

**Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 203<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, held at Ōtari Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre, 9:30 a.m. Thursday 9 November 2023**



**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  
 NCDRA Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association  
 WRA Wadestown Residents' Association  
 OMB Old man's beard  
 VW Volunteer Wellington

PFW Predator Free Wellington  
 OHS Onslow Historical Society  
 OWB Ōtari Wilton's Bush  
 CVNZ Conservation Volunteers NZ  
 VUW Victoria University  
 BotSoc Wellington Botanical Society  
 DoC Department of Conservation  
 WW Wellington Water  
 S to S Sanctuary to Sea

[Square brackets: subsequent to meeting.]

**Actions are in bold italics.**

**Present**

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Anne Tuffin (TPG)       | Peter Reimann      |
| Jonathan Anderson (TPG) | Angus Napier (F&B) |
| Jenny Lewis (WRA)       |                    |

**Apologies**

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bradley Schroder (WCC) | Ian Shearer (HPPA)         |
| Howard Moore (NCDRA)   | [Uenuku Phillips (S to S)] |
| [Martin McCrudden]     |                            |

**WCC Items**

Fish passage improvement in catchment – Further to the fish passage study described in the minutes of the March meeting, Joshua Forrest and Jakob Lechner of the fish passage remediation team at GW report that in the Kaiwharawhara catchment 60+ priority barriers were identified. 14 remediations are complete, however most of the Kaiwharawhara accommodates only for climbers. A 50-year timeframe is predicted for species extinction without remediation.

The downstream ramp from the tunnel under the oil tanks downstream of the park is a major barrier. GW/WW have looked at retrofitting options. GW is doing a trout DNA survey (concerned that better fish access might introduce a trout problem upstream). The remediation project is ongoing for a minimum of 12 months. Further updates are awaited. **Joshua Forrest/Jakob Lechner**

Ngaio Gorge Road Stabilisation Project – [Martin McCrudden advises that the rubbish bin will be reinstated at entrance 5 in the next couple of weeks].

Dog Control update – Formal submissions have closed. WCC will release a summary of submissions on 16 November and decide on adopting the Animal Bylaw on 14 December.

TPG did not lodge a submission due to the range of views by members. However, Jonathan Anderson did, as an individual, covering:

Erosion of stream banks and tracks, informal tracks and trampling of vegetation, toxic effects of dogs in the streams (tick and flea treatment chemicals), threats to native bird species, especially fledgling kākā/kererū who spend time on the ground, bad behaviour/public safety, dumping of dog waste bags alongside tracks.

He supported alternative off-leash areas instead of Trelissick Park, on-leash periods, and advocated for research into effects of dogs on life in the stream, bins at each entrance, education and a code of dog etiquette.

Anne Tuffin also lodged a submission, concerned about the eventual spread of kiwi to the park, endangered by off-leash dogs.

Storm problem - 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**

**Track improvements**

This year WCC's Tim Harkness has \$9K for work along the stream side track from bridge 6 heading down-stream. He is looking to spend around \$10-15K a year for the next 3-5 years on improvements. **Tim Harkness**

Debris trap remediation – The trap was recently cleared and the vertical rails somewhat straightened. 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 suggests following this up with Nate Rigler (S to S) **Nate Rigler**

New Open Spaces and Parks Manager– Bradley Schroder replaces Myfanwy Emeny.

New Western Ranger - Martin McCrudden has taken over from Adam Groenewegen who is moving to the Senior Ranger role.

### **Pest Plant Control**

Tradescantia clearing – Jonathan Anderson cautions against clearing tradescantia from dry forested slopes because it harbours valuable insects and slows run-off/erosion during heavy rain. In the plant order from WCC, TPG is including groundcover species in the plants for 2024, which may assist in overcoming these problems. **Peter Reimann**

