

Trelissick Park Group: Minutes of the 204th Meeting, held at Ōtari Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre, 9:30 a.m. Thursday 7 March 2024



Abbreviations:

WCC	Wellington City Council	PFW	Predator Free Wellington
GW	Greater Wellington Regional Council	OHS	Onslow Historical Society
F & B	Forest and Bird Protection Society	OWB	Ōtari Wilton's Bush
HPPA	Highland Park Progressive Assoc.	CVNZ	Conservation Volunteers NZ
TPG	Trelissick Park Group	VUW	Victoria University
NCDRA	Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association	BotSoc	Wellington Botanical Society
WRA	Wadestown Residents' Association	DoC	Department of Conservation
OMB	Old man's beard	WW	Wellington Water
VW	Volunteer Wellington	S to S	Sanctuary to Sea

[Square brackets: subsequent to meeting.]

Actions are in bold italics.

Present

Anne Tuffin	Nate Rigler
Angus Napier	Ian Shearer
Ian Duncan	Jonathan Anderson
Debbie Hawker	Martin McCrudden
Ian Turk	Alison Melling
Peter Reimann	

Apologies

Jenny Lewis	Tim Park
Frances Lee	

Recognition of Peter Reimann's 18 years as Chair

Frances sent a message acknowledging Peter's wonderful contribution to Trelissick Park as the TPG chair.

The group thanked Peter for his dedication and leadership over his term as Chair.

Mike Lear

Sadly, regular working bee stalwart for 9 years. volunteer Mike Lear died peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on 28 February.

New TPG Convenor

Anne Tuffin convened the committee meeting for the first time. She noted she has very large shoes to fill.

WCC Items

Sewerage leak - There is a long-term sewerage leak at the north end of Otari contaminating the Kaiwharawhara Stream through Trelissick Park. TPG will send a submission to WCC in April. **Anne Tuffin in coordination with Ian Turk/Tim Park**

Fish passage improvement in catchment – See previous minutes. Updates are awaited. **Joshua Forrest/Jakob Lechner**

Ngaio Gorge Road Stabilisation Project – Planting of grasses and mulching at layby near entrance 5 complete (**Adam Groenewegen and TPG**). Rubbish bin reinstalled at entrance 5.

Clearing blackberry area for podocarp planting - Applied Biosecurity Solutions have cleared blackberry from Jonathan Anderson's proposed podocarp grove site upstream of bridge 7 above the true right bank - about 20m x 50m. They will do another sweep of re-growth. To be planted in 2025. **Applied Biosecurity Solutions, Jonathan Anderson**

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. It was noted that the **track is closed** while the work is done, with a detour in place. **Tim Harkness**

Tim is looking to spend around \$10-15K a year for the next 3-5 years on improvements in the Park. **Tim Harkness**

Debris trap remediation – The bent rails have been somewhat straightened, but the trap design may eventually need a re-think.

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 – update needed. Illona Keenan

- WCC/Kaitiaki - cherries in the vicinity of Angus Napier’s ring-barking upstream of bridge 2 above true right bank.
- 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 - 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.
- 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* - update needed 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 emailed KiwiRail about this on 26 September 2023.
- Jonathan Anderson will advise locations of evergreen buckthorn to be controlled. **Jonathan Anderson**

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

For planting in 2024

500 plants from WCC nursery due on 3 May – mainly ground-cover species and infill.

F&B nursery is providing 20 cabbage trees and 20 *Carex geminata* for Finn’s spot downstream of bridge 7. **Richard Grasse**

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 2023) may help. **Jonathan Anderson**

Animal Pest Control

Traps – Since the last meeting on 9 November: 7 rats and one hedgehog. Totals from 2008: 23 stoats/weasels, 616 rats, 21 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.

Rabbits – Often seen on or below Trelissick Crescent. Debbie reported that rabbits are about to be hit up on Skyline.

Monitoring – Debbie reported on tracking tunnels/stations in the Park. Along with Otari, no rats have been seen.

Volunteer hours (to be formatted, and updated at every committee meeting)

Kaiwharawhara Estuary – New ferry and rail facilities

Project halted by new government due to cost issues. Awaiting advice on what next.

