via *Freeparking*. Bill Hester, in collaboration with Deidre and Catherine van Hale, have now initiated a domain transfer for trellissickpark.org.nz to *MyHost*.

Website navigation

For maps, tracks, entrances, bridges, memorials and features go to [maps](#).

Animal pests in peril

Updating the July 2024 GG:

New setup:

- **New leadership/oversight:** **Briony Ellis** will oversee all the trapping activity within the park and **Jim Nicolson** the brodifacoum bait stations.
- **Bill Hester:** backup coordination with WCC and GW.
- **Three** bait (brodifacoum block) station volunteers: **Steve Mackle**, **Andy McIver** and **Jim Nicolson** - servicing **28 bait stations**.
- **Two** DOC200 volunteers: **Warrick Fowlie** and **Richard Grasse** looking after **17 DOC200** traps.
- **One** volunteer doing a cluster of **ten tunnel (victor) traps** near Bridge 7: **Shelley Kininmonth**.
- **One** volunteer: **Andrew Cutler** managing **15 A24** (Goodnature) traps on the park hillside below Oban Street.
- **GW:** support and supplies when needed and to maintain the 20 Baitsafe possum defence stations to prevent infiltration by possums (see map on link below). (**Bruce Brewer** and **Paul Horton**).
- **WCC:** supplies and support as needed. (**Debbie Hawker** and **Adam Groenewegen**).

Our team aims for a regular (often monthly) servicing to help keep predator levels low – and

See [Gazettes](#). Press the magic 'refresh' key F5 if necessary.

John McInnes' 1999 edition has eluded us, but there is a print copy of it, along with the other six in the Turnbull Library.

The rewards of developing your own 'spot'! See [Adopt a spot info](#), then contact us at trellissickgroup@gmail.com.



short runs to sustain volunteer commitment over the years.

WCC requested upgrading all DOC200 traps to be the 'longer' ones – to avoid possible kill of a kiwi when they arrive.

However, a bigger danger to kiwi will be the off-leash dogs in the park.

The park is surrounded by predator free groups in Wadestown, Crofton Downs, Ngaio and Khandallah – long suburban boundaries ideal for predator infiltration. With Kiwirail land included the 24-hectare park measures about 65 hectares on the traps.nz map. This map shows the A24s, DOC200s and the tunnel traps in current locations.

For more see: [Predators](#).

Inanga egg excitement

Nate Rigler (S to S) says inanga eggs were found on 3 March at the Kaiwharawhara estuary. There were likely over 100, nestled in and at the base of the vegetation growing alongside the true right bank of the stream at the saltwater wedge, a few metres downstream of the road bridge. He didn't find any eggs in any other location in the site.

A BUPA involvement?

The BUPA retirement village in Crofton Downs overlooks the park. Some of the residents are interested in adopting a spot. After discussions, the Waikowhai Street entrance nearby appears

Signage project

Steered by TPG Chair Anne Tuffin, the newly formed Signage Project Group also includes:

- Mike Oates** (ex-Ōtari and WCC)
- Gini Letham** (Snr Comms Advisor at Zealandia)
- Maisie O'Donnell** (Experience Design)
- Jono Davies** (Graphic design and photography)
- Rose Hobden** (Comms, ex-DOC) - later, for a final review of the project.

The project team will be working closely with WCC parks and reserves and mana whenua to improve signage in the park. The project is funded by the Transpower Community Fund and from the generosity of Frances Lee.

The group has discussed a project brief, looked at current signage in the park for wayfaring and information and will meet members of the wider park community to understand users' experience, wants and needs.

Back to the Maynard times

Anne Tuffin has just met Margaret Maynard. She is mentioned in several of John McInnes' *Gorge Gazettes* between 1994-98 as a member of the 'Trelissick Park Ngaio Gorge Working Group' (now TPG), participating as 'Co-opted Minutes Secretary', 'Adopt a Spot Organiser' and Group meetings.

Anne says that Margaret's husband Keith was particularly fond of native trees and planted many kōwhai seedlings down from the Hanover Street

Plants coming soon

Jonathan Anderson is collaborating with WCC's Anita Benbrook about ordering plants from the Berhampore nursery in three consignments:

- Working bee plantings
- Podocarp grove plantings*

The vegetation wasn't what was planted. However, Nate asked the ExxonMobil team earlier last year to no longer weed-eat the grass in this location. They were happy to oblige. He thinks the higher number of eggs this year compared with last (they only found 10) was because of this.