Weed control agreed to be covered by WCC **Illona Keenan**

- WCC/Kaitiaki - cherries in the vicinity of Angus Napier's ring-barking upstream of bridge 2 above true right bank.
- WCC/ Applied Biosecurity Solutions - Clearing blackberry from Jonathan Anderson's proposed podocarp grove upstream of bridge 7 above the true right bank - about 20m x 50m (quickest access by wading across stream). They are starting this week.
- WCC/ Downers - OMB on steep slopes above Ngaio Gorge Road up from the layby. To be done by Downers - traffic management - needs abseil access and prone to rocks falling onto vehicles below (use catch netting?)
- WCC/Kaitiaki- Marilyn Hester's request for Kaitiaki to spray a tradescantia infestation off Trelissick Crescent just under the white fence at the road strengthened site opposite #49. The road crew laid a metal mesh over the ground where they reinforced the slip, and the montbretia and tradescantia have grown up through it. She can't access the roots to eradicate the weeds. The tradescantia is making its way down into the park. The bank is very steep.
- WCC/Kaitiaki - Following up on the OMB between Countdown and the railway lines.
- WCC/Kaitiaki - Below the Scout Hall at the end of Hanover Street towards the awa (stream) – OMB and Japanese honeysuckle.
- WCC/Kaitiaki - On the true right of the awa above the gorge – climbing asparagus and OMB.
- CVNZ for tradescantia – Allocation now increased to four days.
- Another sweep to control the climbing asparagus below Oban Street (if required).
- Japanese honeysuckle on the old planted slip site by Hanover St bridge (#6), this will need spotters on the tracks.
- Some other scattered sites to follow up.
- WCC will get an arborist to look at the cherry about 10 m below gorge lookout - park map grid reference 019 027 (approx.) – needs abseil from handrail (photo supplied to Illona).
- Drone survey in autumn (with cherry control happening in the meantime).

Weed control by WCC to be covered by around \$10K(?) of \$50K donation\* **Illona Keenan**

- Cherry in the Korimako Stream gorge. There are around six on the steep slopes of the gorge, originally visible from the train when in bloom, but spotting follow-up was too late – will have to wait for autumn colours or spring blooms in 2024. **See drone survey above**
- Cherry/sycamore along railway line (down from Crofton Downs station) and below Hanover Street – needs access agreement with KiwiRail. Illona has emailed KiwiRail about this.
- Jonathan Anderson will advise locations of evergreen buckthorn to be controlled. **Jonathan Anderson**
- Weed control in Churchill Reserve (below Bowen Hospital up to the tunnel under Churchill Drive/Blackbridge Road intersection) - a preliminary to future opening up access to this reserve connecting Trelissick Park and Ōtari Wilton's Bush, as suggested by WCC's Martin McCrudden. **Prior hikoī to be arranged – Martin McCrudden/Peter Reimann**

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.

### **Nursery/planting update**

Planted this year - About 980, sourced from WCC, F&B and home nurseries. This excludes the several hundred grasses for the Ngaio Gorge Road layby and the contractor's plantings for entrance 6.

- Trelissick Crescent verge by Marilyn Hester (complete)
- Along the Waikowhai Street verge
- Streamside under and downstream of bridge 7 (Finn's spot)
- Bordering Wightwick's Field
- West of the magazine building
- 51 tree spot
- Entrance 6
- Between bridges 4 and 5
- Andrew Cutler's spot below Oban Street
- Slope below Oban Street
- Jonathan Anderson's podocarps.

For planting in 2024

500 free plants from WCC nursery: Ground-cover species and infill. Peter Reimann will collate all the suggestions, for a suggested meeting in the park with WCC's Anita Benbrook to discuss availability and other ideas – to be arranged by Anne Tuffin. **Peter Reimann/Anne Tuffin**

Sedges/rushes for inanga spawning – separate order covered by part of the \$50K donation\* (see under ‘S to S projects’ below). **Nate Rigler (S to S)**

For planting in 2025 – Podocarps for Jonathan Anderson’s streamside blackberry patch upstream of bridge 7. Note: some of the \$50K donation\* may need to be kept if WCC has insufficient supplies – need to contact WCC’s Anita Benbrook now to pre-order. Anita’s records of emergent and canopy tree production from 2005 – 2023 (email 6 October) may help. **Jonathan Anderson**

### **Animal Pest Control**

Traps – Since the last meeting on 4 July: 10 rats, 1 weasel. Totals from 2008: 23 stoats/weasels, 609 rats, 20 hedgehogs. The above totals do not include recent A24 kills.

All the official DOC200 trap kills are now recorded in the TrapNZ national database for traps, including most historic data. It includes the Scots College victor traps, but not the block bait stations/possum baitsafe stations/A24s.

Bait Stations – Consumption of block bait by rodents in the 30 bait stations indicates heightened activity – particularly along the Forest Remnant track (which traverses below Trelissick Crescent and Ngaio Gorge Road).

Possums - Bill Hester reports that possums have been sighted (and pictured) in a Crofton Downs garden (based on local Facebook postings). He has informed GW, who monitor the ‘baitsafe’ stations in the park. No evidence in the park yet. Debbie Hawker (WCC) has set a trap in the garden and confirms that the bait station network is widespread.

