

# THE ONSLOW HISTORIAN

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The history of Trelissick Park Group  
part three, 2014–2025

*Peter Reimann*



ONSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



# THE ONSLOW HISTORIAN

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**Front Cover**

Along the vehicle track in Kaiwharawhara Stream valley, Gottfried Theiler photo, May 2021

**Back Cover**

Map of Trelissick Park. For more information, see the 'Maps, tracks' page on [treilissickpark.org.nz](http://treilissickpark.org.nz)

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# The history of Trelissick Park Group part three, 2014–2025

A compilation of information from issues of the *Gorge Gazette*,  
minutes of group meetings, Facebook pages and the website.

*Peter Reimann*

Trelissick Park is a beautiful area  
of hills, stream and native bush in the  
valleys between Ngaio/Crofton Downs  
and Wadestown



ONSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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# Preface

The Onslow Historical Society is delighted to be able to publish an update to the history of the Trelissick Park Group. The group has existed since 1991 and through its enduring labours has transformed the park. I well remember the days back in the 1960s of the gorse and rough-pasture clad Ngaio Gorge, as viewed from the Johnsonville train. Blackberry-picking was one memory – long-gone as native revegetation has proceeded apace through the efforts of the group.

Previous chair of the group Peter Reimann, who brought together parts 1 and 2 of the group's history, tells the story of the group's endeavours from 2014. Trelissick Park Group is one of Wellington's older planting groups and has also been vigorously involved in pest control, advocacy and fundraising, and has provided a fantastic public amenity for the community. Peter met founding member and secretary of the group Frances Lee in the late 1990s and has served as its chair from 2006 to 2024. In 2021 Peter was presented with an Absolutely Positively Wellingtonian award for his contribution. His citation described him as a dedicated conservationist who has worked tirelessly to protect and enhance Wellington's biodiversity.

**Dr. John E. Martin**

Editor

On a sunny Waitangi Day in 2014 a small gathering at the old powder magazine enjoyed the launch of parts 1 and 2 of 'The History of the Trelissick Park Group' for the Onslow Historical Society. These record the setting up of the Trelissick Park Group in 1991 and take the story up to 2013, as well as the earlier history of the area now occupied by the park. We said, 'Since 1991, the group has transformed the park, in collaboration with the Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council, building on earlier work by the Wadestown Residents' Association. Local and corporate volunteers helped, and funding came from various organisations and individuals.' A record of a chequered past but with rewards – aimed at restoration to a native bush wilderness. More than a decade later, it's time to record more.

**Peter Reimann**

# Abbreviations

BotSoc	(Wellington Botanical Society)
CVNZ	(Conservation Volunteers NZ)
DoC	(Department of Conservation)
F&B	(Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society)
GG	( <i>Gorge Gazette</i> , on TPG website)
GWRC	(Greater Wellington Regional Council)
HPPA	(Highland Park Progressive Association)
MfE	(Ministry for the Environment)
NCDRA	(Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association)
OHS	(Onslow Historical Society)
OWB	(Ōtari Wilton's Bush)
S to S	(Zealandia's Sanctuary to Sea project)
TPG	(Trelissick Park Group)
VUW	(Victoria University of Wellington)
VW	(Volunteer Wellington)
WCC	(Wellington City Council)
WRA	(Wadestown Residents' Association)

'Magazine' refers to the Kaiwharawhara powder magazine ruins

Footbridges over the streams are numbered 1–7 going downstream from the Waikowhai Street entrance

Website: [trelissickpark.org.nz](http://trelissickpark.org.nz)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TrelissickParkGroup](https://www.facebook.com/TrelissickParkGroup)

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to Catherine Van Hale (TPG) and John E. Martin (OHS) for proof-reading and editing and to all those who contributed to the restoration of the park and made this history possible.

# 2014–2017

## People

TPG meetings continued four times per year – regular attendees were Peter Reimann (chair), Frances Lee, Julia Williams (NCDRA), Stan Pillar (OHS), Elizabeth Knopf/Ian Shearer (HPPA), Jenny Lewis/Barry Durrant (WRA), Olaf John/Chris Moore (BotSoc), Karin Wiley (F&B) and Alison Melling (Minute Secretary). Although Frances Lee stood down as Secretary in 2007, she continued to participate by attending most meetings, acting as Treasurer and assisting with advocacy/submissions. She was particularly interested in developments at the Kaiwharawhara estuary and the need for access around Kaiwharawhara Point and to its northern beach. She was a member of the CentrePort Environmental Consultative Committee.

GWRC decided the park was no longer a ‘key native ecosystem’ and their ‘take care’ funding ended. TPG had excellent support with restoration, animal and plant pest control, particularly from John Holmes, Robyn Smith, Megan Banks and Bruce Brewer. WCC stepped into the breach.

Judy Siers and Stephanie Santana of OHS archived TPG records. WCC’s Amber Bill, Open Space and Parks Manager, departed and was much missed. She fostered harmonious relations between community environmental groups and WCC for many years. She helped with park access options from Wadestown/Highland Park, the TPG 5-year plan, extra funding and park brochures. Myfanwy Emeny took over.

WCC Rangers for the park during the period: Matt Robertson, Steven Peters, Tim Harkness. The ‘killing team’, targeting rats, mustelids and hedgehogs, and servicing traps and bait stations were Bill Hester, Barry Durrant, Steve Mackle and Michael Courtney, later joined by Andrew McIvor. WCC’s Illona Keenan, Bernard Smith and GWRC’s Bruce Brewer provided back-up. Angela Incedon, our chief supplier of delicious refreshments at working bees, departed. Regine Blattner and Lois Hope took over.

## Restoration

Plantings: 2014 = 950, 2015 = 600, 2016 = 1,330, 2017 = 1,110.

Bi-monthly working bees continued – attendance around 10. There was no shortage of other hard-working volunteers and groups.

In 2015–2016 Kaitiaki o Ngahere Ltd, guided by WCC’s Illona Keenan, poisoned Asiatic knotweed, Japanese honeysuckle and dealt with tradescantia (wandering willie) along forest margins, aiming to stop incursion into the forest remnant areas. We showed Illona climbing asparagus beside Barry Durrant’s track in the park below Oban Street. Later, she



CVNZ restoring the 57 Kaiwharawhara Road area – previously a mess, which sullied the ecological corridor, Peter Reimann photo, March 2017



57 Kaiwharawhara Road, six years later, Peter Reimann photo, February 2023

found a badly infested area on a steeper face, further east. TPG removed other tradescantia patches manually and continued with old man's beard, sycamore, cherry, buddleia and Himalayan balsam.

57 Kaiwharawhara Road was a missing link in the ecological corridor from the harbour to the outer green belt. It was a rampant wilderness of Australian wattle, willow, blackberry, tradescantia, bindweed and climbing dock. The owner, Wellington Water, was happy to let us loose on it. WCC removed the trees. Huge volumes of part-buried rubbish were removed. CVNZ did two weed-sweeps and Warrick Fowlie and Peter Reimann created an enormous tradescantia heap. The near neighbour who manufactures Gellicious Gelato was so impressed he came down to hand out pottles of Kaffee Eis. Later, WCC sprayed the weed re-growth. The Living Room shop next door let us use their facilities. Most of the 400 plants came from WCC's nursery. The area was finished in 2017, including mulching.

### *Adopt-a-Spot*

Tim McIvor transformed the lower Kaiwharawhara Road entrance. The Hames family and Richard Grasse took on the Waikowhai Street entrance. Warrick Fowlie adopted part of the forest slope below the upper end of Ngaio Gorge Road and impressively banished tradescantia and young karaka. The rubbish removed gave cause for wonder about our species (*Homo sapiens*). He also planted around the minor upper Ngaio Gorge Road entrance.

Joan Waldvogel adopted the Hanover Street entrance and the slope below. Kelvin Hastie started planting his forest area below Waikowhai Street. Alexandra McKendry, helped by her mother, adopted an area for restoration beside the stream below the Waikowhai Street entrance for her Duke of Edinburgh Award – completed in 2016. Her younger sister Georgina worked on the other side of the stream for her award requirements. Many plants went into both areas.

Dugal Thomson took on the area of railway land across the stream from near Wightwick's Field to rectify its grim history of a destructive slip, errant chain-sawing and carpeting tradescantia. Marilyn Hester 'upgraded' her riparian strip beside the Korimako Stream upstream of Wightwick's Field, where our kahikatea, five-finger and grasses were struggling. The Sathya Sai Organisation persisted with their difficult area on the true-right bank up from the debris trap. The lush weed growth was astonishing. Koromiko was added to the struggling toetoe, cabbage tree, karamū and five-finger.

## Helpers (from TPG and others)

Michael Courtney from Rabobank spent his corporate volunteer day weeding the Trellissick Crescent verge plantings and clearing the debris trap. Bill Hester's adventures with sycamore and old man's beard were sometimes helped by Gottfried Theiler. Bill did a sweep of the valleys for Himalayan balsam with Richard Grasse. David Hames kept the Waikowhai Street entrance area weeded. We clambered on steep and stony slopes chasing old man's beard, including on railway land. The property owners above Ngaio Gorge Road dealt with theirs, including Joseph Nicholls who also helped with a large infestation in the park below. Peter Reimann despatched some patches of tradescantia and buddleia and was



An epiphyte (*Collospermum hastatum*) from WCC, Peter Reimann photo

alarmed to find legions of young old man's beard. Autumn splashes of colour allowed Bill Hester to tackle sycamore and cherry.

Large tracts of non-endemic karaka were taking possession of the original forest remnant below Ngaio Gorge Road. Warrick Fowlie wielded his saw and uprooted the seedlings with gusto. Mike Lear, Jonathan Kennett and Peter Reimann, blessed with high reach, installed most of WCC's epiphytes (*Collospermum hastatum*) in the forks of old trees. Two silver tree ferns from Julie Coulson adorned the Silverstream between bridge 1 and the historic rock wall.

Kerry Popplewell's ngaio, māpou, kōhūhū and taupata were planted on the railway slope opposite Wightwick's Field. Peter Reimann's home nursery was awash with kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydoides*) – surplus seed trays from WCC.

## Groups

A team from Contact Energy came one afternoon to rake out tradescantia from the lower Kaiwharawhara at the end of the vehicle track and plant trees there. WCC Ranger Tim Harkness carted the rakings out to the upper Kaiwharawhara Road lay-by.

