

Gorge Gazette - October 2022



News about Trelissick Park, the Ngaio Gorge and streams

Abbreviations:

WCC	Wellington City Council	VUW	Victoria University of Wellington
TPG	Trelissick Park Group	CVNZ	Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
WW	Wellington Water	GG	Gorge Gazette

A delta coming?

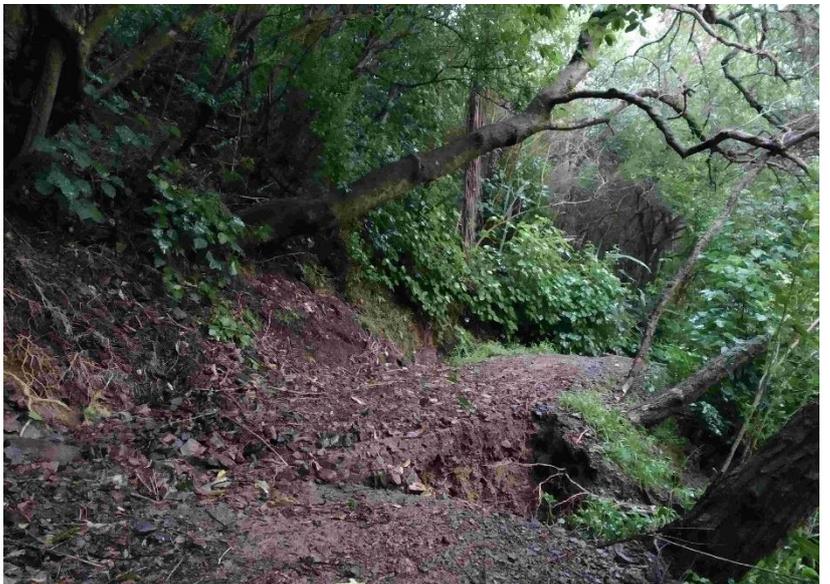
Rain and more rain! The winter was the wettest on record. It's still raining. Wellington hillsides are slipping and washing into streams. A large chunk of Wilton Park descended. The photo shows the muddy outcome at the exit of the tunnel under the railway line for Kaiwharawhara Stream. Beyond the estuary, the muddy issue spewed into the harbour.

With climate change: more rain, more slips, more deposition. A delta in the making?

iReX is building a wharf close to the estuary for the new ferries. A groyne between the wharf and the estuary aims to divert some of the sediment. Hmm... The site fly-over video in Ref.1 is worth a look.



From a video taken by Jim Gifkins – see our Facebook page for 20 August



August at the Northern Walkway from Hanover Street – during and after a deluge, with resulting track gouge

At the giant slips

They say that work to stabilise the giant slips above Ngaio Gorge Road will finish in December. Meanwhile, lesser giants have joined the originals. A family of slips? Life is never dull on Ngaio Gorge Road.

In the photo, the magazine building ruin can just be discerned within our area of banishment. Hang-gliding anyone? For us, a weedy chaos awaits.



From <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/projects/stabilisation-at-ngaio-gorge>

The return of the sneaky nocturnal plant thieves

A few weeks ago, the thieves uprooted more of *Marilyn Hester's* beautiful plantings around the Trelissick Crescent verge. WCC's *Anita Benbrook* kindly provided some replacements. Marilyn is avoiding re-planting the area, which is away from the prying eyes of residents.

Enthusiasts discovered in the western suburbs

Peter Reimann gave a talk to the Onslow Garden Club about the history, problems and restoration of the park. This was enhanced by photos, including some from *Frances Lee*, going back to 1991.

Who would have thought that the western suburbs harbour such a large bunch of enthusiasts!

VUW students at large

No straightforward answers emerged, but snapshots were useful:

Birds - Five-minute bird counts and vegetation surveys at three forested sites in Zealandia, Ōtari-Wilton's Bush and Trelissick Park looked at plant diversity, foliar cover, predator density, numbers of people and bird behaviour.

Animals - Tracking tunnels, chew cards and one camera trap were set across one kilometre transect lines in Zealandia, Otari-Wilton's Bush and Trelissick Park.

Fresh water - E.coli in the streams was far above the national bottom line for freshwater, significantly correlated to the amount of rubbish observed along the catchment.

More stalwart memorials

At the downstream end of the grassy patch beyond bridge 5 our memorial grove is growing. In June *Gottfried Theiler's* family planted a pukatea. *Dorothy Douglass's* miro and *Olaf John's* tītoki followed in July².

Then we said, 'Hang on, what about *Malcolm McDonald?*' He was our hard-working and meticulous secretary until late in 2008. He then transformed the gorse-covered slope below Trelissick Crescent to a beautiful native forest and organised the annual Sea-Week beach clean-up at the Kaiwharawhara Stream estuary. He died in March 2019. We found a tawa about 800 mm tall, smaller than the others, but destined to also become a forest giant.



The Douglass family with friends



Chris Moore, Phil Parnell and Peter Reimann behind Olaf's tītoki



The McDonald family planting Malcolm's tawa – see the tree on p.4

The Douglass family kindly donated a couple of planting spades.

TPG submission on WCC's Proposed District Plan

TPG expressed concerns about stormwater run-off from hard surfaces in the huge catchment destroying stream banks and trees, washing away a footbridge and undermining sewer line foundations - aggravated by housing intensification and more extreme weather events from climate change.

We supported stormwater hydraulic neutrality and water sensitive design covered in some sections of the Plan, but requested that all building developments, including infill housing, mandate at least neutral or lesser stormwater runoff, compared with pre-development.

We requested that all Restricted Discretionary and infringement provisions for stormwater be deleted.