Rabbits – Often seen on or below Trelissick Crescent.

### **Kaiwharawhara Estuary – New ferry and rail facilities**

Consents from GW include one for the erection of a temporary bridge across Kaiwharawhara Stream at the estuary.

Another consent from GW is from KiwiRail Holdings Ltd for changes to conditions relating to the estuary and stream. Anne Tuffin has followed this up with GW, who say that instead of planting the estuary and stream banks early in the project, KiwiRail wants to do that work at the end of the project, because there is a risk that plantings may be damaged during the construction process. Anne is concerned about damage to the banks and estuary. GW reassure that the work will be closely monitored, both by KiwiRail’s environmental team and by GW. They will supply updates on compliance visits. **Anne Tuffin**

Ferry delivery – now pushed back almost half a year to February 2026 and September 2026 (from ‘The Post’ 4/11/23).

### **Sanctuary to Sea projects**

Nate Rigler has taken over from Cat Ayres, who has moved to UK.

CentrePort staff visits – continuing, with visits to lower Kaiwharawhara valley for weed control/planting, hosted by Angus Napier.

Catchment volunteer days - Nate is keen to promote these, the one for the park to be in combination with the scheduled working bee on Sunday 3 December. [Prior meeting at Oban Street on 15 November – also to cover any update on inanga spawning (next item below) **Nate Rigler, Anne Tuffin, Peter Reimann**]

Inanga spawning project – On 6 July 2011 a team from OWB planted 300 riparian species on DOC land on the true right bank of Kaiwharawhara Stream downstream of the Hutt Road bridge. It is proposed to add riparian plants on the opposite bank (next to Spotlight), funded by much of the \$50K donation\* to TPG. The planting site is below a concrete wall, normally submerged to about 0.5 m depth and subject to destructive flood flows. Following a recent site visit by S to S, DoC and TPG, Nate Rigler is investigating protection methods and talking with interested parties, e.g. Taranaki Whānui. **Nate Rigler (S to S)**

One proposal is to use some of the donation to seed a larger project which would create good fish passage from the estuary to the spawning area, using other funding from e.g. CentrePort, KiwiRail, WCC, GW, and grants.

### **Submissions**

WW’s proposed stormwater community engagement framework and draft Terms of Reference

Anne Tuffin’s submission covered:

- underfunding to properly address stormwater issues in all sub-catchments
- the definition of stormwater appears to include only rainwater
- other water and liquids that enter local body stormwater systems outside of rain events is 'out of scope' for consent
- fragmentation of the various bodies responsible for keeping our streams, lakes and sea clean provides the perfect 'out' for each body, including WW, to say that one of the other bodies is responsible.

### **Correspondence with External Parties**

|   |   |
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| Recent resource consent web alerts  | WCC and GW  |
| VW workshops/events/volunteers  | Julie Thomson/Clare Teal/Ann Thomson (VW)           |
| Rubbish collection  | John Curran/Adam Groenewegen/Martin McCrudden (WCC) |
| Ngaio Sustainability Expo   | Ian Turk (NCDRA)                                    |
| Pots and trays to return  | Martin McCrudden (WCC)                              |
| Rubbish in Korimako Stream  | Martin McCrudden (WCC)                              |
| Emergent and canopy tree production 2005 - 2023   | Anita Benbrook (WCC)                                |
| Meetings on reducing pollution from network discharges (21, 26 September, 24, 26 October) | Angela Penfold (WW)                                 |

