

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 200th Meeting, held at Ōtari Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday 8 November 2022



Abbreviations:

WCC Wellington City Council
 GW Greater Wellington Regional Council
 F & B Forest and Bird Protection Society
 HPPA Highland Park Progressive Assoc.
 TPG Trelissick Park Group
 NCDRANgaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association
 WRA Wadestown Residents' Association OMB Old man's beard
 VW Volunteer Wellington
 PFW Predator Free Wellington

meeting.] **Actions are in bold italics.**

Present

OHS Onslow Historical Society
 OWB Ōtari Wilton's Bush
 CVNZ Conservation Volunteers NZ
 BotSoc Wellington Botanical Society
 DoC Department of Conservation
 WW Wellington Water
 ORCA Onslow Residents' Community Association

[Square brackets: subsequent to

Peter Reimann (TPG)	Ian Shearer (HPPA)
Anne Tuffin (TPG)	Angus Napier (F&B)
Jenny Lewis (WRA)	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
Uenuku Phillips (Zealandia)	Debbie Hawker (WCC)
Adam Groenewegen (WCC)	Tim Park (WCC)

Apologies

Stan Pillar (OHS)	Howard Moore (NCDRA)
Daniela Biaggio (WCC)	Jonathan Anderson (WCC)

Minutes

The minutes of the 199th meeting, held on 5th July 2022, were confirmed.

WCC Items

Fish Passage improvement in catchment – Further to the fish passage study described in the minutes of the TPG meeting 29 June 2021, Daniela Biaggio advises that GW, in partnership with WCC, Ngati Toa, and others, were successful in securing fish passage funding from MFE. GW has created two positions as fish passage rangers: Joshua McLellan and Jakob Forrest. The report identified the tunnel under the oil tanks downstream of the park as a major barrier. This was examined by the rangers who identified the downstream ramp as the biggest barrier. They visited the site on 7 November with WW to look at retrofitting options. The rangers have arranged a trout survey (concerned that better fish access might introduce a trout problem upstream). Further updates are awaited. **Jakob Lechner/Daniela Biaggio**

Ngaio Gorge Road Stabilisation Project – Due to wet weather, **the scheduled completion date is now mid February 2023**. Peter Reimann has asked for information on when the lower Ngaio Gorge Road entrance to the park will open, for timing of the track restoration upstream, access for animal pest control and scheduling weed control/working bees. Adam Groenewegen has asked WCC Project Engineer Sarath Amarasekera. **Adam Groenewegen**

At Adam's meeting with Sarath it was resolved that engaging a landscape architect for the areas disturbed by construction work at the lower Ngaio Gorge Road entrance is not necessary. Instead, a contractor will carry out restoration planting. However, the proposed planting date of 8 December is too early for plant survival in the normally dry summer months. This is yet to be resolved. **Adam Groenewegen**

The shelter, gate and rocks will be reinstated at the entrance.

No planting will take place in the area immediately behind the retaining walls to facilitate future inspections and maintenance work.

For more information, photos and a video, see [Projects – Ngaio Gorge stabilisation – Wellington City Council](#). [Ngaio Gorge Road cycle lane construction proposal](#) – This appears to include 15 car parks at the former lay-by area at entrance #5 (half-way up Ngaio Gorge Road). The bicycle lane work will take place over the next 2-3 years. [Dog Control update](#) – Formal consultation begins in early 2023.

Storm Problems

- [Sewer line repair next to Korimako Stream](#) – Work to fix the undermined sewer line foundations on the stream bank below Waikowhai Street is finished. The contractor Fulton Hogan has supplied 80 reparation plants for

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damage to previous planting in the area. The contractor has planted many grasses/sedges along the stream bank and at the flat area previously used for storage.

- [Bank erosion affecting vehicle track alongside Kaiwharawhara Stream](#) – A safety barrier next to the vehicle track has been extended. Rock armouring of this section is proposed. **Tim Harkness**
- [Bank erosion downstream of debris trap](#) – Track closed. It has been looked at by a contractor. They are currently working for GW elsewhere and will be able to start around late November/early December if the current job finishes on time. **Tim Harkness**
- [Track gouge on Northern Walkway below Hanover Street](#) – A contractor aims to install a culvert pre-Christmas. A safety barrier around the gouge has been installed meanwhile. **Tim Harkness**

Other track improvements

- Completed: upgrading just downstream of Wightwick's Field (beyond the track junction) and rocky section between bridges 3 and 4.
- The canyon track downstream of bridge 6 will be upgraded over the next 6-12 months. **Tim Harkness** - There are track improvements needed on the Northern Walkway up to Hanover Street – just below the Hanover Street entrance and removing slip debris further down, partially blocking the track. **Tim Harkness** [Bridge numbering](#) – New number plates were installed by Adam Groenewegen.