We acknowledged that stormwater slowing provisions on steep sites or in cramped areas may be difficult to achieve, but there are innovative solutions such as roof water tankage, green roofs/walls, stormwater detention or creation of offsets in the catchment nearby, such as planted swales or rain gardens – funded by the developer as part of the consent.

TPG is grateful for support with this submission from the *Tyers Stream Group* and *Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne*.

Scots College students victorious

The rat elimination project by three students from Scots College has just finished. WCC's *Henk Louw* provided ten Victor rat traps via Ranger *Adam Groenewegen* and the students liaised with *Bill Hester* to deploy them in an area near bridge 7. They caught 12 rats and one mouse in eight winter weeks. This was a surprise because we already have three DOC200s, several A24s and some bait stations in that specific small area.

The traps have all been left set and baited ready for action.



With one of their victims

More from the animal pest world

The predator team continue to catch rats and find bait stations in need of replenishing.

For this year to the end of September the score is two stoats and 69 rats from the DOC200s, self-resetting A24s and Victor traps.

Phillippa Cox, who has done a sterling job looking after the DOC200 traps, is moving. *Bill Hester* will be looking after her traps in the interim.

Debbie Hawker is taking over from *Henk Louw* as WCC's Biosecurity Specialist- Pest Animals.

Planting this year

Allowing for the Trelissick Crescent plant thefts, we have put in the ground around 770 plants this year, sourced from WCC, Forest and Bird, *Heidi Olsen* of SPCA and home nurseries. Most have been planted on the slope below Oban Street, Wadestown, around the Trelissick Crescent verge and just upstream of the debris trap between the vehicle track and Kaiwharawhara Stream. Our two Duke of Edinburgh candidates continue.³ *Andrew Cutler* added to his spot below Oban Street.

For more...

See our Facebook page.

References

1. [Wellington — New Interislander \(irex.co.nz\)](http://www.irex.co.nz)
2. GG October 2021, January 2022, July 2022
3. GG July 2022

Appendix

On the next page is a quick reference to most of the species we have been planting in Trelissick Park over the years and two excellent WCC booklets on restoration planting.



Malcolm's tawa tree – see p.3

PLANTS TO SUIT VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTS (excludes grasses and toetoe)

Slow-growing canopy species in bold

	Height (m)		Height (m)
SUN/DRY		PART SHADE/DAMP	
tōtara (also damp)	20	tawa	20
taupata	6	miro	20
hebe stricta	2	mataī	25
hebe parviflora	2	kahikatea (also wet)	40
kānuka	8	pukatea	30
kōhūhū	6	rewarewa	25
mountain flax	1.5	northern rātā	15
wineberry	6	tītoki	8
SUN/DAMP		lancewood	10
cabbage tree	10	nīkau	10
ngaio	7	rimu	25
swamp flax (also wet)	2	kohekohe	15
kōwhai	7	lemonwood	9
mānuka	4	māhoe	7
karamū	3	tree fuchsia	10
griselinea	10	five-finger	6
mingimingi	2	patē	4
SHADE/DAMP		olearia (also dry)	4
kawakawa	3	mapou	5

Refer also to [Environment - Restoration planting guides - Wellington City Council](#) for two booklets:

Restoration planting techniques

Restoration planting sites

WCC made these guides to help us understand the best way to plant our areas in Wellington, as well as providing some tips on undertaking a planting project, where to begin, who to involve, choosing species to suit the variety of environments and where to get plants.

For complete species lists in the park and plant photos, refer to the 'Plants' page of our website.

Contacts

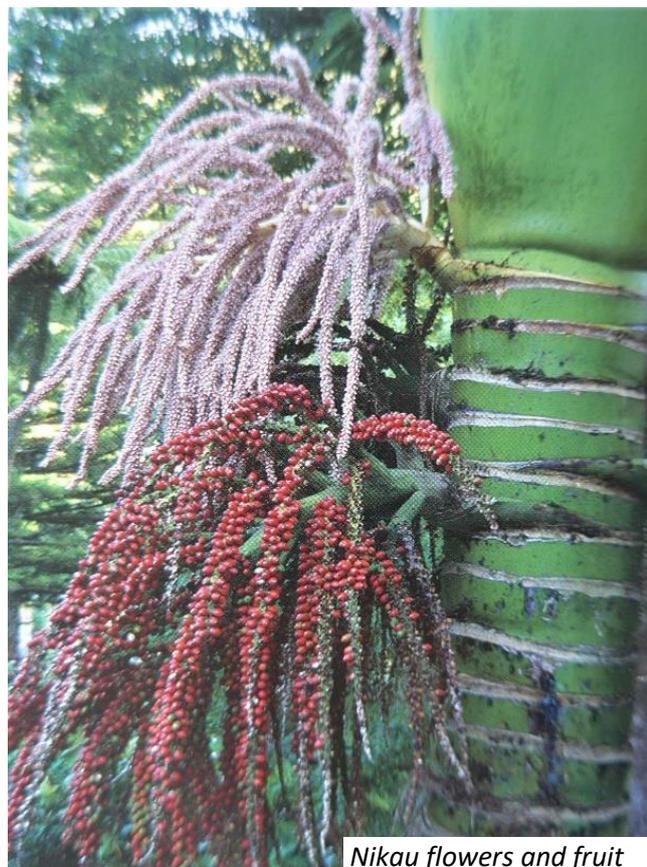
Note new email address: trelissickgroup@gmail.com

WCC (reporting problems): (04) 499 4444 or [WCC Fix-It](#)

GW pollution hotline: 0800 496 734

Website: www.trelissickpark.org.nz (with past Gorge Gazettes & park map)

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



Nikau flowers and fruit

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.