



**Trelissick Park Group MINUTES for the 210th Meeting
Held at Wilton Bowling Club 9:30am Thursday 12 March 2026**

Apologies: Nate Rigler, Illona Keena, Ian Shearer, Catherine Van Hale

Present: Ian Duncan (TPG), Angus Napier (TPG), Peter Reimann (TPG), Anne Tuffin (TPG Chair), Eva Durrant (Wellington Beekeepers Association), Mike Oates (TPG), David Howden (TPG)

Attending: Karen Martyn (TPG Minute Secretary)

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:35am with Introductions and a Warm Welcome to All

PART 1. Council updates

1. WCC Notifications: Anita Benbrook retired; Joakim Liman is new contact (Joakim.Liman@wcc.govt.nz).

2. Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara / Sanctuary to Sea - Dr. Nate Rigler

- a. KMTK is planning a whitua-focused education workshop for local schools and ECEs at Zealandia on 16 April 2026. This is to equip educators with resources to incorporate a better understanding of how they can live with nature within Te Kaiwharawhara.
- b. KMTK collaborated with Coordinate4U and Worcester Polytechnic Institute students to create an interactive database on Te Kaiwharawhara. This operates as a directory and information hub (<https://kaiwharawhara-wpi.vercel.app/>)
- c. KMTK hosted a community hui on 11 February. Roughly 35 people attended.
- d. The KMTK storytelling working group has officially had their first meeting with another planned in March.
- e. KMTK and TPG co-hosted three corporate working bees in Trelissick Park with Kiwibank, Farmers Mutual Group and the Environmental Protection Agency. Another corporate working bee is planned for 7 March along School Road.
- f. KMTK will continue to focus on Te Ohu Kaiwharawhara business network as its main priority

ACTION: Write to Zealandia TPG's appreciation for Dr Nate Rigler's time and reports – **Anne Tuffin**

3. Hornet trapping (WCC/MPI) – Eva Durrant (Wellington Beekeepers Association)

See Appendix F: Asian Yellow Legged Hornet Incursion

Chris Watson, Try Taiao & Wasp Wipeout Conservation Volunteers NZ has offered to help set-up bait boxes, provide bait, and train volunteers to monitor bait boxes 8-10 days. Volunteers must have certificate to use poison bait.

ACTION: **Eva** will draft and send to **Anne Tuffin** to post a) Article for the Gorge Gazette asking for volunteers, b) Notice for the TPG website asking for volunteers, and c) Post for the TPG Facebook page.

9:55-10:10 Tea and biscuit break to thank Eva before she departed the meeting at end of break.

PART 2. TPG items

4. Working Bees report (Nov 2025-Mar 2026) – Angus Napier

- a. 7 TPG working bees totalling 70 hours (smaller attendances)
- b. 5 corporate and community group working bees totalling 163 hours
- c. 2 new Adopt-A-Spot sites:
 - Wightwick's Field; North and East sides plus sign.
 - Magazine Buildings: From upstream side of the buildings to closure of the canopy over the track.
- d. Old Man's Beard removal - 6 hrs
- e. Track maintenance: steps downstream of the debris trap - 10 hrs. Materials supplied by WCC.
- f. Nate Rigler (Zealandia) and TPG co-hosted corporate working bees, Kiwibank on 24 February and EPA on 27 February. On 24 February \$500 worth of Nate's tools and equipment were stolen. Some items were replaced by Zealandia. We need to be more aware of security for personal belongings of anyone volunteering for working bees.

ACTION: Ask Nate for replacement costs of items not replaced by Zealandia. **Angus Napier**

- g. Plants ordered for Winter 2026. Late order submitted for 100 carex for upstream of debris trap.
- h. Thefts from park. Discussions about security cameras, sheds, storage offsite.

ACTION: Anne to write to WCC and Parks inquiring about what other groups are doing in this regard, perhaps a letter to Bradley Schroeder? Would Mitre 10 be an option though it is not close to the entrance as is preferred.