BNZ on their 'closed for good day' worked like slaves to completely strip tradescantia and montbretia from a riparian shelf upstream of the Northern Walkway bridge on the Wadestown side. They planted kahikatea and other species. CVNZ followed up later. On another occasion BNZ diligently cleared, planted and mulched the Trellissick Crescent verge, removed tradescantia beside the vehicle track in the valley and cleared the debris trap.



Memorial plaque to Oser Galler. GG, November 2015

BNZ also achieved miracles on the true left upstream from bridge 6, unclinging slopes of tradescantia and karaka, planting trees, fixing the track and clearing a patch on railway land ready to plant the following year. They found an old memorial plaque lying on the ground: “Oser Galler Died 14 February 1978”. Intrigued, Bill Hester and

Peter Reimann unearthed the story of Oser’s escape from Lithuania in 1940, along with around 6,000 Jews, aided by the Japanese Vice-Consul (see the Appendix, November 2015 GG).

Some 55 people from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) visited for a BYO picnic at the powder magazine site, followed by a weed-sweep up the valley. On another visit MPI removed tradescantia in the lower valley, leaving heaps in their wake. WCC Ranger



At the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute visit, Peter Reimann photo, June 2017

Tim Harkness helped. He also had a school group come to pick up rubbish. New Zealand Biosecurity Institute members visited after their conference. They finished with some vigorous weeding at the end of the vehicle track in the Kaiwharawhara valley.

A 200 square-metre clear area emerged from the railway wilderness upstream of bridge 6, thanks to earlier weed control by CVNZ and WCC. It is one of the few north-facing slopes in the park and the full sun, dry stony soil and winter frosts will be a severe test for nascent trees. The area was planted by a group from ANZ Bank in 2017.

Oliver Vetter and Te Kawa Robb of Sustainable Coastlines recruited more than 15 keen



ANZ staff after clearing and planting upstream of bridge 6 above the true-right bank, Peter Reimann photo, March 2017

young helpers to weed and infill plant above the stream near the old magazine. Oliver also recruited a large group from Volunteer Fitness to replace the dead flax with natives, opposite the magazine and to enhance the debris-trap area with grasses. Rain-soaked, they soldiered on, spurred by the promised sausages sizzling under an awning. Sustainable Coastlines also accompanied Silverstripe for a working bee below Hanover Street. We had help from CVNZ opposite the magazine building, below Hanover Street, and with Academic Programs International (VUW) by the stream below Waikowhai Street.

### *Schools/scouts*

Crofton Downs School teacher Louise Gusterson, aided by some parents, organised a tradescantia search-and-destroy mission for the Korimako valley. St Benedict's School planted in the forest below Hanover Street. With boundless energy, Wadestown Scouts led by Andrew Bahr, cleared tradescantia from below the Hanover Street entrance one darkening December evening. Amanda Dobson from EnviroSchools with caregivers hosted toddlers from Te Puna Reo O Ngā Kākano for planting in the Kaiwharawhara

valley. Organized by Oliver Vetter of Sustainable Coastlines, eight pre-teen girls and a teacher from Thorndon School planted over 100 trees and grasses in an hour between the Northern Walkway bridge 6 and the downstream memorial seat.

### **The environment**

Landscape ecologist and malacologist Karin Mahlfeld from DoC, assisted by Frank Climo, were excited about some of the species of native snails and their eggs found at 88 sites all over the park. Bill Hester attached a wētā motel to a large tree about 100 metres down and off to the east of the track from the Trelissick Crescent entrance opposite #41. At last-viewing (during this period), the population in our wētā hotel had swelled to three. A sign that predator control was working?

Nyree Fea, a PhD student at VUW, presented to TPG on her intensive monitoring of tūi and fantails in Wellington City to study pest mammal abundance. In the course of her study, Nyree found: “In the last fantail breeding season (December 2014–February 2015) I found 9 of my 25 fantail nests in Trelissick Park, this was the highest of all five reserves I sampled. It seems to be a favoured site for nesting fantails, perhaps because of the healthy stream and the general quality of the habitat. Of these nine, only one failure was attributed to pest-mammals, namely rats. One was abandoned by the nesting adult and the rest successfully fledged young.” She showed us videos of fantails feeding chicks on the nest and a rat leaving that nest after eating a chick. She wanted everyone to look for tūi and fantail nests so that she could add them to her monitoring.

VUW MSc student Olivia Carson filmed animal interlopers in the park over a month-long period. Her 12 motion-detecting cameras were placed 10 or 20 metres off-track. She saw kākā on the forest floor on two cameras. It was encouraging that they might be nesting in the park. However, their fledglings in summer are vulnerable to roaming dogs.

We learned that termites are an important part of the forest ecosystem, speeding up wood decomposition and returning nutrients to the soil, especially nitrogen. We had been piling the cut branches and trunks of fallen or felled trees into a heap but started to scatter these instead to spread the nutrients and nitrogen.



Toddlers from Te Puna Reo O Ngā Kākano after a morning in the valley hosted by Amanda Dobson of Enviroschools and caregivers, Peter Reimann photo, June 2016

The lemonwood monoculture planted in 2004 on the ex-blackberry slope above bridge 4 was gradually fixed by elimination and inter-planting.

### **Animal pest control**

Bait stations were installed in a new area below Oban Street. There was only one possible possum sighting in a decade – a great success in GWRC’s elimination efforts.

Kelvin Hastie galvanised residents into installing a multitude of Victor rat traps all around Crofton Downs and nearby suburbs, in association with the Halo Project. Now the park also has a defensive array of Kelvin’s traps on railway land down the Korimako valley, helped by Bill Hester. Rats liked the bait station pellets, but the stations were too high for Norway rats, as they needed to be above the zone of dogs and children. Rain sometimes got into the entrance, gumming up the pellets. As a result, WCC together with GWRC and



Barry Durrant triumphantly holds up a trapped stoat, GG, December 2018

TPG reorganised locations/heights. The bait stations were converted to use ‘block bait’, to reduce bait hoarding and unintentional introduction of excess bait into the environment. Two Goodnature A24 self-resetting traps were installed on trial.

TPG is obsessed with the tradescantia scourge and pull it out to build heaps covered with black plastic. There was an old and sunken black plastic relic at the Northern Walkway zigzag above Korimako Stream, which

Peter Reimann decided to rejuvenate. On yanking off the plastic, he was stunned to find two rats, looking even more stunned.

Olivia Carson’s motion-detecting cameras captured over one month 337 dogs – many 20 metres off-track, with no owners in sight. For years we cursed about rabbits eating new plants. Some 68 rabbits were detected – the study showed that most rabbit-zones lie in the north of the park and below Trelissick Crescent. The cameras also picked up 30 cats – most patrolling from 10pm to 4am – and 56 hedgehogs – they might look cute but each night they consume about 10% of their body weight, feasting on bugs, beetles, wētā, skinks, geckos and the eggs of ground-nesting birds. (We had only caught 17 hedgehogs since 2008). Note, the numbers above may include multiple appearances of the same animal.

## **Tracks, bridges and entrances**

The Northern Walkway from the entrance opposite 19 Trelissick Crescent down to the Korimako Stream had a major upgrade in 2014, parts of the grassy slope being steep and the track at the zigzags eroded. The scoured track downstream of the debris trap was repaired in 2015, with a short boardwalk added.

In 2017 WCC removed the partly collapsed ‘bridge to nowhere’ at Wightwick’s Field. WCC’s David Halliday organised gabions to protect the foundations of bridge 2. Everyone was delighted with the new bridge 3, replacing the one downstream with undermined foundations.

### *Access to the park below Oban Street, Wadestown*

Wadestown and Highland Park residents had only one entrance to the park. Barry Durrant investigated a second route. The idea for a second track was raised with WCC in 1981 by Keith Maynard of WRA. It later became part of the WCC Trelissick Park Management Plan, 1995. TPG used the legal access across road reserve and between 112 and 114 Oban Street for servicing bait stations and mustelid traps. WCC also used it for control of climbing asparagus. Discussions rolled on in 2015.

In 2016, a bridge was proposed in the lower Kaiwharawhara valley to provide access to the park via Oban Street – a collaboration between WCC, HPPA, WRA and TPG. A plan was agreed, which included a residents’ survey, hydrology assessment of stream banks, access arrangements below the Oban Street end, price estimate, funding, project plan and resource consents. The survey brought to light a range of helpful positive and negative comments. Following a meeting with WCC in 2017, TPG drafted a consultation document addressing all the issues raised.

## **Catchment**

### *Stream ecology*

Frances Forsyth of Wildlands reported plenty of shortfin eels, abundant redfin bullies and one trout upstream of the debris trap. Our eels and colourful native fish migrate between the sea and the headwaters of streams. Kaiwharawhara Stream used to harbour redfin and bluegill bully, banded, shortjaw and giant kōkopu, kōaro, inanga, shortfin and longfin eels. Some of these fish species are nationally threatened and rarely found in urban streams. Shortjaw kōkopu is the rarest (only one found in the Kaiwharawhara in 2004). Trout are a threat to indigenous fish, competing for their food.

WCC improved the fish passage ramp at the Kaiwharawhara Stream exit from the tunnel under the railway. The unhealthy elongated pool on a bed of silt, upstream of the

debris trap went, thanks to removal of rocks at the trap. This also improved fish passage.

Frances Forsyth considered a whole-of-catchment waterway improvement effort (allowing fish and eel migration) – in effect a re-ignition of ‘Project Kaiwharawhara’. TPG and WCC attended a meeting at Zealandia in 2017 to air catchment issues and think of possible interested parties. Danielle Shanahan and Pascale Michel of Zealandia then organised two ‘Sanctuary to Sea’ meetings – well attended, with wide-ranging expertise and a ‘can-do’ atmosphere. Cautious optimism emerged.

TPG helped Katherine de Silva with her VUW MSc looking at the Kaiwharawhara habitat and riparian issues. TPG places much value on the ecology of the Kaiwharawhara catchment affecting the park

- Regular Friday afternoon working bees by The Body Shop, sometimes with TPG assistance, ensured aquatic perfection for the lower Kaiwharawhara Stream up from the Hutt Road: shade and shelter for stream life, clear water, and stream bed without silt
- TPG’s Malcolm McDonald organised successful annual ‘Sea Week’ clean-ups at the Kaiwharawhara estuary, and right around the reclamation to the gorgeous northern beach, not normally accessible to the public. Many bags of rubbish, also sundry loose items and weeds were harvested.

