

Gorge Gazette - January 2022



News about Trelissick Park, the Ngaio Gorge and Streams

Abbreviations:

WCC	Wellington City Council	WW	Wellington Water
HPPA	Highland Park Progressive Assoc.	BotSoc	Wellington Botanical Society
CVNZ	Conservation Volunteers NZ	OHS	Onslow Historical Society
TPG	Trelissick Park Group	GG	Gorge Gazette

Website: www.trelissickpark.org.nz (includes past Gorge Gazettes and park map).
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrelissickParkGroup>.

An ode to meadows

What better delight:
Emergence
from shady forest
to sunlit space.
We harbour meadows.
Eight all told.
Each of different look.
The current edict:
'No need to mow'.
Even more character.
Take umbrage rabbits!



At the magazine area: a sward no longer



Below Trelissick Crescent: rabbit haven

A blank canvas

Need we say more. Artistic hopefully.
For more on Ngaio Gorge Road work,
see [GG August 2021](#).



Above lower Ngaio Gorge Rd entrance

All is not lost

With help from WCC Ranger Adam Groenewegen, WW agreed to donate 80 plants as reparation for the plants destroyed when their contractor cleared an area next to Korimako Stream for sewer line repairs. (See [GG October 2021](#) p.4 under 'Sad news'). TPG suggested species and is looking forward to delivery.

Amazingly, some of the nikau palms are recovering (see photo). Jonathan Anderson has offered to water these regularly over summer.

Further clean-up along the stream and banks is due early this year.



A wineberry re-sprouting

Heavenly interventions

Thrice thwarted. Obviously, we are not popular with the one upstairs.

The weather forecast decreed postponement of our 30th birthday celebration and two visits by

corporate groups, eager to be unleashed into the weeds.

Perhaps our stars will be better aligned in 2022.

The bird situation in Wellington

WCC's website now includes urban ecology information. So far, it only includes bird reports.

Bird reports Wellington is a 'must read' and the associated video Forest birds a 'must see'!

Whenever it rains ...



Another 'must read'

WCC has written a book about what plant species are suitable for what areas and another book containing pearls of wisdom on planting techniques.

All is revealed on Restoration planting.

The debris trap in the lower Kaiwharawhara after December rain, awaiting removal by WW

On the soap box

The red arrow shows debris caught on the mesh about three metres above Kaiwharawhara Stream bed level. This is from the June flood – see GG August 2021, pages 1 & 2.

We continue to rail against the effects of fast stormwater run-off from hard surfaces in our 20 km² catchment. It could get worse with the coming housing intensification.

TPG's submission on WCC's Draft District Plan requested that it be strengthened to make Wellington a truly biophilic city, using the principles outlined in the WCC document *Water Sensitive Urban Design - a Guide for WSUD Stormwater Management in Wellington*, to achieve overall more than 'Hydraulic neutrality'.

[WSUD includes stormwater slowing provisions such as soak pits, rain gardens, permeable paving, roof water tankage or storage ponds, green roofs/walls, wetlands, vegetative cover, planted swales.]



Debris caught in mesh across the track next to lower Kaiwharawhara Stream

A surprise behind the barriers

The Ngaio Gorge Road contractors were not working over the Christmas holiday period, so it was a golden opportunity to climb behind the security fencing and release bindweed from streamside planting.

On the way, an unexpected vista unfolded: a new sewer line crossing. An admirable work of art! Then came bleak thoughts of the rocks being washed away in one of our raging three-metre-deep torrents...



New sewer line crossing of lower Kaiwharawhara Stream

The ecological corridors

Trelissick Park lies at the lower end of two main ecological corridors:

- From the harbour and along the Kaiwharawhara Stream valley to Zealandia.
- Along the Korimako Stream valley up to Mt Kaukau.

TPG's bush restoration and animal pest control encourage transit of birds, aquatic species and insects through the park.

Anne Tuffin and *Peter Reimann* continue to participate in Zealandia's 'Sanctuary to Sea' project meetings, addressing catchment

problems. This is also invaluable for meeting other groups and people working in the catchment.

KiwiRail is consulting those involved with the catchment about the new ferry terminal, see [Wellington — New Interislander \(irex.co.nz\)](http://Wellington — New Interislander (irex.co.nz)). The new wharf will be very close to the estuary. TPG is seeking more information on the adjacent groyne, hydraulic modelling, the idea of creating a salt marsh, any flow-path changes, riparian planting, penguin habitat and retaining the beach between the estuary and the new wharf.

Karaka farewells

Karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) is invasive and non-endemic - see [GG March 2020](#). *Warrick Fowlie* has been quietly removing them over the years.

He says one option for large karaka is to ringbark. It is a longer process than chain-sawing, but he thinks it is better because the tree dies slowly, allowing increasing sunlight to get into the space dominated by the tree. In the meantime, new plants can be put in while the karaka dies. It means no 'ugly' holes or spaces. From his experience it takes about 18-24 months for the tree to die.

Ranger *Adam Groenewegen* agrees, but his only concern is with large trees close to a track. As the tree dies and the wood degrades there is an increased risk it can fall onto a track.

Aided by Conservation Volunteers and TPG's working bee participants, karaka's days are numbered on the slopes below Oban Street - ringbarking, cutting and poisoning smaller



karaka and pulling out the myriads of seedlings. Ranger Adam will soon be chain-sawing larger ones next to the track.

Relics from the past

Some old tools are so effective and comfortable to use. They engender affectionate memories spanning decades.

This reincarnated ice axe has planted many trees, uprooted countless weeds and raked off heaps of tradescantia. The blade never gets blunt, and the pick is a boon for delicate work. It's light and easy to wield one-handed.

The sickle: a friend for 40 years. Vertical swipes for demolishing enveloping bindweed, horizontal for releasing around plants. The secrets: wrist action and razor-sharpness. Keep your distance!



Surely there must be others who can also wax lyrical about their restoration tools?

Finally

The 51 heritage trees for the mosque shooting victims – *Kumar Kumareswaran* organised a maintenance revisit by the combined Interfaith and Sathya Sai groups.

Zealandia spreading its wings – *Amalia McLaren-Brown* and her team hosted a tradescantia clearing session in the Kaiwharawhara valley: witness the miracle between bridge 7 and the eel sign!

The Duke is back – *Alex Thompson*, going for his Duke of Edinburgh gold award, will be working around Wightwick's Field.

The predator team – *Tamara Friedmann*, who has done a great job looking after the DOC200 traps, is moving. Fortunately, flatmate *Philippa Cox* has been trained by Tamara and has taken over all the DOC200 traps.

Traps and bait stations – *Bill Hester* advises that in 2021 146 claimed rats and 2 weasels were caught. 125 (including mice?) were from the self-resetting A24s below Oban Street. Many bait stations were empty when visited.

Memorial trees – When WCC's *Myfanwy Emeny* heard about the deaths of *Olaf John*, *Dorothy Douglass* and *Gottfried Theiler*, she arranged for delivery of three large trees. These will be planted in the autumn.



The memorial trees. L – R: pukatea, tōtara, tītoki. The tōtara is 1.5 m tall from the top of the container.

Working bees

See website 'Projects' page for dates, locations and health and safety information. New participants are most welcome.

Contacts

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WCC (reporting problems) (04) 499 4444 or [WCC Fix-It](#)
GW pollution hotline 0800 496 734

Thanks to all our volunteers, supporters, WCC staff and weed control contractor Kaitiaki o Ngahere. Best wishes for 2022!

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.



From Anna O'Connor: 'Anemone fungi thriving in the damp nooks of Trelissick Park'