



## **Trelissick Park Group MINUTES for the 209th Meeting Held at Ōtari Visitor Centre 9:30am Thursday 6 November 2025**

**Apologies:** Ian Shearer, Mike Oates, Anne Holmstead, Catherine Van Hale

**Present:** Jonathan Anderson (TPG), Ian Duncan (TPG), Angus Napier (TPG), Peter Reimann (TPG), Dr. Nate Rigler & Laura Konijnenbeit (Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara | Sanctuary to Sea), Gary Sue (He Kaha Tuatinitini Taiai Ltd), Anne Tuffin (TPG Chair), Tim Park (Ōtari – for part of meeting)

**Attending:** Karen Martyn (TPG Minute Secretary)

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:32am with Introductions and a Warm Welcome to All

### **PART 1. Council updates**

#### **1. WCC Reports** (none submitted; the Chair asked for open discussion)

##### Weed control

- Gary Sue said they were looking into a plan but had yet to define their focus.
- Old Man's Beard is dealt with by TPG unless it is in a position inaccessible, difficult/dangerous then it is Council's responsibility.
- Some 'weeds' contribute to longer term structure development and soil development
- Karaka is currently treated as a weed (WCC). However forests are dynamic and we are living in a modified environment.

#### **2. GWRC** – nothing to report

#### **3. Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara / Sanctuary to Sea items - Dr. Nate Rigler**

- Still waiting on Wellington Water comms to confirm plans about fixing the sewage leak in your area.
- Our Te Ohu Kaiwharawhara business network is now open to businesses outside of the catchment. Our restoration focus and efforts still remain within Te Kaiwharawhara, however businesses outside the catchment are welcome to join our efforts here.
- Zealandia management are making steps towards establishing a technical and storytelling working group. The community working group, which TPG has representation on, is going well. We have a whaitua-focused wānanga for educators in the works for early next year. The planned hui for how to best distribute volunteer/corporate support around the catchment was planned for 23 October. However, we postponed it following official advice for the code red wind warning.
- Confirming funds allocated for plans to fix the sewage leak in area; however, all attempts to identify plan and/or manager responsible have been unsuccessful
- EVERYONE WELCOME to Community Hui 19 November 2025, 4-6pm, Pateke Room at Zealandia, Te Māra a Tāne.

#### **4. Ōtari - Tim Park**

- Possibility of extending animal pest control to Churchill Reserve (downstream from Ōtari).

- 13 October 2026 is Ōtari Centenary with several events planned.

## **PART 2. TPG Activity**

### **1. Chair's Report - Anne Tuffin (see Appendix A.)**

- Tabled.

### **2. Finance Report – Anne Tuffin**

TPG Westpac Acc \$897.64

NCDRA Acc \$69,462.23

TOTAL \$70,359.87

### **3. 2026 Planting Plan**

- The 2026 plant order will be a team effort comprising Angus, Tim Park (Ōtari), Anita Benbrook (WCC) and possibly Botanical Society. TPG has received a helpful web link from Tim Park to a planting planning tool (thank you).

*Actions:* • **Anne** will set up a walk through the park with Tim P, Anita B and Angus

- **Angus** will write a plan and submit an order after the walk-through.

### **4. Working bees – Angus**

- 1,300 plants planted across the park in 2025.
- 6 TPG working bees totalling 98 hours
- 3 corporate and community group working bees totalling 115 hours
- 1 new Adopt-A-Spot: the top of Barry's Track.
- The number of TPG Volunteers participating regularly has declined. However corporate and community groups are good alternatives.
- Nate R offered to host community volunteers to create more capacity and flexibility

### **5. Website**

- Francis Lee's photographs have been removed from website but will be re-loaded once a more widely accessible format is decided

### **6. Trelissick Park Map**

*Action:* Anne Tuffin will follow-up with WCC about an updated map

### **7. TransPower**

Jonathan noted that Transpower has recently cut trees below its lines. This presents an opportunity to discuss with them and Council a more sustainable and environmentally beneficial planting treatment under powerlines.