For more, see all five 2024 GGs via [gazettes](#).

the best option, in similar vein to Marilyn Hester's planting around the Trelissick Crescent verge.

The wheels are turning.

The current 'named' and signposted tracks in the park are discussed on the website [Trelissick Park: Tracks](#) and include the Northern Walkway, Trelissick Loop Track, Ngaio Gorge Track, Sanctuary to the Sea Track and Te Araroa Trail.

The Northern Walkway down to Bridge 6 is being upgraded - and will then incorporate the Ngaio Gorge Track, and the Sanctuary to the Sea Track and Te Araroa Trail. That involves making the track past the Kaiwharawhara Stream canyon 'Lookout' (upstream of bridge 6) an alternate track rather than being part of three main tracks.

To add to the melting pot, it's useful to have local sections of the tracks named. Any comments on: [Trelissick Park draft local track names?](#)

Please email trelissickgroup@gmail.com and put 'Signage' in the subject line, with any thoughts about park signage, or track names.

entrance - she and Keith's house was on Hanover Street. They had an early involvement with the formation of the Wadestown Residents' Association.

She mentioned the masses of gorse and blackberry down from the Hanover Street entrance that they tackled in the 1970s/80s.

Margaret said she and Frances Lee flatted together in Thorndon around the 1960s.

Heritage trees

*Upstream of bridge 7 on the true right bank – see p.2 of January 2024 GG.

A new bridge 6

WCC's Tim Harkness is planning to replace the existing bridge across Kaiwharawhara Stream on the Northern Walkway below the Hanover Street entrance next summer.

Built to withstand increasing onslaughts, we hope – see Barry Durrant's photo taken in July 2021.

Tim is looking to have the deck a bit higher but is not sure it won't get submerged in extreme events.

An addition to our weed haven

Maggie Bayfield from OWBT spotted mistflower near Bridge 6 (down from Hanover Street). It is said to be a problem up north.

WCC's Illona Keenan says 'maybe not here', but 'keep an eye out for it'. See [Mistflower Weedbusters](#).



Photo: Carolyn Lewis

A women's group



On Wellington Anniversary Day a group of women met on the track below Hanover Street to weed tradescantia. The aim is to treat the track like a 'firebreak' clearing the track sides completely of tradescantia, so it doesn't travel from one side to the other, or along the track. The group tackled an

area of trad growth above the new steep steps that replaced the washed-out track.

They plan to come back on Wellington Anniversary Day every year.

The bushy bandwagon plays on

WCC advises that stormwater neutrality is required on all housing development sites as per the rules in the 2024 District Plan. The Plan does not become fully in force until 2026, but there is a statement that all provisions are to be 'treated as operative' now. That is reassuring, but the rigour of standard inspection procedures to verify stormwater neutrality during construction comes to mind.

We also worry about loss of trees. The September 2024 GG strongly advocated for Wellington's unique bushy suburbs. 'Birdlife is flourishing ... Trees harbour other life and are a balm for the soul' we said.

Close to home: three new dwellings proposed for 128 Trelissick Crescent above the park.

Situation vacant

Track maintenance volunteers (and coordinator).
WCC is allowing us to help with some track work including:

- filling wet and worn patches of track with gravel
- forming and maintaining drainage channels beside tracks

- maintaining existing steps.
We are looking to form a track maintenance group to do this ongoing work.

If you are interested in helping, please email trelissickgroup@gmail.com.

At the 51-trees spot



The Interfaith Group continues to nurture their spot, following the planting of 51 trees a few years ago to commemorate the Christchurch Mosque shooting victims. It is a difficult, swampy site, beside Kaiwharawhara Stream down from bridge 6 on the true right bank. Tree losses are to be replaced.

There were three much-needed visits in February, including one by Todd Corporation. Thanks to Mitre 10 for the stakes (some visible in the foreground).

For more photos of those visits and of recent working bees, see our Facebook page.

Northern Walkway upgrade - steep sections above Bridge 6, Ngaio side

Just started. Thanks, WCC's Tim Harkness and contractor.

Stan Pillar

Stan Pillar of OHS died on 24 February. Stan reliably opened and prepared the OHS room at the old Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange building, used for TPG meetings for many years, then participated on behalf of OHS.



*Stan at the
TPG 20th
celebration,
2011*

Contacts

trelissickgroup@gmail.com

[Trelissick Park Group website](#)

[Trelissick Park Group | Facebook](#)

GW pollution hotline: 0800 496 734