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| Submission and later update on network discharge consenting  | Angela Penfold (WW)   |
| Pest plant control   | Illona Keenan/Martin McCrudden (WCC), Nigel Charman (OMB Free Wellington)             |
| World Water film festival  | Eugene Doyle  |
| Chilton Saint James senior students query  | Ann Thomson (VW)  |
| Inanga spawning documents and past records   | Nate Rigler/Jo Ledington (S to S) Elly Peters/Ellen Legg (DoC)                        |
| Catchment community volunteer day  | Nate Rigler (S to S)  |
| Consent notifications  | GW, WCC   |
| Seeking advice on native plants  | Natalie Stewart (Oban Street)   |
| CVNZ visits to park  | Mercedes Moka (CVNZ)  |
| Debris trap clearance/fix  | Adam Groenewegen (WCC), Nate Rigler (S to S)  |
| Tōtara blight  | Adam Groenewegen/Anita Benbrook (WCC), Judy Gardner (SCION)                           |
| Volunteer Christmas party (29 November)  | Frank Williams/Denise Clements (WCC)  |
| Block bait replenishment and usage summary   | Debbie Hawker/Martin McCrudden (WCC), Bruce Brewer (GW)                               |
| Kaiwharawhara landscape architecture student work  | Adam Groenewegen (WCC), Victoria Chanse (VUW)   |
| Podocarp plant order/karaka removal  | Adam Groenewegen/Jonathan Anderson/Anita Benbrook (WCC)                               |
| Te Hononga/Catchments Collective Zoom and Tawatawa hikoi   | Eugene Doyle  |
| Mutual support with Wadestown Scouts   | Carolyn (Wadestown Scouts)  |
| CentrePort working in park   | William Woods (CentrePort)  |
| KPMG working in park   | Ravi Sharma/Margaret Wang (KPMG)  |
| Kiwibank working in park   | Steven Hiltrop (Kiwibank)   |
| SPCA working in park   | Heidi Olsen (SPCA)  |
| VUW working in park  | Eleonora Bello (VUW) Ann Thomson (VW)   |
| MP Nicola Willis to help with working bee  | Celia Horner (Parliament)   |
| Next visit to 51 tree spot   | Kumar Kumareswaren  |
| Ngaio Union Church query – volunteers  | Brett Reid (Ngaio Union Church)   |
| Volunteers   | Tracy Ward (VW)   |
| Hikoi in Central Park 15 October   | Wellington Catchments Collective  |
| KiwiRail Holdings Ltd's consent application for changes to conditions relating to estuary and stream                     | Annie Graham (GW)   |
| Western Ranger Update  | Adam Groenewegen (WCC)  |
| S to S community hui 21 November   | Nate Rigler/Uenuku Phillips (S to S)  |
| Environmental Weed Coalition online meeting 11 October   | Nigel Charman (OMB Free Wellington)   |
| Summary of ideas for use of the \$50K donation* for 21 September meeting   | Adam Groenewegen/Martin McCrudden/Tim Harkness (WCC), Nate Rigler (S to S)            |
| KiwiRail iReX project E-News   | Wellington Ferry Precinct Team  |
| Trelissick Park and KiwiRail collaboration/hikoi   | Illona Keenan/Martin McCrudden (WCC), Ruth Brittain (KiwiRail), Simone Marchioli (GW) |
| Te Awa Talks via 'zoom' 18 September and lunch-time Awa Talks 18 – 22 September during Aotearoa Festival of Architecture | Eugene Doyle  |
| Weed control workshop, feedback on composting weed bags and Green Cloak Pōneke Volunteer Website                         | Adam Groenewegen (WCC)  |
| Track improvements   | Tim Harkness (WCC)  |
| Track washout down from bridge 5   | Tim Harkness (WCC)  |
| North Wellington Voluntary Service Awards  | Ray Good  |
| Extra plants for west side of powder magazine  | Adam Groenewegen (WCC)  |
| Volunteer hours, Natural Environment Fund  | WCC Park Ranger Team  |
| Clearance next to scout hall   | Wadestown Scouts  |
| Te Hononga/Catchments Collective Zoom Comments   | Eugene Doyle  |
| Draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy consultation  | Adam Groenewegen (WCC)  |
| Plotting original kowhai locations by Jonathan Anderson  | Anita Benbrook (WCC)  |
| A memorial tree for Dot Catchpole  | Anita Benbrook (WCC)  |

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|---|--|
| Change of keys for park   | Adam Groenewegen (WCC)   |
| Park signage  | Adam Groenewegen/Tim Harkness (WCC)  |
| Plants intended for Mākara Urupā  | William Woods (Centreport)   |
| Enviroschools prospect  | Grace Cowley (GW)  |
| Roadside car cleaning business  | Adam Groenewegen (WCC)   |
| Mulching and planting – entrance 6 and Ngaio Gorge layby                        | Adam Groenewegen (WCC)   |
| Wellington Zoo local conservation grant open                                    | Denise Clements (WCC)  |
| Additional CVNZ days in park  | Illona Keenan (WCC), Kellie Benner (CVNZ)  |
| [Submission on Wellington Regional Leadership Draft Future Development Strategy | Michael Player (Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust), Eugene Doyle] |

Newsletters – VW, NCDRA, Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, CVNZ, Bells Track Group, PFW, Trees that Count OMB Free News, Tawatawa Reserve Newsletter, iReX E-News, BotSoc News, OWB newsletter.

### **Finance**

The bank balance currently stands at \$1,083.80.

