

Gorge Gazette

News about Trelissick Park, the Ngaio Gorge and Streams

(Footbridges over the stream are numbered from 1 – 6 going downstream.)

Abbreviations:

WCC Wellington City Council
GG Gorge Gazette

GW Greater Wellington Regional Council
TPG Trelissick Park Group

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

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

MARCH 2019

The Dog Phenomenon

The dogs of Trelissick Park are a delight to most of us, as they frolic in the water below streamside tracks.

However, now we know what causes the channels in the banks, as in the photo. From one end of the Park to the other, there are dozens. The banks are no match for scrabbling claws under dripping dogs.

We could grumble about the resulting sediment in the stream beds burying invertebrates - food for native fish. But scouring carries the sediment down to the estuary when our streams rage. There, a delta looks to be forming, where appreciative sea-birds congregate.

Is anything ever straightforward?



More Trouble at the Bank

They say: "plant right on the stream bank for erosion protection and shading for stream life". Such lofty ideals!

Our streams have other ideas. The Sathya Sai Service Organisation know all about that. Their 'spot' is across Kaiwharawhara Stream up from the debris trap. For years they have been valiantly planting cabbage tree, koromiko, toetoe and karamu. These have bounteous roots, famed for holding up banks. But at each visit - despair! The culprits? Sandy ground and a huge urban catchment of angry storm-water. The photos over the page show the evidence: a cabbage tree rescue in progress.



Perversely, convolvulus, wandering willie and other weeds flourish.

Further upstream we sadly watch beautiful cabbage tree¹, rimu² and tree fern undermined and about to become victims.

We have a Project at Last

To our great delight, the WCC Strategy Committee meeting last December gave the green light for Park access from Oban Street and the associated footbridge over Kaiwharawhara Stream to proceed.

Who does what - WCC will look after the entrance from the street and track past the houses, including landscaping. TPG will apply for the GW resource consent, organise the track in the Park and fund the footbridge. Tim Harkness, now 'Trails & Reserves Specialist', will project manage the access arrangements from Oban Street and the Kaiwharawhara footbridge work, assisted by David Halliday.



Footbridge sites

- 180 m upstream of debris trap = 14 m (max) span
 - Further upstream opposite where Forest Remnant Track comes out = 20 m (max) span.
- These are subject to geotechnical investigation, starting on 25 March - results due early April.

The photo, taken by Barry Durrant of a footbridge over the Mangaone Stream in the Waikanae area, shows what the first option might look like. If the second option is chosen, it could be a suspension bridge.

The benefits - Currently many residents of Wadestown do not visit the Park as they have only one entrance, remote from where they live. If all goes smoothly, by the end of the year these residents and other users should be enjoying this second entrance, with a new track and footbridge to expand walking opportunities. And TPG will have a new area for restoration and pest control.

Seeking donations - The total that TPG has to find is estimated at \$100,000, including gst and contingency. So far we are standing at just over \$50,000. We are applying for grants and have set up a 'Givealittle' page at <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/kaiwharawhara-stream-footbridge-for-new-trelissick>. Otherwise, donations can be sent to the Trelissick Park Group bank account 03 0518 0192940 00. Any contributions would be wonderful.

Down in the Park

New WCC Park Ranger - Welcome to Adam Groenewegen. He has just been for a Park walk-through with Peter Reimann, listening to all of our problems, such as infrastructure interference, weeds, pest animals, rubbish and stream bank erosion - and our involvement.

The latest activities (Facebook photo dates are in brackets)

Conservation Volunteers did sterling work on our difficult patch of railway land upstream of Bridge 6 (13th December).

Raroa Intermediate had fun clearing wandering willie on the slopes below the Northern Walkway towards the Hanover Street entrance (10th December).

Joan Waldvogel worked on her 'spot' below Hanover Street.

Tim McIvor's entrance from lower Ngaio Gorge Road looks immaculate.

Marilyn Hester has returned to her old 'flood plain' spot upstream of the magazine building - no weed is safe under her eagle-eye.

Our Facebook page, regularly updated by Bill Hester, covers our bi-monthly working bees and what is notable or odd - eg the giant child's swing that Bill fished out of the stream (15th February), the axle that TransPower workers helped remove (12th February), the huge log jammed in the debris trap (12th March), the large pine tree in the stream (15th January) and the decorated rimu tree (26th December).

At the Estuary

This time the 'Sea Week' beach clean-up entered the realm of 'citizen science'. Ben Knight of Sustainable Coastlines organised it in conjunction with Amanda Dobson of Enviroschools and Amanda Valois of NIWA, (studying rubbish/plastic in the Kaiwharawhara catchment). 14 people worked along 60 metres beside the northern bank of the estuary, collecting plastic and rubbish 4 metres either side of a tape laid along the mid-tide line (see Facebook photos 10th March). The exercise will be repeated at the same place to gauge variations. Suggested dates are 10th June, 10th September and 10th December - all comers are welcome.