Long-fin eels are known to live in the Trelissick Park streams. After an eel was found with



WCC’s longfin eel interpretive board, GG, September 2015

a hook in its snout in OWB, WCC installed an interpretive sign about eels near the debris trap.

### *Stormwater runoff*

Following streamside track erosion down from Wightwick's Field in 2013, the track was widened and a māhoe tree removed by a WCC contractor in 2014. WCC introduced the 'water sensitive urban design stormwater management in Wellington' guide. A major sewer foundation collapsed at the upper end of the park in 2015, transforming the Korimako Stream to a silty greyness. Wellington Water fixed it and took preemptive action to avoid the same thing happening to the foundation upstream. TPG planted 55 trees at the resulting riparian scar, most coming from WCC. During the November 2016 flood two rock gabions upstream of the debris trap were undermined and fell into the stream. A third gabion slumped. The stream changed course and jeopardised more gabions.

### **Pollution**

Andrew McLellan pursued the issues connected with a large housing development application on unstable land in the valley above Silverstream Road – upstream of the park. The silt retention measures were inadequate. Thanks to assiduous monitoring and



The sewer foundation collapse causing raw sewage to pour into Korimako Stream, Bill Hester photo, November 2015



Silt from earthworks for housing development in Silverstream valley en-route to Korimako Stream, Bill Hester photo, January 2017

alerts from Andrew McLellan, Bill Hester and Kelvin Hastie, WCC and GWRC worked in conjunction with the contractor to improve silt retention.

We had soapy episodes because people wash their cars on the street. GWRC continued with monthly monitoring of water quality in the lower Kaiwharawhara Stream. A wastewater monitoring station was installed 500 metres upstream of the debris trap to help trace stormwater/sewer cross-connections.

## Problems

Common problems in the park: garden waste dumpers – mainly from Trelissick Crescent; cyclists – intrepid cyclists roamed our tracks, blind to the ‘no cycling’ notices and deaf to our (polite) admonitions; graffiti artists; and rubbish dumpers – the rubbish would have filled a warehouse. Warrick Fowlie and Bill Hester took grim delight harvesting the incredible assortment. Rubbish included cars, shopping trolleys, TV sets, sofas, furniture, windows, advertising signs, road cones, tyres, wheel covers, pipes, planks, glass, wire, bottles, pots, drink cans, paper, cardboard, cartons, books, plastic bags, disposable cups, bottles, clothes, carpet, roofing, bins.



Malcolm McDonald surveys the ‘haul’ – Kaiwharawhara estuary cleanup, Peter Reimann photo, March 2016



Dogs have become an increasing problem in the park, GG, March 2019

Dog walkers fastidiously scooped up ‘the business’ into the regulation plastic bags, then left them on the track. Off-leash dogs ate bait station Brodifacoum pellets, either directly or from spillage. Fortunately, no dogs died. Illona Keenan from WCC bore the brunt of angst from owners. The bait stations were then converted to block bait, wired-in securely and inaccessible to dogs.

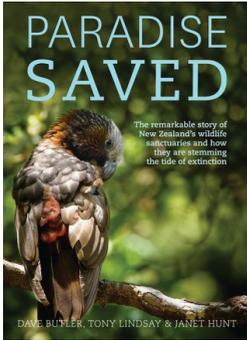
Other issues were disappearing mustelid traps, smashed brochure holders, a horizontal railing thrown down the slope at the Waikowhai Street entrance, collapsed Hanover Street map board, garden seats appearing unbidden, a settee discovered down a slope, chain-saw massacres, appearance of a mystery kākābeak in the park, and in 2015 a period of eel massacres.

Jonathan Anderson from WCC and others botanically versed were concerned about the spread of *Pseudopanax lessonii* (houpara or coastal five-finger). It masquerades as a ‘native’ here, but is indigenous to the north of New Zealand, like karo and pōhutukawa.

Winter deluges during 2017 caused two major slips above upper Kaiwharawhara Road. The lay-by became part of the road, reducing access to the park. A large rock from the lower slip crashed through the fence and down through Tim McIvor’s lovely ‘spot’, narrowly missing the shed at the lower entrance. In 2017 earthquake strengthening continued further up the road, heavy machinery grinding inexorably into the unstable slope above the park. On the other side of the valley, a huge slip jeopardised the railway line. Abseil Access built a temporary bridge across the Kaiwharawhara Stream to get to the slip-face for stabilisation work.

## Publicity

TPG featured in the book *Paradise Saved*. TPG's stand at the Wadestown Fair continued and brochure holders at park entrances were regularly replenished. Bill Hester made radical website transformations. Angela Incedon agreed to become Bill's back-up for the website and Facebook pages. Wellington Zoo 'Bush Builders' organised a new precinct



Cover of *Paradise Saved*, by Dave Butler, Tony Lindsay and Jane Hunt, 2014

about NZ wildlife and the people working to protect it, called 'Meet the Locals'. Oli du Bern and Amy Hughes from the Zoo interviewed Peter Reimann for this. Peter Reimann acted as tour guide for an OWB Trust's Sunday programme, covering the restoration work in the Korimako valley and the wonders of the original forest remnant. He also spoke to the Wadestown Wilton Horticultural Society, Friends of Waikanae River, Ngaio Venturers, a Radio New Zealand 'Insight' documentary about urban stream issues, and wrote an article for the Indigena magazine of the Farm Forestry Association. Bill Hester prepared a presentation for inclusion in a WCC Predator Free Parks workshop in 2016. Kate Guthrie of Predator Free NZ produced a beautifully written piece about the park, based on information from Bill.

## Submissions and advocacy

As usual, TPG lodged many submissions during the period, all published on our website. Summary of a host of issues: more funding for the park; advance policies related to the draft *Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)*; encouragement of covenanting; WCC plans, codes of practice, consents to have more 'teeth' (e.g. mandatory neutral-effect stormwater run-off in developments); significant weed issues along the adjoining rail corridor and from garden escapes; improvement of water quality by eliminating pollution from sewer leakage and on-going public education about not disposing of waste into the stormwater system; access to the beach at the north side of the reclamation at the Kaiwharawhara estuary (GWRC); and the impact of housing development on the Kaiwharawhara Stream.

In 2017 a resource consent application was lodged for 17 townhouses below the corner of Trelissick Crescent and Ngaio Gorge Road. This was on a very steep gully area above our beautiful original forest remnant. TPG and others sent submissions to WCC.

# 2018–2021

## People

Adam Groenewegen became the new WCC Park Ranger in 2018, taking over from Tim Harkness. Tim moved to a new position as Trails and Reserves Specialist. The animal pest control team: Barry Durrant, Steve Mackle, Andy McIver, Hila Naish (replacing Ben Curran) and Bill Hester. Bill Hester coordinated with GWRC and WCC on bait supply, used bait removal and bait station/trap supply and placement.

Malcolm McDonald died in 2019. He was TPG's diligent Secretary between 2006 and 2008. He organised our annual 'Sea Week' beach clean-up at the Kaiwharawhara estuary. He also moved vast quantities of mulch to cover the cut-gorse slope below Trelissick Crescent and transferred rocks and gravel from one side of Korimako Stream to the other to protect the eroded track. The new NCDRA representative was Howard Moore.

Frances Lee left the TPG committee in 2020 but remained involved and provided wise counsel. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her dedication, persistence and hard work since she formed TPG in 1991. Anne Tuffin took over as Treasurer. Angus Napier replaced Karin Wiley as the F&B representative. He knew the park well from volunteering over the years.

Barry Durrant said goodbye to two projects: the upgrade of 'Barry's Track' from Oban Street and animal pest control. The animal pest control team became Andrew McIver, Tamara Friedmann, Steve Mackle, Finnigan Illsley-Kemp, all organised by Bill Hester.

Anne Tuffin took over from Frances Lee in 2021 as TPG's representative on the CentrePort Environmental Consultative Group. Fond memories of Gottfried (Friedl) Theiler, Olaf John, Dorothy Douglass and John Foden, who died. (John produced a park map, adapted by WCC for map boards and brochures).

## Restoration

Plantings: 2018 = 1,000, 2019 = 1,235, 2020 = 896, 2021 = 475 (from WCC, F&B, home nurseries).

WCC's Illona Keenan in consultation with TPG organised contractor Kaitiaki o Ngahere Ltd to spray the tradescantia which was thickly carpeting the lower slopes below the Northern Walkway from Hanover Street, the slope below Crofton Downs station, and on railway land upstream of bridge 6. Kaitiaki also sprayed tradescantia below the Trelissick Crescent verge and sealed the fate of much climbing asparagus, banana passionfruit, old man's beard and Japanese honeysuckle. This exercise exposed a fascinating array of rubbish. Warrick Fowlie, adept at clambering around steep slopes,



CVNZ and locals hauling rubbish from below Trelissick Crescent, Peter Reimann photo, March 2018

piled the rubbish into heaps for removal by cradle and rope by CVNZ and locals. WCC had it all trucked away within hours. We then planted grasses, toetoe and mingimingi close together along the brink between the two park entrances to form a dense barrier to thwart the dumpers of rubbish and garden waste.

Illona Keenan employed New Zealand Biosecurity Ltd to tackle climbing asparagus infesting the slope below Oban Street. Seedlings were also springing up in the original forest remnant. Bi-monthly working bees continued.

### *Adopt-a-Spot*

Kelvin Hastie's spot on the slope north of the Waikowhai Street entrance had 100 infill native plants added, including rimu, rewarewa, kohekohe, tītoki and tōtara. One of the McKendry family's two riparian areas below Waikowhai Street gets flooded, but both flourished thanks to their ongoing care. Another survival story was Tim McIvor's area at the lower entrance from Kaiwharawhara Road, where wind and drying sun are relentless and the soil is terrible.

At 57 Kaiwharawhara Road (next to The Living Room shop), Warrick Fowlie had a never-ending job stemming Australian wattle, wafting across from railway land. The Dugal Thomson/Peter Reimann spot on railway land opposite Wightwick's Field had burgeoning tradescantia despite previous spraying. The entrance at upper Ngaio Gorge Road was much improved, thanks to Warrick Fowlie. Joan Waldvogel worked at the

Hanover Street entrance, later joined by Anne Tuffin. Marilyn and Bill Hester returned to ‘The Flood Plain’, just upstream of the powder magazine building ruin.

