

**Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 202<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, held at Ōtari Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 4 July 2023**



**Abbreviations:**

WCC	Wellington City Council	PFW	Predator Free Wellington
GW	Greater Wellington Regional Council	OHS	Onslow Historical Society
F & B	Forest and Bird Protection Society	OWB	Ōtari Wilton's Bush
HPPA	Highland Park Progressive Assoc.	CVNZ	Conservation Volunteers NZ
TPG	Trelissick Park Group	VUW	Victoria University
NCDRA	Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association	BotSoc	Wellington Botanical Society
WRA	Wadestown Residents' Association	DoC	Department of Conservation
OMB	Old man's beard	WW	Wellington Water
VW	Volunteer Wellington	ORCA	Onslow Residents' Community Association

[Square brackets: subsequent to meeting.]

**Actions are in bold italics.**

**Changes from the draft pre-meeting minutes as a result of the meeting or afterwards are in red.**

**Present**

Peter Reimann (TPG)	Cr Ray Chung (WCC)
Anne Tuffin (TPG)	Jonathan Anderson (TPG)
Angus Napier (TPG)	Jenny Lewis (WRA)
Ian Shearer (HPPA)	Nigel Sharman (OMB Free Wellington)

**Apologies**

Tim Park (WCC/OWB)	
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**WCC Items**

Fish Passage improvement in catchment – Further to the fish passage study described in the minutes of the last meeting, Joshua Forrest and Jakob Lechner of the fish passage remediation team at GW report that in the Kaiwharawhara catchment 60+ priority barriers were identified. 14 remediations are complete, however most of the Kaiwharawhara accommodates only for climbers. A 50-year timeframe is predicted for species extinction without remediation.

The downstream ramp from the tunnel under the oil tanks downstream of the park is a major barrier. GW/WW have looked at retrofitting options. GW is doing a trout DNA survey (concerned that better fish access might introduce a trout problem upstream). The remediation project is ongoing for a minimum of 12 months. Further updates are awaited. **Joshua Forrest/Jakob Lechner**

Ngaio Gorge Road Stabilisation Project – This is now complete. The lower Ngaio Gorge Road entrance to the park is open, allowing access for animal pest control and scheduling weed control/working bees.

AECOM staff (engineers of the project) and a couple of Fulton Hogan staff will carry out restoration planting at the lower Ngaio Gorge Road entrance 6 on Friday 7 July. WCC Ranger Adam Groenewegen is delivering the plants and mulch. He says TPG can assist if they wish. No planting will take place in the area immediately behind the retaining walls to facilitate future inspections and maintenance work.

Instead of the previous information shelter, an information board has been installed at the entrance. A new brochure holder is required. **Peter Reimann**

Adam Groenewegen with TPG volunteers planted the narrow strip between the layby and road next to entrance #5 with 200 *Carex flagellifera* provided by WCC nursery. 200 was not enough so [he has sourced some *Carex testacea* from F&B nursery for planting on Thursday 6 July]. **Adam Groenewegen**

The rubbish bin and collection need to be reinstated at entrance 5. **Adam Groenewegen**

Dog Control update – According to [www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/dog-policy-review](http://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/dog-policy-review), formal consultation begins in July 2023.

Some off-leash aspects to consider: erosion of stream banks, attacking fledgling kākā/kererū, public safety.

Restricting off-leash areas to Wightwick's Field and the magazine area would help to overcome these problems but would likely be ignored by some users. Education campaign?

**Peter Reimann/WCC**

**Storm Problems**

- Bank erosion affecting vehicle track alongside Kaiwharawhara Stream – A safety barrier next to the vehicle track has been extended. Rock armoring of this section is proposed. **Tim Harkness**

- Track gouge on Northern Walkway below Hanover Street – A contractor installed a culvert and reinstated the track but this was washed away. A track diversion has been worked out, including a new footbridge lower down. The Northern Walkway has been closed until the contractor finishes. Te Araroa have informed users of a diversion via the track from Oban Street. [Tim Harkness advises that the work is progressing well, with likely completion next week].

