



Trelissick Park Group: Minutes, 208th Meeting held at Ōtari Visitors Centre at 9:30am Thursday 3 July 2025

1. Welcome, Introductions

Introductions: Rebecca Jackson as the new volunteer coordinator, David Howden as the new track maintenance organiser.

A pre-meeting summary with reports and appendices was tabled.

2. Apologies: Briony Ellis, Ian Shearer, Tim Harkness, Anita Benbrook, Catherine Van Hale, Adam Groenewegen, Bill Hester, Greg Hyland

Attendees: Peter Reimann, Anne Tuffin (Chair), David Howden (Minutes), Angus Napier, Ian Duncan, Howard Moore (NCDRA), Rebecca Jackson, Dr. Nate Rigler (Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara), Tim Park (Ōtari), Mike Oates

3. WCC Reports

a. Weed control. No update from last meeting

b. Tracks Tim Harkness provided a written report - no update for tracks from the last meeting.

Discussion: Northern Walkway improvements were noted. The planned replacement of bridge #6 will be built using aluminium.

c. Animal Pest Control No update from last meeting

d. Plants Anita Benbrook provided a written report. She advised that we submit plant orders early for next season using the online plant order form. Orders can come in from two or more people with different planting projects. If this is a preferred method, call the order e.g. Trelissick Park podocarp project, or Trelissick Park road edge. She advised asking early if we have any particular requests for plant species. This helps with seed collecting and growing, whether it's for this next season or in a couple of year's time.

Discussion.

The need for advance planning for plant orders as noted in the last meeting was repeated.

Action: Tim P will liaise with Angus.

e. Ranger Adam Groenewegen provided a written report. The new KiwiRail emergency footbridge opposite the Magazine will be completed by 18 July. Two grit traps below Hanover St will be cleared by the end of July.

f. Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara / Sanctuary to Sea Dr Nate Rigler spoke to his detailed written report attached as Appendix A. He advised that he is also approaching private owners of those properties that abut the Kaiwharawhara stream regarding the hopeful spread of toitoi in the stream and how they could assist.

Discussion: Zealandia will be approached to join as a core member.

Action: Nate and Anne to follow up.

g. Ōtari Tim Park gave a presentation on changes happening in Otari, including changes to all track names and signs. The new names had been gifted by manawhenua. These should be installed in early August.

4. TPG Core Members - updates

- a. Highland Park Progressive Assn/Wadestown Residents Assn Greg Hyland provided a written report. HPPA and WRA have been in transition for some time and the plan is to wind down HPPA / WRA and to have a new Wadestown Community group in some form to take their places. They will endeavour to attend Trelissick Park meetings when able and look forward to a continued connection with TPG in future.

5. TPG Reports

- a. Chair Anne Tuffin provided a written report.

Committee: Volunteers have been recruited for the following roles: Volunteer Coordinator (Rebecca Jackson), Track Maintenance Coordinator (David Howden) and Minute Secretary (Karen Martyn). Karen M will start at the November meeting. Peter R and Catherine V H have taken on the job of writing Part 3 of our History. Thanks to Peter for doing Parts 1 & 2. Catherine is also working to archive Peter's and Frances Lee's documents. The Adopt-a-Spot Coordinator, Kelvin Hastie, is busy running as a mayoral candidate.

Relationship with Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust: As a close neighbour with a similar vision, the Ō-WBT has agreed to work closely with the TPG. The Trust will be added to our Core Member list.

GWRC: Our contact person is now Phill Barker. He is also on the Zealandia KMK Strategy Group.

Sewer leak downstream of Bridge 6: We sent an OIA request to Wellington Water asking how many reports of the leak had been received and when; what they have done to fix the leak; and what their long-term plan is. Since then, a team from WW has audited the sewer line from Wadestown to the stream. We wait to see whether further work will be done to completely fix the problem.

The Frances Lee land: A fence is yet to be constructed to demarcate the park from 128 Trelissick Cres. There is still jasmine to be cleared near the boundary.

Waikowhai St entrance & Wightwicks Field: WCC has cut back the bush along the side of the footpath. Murray Pascoe (NCDRA) has kindly cleaned the old wooden TP sign near the Waikowhai entrance. He will get it properly restored during the summer months. WCC will be installing new seats near the Waikowhai entrance and in Wightwicks Field.

2024/25 Volunteer Hours - 2,228 (Compared with 2283 for 2023/24). Report to WCC, see Appendix G. **Action:** We all need to keep track of our hours for the 2025/26 return.

- b. Finance Ian Shearer (Treasurer) and Ian Turk (NCDRA) provided statements:

On call Savings account:

Opening balance – 5/3/2025 \$66,146.72

Interest received to 27/6/2025 \$170.59

Closing balance – 27/6/2025 \$66,317.31

Transaction account balance - 26/06/25 \$680.64

- c. Animal Pest Control No update from last meeting.