### **8. Gorge Gazette - Peter Reimann**

- Peter is harvesting items from Facebook and trelissickgroup@gmail.com. Ideas so far: Crofton Downs Primary School scientific visit to the streams, name change for the park, ŌWB Open Day, support from elected WCC Councillors, African club moss findings from Johanna Ring Larsen's VUW study report, fence below 128 Trelissick Crescent, seismic strengthening of upper Ngaio Gorge Road, ANZ visit on 20 September, update on the TPG History Part Three project for OHS.

**Any contributions welcome**, before the probable launch date of Friday 5 December.

- Angus will forward to Peter an article about two new Spottees (Oban Track). They have also offered to contribute regular articles on rongoa/native plant medicinal properties.

### **9. TP History Part Three project - Peter Reimann**

- Catherine van Hale is working with Peter - Early drafts from late 2013 - late 2025 completed. Now discussing with OHS Editor John Martin: number of parts, abridging, appendices, formatting, photo requirements. The aim is for TPG to finalise by the end of this year.

### **10. TPG Name Discussion**

- If and when the Park's name is changed, should our group's name also change? We will continue to discuss this idea until we reach a decision that we are all happy with.

### **11. Dog damage**

- TPG would prefer all dogs on leash at all times to prevent further damage to stream banks and tracks. We are documenting/photographing the damage. Cr. Diane Calvert would support a partial on-leash policy allowing dogs off leash at designated areas in the park. Gary suggested stream bank erosion protection that would protect fish as well. Nate suggested fences to protect plantings; more ideas and discussion needed.

### **12. FIXIT**

- All complaints about hazards in TP call WCC 04 499 4444 or fill-in the form online.

*Meeting closed at 11:25am*

**ATTENTION! All Volunteers! End of Year Get Together  
Saturday 13 December (Rain date: Sunday 14 December) 4:30pm  
11 Everest St, Khandallah.**

*Anne Tuffin sending invitations to all 😊*

**Next meeting:** 9.30am Thursday 12 March 2026– Ōtari Visitor Centre

*Our core community members are Highland Park Progressive Association Inc., Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association Inc., Onslow Historical Society Inc., Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Inc. (Wellington Branch), Wellington Botanical Society Inc., Wadestown Residents' Association.  
We support Kia Mouriara te Kaiwharawhara | Sanctuary to Sea.*

## Appendices

### A. Chair's report

#### TPG activity

- A real highlight since our last meeting is the huge combined volunteer effort getting **1300 plants** into the ground this planting season. Almost a record!
- A big thank you to those TPG volunteers who helped out on our table at the **Otari open day** on 13 Sept. It was a great opportunity to get feedback from park users and to sign up some new volunteers. Thank you also to TPG volunteers who came to the park supporting the first **Crofton Downs Primary School field trip** on 20 Oct. The school is going to be coming regularly to the Korimako Stream for science and social studies learning. And I am grateful to Eva Durant for offering to supply **baking** for our working bees. Finally, Kelvin Hastie has handed over the **Adopt-a-Spot** Coordinator role to Angus Napier – thank you both!

#### Council

- Council contractors will be working on Ngaio Gorge Rd opposite no.35 installing a **retaining wall** between the footpath and Trelissick Park. We are working closely with Council to ensure there is no damage to the environment during the work. I'm really pleased to know that Council will be erecting a **fence** between Trelissick Cresc and the land that was donated by Frances Lee. Consent has been given for new dwellings to be developed at 128 Trelissick Cresc. I monitor **consents** on a weekly basis and follow up with Council if a consent appears to impact the park.
- I have contacted the three **Onslow Ward councillors** re-elected at the recent local body election to raise key issues we face in the park. I look forward to their support as the new Council settles into its term. Mike Oates and I gave an oral submission on the WCC **Coastal Reserves management plan** on 13 August. We asked the Council to include the Kaiwharawhara estuary within the plan. An internal Council process is underway proposing a **Te Reo name** for Trelissick Park.
- We are working with Council to gain access to the slope across the Kaiwharawhara Stream opposite the magazine ruins. This follows the recent replacement of the **KiwiRail emergency footbridge** giving us the opportunity to negotiate access to the slope for weeding and regeneration planting. It's good news to hear that the Otari lower carpark **sewer leak**, which affects the Kaiwharawhara stream, is to be fixed! I also understand that the old leaking sewer pipe that crosses the Kaiwharawhara just downstream of the Hanover Bridge is to be replaced by Wellington Water.