[Sewer pipe leaks](#) – The sewer pipe crossing Kaiwharawhara Stream downstream of bridge 6, appears to have been fixed.

Jonathan Anderson advises that the previously advised minor leak into the park from the houses on the eastern side of Trelissick Crescent seems to be fixed.

[Debris trap remediation](#) – Adam Groenewegen has asked WW to remove debris from the trap and to fix the rails (two leaning over and a large gap). The design may need a re-think, due to increased run-off from hard surfaces from infill housing in the large catchment, coupled with climate change downpours, which are exacerbating the problem. Adam Groenewegen is following this up. **Adam Groenewegen**

[Parking access at Waikowhai Street entrance](#) – Vehicle transit across the street-side gutter has now been improved. **Pest Plant Control**

[Control by WCC/contractor](#) – Kaitiaki o Ngahere has sprayed tradescantia with a new chemical. It takes a few days for the effects to show. It would aid safety for TPG volunteers to know when and where areas have been sprayed, so that TPG can avoid manual removal there. **Ilona Keenan**.

[Control by TPG](#) – TPG continues with manual control of tradescantia, OMB, Himalayan balsam, cherry, wattle, karaka seedlings, sycamore, bindweed, blackberry, climbing dock and buddleia by individuals, working bees and groups. **TPG**

[Sycamore/cherry removal](#) - Adam Groenewegen removed a large sycamore from below Trelissick Crescent south of entrance 3. TPG is removing smaller ones from the same area. **TPG**

Cherry has also been removed by TPG from below Hanover Street. However, it will be an ongoing problem as one source is a large tree directly over the mouth of the railway tunnel.

Nursery/planting update

[Planting totals/map](#) - Planting total for the year = about 770. A marked-up park map has been sent to Adam Groenewegen.

[Stolen plants](#) - Twice in July plants were uprooted and stolen from Marilyn Hester's planting around the Trelissick Crescent verge – total = 21. She has written a letter to nearby residents. WCC's Anita Benbrook kindly supplied 30 replacements. TPG may include spiky *Aciphylla squarrosa* (Kurikui, speargrass) in next year's plant order as a deterrent. **Marilyn Hester**

[Planting under pylon next to Northern Walkway](#) – This planting, not by any TPG member, includes some non-endemics. Adam Groenewegen says that Ventia on behalf of Transpower prefers the area under the tower and within 4 metres be clear. Adam Groenewegen is preparing a sign to be placed at the pylon concerning removal.

Adam Groenewegen

Seedling and Field Guide for Restoration Planting in Wellington – WCC’s Anita Benbrook is preparing a ‘Field Guide’ to supplement WCC’s booklets: ‘Restoration Planting Techniques’ and ‘Restoration Planting Sites’. She sent a draft to Peter Reimann for comment. It will be very useful.

Plant ordering from WCC for 2023 – According to Plants for environmental community groups, plants can be ordered from October to January. TPG needs to order now. This should include species suitable for the Trelissick Crescent verge, streamside for under and downstream of bridge 7 and along the Waikowhai Street verge. Ian Shearer suggested a climber to adorn the barrier either side of the steps below the Oban Street entrance. **Peter Reimann**

Mulch for Trelissick Crescent verge planting and for strip on north side of grass slope below Trelissick Crescent – Requested via Adam Groenewegen. **Adam Groenewegen**

Animal Pest Control

WCC contact - Debbie Hawker is replacing Henk Louw for a year.

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Traps – WCC supplied 10 Victra traps to help a Scots College student project. These were deployed near bridge 7 and caught 12 rats and one mouse in eight winter weeks. Debbie Hawker has organised someone new to take over these traps. All the traps are registered on trap.nz, including the A24s below Oban Street – registered separately. Totals from 2008 to end of [October] 2022: 22 stoats/weasels, [573] rats, 18 hedgehogs. [TPG has approximately 14 years of monthly reports which are still available via the previous system set up before trap.nz, but unlikely to ever be transferred].

Bait Stations – Much consumption of block bait by rodents [in the 30 bait stations. TPG has tended bait stations in the park monthly for at least 14 years].

Rabbits – Often seen on or below Trelissick Crescent. Tim Park advised that spray-on Plantskydd (<https://www.plantskydd.com/>) is effective at Ōtari Wilton’s Bush.