Discussion: Better, long traps for rats are now available and Jim will advise Briony.

- d. Planting & Weed control Angus Napier provided a written report:

Planting:

- podocarp grove planted on and around 14 May 2025

- 100 plants from entrance 6 both sides of the vehicle track to the pipe crossing
- 15 plants at the bottom the concrete roadway by the debris trap
- 340 delivered plants from WCC to be planted
- 288 plants to be delivered on 11 July

f. Regen working Bees Angus provided a written report:

Working bees since our last Committee meeting:

- 8 by TPG volunteers - 133 hours
- 3 with corporate and community groups - 115 hours
- 3 with corporate groups postponed due to bad weather; new dates TBD
- several Old Man's Beard patches to be removed
- patches of African Club Moss found and removed track side; upstream of bridge 1, downstream corner of Wightwick's Field, 51 trees site, Sanctuary to Sea walkway near the sewer tunnel gate; a little downstream of the debris trap; upstream of the powder buildings where the track goes into the bush.

Discussion: Also need to keep track of when and where plants were placed. Mulch needed to be placed around new plants. Treescape work hasn't started yet.

Action: Anne will follow up with Illona. Ian D noted that areas that had been weeded needed monitoring, as otherwise regress quickly.

g. Track maintenance David Howden provided a written report. As the new Group coordinator for track maintenance David has been getting up to speed with what the role entails. He emailed all members who had indicated an interest in being involved in track maintenance and had received replies confirming preferred days and times. He has met with the WCC rangers who have offered to provide Council support for this work, such as equipment, training, materials etc. He has met with Mitre10, Crofton Downs' management, who have now generously donated the Group with a new wheelbarrow for our work. Bill Hester has kindly offered to store the wheelbarrow in the meantime. The first working bee will be cleaning up the side stream area along from Entrance 6, as well as the related portion of the track. David will advise the date within the next few days. If there are any other areas that need work David asked that we let him know and these can be added to his list.

Discussion There had been a minimal response to the request for volunteers.

Action: David will follow this up.

h. Website Catherine Van Hale provided a written report. She is updating pages as needed and on request. She welcomes suggestions and requests. As she updates pages, she is upgrading the links in them to the latest version of the software used (Bootstrap).

i. Facebook No update from last meeting

j. Adopt-a-Spot No update from last meeting

k. Gorge Gazette newsletter Peter Reimann reported that the July 2025 edition, soon to be launched, is full of interesting and relevant material including feral cats have not been recorded in any numbers.

l. Memorial Trees & Commemorative seats Peter R reported that a podocarp will be planted at the Memorial Grove in memory of Stan Pillar on 12 July.

Action: Peter will follow up with Anita re. picking up the tree..

- m. Interpretive Signage Project Mike Oates provided a written report. The project team is making slow but steady progress. A short survey is being sent out to TPG committee members in the next week or so to get their feedback on park usage and what improvements they think can be made to signage and information in the park. We are also arranging a meeting with Taranaki Whanui so we can ensure the project is a true partnership between mana whenua, Council and the TPG.
- n. Volunteers No update from last meeting
- o. TPG history, Part 3 Peter Reimann reported that he and Catherine Van Hale are starting on research for Part 3 of our history.

6. Other

- a. GPS maps of park
Action: Howard Moore will ask his daughter whether she can do this work for the TPG.
- b. Use of drones in the park.
There were a number of potential problems raised that would require further investigation. So no approval for drones in the meantime.
- b. Social gathering for committee
Action: Anne to organise a social function to be held in August.
- c. New gates
A new gate has been installed for the tunnel entrance near bridge #6.
- d. Native bats
Issue of native bats in sewer tunnels was raised. GWC carries out an annual survey.
Action: Anne to contact GWC.

Appendices follow...

Appendices

A. Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara report, Dr.Nate Rigler

Toitōi

Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne and Rōpū Tiaki have completed the third and final whakakāinga anō/translocation of toitōi/common bully in the upper Roto Māhanga reservoir within the ecosanctuary. Since then, the fish have steadily spread downstream into Birdwood Reserve. Toitōi have been sighted at the mouth of the culvert into Appleton Park. We are unsure whether they are able to spread beyond this location. Nate and Kari from the Zealandia conservation team will plan a community engagement plan to work with residents on the other side of Appleton Park to hopefully gain access to monitor this section of stream. If toitōi can spread through this tunnel, then they will likely spread throughout the Kaiwharawhara water catchment, bringing with them kākahi/freshwater mussels which filter water and enhance overall stream quality.

