

Gorge Gazette

News about Trelissick Park, the Ngaio Gorge and Streams

Abbreviations:

WCC Wellington City Council

TPG Trelissick Park Group

GW Greater Wellington Regional Council

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

It's Better Not to Look

When walking down the vehicle track from the lower Ngaio Gorge Road entrance, the maxim was, 'no sideways glances.' The forest floor resisted repeated tradescantia clearance attempts by working bees, scouts and cubs. No point in getting into a bad mood.

Then, on a hot day last December, a vigorous 'mopping up' operation there by Treasury and Victoria University occurred.

Imagine our surprise when we were awarded a Volunteer Wellington 2020 Corporate Challenge Mahi Aroha Award, in collaboration with Treasury and Victoria University.

More recently, WCC's pest weed contractor Kaitiaki O Ngahere Ltd came for a spraying 'coup de grâce'.

Perhaps now the native understory will flourish, and we can enjoy sideways glances.



The award recipients, with The Hon Poto Williams

Another Problem Area Banished?

Next to the streamside memorial seat below Wadestown is a flat, boggy area of weeds. Four kahikatea trees, planted in the 1990s, approach eight metres. Little else survives the weedy wetness.

51 iconic tree species have just been planted in this area by The Wellington Interfaith Council to commemorate the victims of the mosque shooting. The Sathya Sai Service Organisation organised the planting, in conjunction with TPG.

In a couple of centuries, this will be transformed to a grove of kahikatea, which grow to 40 metres, interspersed with nīkau palms, cabbage tree, lancewood, pukatea, mīro and tītoki. The trees were supplied from the nurseries of Wellington City Council, Conservation Volunteers, Forest and Bird and the mīro from TPG's Anne Tuffin.



Photo: Anne Tuffin

The 39-Year Saga has Ended

The access from Oban Street, Wadestown and the new bridge across Kaiwharawhara Stream are finished!

We must thank Transpower for their generous donation, as well as Frances Lee, the Tararua Tramping Club Michael Taylor Bequest, Ron and Edna Greenwood Environmental Trust and the many members of the community. We are also grateful for the substantial investment in the project by WCC, the eventual owners of the bridge.

The project involved many parties working cooperatively. It was a smooth operation, with few technical difficulties.

The result is easy access to a new and large area of Trelissick Park for animal and plant pest control, restoration planting and rubbish removal. The new bridge and track have expanded walking opportunities in the Park and surroundings. Everyone is enjoying new discoveries.



The Oban Slope Enhancement Begins

As part of the GW consent requirements to protect the true right stream bank at the new bridge, TPG put in 80 plants. Finn Illsley-Kemp, who lives on Oban Street, has also adopted a spot above the bank next to the bridge, and is replacing verdant tradescantia with native plants.

The planting season is nearly over. There were 50 plants more-than-ready for clear patches along the traverse track below the houses. The decree for the working bee was, "all the better if it's raining." On cue, the weather was ghastly. Surely nobody will turn up! But nearly 20 materialised - a TPG working-bee record. Then they scoured the slopes below the houses to add to the gigantic rubbish piles, collected by Warrick Fowlie, Bill Hester and Barry Durrant.



Elsewhere in the Park

Marilyn Hester continues working along the Trelissick Crescent verge, aided by mulch from WCC Ranger Adam Groenewegen and hampered by marauding rabbits. The hi-vis jacket is from the ones kindly donated by Mitre10.

Rats continue to succumb to the bait and traps. In June, the stoat population decreased by one. Tamara Friedmann is a welcome addition to Bill Hester's animal pest team.

SPCA staff revisited the spots they worked on last year and added more plants.

Matariki was celebrated by Ngaio Union Church, with the planting of kahikatea and pukatea near the stream, at Wightwick's Field.

Our Facebook posts reveal more.



Trelissick What's in the Name? *From Judy Siers of OHS*

There are two famous Trelissick properties - Cornwall's Trelissick House and Garden, a National Trust property, and Wellington's Trelissick Park, a Wellington City Council Reserve. There is a historical connection between the two.

Wellington's **Trelissick** dates from the 1840s and Cornwall's Trelissick was first recorded in 1275, and Trelissick House was built c.1750.