At the final site visit on 31 January Annie Graham (GW) advised that the site looks tidy and well-stabilised, so GW is comfortable with the sediment retention pond being filled in. The penguin exclusion barrier will likely be removed as there is a risk that if left in place it could trap any penguins that may get through.

The temporary wharf and the new bridge over the Kaiwharawhara Stream will be left in place for the time being so that they don't cause unnecessary disturbance by removing the structures and putting them back in if the project does start up again in the future.

Exposed areas have been sown with grass seed polymer, and the flat areas of the site are fully stabilised with aggregate. GW is confident that the site will be left in a condition that will ensure there is no risk to the stream, estuary, or coast.

Sanctuary to Sea projects

CentrePort staff visits for work in park – On hold due to halting of new ferry project.

Catchment volunteer days - Nate is keen to promote these, the first one for the park was in combination with the scheduled working bee on Sunday 3 December below Oban Street.

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), possibly 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 plant protection methods and talking with a wide range of interested parties, e.g. Taranaki Whānui and Morphum Environmental. Nate noted that the Kaiwharawhara Stream is the ONLY Wellington stream with an estuary with open access to the sea - very high conservation importance. **Nate Rigler (S to S)**

A recent visit by Mountains to Sea established the boundary between saline and fresh water during a king tide (just downstream of the mid-stream flax bush). A few inanga were observed. Nate noted that Inanga eggs are laid on grasses/sedges at a king tide and need to dry out before the next king tide when they are washed off.

It was agreed that \$25k from Frances Lee's donation to be used in the best way possible to support the estuary and the Inanga Spawning project. Nate indicated that part of this funding could possibly be used for 'seed' funding. VUW is interested in supporting the project with additional research grants. As an experiment, it is proposed to fasten planter boxes to channel wall to hold grasses. TPG will write to Zealandia confirming the \$25k commitment to the project. **Anne Tuffin**

Plants suggested by Morphum – see appendix.

Submissions

Eugene Doyle of the Wellington Catchments Collective has lodged a number of submissions – see correspondence below.

Correspondence with External Parties

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)
Blackberry area upstream of bridge 7 for podocarp planting	Nigel Parkinson (Applied Biosecurity Solutions), Illona Keenan (WCC)
Volunteer Christmas party	Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Film evening	Debra Harrington (Water NZ), Eugene Doyle (Wellington Catchments Collective)
S to S volunteer day	Nate Rigler (S to S)
Inanga spawning project – past records, site visit, what to consider (velocity, depth salinity, substrate, vegetation)	Nate Rigler/Jo Ledington (S to S) Elly Peters/Ellen Legg (DoC)
Volunteering opportunity	Eden Eldred (BDO)
Weeding alongside vehicle track upstream of bridge 7 15 December	Adam Groenewegen (WCC), Mercedes Moka (CVNZ)
CentrePort volunteer day (cancelled)	William Woods (CentrePort), Uenuku Phillips (S to S)
Volunteering in park on 1 December up from debris trap	Ann Thomson (VW), Cat West (Allegis Group)
Extra CVNZ day 30 November	Miranda Voke/Keita Fitchett/Summer Gleeson/Kiri Eriksson (CVNZ)
Interim/pilot global reference group on stormwater/waste water	Rory Milne (WW) Eugene Doyle (Wellington Catchments Collective)
Submissions on proposed Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region	Lynn Cadenhead (Tyers Stream Group), Neil Deans, Eugene Doyle (Wellington Catchments Collective)
Narrowed bridge 2	Martin McCrudden (WCC)
Items in stream below Waikowhai St to be removed	Martin McCrudden (WCC)
CVNZ near bridge 7 15 December	Mercedes Moka (CVNZ), Martin McCrudden (WCC)
Open letter to Prime Minister on retention of the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management and Te Mana o Te Wai.	Eugene Doyle (Wellington Catchments Collective)

