

# Gorge Gazette - July 2022



## News about Trelissick Park, the Ngaio Gorge and Streams

### Abbreviations:

WCC Wellington City Council  
TPG Trelissick Park Group  
WW Wellington Water

CVNZ Conservation Volunteers NZ  
ORCA Onslow Residents Community Association  
GG Gorge Gazette



*The new bridge 4, designed by Frame Group and installed by Outsiders Ltd.*

A bridge with subtle curve to grace Korimako Stream – finished at last, to the delight of humans and dogs.<sup>1</sup>

### **Saga at the north end**

Last year the stream below Waikowhai Street savagely undermined the sewer pipeline above the stream bank. The contractor cleared vegetation for site access, put rock bags on the toe of the bank and replaced the pipeline.

Over several months the surrounding district was entertained by the associated helicopter operations.



At last, the end is nigh. We await the next saga.

## Reparation expectations exceeded!

Fulton Hogan arranged the promised 80 plants as reparation for the destruction of our planting during the sewer remedial work next to Korimako Stream<sup>2</sup>. They included miro, mataī, tōtara, kahikatea, lancewood, kānuka, kōwhai, titoki and nikau – see photo. Many have been planted already.

## At the lower end of the park

According to a Stuff article of 11 April, work to stabilise the slips above Ngaio Gorge Road, delayed by Covid lockdowns and bad weather, is expected to be completed by December.

Everyone is looking forward to the opening of the lower Ngaio Gorge Road entrance and the area around the magazine building ruin after two years of banishment. How good will it be to enjoy a complete park through-walk/run again!

For us, a weedy chaos awaits.

## A strange paradox

The many bait stations consistently found empty signify rat abundance. However, while servicing bait stations near the magazine building, *Steve Mackle* reported that the temporary station was 'super crowded with a large active wētā family'. The presence of wētā is said to be a sign that rat numbers are diminishing. Hmm...

## The coming of the weed bags

These enormous bags from WCC and CVNZ are an addition for our tradescantia arsenal. Rotting occurs within, they say. Will they out-perform our black plastic-covered heaps?

## The memorial grove begins<sup>2</sup>

Our working bee friend *Gottfried Theiler's* pukatea tree has just been planted near the stream beyond bridge 5, attended by three generations of the family.

*Dorothy Douglass's* family will follow, on Saturday morning 9 July, to plant their miro tree nearby.



**Invitation to *Olaf John's* memorial tree planting** - A titoki tree will be planted to commemorate Otari Wilton's Bush stalwart *Olaf John*. Come down to the same spot at **10 a.m. on Saturday 16 July**.



### Another Duke of Edinburgh candidate

Here is *Troy Thompson* amongst the *Astelia fragrans* he has just planted next to bridge 2. He is going for bronze, while his brother *Alex* continues for his gold beside Wightwick's Field.

### The verge

This year *Marilyn Hester* has so far added almost 270 more plants to the Trelissick Crescent verge, thwarting the rubbish and garden waste dumpers<sup>4</sup>. Wild ginger on a steep bank below one of the houses across the road was exterminated, in cahoots with the owner and a ladder.

### Meanwhile, at the banks

We used to think, 'Plant deep-rooted species at stream banks as protection against erosion.' How wrong we were - see photo below.

Infill housing + climate change + the huge catchment  
= more flood disasters<sup>3</sup> (see also above items).



### A fruiting miro

Jonathan Anderson advises that Trelissick Park now has a fruiting miro. It's a young tree growing to the west of the main track, in the section between the power pylon and the Trelissick St entrance. 'I believe it's a wild rather than a planted tree, because it's in regenerating forest amongst kahikatea, tōtara and mataī saplings.'

He found a single red fruit on the ground, which confirms it is a female tree. All the podocarps that grow naturally in Wellington – kahikatea, mataī, miro, rimu and tōtara – have separate male and female trees. The males produce pollen and the females fruit and seeds, eaten and dispersed by birds.

### An ORCA visit

Our tribulations and achievements over 30 years unravelled during a recent park walk-through, guided by *Peter Reimann*. ORCA is supporting advocacy, better access and restoration in Tyers Stream Reserve above Ngauranga, by the Tyers Stream Group. Their stream woes are the same as ours.

## Stoat news

It's a pity these lithesome, intelligent animals ever came to these shores. In April *Graham Elmes*, Predator Free Ngaio Reserves Coordinator, sent a photo of a stoat near Wightwick's Field. We hope this was the one caught later near bridge 3, in a trap serviced by *Philippa Cox*. Another stoat was caught in May.



## Always busy (see photos on Facebook)

In a combination of visits by CVNZ, Harbour Asset Management and working bees over the last three months:

- Blackberry grubbed out from grassy areas downstream of bridge 5 and upstream of the debris trap
- Tradescantia cleared from the slopes below Hanover and Oban Streets and at the streamside Interfaith 51-trees memorial spot down from bridge 6
- The area enclosed by the first 'zig' of the track down from Oban Street and the grassy area upstream of the debris trap planted
- Debris trap cleared.

Kaitiaki o Ngahere dealt with weedy incursions.

Park entrances have bright new map-boards, thanks to WCC's *Tim Harkness*.

## Dead kererū

*Jonathan Anderson* found a young dead kererū in the bush beside the track below Ngaio Gorge Road. WCC's *Myfanwy Emery* says, 'It could well have been a dog as often one bite is fairly undetectable from the surface but fatal. Any other predator is likely to have taken it away or eaten at least part of the bird. Sounds like a juvenile fresh off the nest, easy prey sadly.'

## A new meeting venue

We are grateful to the Onslow Historical Society for the use of the meeting room at its Khandallah Road venue over many years and to *Stan Pillar* who kindly set up the room. However, he has now moved to Karori. WCC's *Tim Park* offered a meeting space at the Otari Wilton's Bush information centre instead. After our first meeting there, Tim enthusiastically showed us the amazing botanical/scientific work going on at the facilities and nursery.

## Escaped your notice?

On this Hutt Road bridge barrier, Taranaki Whānui worked with WCC on the design and gifted the *tohu*.



It depicts Taranaki maunga and ancestral origins<sup>5</sup>.

## References

1. GG August 2021, April 2022
2. GG October 2021
3. GG January 2022
4. GG April 2022
5. Scoop Regional 11 November 2019

## Contacts

Note new email address, arranged by *Bill Hester*      [trelissickgroup@gmail.com](mailto:trelissickgroup@gmail.com)  
WCC (reporting problems)      (04) 499 4444 or [WCC Fix-It](mailto:WCC-Fix-It@trelissickgroup.com)  
GW pollution hotline      0800 496 734  
Website:      [www.trelissickpark.org.nz](http://www.trelissickpark.org.nz) (includes past Gorge Gazettes and park map)  
Facebook:      <https://www.facebook.com/TrelissickParkGroup>

**Thanks to all our volunteers, supporters, WCC staff and weed control contractor Kaitiaki o Ngahere.**

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