5. Partnering with Mana whenua

Discussion on Anne's proposal to invite Lee Rauhina-August (Ahumai Ltd) to join the TPG committee to ensure partnership with Taranaki Whanui into the future. Lee is very supportive of the work of the TPG. All in agreement.

ACTION: Formally invite Lee Rauhina-August to join the TPG Committee - **Anne Tuffin.**

6. Gorge Gazette and TPG History – Peter Reimann

- a. Gorge Gazette_- March issue - launched on 2nd/3rd March. Thanks for the contributors. Next one - June. Always looking for ideas/articles/photos.
- b. Update of the Summary history website entry for 2025 - draft sent to Catherine Van Hale on 3 March.
- c. Slide show for *History of TPG part 3 2014-2015* launch celebration - PowerPoint presentation of the 43 images now on USB stick - 15 seconds per slide, repeating. No captions or voice. We need to organise a trial run at the venue.
- d. History of TPG part 3 2014-2015_- OHS editor John Martin says, 'A pdf of the issue of the *Historian* will be made available for your website and to the City Archives. This should be available prior to your launch date of 25 March.'

NOTED TPG Committee expressed sincere gratitude for Peter Reiman's work to complete this publication. 35 hard copies will be for sale at the publication launch and the Wadestown Fair. Petty cash is needed for change at the launch and fair. The PDF will be posted on the TPG website after the launch. Invitations to the launch have been sent.

7. Trelissick Park 5 Yr Plan 2020 - 2025

Previous Plan was to 2016 and 2019. Useful because it sets out historical background, problems, vision, management plan, current issues and action plan, with an Appendix of work undertaken since 1991. WCC Ranger Tom has sent MOU template (similar in content to 5-year plan) for signing.

ACTION: Check if 5-year plan and MOU have same content or if different and therefore requiring two separate documents – **Anne Tuffin**

Noted that if a 5-year plan is required, Angus will assist. To add emphasis to track maintenance.

8. Access to park across Kaiwharawhara Stream via new locked KiwiRail footbridge -

Essential for weed/animal pest control/planting.

ACTION: Ask WCC regarding their commitment to inform TPG of the current status and planned completion – **Anne Tuffin**.

9. Interpretative Signage Project

Mike Oates provided an update on the progress of the project (Appendix G). He asked if the budget could be increased. Options were discussed and whether a 4th sign should be committed to now.

It was suggested that the 2025 and 2026 donations from SBN (\$3,000 and \$4,000 respectively) be used to cover any budget increase.

ACTION: Prepare a brief and proposal for this project including budget. **Mike Oates**

ACTION: Ask WCC if they will pay for erecting the signs at their cost. **Anne Tuffin**

10. Sunday Working Bees

Noted that the Wadestown Fair will be an opportunity to recruit more volunteers.

Noted that Sustainable Business Network has been highly effective at bringing in large numbers of people – up to 30 and should be encouraged.

ACTION: Draft briefing document for Hosting TPG Working Bees and Protocol Document – **Angus Napier**

11. Website

Catherine Van Hale is updating the History page ready to publish once the new part 3 is launched later in March.

12. Facebook

Noted that new posts typically average 400-500 hits however, the last post featuring the Kiwibank group garnered 1,700 hits. More pictures of SBN Groups are recommended.

Noted that TPG needs to acknowledge Volunteer Wellington, KMTK's Te Ohu Kaiwharawhara and Corporate Partners SBN contributions whenever working bee group photos that have been brokered by them are posted on FB.

13. Finance – Anne Tuffin

TPG Westpac Acc	\$890.58
Funds held by NCDRA Acc (\$69,506.29)	
3-month Term Deposit	\$15,000.00
9-month Term Deposit	\$35,000.00
On Call	<u>\$19,506.29</u>

Total: \$70,396.87

14. SBN Programme – Connect to Nature

Decided that TPG will commit to this Programme and provide 3-4 Hosts as needed

• **Unanimous**

15.2026 meetings

9.30am Thursday 2 July and 5 November at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre* unless WCC Bookings notifies of a change of availability in which case an email will be sent to all as soon as we are notified.

