

# PRESTON PARK

Manager's Newsletter | Autumn 2025



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CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION  
TRUST



**Dear Parents, Staff and Students,**

## **Welcome to Term 2 2025**

With the many changes and busyness of the beginning of 2025 I am not sure everyone received my PP 2025 Summer Newsletter? (if you did forgive if the news is therefore repeated)

So – A very special welcome to all '2025 BC newbies' and our 'T2 first timers' whether staff, parents or students. The **Campus mission** is to provide opportunities for the wise (you) to **'seek wisdom'** Jesus Christ is our wisdom – He is the living Word – He is 'with you' and He is 'for you' and LOVES you!

Preston Park is a part of the 'Campus' to expose our families to some of God's intricate creations in all their variety, beauty and colour and to provide a sanctuary, a refuge, a place of peace for reflection and quietness.



We welcome all new students specifically and pray that you will settle quickly into the campus. I encourage you to give your 100% commitment and 'run your race' with integrity, skill, and kindness giving your best to the glory of your heavenly Father! Build life-long friendships and run together encouraging each other **'to live for others success!'**

You, like each living thing in the park ***'were created with divine purpose in service of Jesus and 'of others success! YOU are each a special gift of life and hope!'*** (based on Ephesians 2:10)

The Park is vulnerable. Wind causes trees to fall and in 2025 alone we have lost many large trees. We have used **Bay Tree Arborists** to clear these trees which end up a mulch for the Park. Caleb and his team also do the pruning of larger specimens. Out-of-the-Blue a storm hit the park and the Black Wattle Sector to the West with large trees over 70 years were smashed to the ground. We cleared all the Wattles - 15 – what a challenge and a heavy cost. Beautiful firewood though – 40% of the logs were stacked in the carpark. Help yourself BUT be careful! The rest were taken away.

The heavy rains wreak havoc too, with our steep rock faces and sandy based soils erosion is a major problem.

Pest control is another issue. **Is there a parent will to assist me with this matter??** We had an energetic parent who served the park for 5 years and ran the bait-lines removing rats, stouts, possums etc.

The summer pruning has been ongoing. But the continual growth in PP is amazing and therefore demanding. I enjoy do the pruning of the new trees. This is continual no matter the season!





So, keeping things under control is a 'battle' - but that is exactly what our life journey is - pursuing your goals and dealing with challenges as they come, looking to the Lord for 'help and wisdom'!

The **main project** this year was to cut a new track. From 'central' where the tracks converge and the wifi and the power is! The long track heads west, slightly up hill toward the rugby club rooms. Rob Vasper and team have done a great job! We are letting the track settle and be abused by the weather for 6 months. The gravel in the rugby carpark will soon be spread to consolidate the path.

**Talking about tracks.** I have decided to name them using the BC 'Houses' each with a distinctive colour

1. **Carmichael:** yellow - Outer Perimeter - Track 1
2. **Brown:** brown - Ridge near Entrance No 2 - Track 2
3. **Torore:** purple - Inner to the south - Track 3
4. **Aylward:** red - Lake Perimeter - Track 4
5. **Scott:** orange - new track Central westward - Track 5
6. **Hudson-Taylor:** blue - Inner stairs - Track 6

#### The major PP Projects 2025

1. Create further tracks  
Redesign and update the PP Map 2025
2. Create a water feature - A waterwheel  
To articulate the water in Preston Lake
3. Remove the Black Wattle Forest  
Replant with Maples and Non-Native
4. R & D  
Maintaining and keeping trees alive and healthy
5. New trees/shrubs/wetland plants  
Trees for Survival Programme

#### General Information:

Each newsletter I try to impart some useful information.

- The NZ Weta can be found in Preston Park
- There's more than 100 species in NZ
- Types: the giant, the cave, the tree, and the ground wetas
- Wetas live up to 24 months and half of that time is developing from an egg
- They grow an exoskeleton as juveniles - the outer 'skin' falls off as it grows bigger
- They live in small groups and make their homes in dark places particularly in the hollows of trees
- They communicate by scraping their hind legs against the side of their body and make chirping noises
- Weta's are omnivores, which means they eat most things like vegetables, fruit, meat particularly other insects
- Females Wetas are much smaller than the male
- They have long egg laying spikes at the back of their body
- Male Wetas have very powerful jaws & a large head and are twice the size of a female
- Wetas can look terrifying when they become aggressive and 'wave' their antennae about
- Cave Weta's are the most common and are distinguished by the extra-long antenna which they use to hear, and their long slender legs which are used for jumping.
- Weta's enemies are: Hedgehogs, Stoats, Rats, cats and humans!

*'The Park exists to glorify God, by providing a place of natural beauty and meaningful education for everyone'.*