The amount and variety of items picked up are truly staggering - see:

<https://litterpickupstag.z8.web.core.windows.net/survey-view/77>

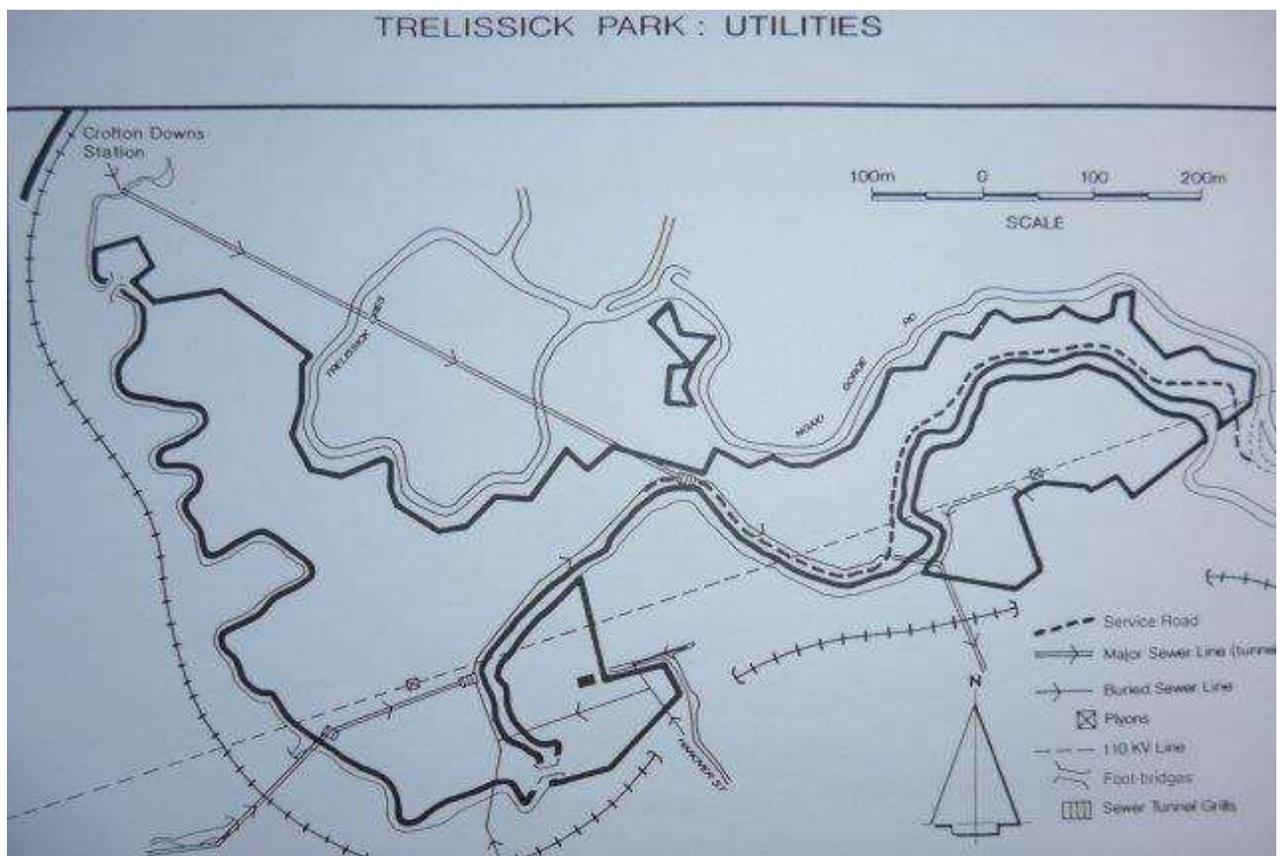
The Old Man's Beard Season

It is bad and getting *much* worse. Bill Hester and Peter Reimann are making new discoveries in the Park and surroundings and climbing tricky slopes to find elusive vines. Help from WCC is being sought.

Unravelling the Sewer System.

Sometimes walkers beside Kaiwharawhara Stream in the Ngaio Gorge are greeted with a 'hint of sewage'. The smell wafts up from the sewer tunnel grills beside the track. These are used to access the sewer tunnels. For a map of the system, zoom in from:

<https://gis.wcc.govt.nz/LocalMaps/Viewer/?map=57fb534c2174471ca485132112088afc>. This shows the sewer lines in bright red. It is useful to look at this in conjunction with the map below from the 1995 *Trelissick Park Management Plan*. Although out of date, it is less obscure and shows the location of the sewer tunnel grills.



Alex's Spot

To end on a happy note, the McKendry family's streamside plantings down from the Waikowhai Street entrance are in rude health. It seems that streamside planting is more successful on more stony ground. The pukatea, kahikatea, nīkau and grasses are really enjoying themselves - see photo of Alex's spot, three years from first planting, which was for her Duke of Edinburgh award.



The two pukatea at the back and the kahikatea in the foreground are almost head-high. The nīkau at the rear is partially obscured by the grasses.

References

1. GG June 2018
2. GG September 2017

Working Bees

See website 'Projects' page for dates, locations and health and safety information.

Contacts

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WCC (reporting problems): (04) 499 4444,

GW pollution hotline: 0800 496 734

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