#### Other

- An unknown person or organisation nominated the TPG for a **2025 Wellington Airport Award**. We were named runners up in the Heritage and Environment category. It was an honour to attend the planting of a totara tree in memory of Stan Pillar on 12 July. The **Memorial Grove** is a very special spot in the park to visit. Thank you to Wilf & Lyndal from Bupa who have been our **eyes on Trelissick** sending photos of cherries in bloom, and to **Mitre10 Crofton Downs** for donating a new wheelbarrow for our work in the park. Livleen Kaur, a Vic.U. student has sent us a copy of their project, giving ideas for **environmental landscaping** in the park. On behalf of the TPG I have signed a service agreement with **Ahumai Holdings Limited** (Mana Whenua) to provide advice and input into the development of our new interpretative signage.

- Finally, it has been a pleasure to refresh our relationship with our ‘**Founding Father**’ **organisations** – Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents Assn, Highland Park Progressive Assn, Wadestown Residents Assn, Onslow Historical Society, Forest and Bird Wellington Branch and the Wellington Botanical Society. They are all committed to supporting our work into the future. We wouldn’t be the TPG without their foresight to protect and regenerate the Ngaio Gorge!

Anne Tuffin

## B. Correspondence with External Parties

Topic	From
Access to hillside via KiwiRail bridge	Adam Groenewegen
Numerous, various	Volunteer Wellington
WCC Resource consents notifications (regular)	WCC
GWRC Resource consent notification (regular)	GWRC
Plastic-free cemeteries	Nate Rigler
Rabbits	Debbie Hawker
Donation; website renewal	Deirdre Burke
TP user survey	Members
Kaiwharawhara catchment (various)	Nate Rigler
Alsco working bee	Sustainable Business Network
Deposit of Gorge Gazettes in National Library	National Library
Relationship with TPG	F& B Wellington; Wellington Bot Soc; HPPA; NCDRA; WRA; Ōtari Trust; Zealandia
Sponsorship; trailer for mulch	Mitre10 Crofton Downs
Services Agreement, Ahumai Holdings Ltd	Lee Rauhina-August; NCDRA
Ōtari Open Day	Amalia McLaren-Brown
Change in digital banking	Westpac
Streambank damage	Adam Groenewegen; Tom Mayo
Sewer leak near Bridge6	Nate Rigler
New seats	Rachel McLellan (WCC)
Tree work	Illona Keenan (WCC)
Signage Project	Tim Harkness (WCC); TransPower Community Fund
Crofton Downs Primary School in TP	Kirsty Ferguson; Richard Dobson
Fixit call-ins to WCC	Numerous
128 Trelissick Cres development; fence	Frances Lee; Mary Munro; WCC
Student research project - landscape architecture	Livleen Kaur
Councillor support for TP	Ray Chung; Diane Calvert; Rebecca Matthews
Te Reo name for TP	Sherilyn Hinton (WCC)
Seismic strengthening, Ngaio Gorge Rd opp 35	Siva Arumugam
End of year Audit, NCDRA	Murray Pascoe
Change in digital banking	Westpac

## C. Newsletters received

- Your community Connector, Volunteer Wellington (Monthly)
- Ōtari Trust (Sept25)
- Let’s Talk Newsletter, WCC (Weekly)
- Predator Free Wellington, (Monthly)
- Tawatawa SEA (July25; Oct25)

#### **D. Submissions & Advocacy**

<b>Submission</b>	<b>Key points</b>	<b>Sent</b>	<b>Oral</b>
WCC Coastal Reserves Management Plan	Add Kaiwharawhara estuary to the plan	July 25	13 Aug 25 (Anne; Mike)

#### **E. Community**

- Otari Open Day 13 Sept.
- Crofton Downs Primary School field trip to TP, 20 Oct 25

#### **F. Grants Received**

- \$250, Wellington Airport Award, Aug 25