Meeting closed at 11:07am.

Appendices

A. Chair's Report

TPG activity

Peter Reimann has completed writing Part 3 of our History - what a huge undertaking! Peter sourced Part 3 of the TPG history mostly from Gorge Gazettes.

Catherine Van Hale, and John Martin from the Onslow Historical Society, worked with Peter editing and formatting the drafts and the final version for publication. We and the OHS will be launching the publication with a celebration at Ōtari on 25 March.

A big shout out to our Working Bee coordinators, Angus and Ian, for their tireless work organising our regular working bees; and to our Animal Pest Control Team who stealthily go about their regular checks. And thank you Ian D for hosting a successful TPG Christmas BBQ in your beautiful garden - a really lovely way to celebrate the amazing work our volunteers do.

Council

Some old seats in the park have recently been replaced by WCC as part of their ongoing renewal program. They look great! Some way-faring signs are being re-positioned and renewed, especially at two key points: the intersection of the Northern Walkway and the Forest Remnant Track; and the intersection of the Northern Walkway and the Kaiwharawhara Stream (Main) Track. Each of these intersections can be confusing for new park users.

We have been keeping a very close eye on the building development at 128 Trelissick Cres. WCC Planning and Parks & Reserves, are monitoring the work. We continue to advocate for a boundary fence to be erected between the development site and the Scenic Reserve.

Other

More storm damage in the recent 'blows' - all part of what happens in a dynamic regenerating native forest. Light wells are created for seedlings to grow upwards, and the fallen limbs decompose over time, providing havens for invertebrates, and returning nutrients to the soil.

Anne Tuffin (March '26)

B. Correspondence with External Parties

Topic	From
Volunteering, Numerous, various	Volunteer Wellington; Sustainable Business Network

Deposit of Gorge Gazettes in National Library	National Library
Wild Fruits of Wellington	Helen, Virescent Gardens.
Glenside Reserve Invitation	Claire Bibby (GR)
TPG History, Part 3	John Martin; Felicity Wong (OHS)
WCC MOU renewal	Tom Mayo
Te Kura o Korimako (Crofton Downs Primary School)	Kirsty Ferguson
Interpretative signs	Tim Harkness
Wadestown Fair	Wadestown Fair committee
TPG bank account	Westpac
Bench work	Tom Mayo, Ranger (WCC)
128 Trelissick Cres development	Christine Comerford; Robyn Oughton Nicholal Toepfer (WCC Planning); WCC Parks & Reserves; Ward Councillors
Dog control	Kate Baoumgren (WCC)
Donation	Matthew Ineson
Forest & Bird Nursery	FB
Kia Mouriora Te Waiwharawhara I Sanctuary to Sea, numerous	Nate Rigler
2026 Plant Orders	Park Rangers
Consent applications, regular	GWRC; WCC
WCC Fixit reports - pollution, damage, dog behaviour etc.	Numerous WCC depts
TPG name	Felicity Wong, OHS Ian Turk, NCDRA

C. Newsletters received

- Your community Connector, Volunteer Wellington (Monthly)
- Ōtari Trust (Mar26)
- Let's Talk Newsletter, WCC (Weekly)
- Predator Free Wellington, (Monthly)
- Te Wā o te Taiao, GWRC (Nov25; Feb26)
- Mountains To Sea Wellington, Community News (Dec25)
- Conservation Volunteers (Feb26; Mar26)

D. Submissions & Advocacy

E. Community

F. Grants/Donations Received

- \$150 Matthew Ineson (Dec25)

G. Asian Yellow Legged Hornet Incursion (Eva Durrant)

I would like to propose the establishment of a wasp bait line along tracks in TP, similar to what is happening in Tawa the Bush Reserve. Volunteers could be found among local beekeepers to lay the bait line. We all know that wasps kill native insects and bees and that TP is a perfect area for wasp nests. Another urgency is the arrival of the Asian Yellow Legged Hornet. We should treat this as an urgent matter.