Kaiwharawhara Estuary – New ferry and rail facilities – see Wellington — New Interislander (irex.co.nz). The consent application for the main works construction was lodged in August. Early construction started in September focussed on moving and flattening material on Kaiwharawhara knoll in preparation for the main works construction due to start in early 2023 and be completed in time for the first new ferry’s arrival in mid-2025. The environmental and engineering experts are still working to determine the best location for the piled groyne to the north-east of the wharf to protect the Kaiwharawhara stream from sediment and water column disturbance. **Sanctuary to Sea**

Project

Cat Ayres of Zealandia has initiated some business and community volunteering as part of the Sanctuary to Sea project. Key info and dates:

- They have six business partners provisionally signed up to the pilot phase
- The ‘kick-off’ hui with the group will be held on Wednesday 9th November
- The rough timeframe for the pilot period is now until the end of March 2023
- Cat will meet with businesses individually in November, to plan for pilot actions including catchment volunteering opportunities in Feb/March.

TPG will collaborate with at least 1-2 volunteering half-day sessions in the Feb-March period during the working week or Saturdays. Cat is also exploring clean-up options in the lower catchment in the areas next to business premises, such as School Road.

She is meeting with businesses in November. (Reminder: rubbish below railway at Crofton Downs station blown in from Mitre10). **Cat Ayres**

Submissions

WCC Proposed District Plan – The submission lodged by TPG expressed concerns about destructive stormwater run-off from hard surfaces in the huge catchment, aggravated by housing intensification and more extreme weather events from climate change.

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

For steep sites or cramped areas TPG suggested offsets in the catchment nearby, such as planted swales or rain gardens – funded by the developer as part of the consent.

At the meeting, WCC advised that Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) no longer apply to residential zones, but still apply in all other relevant zones.

Correspondence with External Parties

Recent resource consent web alerts	WCC and GW
VW workshops/events/volunteers/TPG update	Julie Thomson/Clare Teal/Heidi Quinn (VW)

Rubbish collection	John Curran (WCC)
Talk to Onslow Garden Club	Clare Gleeson (Onslow Garden Club)
Business and community volunteering in TPG with Sanctuary to Sea	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
Dog Policy Review	notifications@engagementhq.com
TPG submission on WCC proposed District Plan	PDPsubmissions@wcc.govt.nz , Cat Ayres/Danielle Shanahan (Zealandia) Lynn Cadenhead (Tyres Stream Group), Daniela Biaggio/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Pest plant control	Ilona Keenan/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Article for Stuff on people over 60 that are inspiring	Sonja Urban (CVNZ), Deb Tapp (WellingtonNZ)
Sanctuary to Sea presentations from THW-VUW students	Nicola Day (VUW), Daniela Biaggio (WCC)
Community hui: Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara/Sanctuary to Sea, 8th November	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)

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Volunteer opportunity at Trelissick Park for CentrePort and Zealandia team	Cat Ayres (Zealandia), William Woods (Centreport), Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Predator kills since 2008	Eleanor Dewar (PFW)
Consent notifications	GW, WCC
Duke of Edinburgh award work	Alex Thompson, Troy Thompson
CVNZ visits to park	Sonja Urban (CVNZ), Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Debris trap clearance/fix	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Deployment of 10 Victor traps and the DoC 200s	Debbie Hawker, Henk Louw (WCC), Scots College students
iReX Ferry terminal project update	Wellington Ferry Project Team
Historic photos of Kaiwharawhara area	Chris Horne (BotSoc), Cat Ayres (Zealandia), Jim Mikos
Collection of plant pots and trays	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Graffiti on signs at Waikowhai Street entrance	WCC Fix-it, Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Concern about sediment build-up at estuary	Sue Allen, Rose Northcott (KiwiRail)
'Book 3' draft review on restoration species	Anita Benbrook (WCC)
Bridge number pictograms, tree clearance, unlocked sewer gates, sewer leak, debris trap clearance/fix	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Volunteer celebration, Dog policy review, survey, conservation calendar, weed workshop, climate and sustainability fund	WCC Park Ranger Team
Planting locations and numbers for the year	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Track gouge on Northern Walkway below Hanover Street	Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Cutting new track above eroded section down from debris trap	Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)