'Citizen Ruru' project	Daniela Biaggio (WCC)
Plant order	Adam Groenewegen/Martin McCrudden/Anita Benbrook (WCC)
Park walk-through to discuss pant species, especially groundcover	Anita Benbrook/Jonathan Anderson (WCC)
Podocarp plant order	Adam Groenewegen/Jonathan Anderson/Anita Benbrook (WCC)
Pohutukawa vs northern rātā	Adam Groenewegen/Martin McCrudden/Anita Benbrook (WCC)
128 Trelissick Crescent in two sections	Ian Hollins
St Benedict's School in the park	Fiona Barnett (St Benedicts School)
Tunnel building workshop	Eleanor Dewar (PFW)
SPCA to work in park 17 March	Heidi Olsen (SPCA)
Doggie doo bags at Hanover Street entrance	Martin McCrudden (WCC)
Volunteer group for 24 April	Ann Thomson (VW)
Next visit to 51 tree spot 23 March	Kumar Kumareswaren
Clearing next to bridge 3	Wilf Layburn (BUPA)
Kaiwharawhara ferry terminal final site visit	Annie Graham (GW)
Wadestown Fair 16 March	Greg Hyland (WRA/HPPA)
Tree felling work beside railway below Wadestown	Annie Graham (GW)
Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) visit 16 Feb	Juline Bunel (EPA)
Corporate group to work in park 6 March	John Horner
ACC work in park query	Zoe Ramage (ACC)
Volunteer opportunity – weed dating 14 February	Illona Keenan/Martin McCrudden (WCC)
Fast track consenting and changes to National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management	Eugene Doyle (Wellington Catchments Collective), Hon Chris Bishop (MP)
Hikoi – Tyers Stream	Eugene Doyle (Wellington Catchments Collective)
Inanga habitat update 31 January	Nate Rigler/Jo Ledington/Therese McLeod (S to S/Zealandia), Elly Peters (DoC)
Inanga habitat assessment/update, rubbish removal, plant species	Nate Rigler/Jo Ledington/Therese McLeod (S to S/Zealandia), Abby Huriwai/Liz Gibson (Mountains to Sea), Stu Farrant/Ellis Nimick (Morphum), Elly Peters (DoC), Daniela Biaggio (WCC)
Track improvements	Tim Harkness (WCC)
Marnie Prickett zoom	Eugene Doyle (Wellington Catchments Collective)
Tree trimming above Trelissick Crescent verge	Adam Groenewegen/Martin McCrudden (WCC)
Volunteering by VUW Tramping Club 2 March	Nate Rigler (S to S), J. Atkinson (VUWTC)
Wasp control	David Hurst (Ngaio Gorge Rd resident)
TPG funds transfer	Greg Hyland (HPPA/WRA)
Plague skink sighting	Martin McCrudden (WCC)
WCC PDP Council briefings (Three Waters section) 27 February	Jaskirat Kaur (WCC)
Pallets at entrances 2 and 3	Martin McCrudden (WCC)
Clearing OHS records, transfer to WCC archives, what to do with plaques (13 January emails)	Judy Siers (OHS)
Hikoi in Trelissick Park 23 June	Eugene Doyle (Wellington Catchments Collective)
Hut in park	Jonathan Anderson/Martin McCrudden/Adam Groenewegen (WCC)
Trelissick Crescent mural	Martin McCrudden (WCC)
Hikoi at Zealandia and WW Global Community Engagement Groups	Eugene Doyle (Wellington Catchments Collective)
P Reimann retirement party	Illona Keenan (WCC)
Interislander Ferry Precinct Update Dec 2023 (funding stopped)	iRex Project Team
S to S meeting minutes 21 November, Kaiwharawhara Catchment connectivity report, community hui	Nate Rigler (S to S)

Newsletters received – VW, NCDRA, Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, CVNZ, Bells Track Group, PFW, Tawatawa Reserve Newsletter, iRex E-News.