WBA invited Phil Lester from VUW to talk about the threat and the work he is involved in with MPI. John Burnet from the Friends of Tawa Bush Reserve spoke about the trap line established there.

Following the talk at the WBA I made contact with Chris Watson from Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ). Chris will manage the operational side of this project – provide us with bait, information and resources to carry out the project.

Chris Watson
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Species Overview (Evidence Based) Scientific name: *Vespa velutina nigrithorax*

Origin: Southeast Asia Primary pathway: Containerised cargo, timber, machinery, ships, aircraft, freight trucks, humans. Expansion rate: 60–80 km/year (Europe) Reproduction: A single nest can produce as many as 300–600 new queens in autumn, which then hibernate and establish new colonies the following spring. Climate: Warmer climates accelerate their establishment. Colony Cycle: The old queen dies at the end of the season, and the newly mated gynes leave to hibernate, emerging in spring to establish new, individual nests.

Queens: Overwinter individually; spring queen survival is the single most critical control point. Predation pressure: Severe on honeybees, native insects, pollination networks. One nest can consume around 11 kilograms of insects in a single season, compared to 0.6 -1.8 kg for Common/German Wasps. Hornet impact on not only our bees, native fauna and our bird species

Global Impacts (Published Evidence) • France: >500,000 nests destroyed since 2006; failure to eradicate due to late detection. Introduced to Europe in 2004 (France) • Spain & Portugal: Severe honeybee losses; documented ecosystem disruption. • UK: Repeated successful eradications through early detection + rapid nest destruction • South Korea: Rapid spread where early queen trapping was insufficient.

H. Update on Interpretation signs project in Trelissick Park (Mike Oates)

The project team have been working for the past twelve months on the installation of up to three interpretative signs within Trelissick Park. We have surveyed users, developed stories and identified locations for each sign. We are working in partnership with Taranaki Whanui through Ahumai Holdings. Themes are summarised below.

Theme	Location	Details
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Sign 1: Forest loss and regeneration	Near the large tōtara and mataī trees.	The sign will explain: the original forest structure the scale and impact of logging in the 1800s how the forest changed what species are present today community involvement in regeneration. This could comprise one large interpretive sign with smaller signs for the larger trees.
Sign 2: Fragility of the environment	Near the debris arrestor	This sign will help visitors understand that Treliwick Park is both a scenic reserve and a functioning urban ecological corridor. It will explore: geological instability weather and hydrological forces human modification of the landscape ongoing environmental pressures restoration within an urban context.
Sign 3: Mana whenua history and significance	Lower area of Park around grassed area near Magazine buildings.	Significance of place for Ngati Tama and in particular Te Kaiāea and his whanau. The importance of the awa (stream), for mahinga kai (traditional foods, their sources, and methods of food gathering) and the extensive mara (gardens) in this area. The significance and use of wharawhara (Astelia banksia) and links to the naming of the awa including ways it can be reintroduced.
Te Kaiwharawhara Restoration: this sign is not part of the current brief.	Near Hanover Street bridge	There are currently 2 similar signs along Te Kaiwharawhara in Ōtari.

It is planned to use a similar layout with the words attached and some modifications made to the map and photos. This sign will proceed in the future should funds become available.

Where to from here?

We are now ready to complete the wording for each sign, design the final layout including sourcing illustrations and photos and then contract the construction and installation of signs. Following advice from Tim Harkness at WCC we have asked David Brechin-Smith, an interpretation specialist to help us manage the next stage. He has provided us with a community rate for his services.

The signs will be the standard “Post and Panel” used throughout the Park, the size may vary depending on the location. The photo below is from Ōtari but shows the overall style.

Budget

We have reviewed the budget and recommend that we increase the maximum amount available from \$30,000 up to \$37,600. This is to account for consultancy services from David Brechin – Smith and Ahumai Holdings and increased costs for construction since the quote we received in August 2024.