



Wanganui Branch Newsletter

PO Box 4229, Wanganui

Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

November 2013 Issue

Conservation Week

Conservation Week at Gordon Park Scenic Reserve was a great success.

With the weather on our side we had a wonderful day in the sunshine.....digging, planting, walking, talking and enjoying the BBQ lunch.

With over 20 people turning up throughout the morning the Coprosma robusta and carex secta were in the ground in no time. These plants had been carefully grown from seed by the Friends of Gordon Park volunteers and were planted around the car park area.

With time to spare Colin Ogle took the group for a walk around the reserve sharing his vast array of knowledge, while Tim Paki from DOC showed the group one of the recently reset possum traps.

The Friends of Gordon Park have regular weeding days every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 9am - 12 noon and every 4th Thursday of the month from 1 - 4pm. For more information or to join the friends of Gordon Park please contact Adele Meyer at DOC on 06)3492148 or email ameyer@doc.govt.nz



Hello Everyone...

The most momentous occasion this year is the successful introduction of hibi/stitchbird to Bushy Park Sanctuary. Those birds who have avoided the native falcon and other natural predators have thrived, fattened and nested.

In conjunction with other environmental groups, we are conducting trips: day and overnight.

Overnights to date: Lake Ferry with a trip in the mist to Cape Palliser Lighthouse.

Daytrips include Rotokare Sanctuary (Eltham) and Kapiti Island.

Look out for the Summer Programme published and distributed in December.

We support activities at Bushy Park and Westmere Lake mainly weeding.

Please email if you are interested in being an active member. j.and.e.williams@xtra.co.nz

Esther Williams

KARAPA

Great article re weeds in todays paper.

At John Coull Hut last week I continuously smelt the fragrant perfume of alsuosmia macrophylla.

I have been aware of the bushes, but never seen them in flower. I have brought a few cuttings home to strike. They may be of use in the goat-free environment of Bushy Park.

The bird life round the Hut was prolific, and I saw the long tail bat/s nightly.

- ESTHER WILLIAMS



Wanganui Branch Newsletter

PO Box 4229

Wanganui



SUSTAINABLE WHANGANUI

In August the Sustainable Whanganui Trust (SWT) relocated its Environment Centre, the WhEB, to 83 Maria Place (next to the Fire Station) and became actively involved with the new Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre.

The WhEB is open 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Saturday, helping provide information and advice on local environmental matters. It can also be reached by phoning 345-6000, or visiting sustainablewhanganui.org.nz.

The new Re-Use Academy accepts clean items for reuse and “up cycling,” more energy efficient than recycling at diverting items from landfill.

SWT accepts such things as CD/DVD’s, books, magazines, ice cream containers, paper, art and craft materials, bees wax, broken coloured china, wool, string, plant pots, wheels, lids, coffee grounds and card board tubes.

These are available to the public, including artists, early childhood centres, schools, gardeners and art/craft groups for a Koha. If you have specific requests go and tell them about it ! Tiger worms and worm farms can also be purchased.

The new Education Room at the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre has already hosted a teachers meeting, a Permacultural Hui and two school holiday events.

The latter saw over 40 children busy making blo-carts (made from discarded materials) under the guidance of organisers Hadi Gurton and Nelson Lebo.

In November the Green Bikes workshop will relocate to the site too, and develop as a self service Community facility. More details later.



WESTMERE LAKE RESERVE

It’s good to be back at Westmere after a brief sojourn at Whanganui and Wellington Hospitals. I seem to be back to full fitness and we have had a team out at the lake for the last 4 weeks. Growth is luxuriant at the moment in spite of the cold wind especially Coprosma robusta and Mahoe and we have planted some more trees provided by Jeff Potts.

Weeds are thriving as well, and we have been trying to clear Cyperus, inkweed, cress and periwinkle. The latter is very stubborn and despite spraying and grubbing it keeps pushing through our emerging natives. Maybe there is another solution such as a weed wand. We have been thinning and shifting some of the existing and smaller natives such as Hoheria, Ngaio, Puriri and robusta and replanting and tidying near the carpark.

I have been attacking some areas of Karaka recently using a drill and Escort; spray for carpeted areas and loppers with Vigilant paste. Mostly I have been focussing on areas where new natives are spreading.

Trapping has been busy over the last 3 months with catches amounting to 18 rats, 21 hedgehogs, 1 stoat and 2 cats. I am thinking we should deploy a Council trap in a few weeks time in case there are more cats about.

- This is a brief outline of events at Westmere Lake Reserve over the last 3 months back to 10 July.

I notice grey willow is coming back in the lake on the eastern and southern sides. Hopefully we can get someone to treat it while it is actively growing- assuming this is the best time. I have found and removed some new seedlings in the small swamp adjacent at 8 o’clock. (6 o’clock is the carpark). There are small breakouts of Tradescantia at 4-6 o’clock and periwinkle continues at 8-10 o’clock mainly. We have carried out some more spraying in bulk on farmer Donald’s property and on the reserve.

There is certainly a profusion of growth in all areas with new mahoe, kawakawa and robusta seedlings everywhere. Hopefully there is plenty of protection for them over spring and summer.

Our trappers have caught 12 rats over the last 3 months, 9 hedgehogs but no stoats, (similar to our numbers last year). I have seen increasing sign of rabbits around the reserve especially at 5-6 o’clock and have been observed on the farmer’s property. I have not seen any dogs on the the reserve over this period.

They have been observed on the farmer’s property at 9 o’clock and 2 o’clock. I note that I have not seen any dogs

on the reserve over this period.

We had an enjoyable Wednesday morning of Conservation week with a few new volunteers and morning tea on the track. Our new workers are Harry Kwok and Neil Trethewey. So it’s farewell from Harry, Neil, Joan, Murray Voss, Mike, Alan Henderson, Iain, David Burnham and Clive (trappers), and Robert Donald (farmer).

- MIKE SIGLEY

 *
 *
 * *...TRIBUTE...* *
 *
 * *The Whanganui Forest and Bird Committee* *
 * *sends a tribute to Bev who quietly and* *
 * *decisively got on with environmental matters.* *
 * *Her house garden and other gardens show her* *
 * *flair for artistry and beautifying the earth.* *
 * *She was passionate about animals, plants and* *
 * *people. This she demonstrated by her interest in* *
 * *Bushy Park and Gordon Park. These places* *
 * *endure because of people like Bev.* *
 *
 * Esther Williams *
 *

Branch Contacts

Chairperson	
Esther Williams	347 8456
j.and.e.williams@xtra.co.nz	
Secretary	
Ray Hutchinson.....	345 2651
PO Box 4229, Wanganui	
Treasurer	
Val Benson.....	345 0723
30 Kawatiri Avenue, Wanganui	
Newsletter	
Committee	
Chris Devine.....	345 1677
c.devineforestand bird.org	
Ridgway Lythgoe	348 7507
Keith Beutrais	345 4677