

Gorge Gazette

News about Trelissick Park, the Ngaio Gorge and Streams

(Footbridges over the stream are numbered from 1 – 6 going downstream, excluding the old bridge off the side of Wightwick's Field).

Abbreviations:

WCC Wellington City Council
GW Greater Wellington Regional Council
GG Gorge Gazette

Website www.trelissickpark.org.nz (includes past Gorge Gazettes)

Facebook* <https://www.facebook.com/TrelissickParkGroup>

* You do not have to be a member to just look - when the registration window comes up, just click on "close".

APRIL 2013

The surprise is how resilient they all are. We visit last year's plantings expecting the worst as the big "dry" continues. But there they all are, cheerful as ever. We are not watering, to encourage deep-rooting. Buckets of grey water only just meet the insatiable thirst of the home nursery.

Fish Stories

Robin Simenauer, who lives next to the Korimako Stream upstream of the Park, says his kokopu, first noticed by neighbour Bryce Johnson, "has a new companion over the past few weeks - an eel - and they seem to share the same hideaway and swim around together. The kokopu is (we think) a pregnant female as it is getting quite large". Compare his photos, a month apart, along with the companionable eel.



The eel is probably different to the one Trevor Lloyd has been harbouring for a few years outside his place, further upstream.

Fish Passage and the Detritus Trap

After the 1976 floods, the detritus trap was installed across the lower Kaiwharawhara Stream to catch logs and debris before the stream enters the tunnels below the commercial area. As can be seen, this is not friendly to migrating fish. Early in April, Sam Lister of Capacity is arranging for fish passage here by repositioning sufficient rocks to fill the void between the railway irons and hollow below in order to provide a uniform and fish-friendly grade.

Meanwhile, Peter Reimann, armed with a mattock, attempted to dig out the fish ramp at the junction of the Korimako and Kaiwharawhara Streams (see photo). A trickle of water is now going further down the ramp. This was buried in the big August 2010 slip. More slip debris is sure to come down, so the story does not end yet.



At the Coal-face

Our minds are set on planting - thwarted until the rains come. So it's onwards with the weeding. Angela Incedon is kindly acting our new "tea lady" at our bi-monthly working bees.

Marilyn Hester is collecting wandering willie at the "zig-zag" below Trelissick Crescent. This is hiding furtively within thickets of blackberry, gorse and grass. Interlopers by the NPA seat between bridges 1 and 2 also kept her busy. Bill Hester and Jim Gifkins have chased old man's beard on steep slopes. Richard Grasse has been weeding at the plantings on the ex-gorse slope below Trelissick Crescent. Dave Hames and daughter Annalise cleaned up the Waikowhai St entrance where blackberry and bindweed were asserting themselves. It is a delight to see the two transplanted pigeonwood seedlings, now 7 cm tall, still thriving. Peter Reimann has finished weeding around the plantings at the ex-blackberry area across the stream between bridges 3 and 4. Despite the dry weather, karamu seedlings are coming up everywhere. The area behind the bollards next to the Waikowhai St entrance and at the Trelissick Crescent verge are being de-grassed to be ready for planting.

Our "kill" team (see December GG) has just gone through a review with WCC and GW of bait station and mustelid trap monthly servicing and reporting procedures.

Our burgeoning nursery has diminished by sending over 600 plants in root trainers and small pots to nurseries of Friends of Owhiro Stream, Woodridge Planters and Forest and Bird. Some larger flax and lemonwood were sold at the Wadestown Fair "for a song". Now we only have 1,800(?) to look after.

Bill Hester - Our Rubbish Champion

Trelissick Park lies in a valley, so is the recipient of whatever is blown or thrown. Gravity in action. The variety is astonishing: shopping trollies, a TV set, cars, roofing iron, tyres, bags, signs, ironmongery, wooden beams, piping, bottles, plastic, paper, cardboard, clothing.....For several years Bill has had a rubbish dump in operation just below the Trelissick Crescent entrance opposite No. 19, for his collected "treasures", also our bags of weeds. WCC clear this periodically.

Why Submissions?

Some ask why our Group gets involved with submissions about developments outside the Park. Within the catchment they affect stormwater run-off and sedimentation in the streams going through the Park. We have just done one on the upstream Curtis St business area Plan Change, advocating for it to be "green" (such as slowing stormwater run-off using permeable surfaces and/or a wetland area). Two of our members have just lodged individual submissions on the proposed changes to the Resource Management Act, which appear to be another nail in the coffin for the environment.

A Plant Puzzle for Our Botanical Luminaries



Does anyone know what this suspicious-looking plant is? The leaves are 3-4 cm long x 2-3 cm wide. It has thorns at 2-3 cm intervals along the branches. Berries form in summer and are red, pea-sized, not bunched. It is a tree about 4-5 m tall. This one resides just below the grassed area half way up Ngaio Gorge Road.

A Call to Arms

We need more people to roam around the Park looking for trouble. For example, there are small outbreaks of wandering willie appearing all over the place following spraying operations over the last few years. Manually uprooting and bagging is best here, rather than spraying, because of the surrounding native seedlings coming up. Otherwise it will be a return to the disaster of a decade ago, when vast tracts of the Park were carpeted in this scourge. Spend the odd hour in pleasant bush surroundings listening to the radio, the birds or the rippling water of the stream!

Koromiko (*Veronica stricta* - reclassified from *Hebe stricta*)



We have often planted this hebe for our re-vegetation areas.

It is a hardy, fast-growing shrub that prefers open habitats, such as at bush edges or on stream banks. It likes full sun, well-drained soil and is frost hardy. It is found throughout the North Island.

Rabbits love it - so do we (but not to eat).

Contacts

Chairman & Adopt-a-Spot: Peter Reimann (04) 938 9602, peter.reimann@paradise.net.nz

Working bees: David Grace (04) 476 7563

Wellington City Council (reporting slips and fallen trees across tracks, other problems): (04) 499 4444

Greater Wellington pollution hotline: 0800 496 734

Working Bees - Check with David before coming – changes may occur.

Usually 1st Sunday of the month at 1.30 PM and 2nd Tuesday at 9.30 AM. See web-site for updates.

Membership drawn from Highland Park Progressive Association Inc., Ngaio Progressive Association Inc., Onslow Historical Society Inc., Private Landowners Group, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (Wellington Branch), Wellington Botanical Society, Wadestown Resident's Association.