Jim Gifkins planted more of the Trelissick Crescent verge, aided by Marilyn Hester. They found that rabbits loved *Hebe arborea* and mingimingi. So, the verge was adorned with green protectors. Alex Thompson continued clearing below Crofton Downs station for his Duke of Edinburgh award. Finn Illsley-Kemp adopted a spot downstream of bridge 7, hoping to stem bank erosion. Andrew Cutler planted mixed tree species on the northwest slope below Oban Street. Richard Grasse continued at the Waikowhai Street entrance and down ‘kauri’ ridge beyond. The Sathya Sai Service Organisation often came to their eroding strip upstream from the debris trap. To our chagrin, we found that toetoe and cabbage tree, planted to protect the stream bank were no match for the raging water during heavy rain.

Next to the streamside memorial seat below Wadestown there was a flat, boggy area of weeds. Five kahikatea trees, planted in the 1990s and about 5–6 metres tall, grow there but little else survived. The Wellington Interfaith Council planted 51 iconic tree species there to commemorate the victims of the mosque shooting. SPCA staff and partners (and dogs) enjoyed clearing their spots near bridge 5. Walking around Trelissick Crescent in 2021 you entered a zone of delights! Thanks to Marilyn Hester’s meticulous weeding, planting and mulching over the years, the grasses, hebes, mingimingi and other shrubs along the verge above the park were a sight to behold.



Interfaith Group working bee commemorating 51 Christchurch mosque shooting victims, Anne Tuffin photo, September 2020

### *Helpers (from TPG and others)*

Traces of Warrick Fowlie's karaka seedling removal are visible all over the park. Kohekohe, pukatea and tawa from F&B's and Peter Reimann's nurseries were flourishing. Lea and Hugh Robertson cleared tradescantia from the slope above the debris trap. Peter Reimann deployed the weed-eater in the open grassy areas. Bill Hester discovered that the planks, posts and some of the vegetation in the logjam in Korimako Stream below Waikowhai Street came from a huge slip below a house. Below the western end of the Forest Remnant track there was a large, bare slope of fearsome steepness. Undeterred, WCC's contractor Kaitiaki o Ngahere cleared it. Jim Gifkins started planting. Thanks to Doug Tennant for his seedlings. Podocarps were planted throughout by Jonathan Anderson, CVNZ and Peter Reimann. Slip debris that covered the fish ramp at the Kaiwharawhara Stream tunnel exit was cleared by Jim Gifkins. Warrick Fowlie deserved a medal for periodic clearing of the debris trap. Sylvia Dixon ranged up and down the Korimako valley picking out tradescantia to add to our heaps.

### *Groups*

MetService organised fine weather, planted some natives and built enormous tradescantia heaps on the slopes above bridge 4. Employees from BNZ, AMP, MBIE Legal, Xero and Vocus enjoyed their outings. CVNZ did sterling work on railway land upstream of bridge 6, down from bridge 5, below Oban Street and elsewhere. Ngaio Union Church celebrated Matariki and planted kahikatea and pukatea at Wightwick's Field. Treasury and CVNZ achieved miracles on the stream banks at new bridge 7 and below Oban Street. Treasury and VUW cleared tradescantia along the vehicle track from the lower Kaiwharawhara Road entrance. Zealandia also cleared tradescantia between the debris trap and bridge 7.

### *Schools/scouts*

Lyall Bay Girl Guides planted grasses near the eel sign, then fished for bugs in the stream. Ngaio Brownies went nocturnal and scoured tradescantia in a bushy patch beside Wightwick's Field – a whirl of excitement and flashing torches. Scouts invaded the slopes below Wadestown to rake tradescantia into enormous heaps. Khandallah Cubs cleared tradescantia down from the lower park entrance. Tamariki from Te Puna Reo planted more grasses at the eel sign near the debris trap. Raroa Intermediate had fun clearing the slopes below the Northern Walkway towards the Hanover Street entrance. Thorndon School with Sustainable Coastlines enjoyed their visit in the lower Kaiwharawhara valley. St Benedict's School cleared and planted down from Trellissick Crescent entrance 3.



Lyall Bay Guides after fishing for bugs near the debris trap, Peter Reimann photo, May 2018

## The environment

Later this century, rimu, mataī, miro, tōtara, kahikatea, pukatea, kaikomako, tawa, rewarewa, northern rātā and hīnau will once more grace our valleys. WCC was particularly generous. Jonathan Anderson planted many of these canopy species beside Kaiwharawhara Stream. More northern rātā came from CVNZ. Richard Grasse provided some climbing passionfruit and rare large-leaved milk trees from F&B's nursery.

WCC plant and weed experts Anita Benbrook, Jonathan Anderson and Illona Keenan had a park walkthrough with Richard Grasse and Peter Reimann. In his spare time, Jonathan collected seeds for WCC and cut enveloping branches from around canopy species, so knew the park intimately. We emerged much wiser and impressed by finding the kauri and mature toro, kamahi, maire, mataī, hīnau, milk trees and natural kōwhai. We learned about giving our newly planted northern rātā and rimu more light. For increasing ground cover, he suggested NZ bluebell, (*Dianella nigra*), NZ iris (*Libertia ixioides*), bush rice grass (*Microlaena avenacea*), hook grass and carex species. To increase biodiversity local natives that are missing or in low numbers in the park were suggested (see May 2021, GG).

Jonathan said that the kahikatea trees planted in the late 1990s at the 51-trees spot, in

the small streamside wetland area at the bottom of the gully below Hanover Street, were reproductively mature. There were two males and three females and the male cones were producing pollen. He said it will be interesting to see if the female cones go on to produce fruit.

Cabbage trees had a floral celebration in 2018; Kohekohe likewise. We planted some and many more were coming on from seeds collected by Richard Grasse. Rangiora was full of the joys of life in 2019.



Rangiora (*Brachyglottis repanda*) putting on a show, Peter Reimann photo, October 2015

A large matai resides at ‘The Crossroads’ next to the Northern Walkway down from Treliissick Crescent towards bridge 6. It shares the area with an enormous tōtara and an unusually large kānuka.

Eva and Barry Durrant’s house overlooked the lower Kaiwharawhara valley and they delighted in witnessing the increasing bird life. In 2021, Eva saw a flock of over 50 kererū fly into the centre of the park, shaking the tree branches in one of their annual flocking events. She also saw a pair of kārearea flying around the valley. “How exciting to see these two claim the park as their patch!”

Richard Grasse who volunteers in the F&B nursery provided some puka (*Griselinia lucida*), heketara (*Olearia rani*), toro (*Myrsine salicina*) and turepo/ milk tree (*Streblus banksii*). Tree lucerne/



Matai trunk in the rain at the ‘crossroads’ beside the Northern Walkway, between bridge 6 and Treliissick Crescent, Peter Reimann photo, July 2012

tagasaste (*Chamaecytisus palmensis*) lives alongside Kaiwharawhara Stream up from the debris trap. It has never invaded other areas and as it flowers during winter it is an important food source for bees and birds (especially kererū). It is also nitrogen fixing, drought tolerant and controls erosion with its deep roots. Plenty of reasons to leave it be.

### **Animal pest control**

WCC's Jonathan Anderson found two dead kererū in the Kaiwharawhara valley – suspects dog, stoat or kārearea? In 2018 we had 33 bait stations, 15 DOC200 and five A24 traps. The team aimed for monthly replenishment and checking, with relatively short routes. Worried about re-invasion of possums, GWRC installed 20 lever-operated bait-safe stations which they serviced. In 2019 WCC's Henk Louw discussed bait station and trap procedures and updated the map.



Two kārearea have claimed the park as their patch, says Eva Durrant, Barry Durrant photo, May 2021

### **Tracks, bridges and entrances**

The minor tracks in the park add to its charm. We owed much to the late Grant Preston Thomas and his team of volunteers for their work. In 2018 Warrick Fowle re-benched the 'reveg' track that zigzags down the forested slopes below Hanover Street to the streamside memorial seat. We used this track countless times for planting and weeding. John McInnes re-benched and cleared the lower end of the track which descends from below Treliissick Crescent to the track traversing the canyon section of the lower Korimako Stream to encourage more people to this attractive area.

The real 'gem' is the Forest Remnant Track, which traverses below Treliissick Crescent and upper Ngaio Gorge Road – too steep for the loggers of old. There are warning notices at the entrances saying the track is of 'tramping track' standard and needs suitable fitness. WCC closed the western part of the track, deeming a stream crossing and track edge unsafe and looked at remedial measures.

The earthquake strengthening of Ngaio Gorge Road above the park up from the layby was finished in 2018. WCC Ranger Tim Harkness arranged for the contractor to plant

the cleared slope below. Work started on another section of the road further uphill. WCC improved the track from the Waikowhai Street entrance.

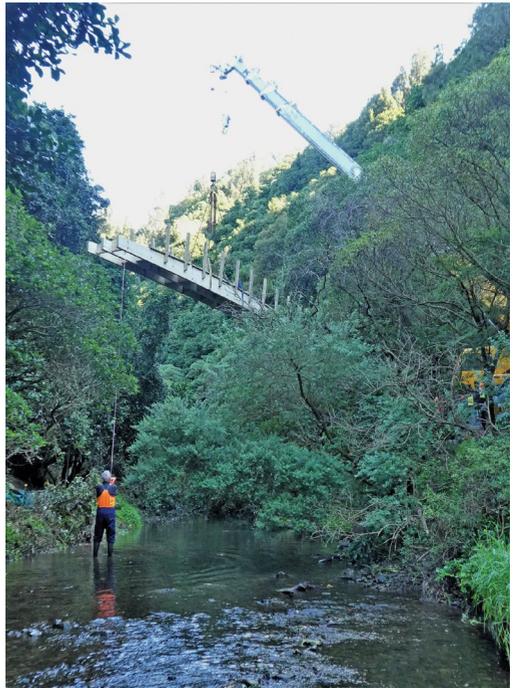
In 2020 the Muslim community provided a commemorative seat with plaque for the victims of the 2019 mosque shooting. It was installed beside the Northern Walkway half-way between Trelissick Crescent and bridge 6. WCC upgraded the Northern Walkway down from Hanover Street in 2021.