### **Other**

Stormwater contamination – Anne Tuffin attended a seminar by WW updating their stormwater management strategy, including community engagement.

World Water Film Festival – Penthouse cinema from 5.30 p.m. on 15 November.

### Groups working in park

CVNZ - Four visits: the first on 17 November, later ones being arranged. **Angus Napier/[Peter Reimann]**

KPMG – 27 October, for clearing tradescantia below Oban Street.

Kiwibank – 20 October, for clearing tradescantia below Hanover Street.

SPCA – 9 September for clearing and planting between bridges 4 and 5.

VUW – 28 August for clearing and planting between bridges 4 and 5.

Centreport – 25 August and 22 September clearing and planting at Finn's spot down from bridge 7.

Possible tōtara blight – Jonathan Anderson is following up on the death of one of his planted tōtara trees with SCION who has asked for soil samples and some unhealthy but not dead plant material from the other species exhibiting dieback. **Jonathan Anderson**

Feedback on composting weed bags – From Angus Napier:

Pros:

- keep the weeds contained
- no spread of tradescantia from edges of heaps.
- no risk of heap becoming uncovered
- easy to squash / compact
- can top-up the sack

cons:

- slower to fill vs heap
- too heavy to move
- once composted, heavy to move or empty
- at present TPG needs several for the volume of tradescantia

unknown?

- how much more expensive than using pieces of PVC sheet?
- why introduced vs using PVC sheet?

### **TPG reorganisation**

- Angus Napier has taken over the hosting of corporate groups and is becoming more active elsewhere, eg. weed control.
- Peter Reimann will ask for offers from his working bee list for someone to take over the organising/hosting of the bi-monthly working bees. **Peter Reimann**
- Anne Tuffin has been involved for some time in contacts with other agencies, such as Sanctuary to Sea, WCC and submissions She is happy to act as contact point or front person for the benefit of people and organisations outside the Group, with support from Peter Reimann, who will follow up with email access and copies of records. **Peter Reimann**
- Jonathan Anderson is working part-time, otherwise seed collecting for the Council nursery. He is immersed in botanical projects, currently in connection with podocarps. More in similar vein when he retires.
- Bill Hester is continuing with the animal pest team, website/Facebook updates, troubleshooting and rubbish collection.
- Coordinating, motivating, publicity: still via the 'Gorge Gazette', Facebook and website.
- Although much of the ground is covered in the 'Gorge Gazette' it was decided to persist with meetings. Anne Tuffin will take over the minuting.

Interview with Anne Tuffin for Our Wellington on 'spot' shared with Joan Waldvogel – link: [finding-friendship-among-the-weeds](#).

North Wellington Voluntary Service Awards – Marilyn and Bill Hester were two of the recipients.

Donation from the Hugo Group – MP Nicola Willis nominated TPG as recipient of a \$500 'thank you' for her address to the Hugo Group. Ideas are needed for use, e.g. interpretive signs next to major trees, like those installed for Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves in Redwood Bush. Tim Park suggested cheaper options. Or an audio link for visitors' mobile phones to provide information or history (possible source WCC's Gabor Toth – audio library). **Anne Tuffin**

\$50K\* from a generous donor – Ian Shearer of HPPA has moved this to a savings account (4.5% p.a. interest). After Nate Rigler returns from USA on 14 November, Anne Tuffin will discuss with Nate and Ian Shearer how much to allocate for weed control, the inanga project and for seeding a fish passage project from other parties (see on p.3 under 'Inanga spawning project'), also whether or not to move any of the funds to a higher interest-bearing project. **Anne Tuffin**

Mutual support with Wadestown Scouts – TPG is keen to support control of pest weed trees surrounding the scout hall at the end of Hanover Street. Wadestown Scouts have responded. **Anne Tuffin/Wadestown Scouts**

Names of park features – It was suggested that naming bridges, entrances, tracks and clearings would assist users. Peter Reimann asked for ideas in the July 'Gorge Gazette'. No response.

Memorial page for website – being prepared by Bill Hester (trees, seats ...) **Bill Hester**

Wasp problems – Jenny Lewis will work with WCC's Debbie Hawker on Vespex poison lines next February/March. **Jenny Lewis/Debbie Hawker**

Forest remnant track stream crossing – Angus Napier is concerned about the safety of the crossing below upper Ngaio Gorge Road. **Angus Napier/Martin McCrudden**

\* \$50K donation – see minutes of 4 July meeting.

Next meeting: **9.30 a.m. Thursday 7 March 2024 – Ōtari Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre**