

Gorge Gazette

News about Trelissick Park, the Ngaio Gorge and Streams

(Footbridges over the stream are numbered from 1 – 6 going downstream, excluding the old bridge off the side of Wightwick's Field).

Abbreviations:

WCC Wellington City Council
 GW Greater Wellington Regional Council
 DoC Department of Conservation
 HPPA Highland Park Progressive Association
 VUW Victoria University of Wellington

Website www.trelissickpark.org.nz (includes past Gorge Gazettes)

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

SEPTEMBER 2012

"Pluvial" is the word that comes to mind, when recalling the past year. Good for plants and good for slips.

Bill Hester took a video of a slip as it was actually happening near bridge 2 in the Korimako - see Facebook page. Major slips also scarred the steep railway corridor above the Korimako and Kaiwharawhara Streams. Trelissick Crescent now has a brink opposite No. 49, with a slip into the Park. A September 17 slip thwarted the trains and another went all the way down to the stream and wrought destruction to the track below Hanover St - photos by Barry Durrant.



But in case we have forgotten those dry, halcyon summer days, a superb "must-see" video, taken by two of our regular dog-walking visitors, is on Facebook. (The smaller of the two dogs is the rabbit catcher featuring in our last Gorge Gazette).

Birds Coming, Mustelids/Rats Going

WCC Ranger, Matt Robertson found a kaka nest near the Forest Remnant Track (see Park map on website for track location). To protect the eggs and nestlings, a mustelid trap bereft of catches has been re-located to the vicinity. Barry Durrant, who lives in Wadestown overlooking the bush and the Kaiwharawhara valley, can attest to the coming of the kaka. Tui and kereru abound and now there are bellbirds. Photos are on Facebook.

We have added 6 new bait stations to the slopes below Oban Street - an area not previously covered. Barry Durrant is servicing these and is astonished at the rapid Brodifocoum pellet consumption. A mustelid trap is being relocated to there.

Welcome to VUW student Tracy Poole. With Bill Hester, she is setting out, then recovering the chew cards, for monitoring rat/mouse/mustelid activity. (See also previous Gorge Gazette and Facebook). There is speculation about cards with large tooth marks, corners chomped off and others missing. Dogs will eat anything.

The End of "Take Care"

Regretfully, the last year of GW "Take Care" funding has arrived. The Park has reaped great benefit from this fund over the years. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to GW for all that plant supply and weed control. This year the targets are buddleia, sycamore, Australian wattle and pampas. The GW contractor will also deal with one tamarillo, one elderberry and at least one evergreen buckthorn. This work will start soon.

The Debris Trap



1976 was the year of the great flood in the Kaiwharawhara commercial area down-valley from the Park. Trees, branches and debris carried down by the Kaiwharawhara Stream in spate blocked the tunnel under the oil tanks. The debris trap, as illustrated, was installed. Sam Lister of Capacity organises clearance, prompted by Frances Lee.

Large boulders were placed below the trap, to aid fish passage. But the force of the water has bowled the rocks downstream, leaving a deep pool below and an impossible waterfall for some fish species to climb. TPG has long advocated for fish passage to be reinstated.

Working at the Coal-face

The forecast for the visit of three volunteers from IT recruiters Talent International was grim. But by a miracle the sun came out and the wind abated. The Japanese honeysuckle-sprayed slopes of the Kaiwharawhara valley now harbour 40 more trees and fewer weeds. We then repaired to the nearest pub.

The Sathya Sai Service Organisation came to tend their two spots across the stream above and below the debris trap - salutary progress, but troubled by flooding and bank erosion.

The appendix lists the current restoration spots in the Park, each with details and a grid reference from John Foden's map on our website. Any omissions?

Other work continues, unheralded, on most fine days. What better way to clean out the cob-webs in such a bushy paradise?

Gone are the Red Berries



Some readers of the previous Gazette identified the mystery red-berried bushy clumps as *Viburnum japonica*. Peter Reimann had to visit many times to say goodbye to this scourge, spreading insidiously. All were finally uprooted, aided by Barry Allen and Mike Lear, at a working bee. The photos show the Japonica clumps before the final coup de grâce and the subsequent planting with 70 trees. In the process we discovered nascent kahikatea, pigeonwood, toro, totara and rewarewa. All were staked with cut Japonica branches (will these sprout?). A convolution of Japonica roots remain, which had better not go forth and multiply.

Tree Donations and More on Ferns

Residents in the Kaiwharawhara catchment who border bushy areas often have native seedlings appear in their gardens. Many thanks to Gail Andrews, near Otari Wilton's bush and Russell Robinson who lives further up-valley for their tree donations, including heritage species.

Gail has identified more ferns along the Forest Remnant Track to add to those previously spotted by Olaf John, Chris Moore and Jonathan Anderson. The complete list, with comments, is in the appendix. Gail says: "don't portray me as any kind of fern expert!" Well, we are all learning.

An Unwelcome Incursion



These days the hills of the outer green belt take on an orange tinge when the ever-spreading barberry (*Berberis darwinii*) is in flower. It will out-compete natives and eventually take over.. Walk along the hills north of Mt Kaukau to see how voraciously it spreads. Until recently we thought Trelissick Park had been spared. Bill Hester has an eye for the splash of orange on the slopes - usually a mission to reach and eliminate.

It grows "up to 4 m tall. It has needle-sharp spines, glossy green holly-like leaves and drooping clusters of orange-yellow flowers (July - February) that are followed up by purplish-black berries with a bluish-white bloom. The berries are spread by birds and possums, where seedlings will grow in deep shade." ("Plant Me Instead", DOC, 2005)

Contacts

Chairman & Adopt-a-Spot: Peter Reimann (04) 938 9602, peter.reimann@paradise.net.nz
 Working bees: David Grace (04) 476 7563
 Wellington City Council (reporting slips and fallen trees across tracks, other problems): (04) 499 4444
 Greater Wellington pollution hotline: 0800 496 734

Working Bees - Check with David before coming – changes may occur.

Usually 1st Sunday of the month at 1.30 PM and 2nd Tuesday at 9.30 AM. See web-site for updates.

APPENDIX

Ferns along the Forest Remnant Track

List in July 2011 Gazette

Adiantum radianum (maidenhair fern)
Adiantum fulvum (maidenhair fern)
Arthropteris tenella
Asplenium bulbiferum (hen and chickens fern)
Asplenium oblongifolium (shining spleenwort)
Asplenium polyodon (sickle spleenwort)
Blechnum chambersii (lance fern)
Blechnum fluviatile (creek fern)
Blechnum filiforme (thread fern)
Cyathea dealbata (silver treefern or ponga)
Doodia media (rasp fern)
Hymenophyllum demissum (filmy fern)
Lastreopsis hispida (hairy fern)
Lastreopsis glabella (similar to *hispida* but with smooth stems)
Lastreopsis velutina (velvet fern)
Leptopteris hymenophylloides (single crepe fern)
Pellaea rotundifolia (button fern)
Phymatosorus pustulatum (hound's tongue fern)
Phymatosorus scandens (fragrant fern or climbing hound's tongue)
Polystichum richardii (common shield fern)
Cyathea medullaris.

New Findings/Comments from Gail Andrews

Asplenium flaccidum (hanging spleenwort)
Hymenophyllum rarum (or similar) (filmy fern)
Pneumatopteris pennigera (gully fern)
Pteris macilenta (sweet brake)
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia (leather-leaf fern)

Thinks the following may also be present:

Adiantum cunnighamii (common maidenhair fern)
Asplenium gracillimum (like hen and chicken fern)
Asplenium hookerianum

Blechnum membranaceum (unless all the plants are young *Blechnum chambersii* (rereti))
Grammitis species (especially on the rocks just above the main path, unless they are all *Microsorium/Phymatosorus scandens* (fragrant fern))
Pteris tremula (shaking brake)?
Leptotepia novae-zelandiae?

Not Found:

Arthropteris tenella
Blechnum fluviatile (creek fern)
Doodia media (rasp fern) (not a likely habitat for this?)

Restoration Spots in the Park - Last 3 Years (Grid references - see map on website)

WB = working bee

CT = Carolyn Theiler

MH or BH = Marilyn or Bill Hester

St B = St Benedict's School

PR = Peter Reimann

Waikowhai St entrance	WB and Annalise Hames	014081
Fallen willow site below Waikowhai St	George and Andrew Symmes	013078
Between Waikowhai St entrance and bridge 1	Annalise Hames	013076
Streamside up from Wightwick's Field	MH, CT	006070
Streamside down from Wightwick's Field	MH	009061
Track "triangle" below Wightwick's Field	Mark Sheriff, MH, CT	009062
On ridge above NPA seat, & upstream of seat	George and Andrew Symmes	007056, 008056
Downstream of bridge 2	Alexandra Harper	011052
Between bridges 2 and 3	George and Andrew Symmes	012052
Karaka site by bridge 3	WB and PR	011048
Railway riparian site between bridges 3 and 4	IAG Insurance, PR	012046
Between bridges 3 and 4 and above bridge 4	MH	014044, 015041
Further up ridge above bridge 4	Trevor Mowbray	015042
In forest above bridge 4	Te Puna Reo O Nga Kakano	014043
Railway ridge above bridge 4	Jack Stanton	019039
Grass area between bridges 4 and 5	Barry Durrant	020038
Riparian downstream of bridge 5	WB, IAG Insurance, PR	019037
DoC-funded riparian railway	IAG Insurance, ACC, PR	015032 to 018037
Above fish ladder track	BNZ, PR	024025
5 small areas further up-slope via minor track	Global Volunteers, MH, BH, PR, BNZ, Talent International	025031, 023030, 022030, 025029, 027029
Trelissick Cres opp. No. 19	WB, MH	024057
Gorse-cleared slopes below Trelissick Cres	WB, MH, CT, PR, Malcolm/Claire McDonald	013058, 014061
Patch below "dump" off Northern Walkway	IAG Insurance, PR	020053
Trelissick Cres opp No. 41	IAG Insurance, PR, WB	032041
Viburnum spot off Northern Walkway	WB, PR	029030
Around bridge 6	WB, St B, ACC	041017, 042015
Above Memorial Seat	Judy Paulin	043017
Slopes below Hanover St	WB, St B, PR	045021 to 055024
Riparian by Ngaio Gorge track	Eva Durrant	055041
Across stream above and below debris trap	Sathya Sai Service Organisation	094049, 103042
"Flood Plain" below debris trap	MH, BH	105045 to 108037
By railway access footbridge	MH	111035
Slope above railway access footbridge	Ontrack, WB, David Grace, Talent International	112031
Below Ngaio Gorge Rd lower entrance	WCC	131031
By Ngaio Gorge Rd layby	BNZ, WB	108042
At Ngaio Gorge Rd earthquake strengthening	WCC	060047

Membership drawn from Highland Park Progressive Association Inc., Ngaio Progressive Association Inc., Onslow Historical Society Inc., Private Landowners Group, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (Wellington Branch), Wellington Botanical Society, Wadestown Resident's Association.