### *Access to the park below Oban Street, Wadestown*

In 2019 WCC gave the green light for park access from Oban Street and the associated footbridge over Kaiwharawhara Stream. TPG had to find \$100,000. Later that year:

- Engineering consultancy ENGEO completed geotechnical investigations at the bridge site
- Frame Group was engaged for design, consenting and construction certification on a shared WCC and TPG cost basis
- NCDRA kindly agreed to handle financial transactions on our behalf
- WCC's Tim Harkness worked on quotations and project management
- WCC agreed to fund and manage access from Oban Street
- TPG would upgrade the existing 'Barry's Track' and the short stream-bank section to the bridge to WCC standards

Once consents were approved, the construction contract was signed, the funds raised and Outsiders Ltd started work on the bridge. The 39-year saga ended in September 2020 with its completion. Thanks to Transpower, Frances Lee, the Tararua Tramping Club, Michael Taylor Bequest, Ron and Edna Greenwood Environmental Trust and the many members of the community who donated.



Chris Logan of Outsiders Ltd guides Bridge 7 beam slung from Titan crane, Anne Tuffin photo, July 2020

We were grateful for the substantial investment in the project by WCC. The new bridge and track gave easy access to a new and large area of the park for expanded walking opportunities, animal and plant pest control, restoration planting and rubbish removal. Everyone enjoyed new discoveries.

The new bridge was officially opened on 26 September by Mayor Andy Foster, MP Greg O'Connor and major funder and 'motive force' Frances Lee. TPG's Anne Tuffin was the



MC and Amanda Dobson started proceedings with a karakia. A happy occasion. Bridge builder Chris Logan of Outsiders Ltd attended. Engineer Trevor Butler of Frame Group was unable to attend. We owe a debt of gratitude to both for such a smooth operation, also to WCC's Tim Harkness for project management and associated track and Oban Street entrance work.

At Bridge 7 opening ceremony after cutting the ribbon, left to right, Peter Reimann, Mayor Andy Foster and Frances Lee, Barry Durrant photo, September 2020



Enhancement of the lower Oban slope began in 2020 as part of the GWRC consent requirements to protect the true right stream bank at the new bridge. TPG put in 80 plants.

From left, Peter Reimann, Frances Lee and Mayor Andy Foster open the new bridge, September 2020, GG, December 2020

## Catchment

### *Stormwater runoff*

We continued advocating for mandatory ‘water sensitive urban design’. It was “a work very much in progress”, according to the WCC WSUD guideline. On Saturday 17 July 2021 the heavens opened. Bridge 4 was wrenched from its foundations and washed against bridge 5. A huge logjam in Korimako Stream below Waikowhai Street affected sewer pipe foundations. Stream banks were washed away and tracks damaged. WCC planned to remove bridge 4 by helicopter. The track there was closed until a new bridge was installed in 2022. Wellington Water replaced the undermined sewer pipe foundations further upstream, using a helicopter. However, they cleared a flat streamside area for storage, destroying nikau palms and trees carefully planted and nurtured by Marilyn Hester and Carolyn Theiler from 2010. Ranger Adam Groenewegen sought reparation. We mourned the loss of the best of the rimu we had planted in 2006 (beyond bridge 3).

### *Stream ecology*

Frances Forsyth of Wildlands said we should not be too assiduous in clearing the debris trap or the stream beds – shelter for native fish and eels. WCC Ranger Adam Groenewegen asked us to leave the pile of debris we took out of the debris trap, to encourage insects and lizards.

Ashleigh Romanos of the Body Shop sent photos taken at the back of its warehouse on Kaiwharawhara Road comparing Kaiwharawhara Stream in 2006 to 2018. Riparian planting had been done there under ‘Project Kaiwharawhara’, conceived by GRWC’s John



Bridge 4 washed into bridge 5 during 5 July storm, Bill Hester photo, July 2021



Our best rimu succumbs to bank erosion down from bridge 3, Bill Hester photo, August 2021

Holmes in 2002. Body Shop staff regularly tended the plantings. Mindful of the ecological corridor, TPG sometimes helped with the restoration.

During a visit to the park of MBIE Legal in 2019 we found a team from GWRC doing a fish survey. One of the fish was a kōaro – noted for its climbing feats. It has some low-slung fins – ‘pseudo legs’ – so no problems with all the barriers in our catchment. Maybe our kōaro will aid the spread of fresh-water mussels or kākahi throughout the catchment. Their larvae attach to a host fish (most commonly kōaro) and once carried upstream they drop off into soft, sandy sediments of streams and lakes. A single mussel can filter around one litre of water per hour, removing fine organic particles and sediment and creating beds of stable habitat to benefit other freshwater life. Zealandia was keen on mussels for their reservoirs.

Richard Grasse, Warrick Fowlie and Peter Reimann waded through the tunnel for the Kaiwharawhara Stream under the railway, then through Churchill Reserve and the tunnel under Churchill Drive. The tunnels appeared fish friendly. It was gratifying to see that WCC’s contractor had reinstated the fish ramp at the railway tunnel exit.

TPG were involved in Zealandia’s ‘Sanctuary to Sea’ meetings along with many other interested parties such as community and environmental groups, consultants, local authorities, DoC, BotSoc, students and VUW.

At the ‘Sea Week’ beach clean-up of the Kaiwharawhara estuary TPG joined Ben Knight of Sustainable Coastlines, Amanda Dobson of EnviroSchools and Amanda Valois of NIWA, to work along 60 metres of the northern bank, collecting plastic and rubbish 4 metres either side of a tape laid along the mid-tide line. Some 2,402 mostly small plastic items totalling 16.9 kg were picked up for analysis. The exercise would be repeated at the same place at three-month intervals to gauge variations.

GWRC’s Senior Environmental Scientist, Dr Evan Harrison, provided comprehensive results of three years of monitoring sites spread across a range of streams throughout the city/urban area, in collaboration with WCC. His summary was:

- Fish communities in urban streams were generally in fair to poor condition. There was greater fish diversity in sections of stream with direct connection to the sea
- Inanga spawning was occurring in bank vegetation in the lower Kaiwharawhara Stream
- Banded kōkopu and eel species were the most abundant fish species, with at-risk and declining species including kōaro, inanga, redfin bully, longfin eel and giant kōkopu
- Barriers to fish movement are one of the major pressures on fish communities in urban streams. The only fish species found upstream of piped sections of stream were climbing species

The report showed a need to modify and remove fish barriers, as well as reducing the stormwater contaminants flowing into the streams. GWRC said the 150-metre culvert for Kaiwharawhara Stream under the oil tanks downstream of the park needed to be modified first, as it caused the greatest biodiversity decline in fish sites upstream.

TPG took part in workshops about the proposed new ferry terminal in 2021 organised by S to S with KiwiRail, CentrePort and Boffa Miskell. The new berth would be very close to the estuary.

## Pollution

Our streams normally look crystal clear and tempting. Children play and dogs frolic. However, the lower Kaiwharawhara Stream in 2019 was graded the worst level 'E' for E. coli. Other Wellington streams are in similar straits. Publicity sparked an investigation by WCC and Wellington Water.

GWRC monitored the lower Kaiwharawhara Stream every month. The results for E. coli and faecal coliforms covered several years – some levels were excessive, depending on flow. As many of the sewer and stormwater pipes are old and some are cross-connected, it seemed likely that the pollution would persist, pending extensive investigations and upgrading of the wastewater/stormwater system. TPG asked WCC to consider warning signs for park entrances.

## Problems

The park is in a valley, so things fall into it. Pictures of Bill Hester's rubbish collections are on our Facebook pages. WCC remove it from our 'dump' below the Trelissick Crescent entrance 3. Kelvin Hastie alerted us to about 15 black plastic rubbish bags chucked down



Truck over bank below entrance 5, Barry Durrant photo, May 2018

the cliff below Waikowhai Street, near his house. It took three of us nearly two hours to haul these up, using a rope and cradle. One crashed down to the stream, so we floated it out. Brenton Early monitored the streams and removed garbage, mostly plastic.

A truck overturned and slid down the slope below entrance 5. The driver emerged unscathed. Shortly after, 500–

600 trees miraculously appeared below the entrance – reparation for the truck crash. Full marks to the people who planted these in the damaged area on such steep, loose ground.

In 2020, some dog owners concerned about karaka berry poisoning of dogs, pushed for the removal of the large karaka trees along the Kaiwharawhara valley track. WCC cut down five larger ones along the track after consultation with local iwi. Anne Tuffin met with dog owners and asked them to pull out any karaka seedlings and to remove berries from the ground whenever possible.

The slopes in the park below the Oban Street houses yielded gigantic rubbish piles, collected by Warrick Fowlie, Bill Hester and Barry Durrant.

In early September 2021 about 10 grasses planted by Marilyn Hester at the Trelissick Crescent verge were removed. More removals followed – a couple of grasses and two tree hebes hanging from stubborn roots. A mānuka and kohuhu, each a metre tall were dug up, and left lying on the ground. They came every night, or early morning, to dig up what had been replanted. Marilyn said, “I found a lemonwood, tall as me, that they’d dug out and tossed aside, as well as another mānuka and cabbage tree. The replanted kohuhu and mānuka were again lying on the ground.” Ranger Adam Groenewegen wrote a letter to residents, seeking reports of nefarious activity.

## Publicity

TPG continued with its display at the annual Wadestown Fair. In 2018 Peter Reimann spoke to Khandallah Scouts about what TPG does and its history. TPG was awarded a Volunteer



Rubbish from below Oban St houses, Bill Hester photo, September 2020



Peter Reimann’s Absolutely Positively Wellingtonian award in 2021

Wellington Corporate Challenge Mahi Aroha Award in 2020, in collaboration with Treasury and VUW. In 2021 Peter Reimann spoke to the Karori Residents Association about our stream issues, and to the Tararua Tramping Club about park history. He was one of the recipients of an 'Absolutely Positively Wellingtonian Award'. Trellisick Park was nominated as one of the five 'top bush walks in Wellington'.

### **Submissions and advocacy**

In 2019 MfE produced a discussion document 'Action for Healthy Waterways' and an associated 'Draft National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management'. TPG wrote a submission, looking for more action on fast stormwater run-off, sedimentation, pollution, monitoring and fish passage.