#### Other track improvements

- The canyon track downstream of bridge 6 will be upgraded over the next 6-12 months. **Tim Harkness**

Debris trap remediation – Adam Groenewegen has asked WW to remove debris from the trap and to fix the rails (two leaning over and a large gap). The design may need a re-think, due to Increased run-off from hard surfaces from infill housing in the large catchment, coupled with climate change downpours, which are exacerbating the problem. Adam Groenewegen has followed this up. **Adam Groenewegen**

Back-up expediting – TPG's contact with WCC is via the Park Ranger, but Ray Chung could assist the Ranger with expediting if necessary.

#### **Pest Plant Control**

Tradescantia control by WCC/contractor – Kaitiaki o Ngahere has sprayed tradescantia with a new chemical. It takes a few days for the effects to show. It would aid safety for TPG volunteers to know when and where areas have been sprayed, so that TPG can avoid manual removal there. Blue dye in the chemical helps.

Tradescantia clearing – Jonathan Anderson cautions against clearing tradescantia from dry forested slopes because it harbours valuable insects and slows run-off/erosion during heavy rain. It is difficult to find substitute species that will thrive on shady dry slopes.

OMB control – TPG collaborated with OMB Free Wellington to eradicate accessible OMB above Ngaio Gorge Road as well as a patch below the road. Further control above would require abseiling. TPG will need to deal minor outbreaks below the road shortly. **Angus Napier**

Illona Keenan has contacted Countdown and KiwiRail regarding a Kaitiaki proposal to control OMB outside Countdown and on railway land. **Illona Keenan**

Control by TPG – TPG continues with manual control of tradescantia, OMB, Himalayan balsam, cherry, wattle, karaka seedlings, sycamore, bindweed, blackberry, climbing dock and buddleia by individuals, working bees and groups.

#### **Nursery/planting update**

500 plants from WCC were delivered on 12 May allowing planting as follows:

- Trelissick Crescent verge by Marilyn Hester (complete)
- Along the Waikowhai Street verge
- Streamside under and downstream of bridge 7 (Finn's spot)
- Bordering Wightwick's Field
- West of the magazine building.

Planting west of the magazine building has commenced, aided by volunteers from CentrePort. More plants than those available (about 100) are needed. [Adam Groenewegen will stash another 50 from the nursery at the site at the end of this week.] **Adam Groenewegen**

Jonathan Anderson continues planting podocarps and seed collecting for the WCC nursery throughout the park.

#### **Animal Pest Control**

Traps – Since the last meeting on 7 March: [9] rats, 1 hedgehog. Totals from 2008: 22 stoats/weasels, [597] rats, 20 hedgehogs. The above totals do not include recent A24 kills.

All the official DOC200 trap kills are now recorded in the TrapNZ national database for traps, including most historic data. It includes the Scots College victor traps, but not the block bait stations/possum baitsafe stations/A24s.

Bait Stations – Consumption of block bait by rodents in the 30 bait stations indicates continued activity, apart from little consumption in May in the Korimako valley.

Rabbits – Often seen on or below Trelissick Crescent.

#### **Kaiwharawhara Estuary – New ferry and rail facilities**

Preparation for the main construction of the new Kaiwharawhara ferry terminal is well underway, including demolition of the old arrivals terminal, removal of stockpiles, flattening of Kaiwharawhara Point where the new passenger vehicle marshalling yard will be located and a pest management programme to protect native animals. See previous minutes for other details.

#### **Sanctuary to Sea Project**

Cat Ayres of Zealandia initiated some business and community volunteering as part of the Sanctuary to Sea project, resulting in:

- Mitre 10: Staff groups visited the park below for talks on 5 April.
- CentrePort: Staff visits to lower Kaiwharawhara valley for weed control/planting on the last Friday afternoon of June, July, August, September.

Cat Ayres has now moved to UK. Nate Rigler will be taking on her role from 1 August.

## Submissions

WCC Proposed District Plan – Further to the minutes of the last meeting, TPG will look for more information on the assessments of THW and SUB under Hearing Stream 5 schedule to commence on 31 July. **Peter Reimann/WCC's Jaskirit Kaur**

WCC's Planning Advisor Maggie Cook, advised that if TPG's submission request to delete Restricted Discretionary and infringement provisions is accepted, then the RMA no longer applies. So the activities can go ahead. She suggested the use of the word 'prohibit' instead of 'delete' to overcome this – agreed by TPG.