Finance

The bank balance currently stands at \$1,083.80

Other

Groups working in park (apart from bi-monthly working bees)

VUW Tramping Club – 2 March entrance 6 to magazine building

Environmental Protection Authority – 16 February, along steep concrete vehicle track below entrance 5

CVNZ – 15 December near bridge 7

S to S volunteer day – 3 December beyond Oban Street entrance steps

Allegis Group – 1 December beside vehicle track up from debris trap

CVNZ – 30 November, between bridges 2 and 3

TPG reorganisation

- Angus Napier has taken over the hosting of corporate groups and Tuesday working bees.
- Ian Duncan is now hosting Sunday working bees.
- 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 and to take over organising TPG meetings/minuting.
- 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. Coordination on the ground.
- Bill Hester is continuing with the animal pest team, website/Facebook updates, troubleshooting and rubbish collection.
- Peter Reimann will stand down as Chairman but continue with the 'Gorge Gazette' and be available to assist with the above when requested.
- Alison Melling: sends meeting agenda and minutes.
- Coordinating, motivating, publicity: still via the 'Gorge Gazette', Facebook and website.
- Knitting/coordinating the above, e.g. deciding needy areas for working bees and groups. There is a Word doc with potential sites. **Angus/Jonathan/Ian D**
- Passing on information received or actions required to relevant/interested parties. Monitoring emails. **Ian D/Alison /Anne**
- Plant ordering, then allocation **Jonathan**
- Advice to WCC on volunteer hours. **It was agreed** to add a Table to the Minutes to update each meeting **Peter/Angus**
- Updating working bee, newsletter, minutes and email 'contacts' lists. **TBC**
- Keeping records. **TBC**
- Enquiries via VW for people wanting to work in the Park. **Angus**
- Adopt a spot enquiries. **Angus**

New 'spottee

Kena Duignan has taken on clearing/planting the verge of Wightwick's Field.

TPG history/archives

OHS has held TPG history/archives in their premises on Khandallah Road. But Chorus needs to do seismic strengthening of the building. WCC has inspected the TPG collection and has agreed to transfer it to the WCC archives. The collection will be catalogued/titled as belonging to TPG, part of the Onslow Historical Society collection, held by WCC. There are a few WCC papers excluded as that they believe they have already copied/scanned them.

The framed TPG award certificates cannot be transferred to the WCC archives. The beautiful DOC tiles were presented to Peter Reimann. Anne will scan the remaining certificates/awards and have them added to the TPG website. **Anne Tuffin**

Note: There is also much TPG history on the website: see links on the 'History' page, submissions on the 'Current Issues' page and all the 'Gorge Gazettes'. Bill Hester has recently uploaded all the minutes of meetings from March 2006. More is on Facebook.

TPG oral history – WCC's Illona Keenan has suggested a TPG oral history, organised by WCC. She will advise details of arrangements. **Illona Keenan**

\$50K* from a generous donor – Ian Shearer of HPPA has moved this to a savings account (4.5% p.a. interest). \$25k will be allocated to the inanga spawning project. The remainder will be used for weed control and signage in the Park. (see on p.2 under 'Inanga spawning project'). As HPPA/WRA is winding down, **it was resolved** that the \$50k (plus interest) will be transferred to NCDRA. (NCDRA handled bridge 7 donations on TPG's behalf in the past. NCDRA has offered to open a separate account to hold the funds. A letter will be written to NCDRA authorising the transfer of funds. **Anne Tuffin / Ian Shearer**

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**

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

* \$50K donation – see minutes of 4 July 2023 meeting.

Plastic-collection boom – Jonathan suggested we look into the possibility of erecting a boom across the stream to catch plastic rubbish. **Jonathan Anderson**

Next meeting: **9.30 a.m. Thursday 4 July – Ōtari Wilton’s Bush Visitor Centre**

Appendix

Plant suggestions from Stu Farrant of Morpium for inanga spawning (email 14 February)

(based on site visit by Megan Ireland - Ōtari Wilton’s Bush Team Lead)

Tidal stream area	Stream bank area	Channelised wall area
10 Carex secta -Add Carex Geminata, grows rhizomatously to create dense coverage and great for bank stability. Does not impeded flows and bounces back after flashy flows. Great for spawning) 20 Juncus pallidus 15 Juncus krassii sub. australiensis 30 Apodasmia similis 20 Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani (suggest remove Sch tab from list as tends to get very tall and will not be resilient to flashy flows, more suited to low energy environments)	10 Austroderia fulvida Add carex virgata on lower bank. Grows very well with fantastic root structure 20 Ficinia nodosa 20 Cyperus ustalatus	10 Coprosma robusta 10 Coprosma repens 5 Plagianthus divaricatus

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