In advocating for more effective management of old man's beard by GWRC across the region and by WCC locally, TPG liaised with Upstream – Friends of Central Park, who had combined with F&B and the regeneration projects in the nearby Tanera Gully and Polhill Reserve. We submitted on the GWRC Regional Pest Management Plan. GWRC decided that it wouldn't be added to the plan.

# 2022–2025

## People

Debbie Hawker took over from Henk Louw in 2022 as WCC’s Biosecurity Specialist – Pest Animals. Tamara Friedmann was replaced by Philippa Cox to service all the DOC200 traps. The TPG meeting venue was changed from OHS’s building on Khandallah Road to OWB’s premises on Wilton Road.

Angus Napier started hosting CVNZ and corporate groups in 2023. MP Nicola Willis nominated TPG as recipient for the \$500 ‘thank you’ for her address to the Hugo Group. Nate Rigler was the new Project Lead, S to S, replacing Catherine Ayres. Dr Bradley Schroder, WCC Open Space and Parks Manager, replaced Myfanwy Emeny. Dot Catchpole died. Dot and husband Dave were ‘regulars’ at working bees.

Bill and Marilyn Hester were among North Wellington Voluntary Service award winners for their 20 years of dedication to the park, along with Richard Grasse for his work elsewhere and in the park.

Eugene Doyle and Martin Payne from Ōwhiro were planning a network on catchment issues. Anne Tuffin and Peter Reimann revealed our stream woes, along with Annie Yeates of Manawa Karioi Society (Island Bay).

In 2024 Peter Reimann stepped down from 18 years as Chair of TPG, replaced by Anne Tuffin. Martin McCrudden, who had replaced WCC Park Ranger Adam Groenewegen for about a year, left. Catherine Van

Hale, a long-term supporter at working bees, took over from Bill Hester as website maintainer. Anne Holmstead took on managing our Facebook page. Ian Shearer became TPG secretary and treasurer. Alison Melling departed. She distributed meeting documents for several years. Mike Lear died. Mike came to most working bees and specialised in thinning branches enveloping slower growing canopy species. His cheerful and helpful presence was much missed!

Frances Lee purchased 0.25



Frances Lee in 2024 donated a 0.25 hectare forest remnant alongside Trelissick Park (circled in blue) to the Wellington City Council to be classified as ‘scenic reserve’ rather than residential land, GG, July 2024

hectare below the corner of Trelissick Crescent and Ngaio Gorge Road, then gifted it to WCC to add to the park. Her extraordinary generosity was recognised at a small gathering of WCC staff, TPG members and Ngaio residents. “I certainly didn’t want ... townhouses to be built there,” she said.

Stan Pillar of OHS died in 2025. Stan prepared the OHS room for TPG meetings and participated in them. New animal pest team: Briony Ellis to oversee all the trapping activity and Jim Nicolson the bait stations. Bill Hester: backup coordination. 28 bait stations: Steve Mackle, Andy McIver and Jim Nicolson. 17 DOC200 traps: Warrick Fowlie and Richard Grasse. 10 tunnel (Victor) traps near bridge 7: Shelley Kininmonth. 15 A24 (Goodnature) traps below Oban Street: Andrew Cutler (who took over from Finn Illsley Kemp in 2024). 20 Baitsafe possum defence stations: GWRC (Bruce Brewer and Paul Horton). WCC: supplies and support (Debbie Hawker and Adam Groenewegen).

New TPG positions: David Howden – track maintenance; Rebecca Jackson – volunteer coordinator and relationships with VW and The Sustainable Business Network; Karen Martyn – minutes secretary. Angus Napier replaced Kelvin Hastie as Adopt-a-Spot coordinator, Eva Durrant: the new working bee baker. Ōtari-Wilton’s Bush Trust, our upstream neighbour, became a core member of TPG.

WCC Ranger Adam Groenewegen: out of action from an injury. Ranger Tom Mayo stepped up. WCC Urban Ecology Manager Daniela Biaggio departed, replaced by Henk Louw. Anita Benbrook, Biodiversity Specialist – Plants, retired at the end of the year after nearly four decades of dedicated work greening the city. The ‘signage project’ team set up, steered by TPG Chair Anne Tuffin, with Mike Oates (ex-Ōtari and WCC), Gini Letham (Senior Communications Advisor at Zealandia) and others.

## **Restoration**

Plantings from WCC, F&B, home nurseries: 2022 = 774, 2023 = 978, 2024 = 540, 2025 = 1,300.

TPG and WCC Ranger Adam Groenewagen planted around 400 *Carex flagellifera*, *Carex testacea* and *Poa cita* from WCC and F&B nurseries in the Upper Kaiwharawhara Road layby in 2023.

In 2022 we were frustrated by the closure of the entire lower area of the park due to the huge slip above Kaiwharawhara Road. After its re-opening in 2023 the historic walls beyond the lower entrance were cleared and the entrance area mulched and planted, as was the upper Kaiwharawhara Road layby. The subsided mulch heap next to the magazine building was planted.

## *Adopt-a-Spot*

At the 51-tree Christchurch Mosque shooting memorial spot downstream of bridge 6, visits by the Interfaith and Sathya Sai Groups included one from Todd Corporation. Mitre 10 supplied plant stakes. Duke of Edinburgh gold candidate Alex Thompson was joined by brother Troy in 2022, going for bronze. Below the Hanover Street entrance Anne Tuffin and Joan Waldvogel still ministered. The Trelissick Crescent verge was finished in 2023 by Marilyn Hester after adding 225 plants. The verge was completely mulched with wood chip. Marilyn was grateful that Ōtari Wilton's Bush gave access to its mulch pile. The work expanded to include removing all the tradescantia and *Cyperus eragrostis*.



Troy Thompson amongst his astelias tending his spot beside bridge 2, Peter Reimann photo, June 2022

The northwest slope below Oban Street: plants for Andrew Cutler. Inspired by Marilyn Hester's verge, Anne Tuffin mulched and planted native grasses along the narrow verge on Hanover Street, Wadestown and the first metre or two beside the track at the entrance. Finn Illsley-Kemp said that the plants for his spot above the true right bank downstream of bridge 7 – grasses, cabbage tree, flax and toetoe – were protecting the bank very well and quickly spreading. Richard Grasse offered 20 cutty grasses and 20 cabbage trees from the F&B nursery. Kena Duignan adopted the verge of Wightwick's Field. On Wellington Anniversary Day 2025 a group of women met on the track below Hanover Street, treating the track like a 'firebreak' and clearing the track sides completely of tradescantia.

## *Helpers (from TPG and others)*

Tōtara seedlings from Susan Pearce, a tree fern from Julie Coulson and plants from Gail Andrews. Warrick Fowlie chased karaka, gorse, montbretia and rubbish. He inherited a huge clump of swamp flax, which he divided. We planted some later. Jonathan Anderson planted podocarps throughout the park. Bob and Colleen McClymont planted five kōwhai gifted by old friends at Wightwick's Field.

## Groups

After completion of the Ngaio Gorge Road stabilisation project and the reopening of the area of the park below it in 2023, project staff from engineering consultancy AECOM and Fulton Hogan planted and mulched the area above the lower park entrance. We were grateful for the many CVNZ visits throughout the period, working all over the park and fringes, also for VW and S to S assistance at



CVNZ at bridge 2, Peter Reimann photo, November 2023

various stages to recruit and host volunteers. Organisations included: ACC, Cogo, Axenic, CentrePort, Harbour Asset Management, KPMG, Kiwibank, Allegis Group, VUW, SPCA, Environmental Protection Authority, FMG, ANZ, Treasury, AlSCO, Ngaio Union Church, Elim International Church, GHD Young Professionals and Old Man's Beard Free Wellington.

## Schools

Crofton Downs Primary School, Te Kura o Korimako, wanted the children to learn how to be guardians of the Korimako Stream and the surrounding bush. They aimed to visit regularly. Teachers from the kura, Kirsty Ferguson and Hilary Lintott, visited the park in 2025 with TPG volunteer Mike Oates and EnviroSchools facilitator Chandra Littlewood to plan activities. The children's first visit later in 2025 analysed water samples from the edge of Kaiwharawhara Stream at the exit from the tunnel under the railway and beside Korimako Stream.

## The environment

### *Podocarps in Trelissick Park*

Jonathan Anderson's studies of trees in the park over many years are reported in the October 2023 GG. They mainly relate to the area along a broad ridge as you walk down the Northern Walkway from Trelissick Crescent to bridge 6 below Hanover Street. Jonathan's 2023 survey results: total number of podocarps = 931. Tōtara 42%, kahikatea 30%, matai

16%, miro 7% and rimu 5%. One concern is the care and maintenance of podocarp trees once planted. Many were planted with fast growing species such as lemonwood and kohuhu resulting in overtopping and heavy shading. The competing trees need to be periodically pruned or completely removed. Jonathan has been doing this throughout the park.

For the ‘podocarp grove’ – conceived by Jonathan for the lower Kaiwharawhara Stream on the true right bank – Applied Biosecurity Solutions removed the blackberry in 2024. About 60 podocarps were planted in an area of 300 square metres. Karamū and *Hebe stricta* provided temporary shelter and weed suppression. Jonathan Anderson advised that the park now had a fruiting miro in the section between the power pylon and the Trellisick Crescent entrance 4. “I believe it’s a wild rather than a planted tree, because it’s in regenerating forest amongst kahikatea, tōtara and mataī saplings.” He found a single red fruit on the ground, confirming it was a female tree.

### *Other native trees*

Jonathan Anderson said there was a Northern rātā next to the road reserve at the lower end of Hanover Street, three smaller ones above the stream bank upstream of bridge 2, one above the lower sewer tunnel, three in the lower valley beside the curving meadow, and one on the sunny side of Wightwick’s Field. Northern rātā (*Metrosideros robusta*) will grow to 25–40 metres. The brilliant red flowers usually appear from November to January. DoC said, “Native birds such as the tūī, bellbird and kākā all benefit from the presence of rātā trees in the forest. Native bees, honeybees, bats and lizards also feed on the flower nectar.



Nikau planted next to Wightwick’s Field more than 30 years ago – in flower at last, Jonathan Anderson photo, January 2024

Old trees provide potential roosts for bats. All rātā species are currently listed as ‘threatened’ partly due to the potential threat from myrtle rust.”