Dog control – See under 'WCC items' above.

## Correspondence with External Parties

Recent resource consent web alerts	WCC and GW
VW workshops/events/volunteers/TPG update/Mahi Aroha Awards nomination	Julie Thomson/Clare Teal/Ann Thomson (VW)
Rubbish collection	John Curran (WCC)
Trelissick Park OMB	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Business and community volunteering in TPG with Sanctuary to Sea	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
Engagement on WCC 2023/24 Annual Plan	WCC
Draft WCC Open Space and Recreation Strategy	Ella Hardy (WCC)
Restoration Week Te Taiao Webinar series- Trelissick Park story	Briony Ellis (Ellis Andersen Ltd)
Pest plant control	Illona Keenan/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Botanical Society visit to Trelissick Park	Michele Dickson, Julia Stace (BotSoc)
Planting at Ngaio Gorge Road layby	Adam Groenewegen/Anita Benbrook (WCC)
VUW visit (cancelled)	Ann Thomson (VW)
Planting at lower entrance (#6)	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Consent notifications	GW, WCC
Planting at Waikowhai Street verge	Frank Neill (WSN reporter)
CVNZ visit to park	Joe Murphy (CVNZ)
Debris trap clearance/fix	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Tōtara blight	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Leaving WCC	Myfanwy Emeny (WCC)
Graffiti at magazine building	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Magazine area restoration	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Podocarp plant order/karaka removal	Adam Groenewegen/Jonathan Anderson/Anita Benbrook (WCC)
Te Hononga/Catchments Collective Zoom and Tawatawa hikoi	Eugene Doyle
Changes to CVNZ system	CVNZ
Mutual support with Wadestown Scouts	Carolyn (Wadestown Scouts)
CentrePort working in park	William Woods (CentrePort)
Track gouge on Northern Walkway below Hanover Street	Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Flax ID question	Anita Benbrook (WCC)
Block bait supply update	Debbie Hawker (WCC)
Volunteers	Tracy Ward (VW)
Plant order/delivery	Anita Benbrook (WCC)
Kawakawa seedlings	Gail Andrews
Hugo group donation	Nicola Willis (MP), Tracey Gabbitas (The Hugo Group)
Mitre 10 volunteering	Sandy Gaylard (Mitre 10), Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
OMB on north side of Ngaio Gorge Road	Nigel Charman (OMB Free Wellington), Illona Keenan/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Article on wasps	Debbie Hawker (WCC)
Slowing floods in urban Streams (Erica Giles RNZ interview)	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
KiwiRail iReX project design review for Kaiwharawhara terminal precinct	Rose Northcott (iReX), Cat Ayres (Zealandia)

Axenic visit	Ann Thomson (VW), Linda Ashton (Axenic)
Workshop on weeds	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Draft Wellington District Plan submission	Jaskirat Kaur/Freyja Macgregor / Maggie Cook (WCC)
A community working bee in the Trelissick Park	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
Mitre 10 lunchtime walks	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
Draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy consultation	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Minutes from November Sanctuary to Sea Community hui	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
Black tradescantia bags	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Interpretive signs	Tim Park (WCC)
VW subscription	VW
Park signage	Adam Groenewegen/Tim Harkness (WCC)
Volunteer hours for year ended 30 June	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Commemorative seat	Jacqueline Murray/Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Article/photos for Ngaio Gorge Road layby planting and Sunday 2 July working bee	Frank Neill (WSN reporter)
Enquiry from KPMG about working in park	Margaret Wang (KPMG)
New project lead for Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara Sanctuary to Sea (KMKS2S)	Uenuku Phillips (Zealandia)
Talk at 2 July meeting on OMB	Nigel Charman (OMB Free Wellington)

**Newsletters** – VW, NCDRA, Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, CVNZ, Bells Track Group, PFW, Trees that Count OMB Free News, Tawatawa Reserve Newsletter, iReX E-News.

#### **Finance**

The bank balance currently stands at \$1,083.80, after paying VW subscription of \$60.

#### **Other**

##### Groups in park

CVNZ visited on 14 June for tradescantia clearing and planting on the slope above bridge 7.

Axenic – Visited on 24 March, for weeding from Trelissick Crescent entrance 3 and then down to the valley as far as bridge 3.