Trelissick was the name given to one of the first properties developed in colonial Wellington soon after the first European arrivals in 1840. Land was cleared at what we call 'the top of the Ngaio Gorge' and a house was built for early settler Captain Edward Daniell and his family. They were living there by 1843. Daniell had invested in the purchase of many town acres, through the Wakefield scheme, and was entitled to 100 acre Country Sections for each town acre. He acquired three adjoining Kaiwarra Country Sections numbers 4, 5 and 9 in the Upper Kaiwarra area, Ngaio and the Gorge of today. The 300 acre **Trelissick** estate extended from the stream below Trelissick Crescent, of today, to north and west of Chew Cottage to Awarua Street and down the gorge to almost the Kaiwharawhara Village; the Korimako and the Kaiwharawhara streams flowed through the land.

It is believed that Daniell's Clearing, on which the house and farm buildings were constructed, and where a small farmlet was established, was on part of Section 4, over the land we know as Trelissick Crescent, Perth and Kenya Streets. Although there has been no archeological evidence of the siting of the house, perhaps Sir William Fox, who purchased land from Daniel in the 1850s to build his own house, **Crofton** on sections 21 and 23 Kenya Street, took over the existing buildings and added new constructions to suit his needs.

The Daniells did not stay long. By 1848 they were living in the Hutt Valley, moving a few years later to the Rangitikei, and finally they made a full return to England.

But the name **Trelissick** has lived on. Captain Daniell named his NZ property **Trelissick** after his home in Cornwall. He was born in Trelissick House, near Truro, in 1800, the youngest son of Ralph Allen Daniell who acquired the property in the late 1700s. Originally, it was built for and named by owner Captain Lawrence c. 1750, the family having owned the property since the 1600s. By an unusual connection that fits well into our story, Captain Edward Daniel married Julia Pennick Lawrence, the grand-daughter of Captain Lawrence – so theirs was dual reasoning to name their new property **Trelissick**. Perhaps it assuaged home sickness, certainly it would arouse nostalgia. Both Edward and Julia put their stake in the new ground, and it has survived.

Visitors to the Daniell's property in the 1840s recorded memories. They describe the land that had been minimally cleared but surrounded by the indigenous bush. These were the years prior to the ravage destruction of the native forest that would follow in the mid and late 1840s, after the Kaiwharawhara Sawmill was established on the Korimako Stream. The mill was the main supplier of timber for the city.

Jerningham Wakefield wrote that *"...the Captain's 40 or 50 head of cattle at "Trelissick" appear to thrive on the small amount of grass in some old Maori potato gardens and leaves off the forest trees."*

Reverend William Cotton visited **Trelissick** in 1843: *"The rata here is in full blossom, its dark foliage gloriously contrasting with the tufts of crimson blossom."*

And Mary Ann Petre wrote in her diary 20 March 1843: *"... rode to the Daniell's new place... stayed several hours with Mrs Daniell and rambled with her in the pretty bush of Trelissick."*

And in her diary 9 January 1844 *"... a.m. wet afternoon cleared in time for Mrs Daniell's picnic in the hayfield...While the company strolled about the garden and clearing we three chums started off into the bush – Miss Fitzgerald, Miss Swainson and myself. Taking one of the narrow Maori paths we climbed the mountain and discovered a beautiful valley below. On we went and after wandering sometime in the forest of trees tried to return to "Trelissick" but in vain, we could not find our way among the many native paths. At last at dusk, we sat down for the night,*

occasionally giving the Maori “cooie”. Many hours after we had left them, our cry brought Mr Clifford to our aid...we enjoyed talking of our adventure.”

.....

Captain Daniell of *Trelissick* was described by Reverend Cotton as “... *a magnificent man, just the style of person for a settler.*”

Onslow Historical Society historian, the late Norah Parr, stated in 1978 “*I have given more than a cursory glance to the land dealings of other original Wellington landholders and it is remarkable how variable their dealings were. On the surface they were all respectable men but nearly all compared badly with Captain Daniell in the treatment given to land and tenants. As I worked on his various Wellington properties, I became more and more impressed with his foresight, firstly in his choices and then by his arranging and legalizing roads and ways so that they are still in use today. These are memorials that we use daily and for the most part unwittingly and it is sad that only Daniell Street in Wellington is the one named by surveyors in 1840...*”

Readers, note, that this thought was in mind when OHS suggested to Wellington City Council a few years ago, that we give a new street the name Captain Edward Daniell Drive. Yes, its long winded but the community is now aware of the full name of this settler and is informed that we have created a memorial to the man who created Wellington's ***Trelissick***.

Working Bees

See website 'Projects' page for dates, locations and health and safety information.

Contacts

Peter Reimann (04) 938 9602, nz.peterreimann@gmail.com

WCC (reporting problems): (04) 499 4444

GW pollution hotline: 0800 496 734

Thanks to all our volunteers, supporters and staff from WCC and GW.