Plastic Free Urupā

Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika and Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne with support from Wellington City Council, Friends of Karori Cemetery, Capital Kiwi Project, and Va'aomanū Pasifika at Victoria University of Wellington have promoted the idea of reducing the use of plastic flowers on graves. These plastic flowers harm the environment by spreading into waterways and disintegrating into the soil. We are committed to working with the community to encourage environmentally friendly options to leave behind when visiting loved ones. This Matariki mā Puanga, Zealandia has decided to focus on our celebrations around Pōhutukawa, one of the nine stars in the Matariki constellation and the guardian of the recently deceased. For this reason, we are using this time to honour the legacies of those who have contributed to conservation efforts in the Kaiwharawhara. This will be explored in a talk called "What We Leave Behind" as part of Zealandia's Conservation Kōrero series on 25 June.

Pasifika Engagement

Nate is working with Wellington City Council and Va'aomanū Pasifika at Victoria University of Wellington to increase Pasifika participation in local environmental initiatives. Zealandia will host Pacific Studies students for a field trip into the ecosanctuary to examine the ways that Hawaiki/ancestral Pacific homelands remain a fundamental part of te taiao/the environment in Aotearoa.

Te Ohu Kaiwharawhara

Zealandia continues to work with businesses based in the Kaiwharawhara catchment to promote awareness and action to enhance the mouri/lifeforce of the Kaiwharawhara catchment. Recently, Hypha Fitness hosted a stream restoration working bee and CrossFit competition fundraiser for Zealandia's fence campaign. With support from students from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Woods Waste, Wellington City Council, and Forest & Bird, we removed several invasive wattle trees and blackberry and planted 60 natives along the Kaiwharawhara stream.

KMK Community Working Group

As part of the new structure of Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara, three working groups have been formed to report to the strategy group including a technical working group, a storytelling and comms working group, and a community working group. The community working group will have its first meeting on 19 June to plan our priorities to engage community in our Kaiwharawhara restoration efforts. The community working group is made up of



representatives from Taranaki Whānui, Zealandia, Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, Trelissick Park, CentrePort, Wellington City Council, and Enviroschools.

Fence Replacement

Zealandia is working with a team of engineers from GHD to plan for our fence replacement. This will be a multi-million-dollar project and is expected to take several years to complete. The current fence is now at the end of its planned use life and in need of significant improvements. We appreciate any support to share this message in the wider community.

Website

Zealandia is working with Springload Te Pipītanga to redevelop a new website. Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara will be a focus on this new work.

B. Correspondence with External Parties

From	Topic
Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara	Hui minutes; invitations
Wellington City Council	Resource consents (regular); Ian Galloway Park Plan Workshop; Darwin's Barberry - call for submission; Local Water Done Well - call for submission.
Volunteer Wellington	Regular professional development info; Mahi Aroha Awards
Te Hononga Catchments Collective	Regular updates
Wellington Water Ltd	Sewer leak
TransPower	Community Grant update
Greater Wellington Regional Council	Regular resource consent notifications; Contact person (Phill Barker); Bait Station Research (Bruce Brewer)
MyHost	Website domain renewal
KiwiRail	Regular updates
Frances Lee, and William Woods (CentrePort)	Kaiwharawhara estuary
Park user	Eels disturbed by dogs
Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust	AGM
Mountains to Sea	Spotlighting event in Kaiwharawhara
Sustainable Business Network	Offer of corporate volunteer group
Ngaio-Crofton Downs Residents Assn	Support for award nomination for Frances Lee
Devin Reed	Vic U.Masters research - Forest Restoration
Kirsty Ferguson, Crofton Downs School	Relationship with TPG

C. Newsletters received

- Ōtari-Wilton’s Bush Trust (Jun25)
- Let’s Talk Newsletter, WCC (Mar25, Apr25, May25)
- Predator Free Wellington, (Apr25, May25)
- Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves (Apr25, Jun25)
- Te Hononga Catchments Collective newsletter (May25)

D. Submissions & Advocacy

Type	Key points	Date	Oral
Submission: Local Water Done Well	TP faces system failures from historic under-investment. We need certainty and clarification of resourcing, rules, planning, resource consenting, compliance, monitoring and enforcement of sewerage reticulation and of stormwater quantity and quality. Submission is on our Website)	April 25	No
OIA request	Wellington Water Ltd. Sewer leak downstream of Bridge #6	March 25	

E. Community – None

F. Grants Received

Donation of wheelbarrow from Mitre10 Crofton Downs.

G. Volunteer Hours 2024-2025 - Report to WCC

	<i>Hrs</i>
Committee/planning meetings	120
Admin	767
Training	10
Trapping Admin	60
Trapping Maintenance	40
Restoration	840
Trails	92
Other	<u>299</u>
Total:	<u>2,228 hrs</u>