Reports from a BotSoc field trip, are on the TPG website ‘Plants’ page for the resulting ‘Vascular Native Plant List (May 2023)’ and ‘Trellisick Park Restoration Notes (May 2023)’, and on the Weeds page: ‘Weed Listing (May 2023)’. Jonathan Anderson said that about 50 wild kōwhai (*Sophora microphylla*), the only sizable population of natural trees on

the Wellington peninsula, lie mostly on the slopes below the lower end of Oban Street. Jonathan suggested a strategy for kōwhai in the park (see GG, July 2023). In 2025, one of a group of nikau, planted next to Wightwick's Field more than thirty years ago, flowered for the first time. Mererangi and Hoana Kaa enlightened us in an article on the Rongoā attributes of the ngaio tree for the December 2025 GG.

### *Weed management*

TPG dealt with the more accessible outbreaks of old man's beard above Ngaio Gorge Road, in consultation with the landowners and Old Man's Beard Free Wellington. Kaitiaki o Ngahere controlled climbing asparagus and Japanese honeysuckle in 2022. In 2024 Jonathan Anderson produced a prioritised list of possible sites for weed control. A park walkthrough with WCC's Illona Keenan, Gabriel Schlotjes from Kaitiaki, and TPG's Jonathan and Angus Napier followed. A range of sites was agreed, including several additional old man's beard sites at the lower end of the park identified by Angus. WCC's Illona Keenan wrote a hierarchy of sites for chemical control of tradescantia. See the 'Weeds' page on our website, 'Tradescantia'.

Warrick Fowle, removing invasive and non-endemic karaka over the years, said one option for large karaka was to ringbark. It takes about 18–24 months for the tree to die. Ranger Adam Groenewegen agreed but was concerned about limbs falling from large trees close to a track. Jonathan Anderson in 2024 scrambled around slopes with his pruning saw, removing cherry, sycamore, willow, alder and pōhutukawa. Anne Tuffin spent a couple of hours with WCC's Illona Keenan, KiwiRail and Treescape, spotting cherries in bloom in the park and on the rail corridor. Treescape was contracted by KiwiRail to remove trees and weeds from the rail corridor. They talked about a plan to remove them during line closure days over the following 12–24 months. In conjunction with Illona Keenan of WCC, Treescape in 2025 eliminated some weed trees: willow in Wightwick's Field, cherries on the cliffs in the gorge across from the upper of the two sewer tunnels. The arborists also descended by rope from below the scout hall in Hanover Street. More cherries are due to be removed along the railway between the Hanover St tunnel and Crofton Downs station.

### *Retaining wall seismic strengthening*

TPG was concerned about the impact of the upper Ngaio Gorge Road strengthening, planned for early 2026. Excavation material from boring the vertical piles and diagonal rock anchors might be dropped directly below the steep site, jeopardising the ecology of park. Engineering consultants WSP and WCC allayed our concerns at a site meeting late in 2025 by explaining that excavation material would be loaded directly onto trucks above the drilling rig.

## Animal pest control

We now host celebrities: tūi, kererū, kārearea, ruru, kākā, piwakawaka ... It's all down to the spread from Zealandia, our unique bushy suburbs, diligent trapping and bait station volunteers and back-yard trappers, supported by WCC and GWRC. Eventually all the



A wētā hotel, GG, October 2023

DOC200 traps will be the 'longer' ones, to avoid the possibility of killing a kiwi when they start venturing into the park. However, a bigger danger to kiwi is off-leash dogs.

Many wētā species are endangered. A wētā hotel helps protect them from rats, stoats, cats and hedgehogs. Female wētā lay 100–300 eggs so if you build a home they like, their numbers will grow. TPG installed a hotel early in 2015. Found empty and leaking in 2023, it was rejuvenated.

In April 2022 Graham Elmes, Predator Free Ngaio Reserves Coordinator, sent a photo of a stoat near Wightwick's Field. We hope this was the one caught later near bridge 3 in a trap serviced by Philippa Cox. Another stoat was caught in May.



Scots College students with a Victor trap, 2022. Trelissick Park Group, predator section, winter 2022

A rat elimination project by three students from Scots College finished in 2022. 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 had three DOC200s, several A24s and some bait stations in that small area.

## Tracks, bridges and entrances

Washouts, gouges, erosion and upgrades kept WCC's Tim Harkness and a contractor busy throughout the period. WCC closed a section of track upstream of bridge 6 due to a wash-out in 2022. It gave easy access to the wonderful lookout over the Kaiwharawhara Stream canyon beyond. The washout exposed a rock face directly above the stream, making it



The replacement bridge 4, Bill Hester photo, June 2022

Hanover Street. Rocky sections downstream of Wightwick's Field and between bridges 3 and 4 were made safer. TPG supporter Jenny Lewis donated a seat at the end of bridge 7. The new crossing over the stream on the Forest Remnant Track allowed smooth passage. Peter Reimann was grateful to the many generous TPG members and WCC for a seat in the clearing upstream of bridge 7.

The KiwiRail emergency access bridge opposite the magazine building was replaced by Abseil Access in 2025. The new bridge remained locked, thwarting any restoration and animal pest control efforts above. TPG sought an access arrangement. The Kaiwharawhara valley track was upgraded downstream of bridge 6 and new steps appeared on the Northern Walkway on the slope between bridge 6 and Ngaio. More upgrading of the Northern Walkway below Ngaio and the Frances Lee track followed. Seats were installed by WCC at the Waikowhai Street entrance and on Wightwick's Field.

### *Park signage upgrades*

New map boards were installed at park entrances in 2022. We were delighted that our grant application to Transpower's community fund for \$15,000 was successful in 2024. With additional funding from Frances Lee's further \$50,000 donation to TPG, we were able to allocate \$30,000 for new interpretative signage in the park. In 2025 the 'signage project' was

impossible to repair the track (see GG, April 2022). Bridge 4 was reincarnated after the original was swept away in the 2021 floods.

In 2023 a section of track above a wash-out on the true left between the debris trap and powder magazine area was re-routed with new steps. The Northern Walkway was re-routed with new steps around a huge gouge below

born, aiming to work closely with WCC and mana whenua to improve signage in the park – aided by the park user survey. TPG set up a service agreement with Ahumai Holdings Limited (mana whenua) to help.

## Catchment

All the stormwater in the catchment ends up in our streams. Nate Rigler (S to S) was concerned about plastic flowers left on upstream graves (they become brittle and fray into micro, then nano particles). In 2022 during the wet winter a large chunk of Wilton Park fell into the adjacent stream resulting in sediment deposition along Kaiwharawhara Stream down to the estuary. From February 2022 the sewer pipe crossing Kaiwharawhara Stream



Sewage leaking from Kaiwharawhara Stream crossing down from bridge 6, Jonathan Anderson photo, October 2022

about 80 metres down from bridge 6 was leaking from both ends. In 2024 Angus Napier reported more leakage. Another source is overflow from the OWB lower carpark. Fixes are on Wellington Water’s agenda.

WCC’s Daniela Biaggio advised that GWRC, in partnership with WCC, Ngāti Toa, and others, secured fish passage funding from MfE in 2023. GWRC appointed fish passage rangers. The downstream ramp for the tunnel under the oil tank beyond the park is a major barrier. The rangers first did DNA sampling for trout, concerned that better fish access would introduce trout upstream.

The Kaiwharawhara Stream downstream of the Hutt Road bridge is one of the few locations where inanga (the main species of ‘whitebait’) can reproduce, making the site one of the most important ecological locations in Wellington. The project aimed to encourage inanga spawning by restoring the stream bank, planting suitable species, predator control, and clean-up. It was aided by up to \$25,000 from Frances Lee’s generous donation. In 2024 the collaborative parties, organised by Nate Rigler of S to S included DoC, GWRC, WCC, TPG, Taranaki Whānui, Morphum



Amanda Dobson organised a litter clean-up and survey of the Kaiwharawhara estuary, March 2022. GG, April 2022

Environmental, VUW, Mountains to Sea, Predator Free Khandallah, Woods Waste, Exxon Mobil, CVNZ, Te Rito Gardens, The Living Room and McMud Earthworks (see all five 2024 GG issues for more details and updates). In 2025 Nate Rigler (S to S) found about 100 inanga eggs at the base of the vegetation growing alongside the true right bank of the stream at the saltwater wedge, a few metres downstream of the Hutt Road bridge.

Amanda Dobson once more arranged a litter clean-up and survey at the Kaiwharawhara Stream estuary in 2022. A great collaborative effort between S to S, Sustainable Coastlines, VUW, KiwiRail/iReX, Interislander, EnviroSchools and TPG, with whānau and friends of those groups. Nate Rigler (S to S) had 17 cubic metres of rubbish and weeds removed in 2025 from the stream-sides along School Road (downstream from the park) by Hypha Fitness and Woods Waste. About one hundred trees were propagated in 2025 by WCC from seed collected from the plants growing at the estuary mouth removed for iReX ferry development. Ahumai Limited, on behalf of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, were glad to maintain the whakapapa by planting them where they belong, at the Spotlight site downstream of the Hutt Road bridge.

## Problems

With help from WCC Ranger Adam Groenewegen, in 2022 Wellington Water via Fulton Hogan donated 80 plants as reparation for plants destroyed during replacement work on the collapsed streamside sewer below Waikowhai Street in 2021. They included miro, mataī, tōtara, kahikatea, lancewood, kānuka, kōwhai, titoki and nikau. In 2024 the power company, contracted to trim the trees away from the lines above Trelissick Crescent verge, left much slash on top of seedlings. Jonathan Anderson says the drastic pruning of the mature hīnau opened the forest canopy to wind exposure. The saddest loss was a 30-year-old pukatea in the gully head in a corner of the road. Only one low branch survived. It was 6 metres tall – a beautiful tree with a full canopy of foliage extending down to the ground on the road edge.

Nocturnal thieves in 2022 again uprooted some of Marilyn Hester's plantings around the Trelissick Crescent verge. WCC's Anita Benbrook kindly provided some replacements. Marilyn avoided re-planting the area, which was away from the prying eyes of residents, and installed a warning sign. In 2024 garden rubbish was dumped at four or five spots along the Trelissick Crescent verge: ivy, old man's beard, spider plant and agapanthus, some well down steep slopes. Mark Youmans valiantly clambered down to retrieve the weeds.