Karaka Wānanga/Symposium by WCC/Zealandia	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Dog exercise area sign at Hanover Street entrance	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Plants to replace those stolen from Trelissick Crescent verge	Anita Benbrook (WCC)
Koromiko Stream valley track improvements between bridges 3 & 4	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Summary of track issues including Northern Walkway below Hanover Street	Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Rubbish along railway below Mitre 10	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
Kiwibank volunteer day	Carol Spalding (Kiwibank)
Tree across track down from entrance #4	WCC Fix-it
Tree across track down from bridge 6	WCC Fix-it, Adam Groenewegen/Tim Harkness (WCC)
Organising Victa traps for Scots College students	Henk Louw/Adam Groenewegen (WCC), Scots College students
Leaking sewer pipe into park below Trelissick Crescent and at pipe crossing Kaiwharawhara Stream down from bridge 6	Jonathan Anderson/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Trelissick Park walkthrough	Cat Ayres (Zealandia)
Titoki seedlings from Wairarapa and moving a rimu tree	Anita Benbrook/Jonathan Anderson (WCC)
Fish passage work in catchment proceeding	Daniela Biaggio (WCC), Joshua Forrest/Jakob McLellan (GW)
Planting of non-natives below pylon	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Chain sawing sycamore below Trelissick Crescent	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Predator Free Wellington research survey	Julie Whitburn (Zealandia)
Clearing the '51 trees' spot by Interfaith Group	Kumar Kumareswaran (Sathya Sai Group)
Comparison of rat catches with Otari Wilton's Bush	Jim Tait
Eel fisher in park	Jonathan Anderson/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Moving dog exercise area signs and removing track closed signs	Tim Harkness (WCC)
PFW funding for community trapping	Eleanor Dewar (PFW)
PFW seeking community rangers	Eleanor Dewar (PFW)
Removal of sign 'Barry's Track to Oban Street'	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Small slip - Northern Walkway up to Hanover Street	Tim Harkness/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)

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Clearing two treefalls/slumps	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Disturbance from use of NZ Post truck driver's horns day and night at Kaiwharawhara depot	Lucy Alcock
Meeting venue availability	Aly McHaffie (WCC)

Wellington Community Facilities survey	Tim Park/ Christine Ford (WCC)
Group volunteering query	Ruby Hickman (BDO Wellington)
Volunteer celebration 30 November	Tom Mayo (WCC)
Ngaio Gorge Road slip update: lower park access/landscaping	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Volunteering query	Erica Anjos (BNZ)
New Employer Volunteer introduction and update	Ann Thomson (VW)
Request for more mulch	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
OHS website	Keith Flinders (OHS)

Newsletters – VW, NCDRA, Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, Bells Track Group, PFW.

Finance

The bank balance currently stands at \$643.80.

Other

Eel fishing in WCC reserves – Prohibited (following incidents in the park and Ōtari Wilton's Bush). Groups in park – [The Interfaith Group tended the '51 memorial trees' spot on 5 November]. CVNZ is due to visit the park twice early next year - the first on 24 January. **Sonja Urban (CVNZ), Angus Napier (F&B)**

Encouraging more volunteers – At the Sanctuary to Sea meeting on 8 November Peter Reimann will say that more volunteers would be welcome, pointing out that TPG has just had their 200th meeting since 1991 and that the park, being at the lower end of the catchment, has no shortage of interesting problems. **Peter Reimann** More organising assistance for TPG – Angus Napier will take on hosting groups in the park such as CVNZ, corporate volunteers, schools and scouts/guides. He needs to be set up with the TPG's email access. **Angus Napier/Peter Reimann/Bill Hester**

WCC's Jonathan Anderson has expressed interest at some time in the future with tasks he previously identified.

Memorial trees - Trees to commemorate Gottfried Theiler, Dorothy Douglass, Olaf John and Malcolm McDonald have all been planted at the downstream end of the grassy patch beyond bridge 5.

Historical photos and records from Frances Lee – Anne Tuffin has digitised Frances' photo albums – a valuable record of park history since 1991. Anne will investigate repositories for the hard and digitised copies of the photos and for the paper records after sorting (Turnbull library?). **Anne Tuffin**

Talk to Onslow Garden Club – Presented recently by Peter Reimann covering park history.

Seat next to Bridge 7 – Being organised by Jenny Lewis. **Jenny Lewis**

Onslow Historians on OHS website – Keith Flinders of OHS says that 120 editions of *The Onslow Historian* are being scanned. 50 are already online at www.onslowhistorical.nz. Peter Reimann will contact Keith to check that they are also sent to the National Library and suggest also the WCC archives. **Peter Reimann**

Ōtari Wilton's Bush slip clearance – As promoted by Tim Park: **Meet at the Troop Picnic Area at 10 a.m. on 27 November for a clean-up of rubbish from the major slip below Wilton Park, followed by a barbecue.** The meeting closed at **10.40** a.m.

Next meeting: **9.30 a.m. Tuesday 7 March 2023 – Ōtari Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre.**

Wadestown Residents' Association.

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