Visits organised by Zealandia's Sanctuary to Sea ([Mitre 10 and CentrePort](#)) – see above under 'Sanctuary to Sea project.'

Donation from the Hugo Group – MP Nicola Willis nominated TPG as recipient of a \$500 'thank you' for her address to the Hugo Group. Ideas are needed for use, e.g. interpretive signs next to major trees, like those installed for Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves in Redwood Bush. Tim Park suggested cheaper options. Or an audio link for visitors' mobile phones to provide information or history (possible source WCC's Gabor Toth – audio library). **Anne Tuffin**

Wadestown Fair 11 March – TPG had a display there. Well-attended on a fine day.

More organising assistance for TPG – Angus Napier has taken on hosting groups in the park such as CVNZ, corporate volunteers, schools and scouts/guides. **Angus Napier**

Weedeater - WCC's Jonathan Anderson has semi-retired. He now has the weedeater provided by WCC some years ago and will keep grassy areas near bridges 4 and 5 and some other areas trimmed when necessary. (WCC do Wightwick's Field and the magazine building area). **Jonathan Anderson**

Webinar – Peter Reimann gave a presentation on Trelissick Park on 25 May as part of Restoration Week.

Seat next to Bridge 7 – Organised/donated by Jenny Lewis. The plaque on the seat will provide a link to the Oser Galler story (see 'Gorge Gazette' November 2015). **Jacqueline Murray/Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen**

\$50K from a generous donor – This is currently in an HPPA interest-bearing account pending ideas for future restoration. The following were suggested by Jonathan Anderson:

- A 400m<sup>2</sup> totara/matai grove on the flat upstream of bridge 7
- A study on low-cost solutions for stream bank protection/restoration (see links in March 7 minutes)
- Repair by a mason of historic stone walls
- Replacement of bench seats/new seats elsewhere.

**To be decided/initiated. A meeting with the donor, Anne Tuffin, Jonathan Anderson and Peter Reimann is to be arranged. Peter Reimann**

Wasp problems – Debbie Hawker is mapping wasp nests. These are sometimes to be found next to clear areas near water. Jenny Lewis has volunteered to work with her on Vespex poison lines. **Debbie Hawker/Jenny Lewis**

Rotting/confusing dog exercise maps – Bill Hester reports that at entrance 4 the dog exercise area map attachment backing has rotted and the map has fallen off. He predicts similar for the signs at other entrances. The signs are next

to the park map-boards and are confusing (different orientation) and add clutter. Are they necessary? **Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen**

Mutual support with Wadestown Scouts – TPG is keen to support control of pest weed trees surrounding the scout hall at the end of Hanover Street. **Anne Tuffin/Wadestown Scouts**

Names of park features – It was suggested that naming bridges, entrances, tracks and clearings would assist users. Peter Reimann will canvass ideas in the next 'Gorge Gazette'. **Peter Reimann**

Talk about OMB – Nigel Charman of OMB Free Wellington gave a talk about OMB **and the work of his group.**

Next meeting: **9.30 a.m. Thursday 9 November – Ōtari Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre.**

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

## **[Appendix**

Te Hononga/Catchments Collective Zoom Meeting 3 July – 21 participants covering many catchments in the Wellington region (including Kaiwharawhara) and as far north as Upper Hutt and Porirua/Pukerua Bay.

### **Draft purpose**

1. To collectivise and support catchment groups in the wider Wellington area.
2. To build effective relationships to improve knowledge sharing, submission building and awareness of emerging issues.
3. To provide a forum where council, agencies and other parties can engage with multiple groups at one time.
4. To encourage better structures and processes with councils and agencies to expand community input into catchment issues.

### **Draft goals**

1. Accelerate implementation of the recommendation of the Whaitua committees.
2. Accelerate implementation of the recommendations of the WCC Mayoral Taskforce on Three Waters.
3. Ensure catchment groups are well represented in all appropriate environmental forums.
4. Advocate for greatly improved digital platforms and other information sharing mechanisms.

### **Discussion covered:**

High-level principles of how the group could work together

Ideas & actions to expand the network

Volunteers to help convene and steer Te Hononga in 2023

Regular hikoi.

Peter Reimann will respond. **Peter Reimann]**