Worried about kererū deaths, Jonathan Anderson cut the lower branches of tree lucerne to above dog-leaping height in 2023. We also hoped that kākā had the wisdom to nest on remote slopes. (Fledglings spend a few days on the ground before they learn to fly.) In 2024 Angus Napier and WCC Ranger Martin McCrudden installed edge-boarding to protect some tracks and stream banks worn by dogs plunging towards the stream.

## Publicity

Peter Reimann guided an Onslow Residents Community Association group through the park in 2022 to unravel our tribulations and achievements over 30 years. He also gave a talk to the Onslow Garden Club about the history, problems and restoration of the park, enhanced by photos from Frances Lee. Anne Tuffin was interviewed in 2023 by Jenni Guzman for an article in WCC's Tō Tātou Pōneke (Our Wellington) about the 'spot' she was restoring below Hanover Street with Joan Waldvogel. Peter Reimann gave a Te Taiao Webinar talk as part of GWRC/WCC's Restoration Week. Catherine Ayres (S to S) and Peter Reimann promoted the park and restoration work to groups from Crofton Downs neighbour Mitre 10. In 2024 Anne Tuffin organised a display at the Ngaio Community picnic and intrigued the Khandallah Cubs with a weed display. At the OWB Open Day, our TPG display attracted interested people. TPG's display at the Wadestown Fair was also well visited. Another OWB Open Day in 2025 attracted more interest.



Mitre 10 Crofton Downs visit to the park, Catherine Ayres photo, April 2023



New TPG Chair Anne Tuffin at the display at OWB Open Day, Anne Holmstead photo, September 2024

The text from the printed working bee brochures was transferred to the website in 2023. Links to the two OHS booklets ‘The History of Trelissick Park Group 1991–2013’ were added. In 2024 Bill Hester uploaded all meeting minutes from 2006. He updated the ‘Maps and tracks’ page to include sections on tracks, entrances, bridges, memorials and features, including photos. In 2025 we supplemented our *Gorge Gazettes* with six earlier newsletters by John McInnes (1994–1998) and nine by Kate Mackenzie (2006–2007). John McInnes’ 1999 edition eluded us but a paper copy is in the Turnbull Library. Website founder Deidre Burke over the years kindly funded the website domain. Bill Hester with Deidre completed a domain transfer.

Frances Lee’s photo albums from 1991 to 2009 were digitised by Anne Tuffin and

made available online through the website in 2023. WCC took most of the TPG archived collection from OHS's premises and catalogued it for the WCC archives in 2024 – accessible to anyone. Catherine Van Hale embarked on archiving Frances Lee's paper records, also remnants from Peter Reimann.

From 2024 a substation cabinet at the northern end of Trelissick Crescent said, 'Volunteers keep Trelissick Park beautiful'. Thanks to Lorraine Tyler for the artwork. Rev. Brett Reid of Ngaio Union Church in 2025 kindly programmed their digital sign at the corner of Crofton Road and Kenya Street to include TPG's upcoming working bees.



Mural on Trelissick Crescent painted by Lorraine Tyler, December 2024

Ian Duncan represented us at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards ceremony on 31 July 2025 at the Michael Fowler Centre. TPG was awarded runner-up in the Heritage and Environment category.

In 2025 TPG, mana whenua and WCC discussed how to best recognise mana whenua in the name of the group and the park. TPG conducted two small surveys of park users and found there was overwhelming support for such a move. Over the year, TPG developed a close working relationship with mana whenua around our shared interest in the park and the Kaiwharawhara awa. The project group developing new interpretive signage in the park (see GG, September 2025) wanted any new name to be on the new signs. WCC said they are working with Mataaho Aronui on a paper to go to mana whenua outlining a series of naming opportunities, including a Te Reo Māori name for the park. Public consultation, then a paper to council committee for approval would follow.

### **Submissions and advocacy**

Anne Tuffin spoke to the Parliamentary select committee considering the Fast-track Approvals Bill about environmental damage in the park from past 'fast track' projects, and the long-term environmental and economic effects (rail, road, sewer, stormwater, pylons, old landfill leachate). Our request: the final version of the Bill to include environmental protections.

In relation to the WCC District and 10 Year Plans, 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 and aggravated by housing intensification and climate change. We supported stormwater hydraulic neutrality and ‘water sensitive’ design, as 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.

Anne Tuffin and Mike Oates spoke to support our submission on the Coastal Reserves Management Plan for the coastline on the northern side of the harbour (beyond Oriental Bay) to be included.

### *WCC support*

Following the local-body elections of 2025, TPG asked for support from the three local elected WCC Councillors:

- Dog control policy – help with resolving problems with off-leash dogs
- Support our efforts to form a meaningful partnership with mana whenua and to honour our pre-colonial history
- Help to resolve infrastructure problems affecting the park (rail, road, power, sewers, stormwater) when needed
- Prioritise increased funding for city reserves

TPG Chair Anne Tuffin then took Councillors Dianne Calvert and Rebecca Matthews on a tour of the park. For more, see the TPG website ‘Current issues’ page.

# Concluding comments

How lucky we are to have such a readily accessible native bush wilderness for people to enjoy and rejuvenate.

The greatest changes during the 2014–2025 period were:

- The restoration of new areas within the park, such as the ‘podocarp grove’, slopes below Oban Street and downstream of the park to the estuary
- The wonderful increase in native bird life, aided by the ‘halo’ effect from Zealandia and predator control
- The development of the website and Facebook page into a valuable resource and historical record
- Bringing bridge 7 and access from Oban Street to fruition after 39 years of advocacy
- Extreme weather events: a bridge, sewer line, tracks and plants washed away, other bridges undermined, logjams, slips, scours, stream bank erosion, the huge slip above upper Kaiwharawhara Road which closed off the lower end of the park
- Increasing damage to stream banks from off-leash dogs

We carry on with restoration, grateful for generous donors and all the wonderful volunteers, organisations, corporate and school groups who make such an enormous contribution.



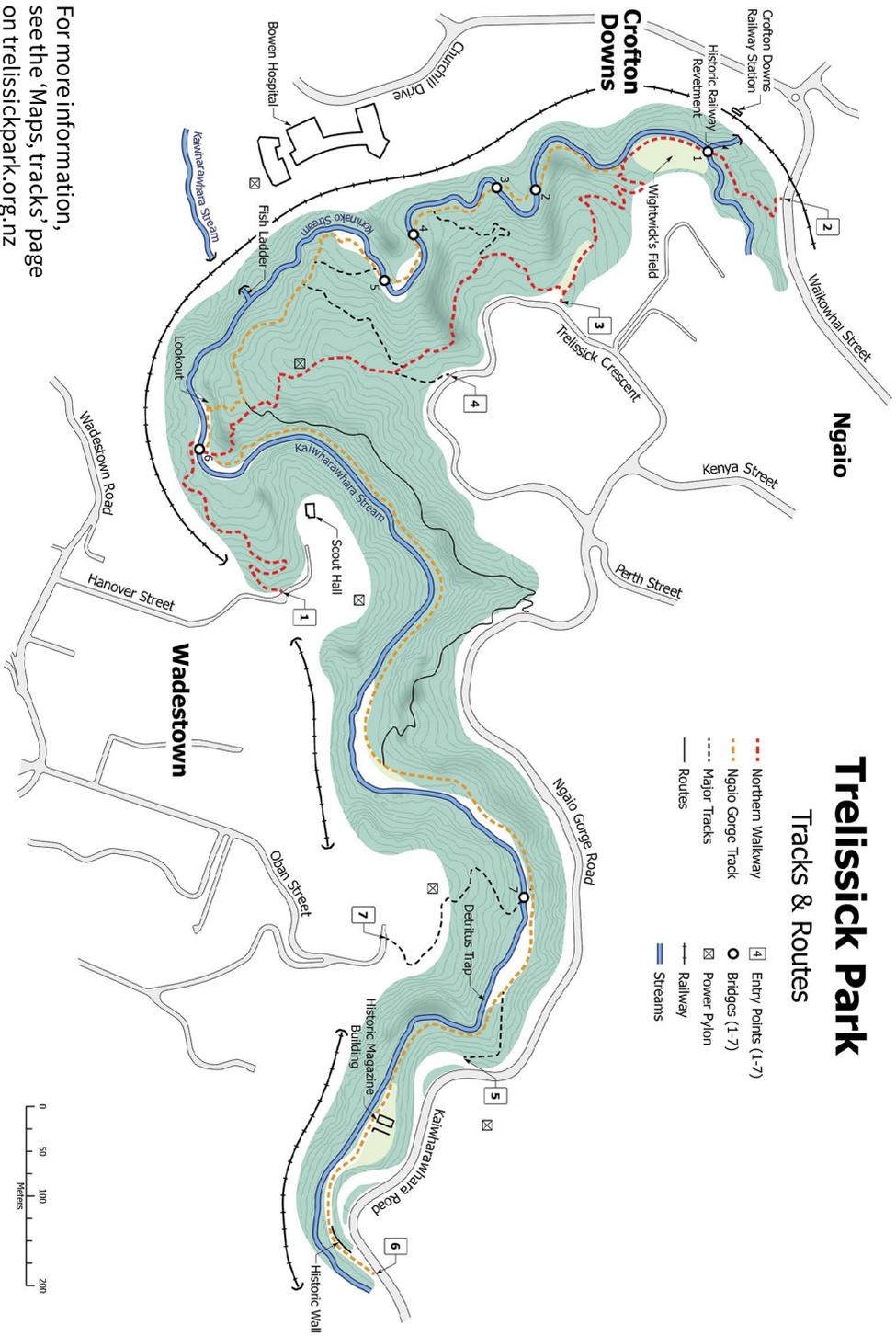
At the southern end of the Korimako Stream gorge, Peter Reimann photo



Ngairo

# Treilissick Park

## Tracks & Routes



1-7 Entry Points (1-7)

○ Bridges (1-7)

⊠ Power Pylon

— Railway

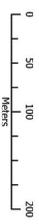
— Streams

--- Northern Walkway

--- Ngairo Gorge Track

--- Major Tracks

— Routes



For more information, see the 'Maps, tracks' page on [treilissickpark.org.nz](http://treilissickpark.org.nz)