



Otatara
Landcare Group

Pigeon Post



Hello folks, welcome to Pigeon Post, the newsletter of the Otatara Landcare Group. In this newsletter we bring you news of the latest happenings in our area and snippets of information about our past and ideas about improving our environment.

Your committee:

Chairman: Barry Smith 213 1500

Secretary: Chris Rance 213 1161

Treasurer: Glenda Graham 213 1397

Please contact the Otatara Landcare Group if you have questions, ideas or problems relating to the Otatara and Sandy Point areas.

Chairspeak – a message from chairman Barry Smith

Welcome to the first issue of Pigeon Post for 2014 and with the support of the Invercargill City Council we are able to send this out to all residents of Otatara.

We hope you all had a great summer break although the weather locally hasn't been totally kind.

Robyn and I have just returned from cycling the A2O (Alps to Ocean) a relatively new cycle trail that runs from Mt Cook to Oamaru, about 300km in eight stages.

We were with a group of 24 others and there was one part we didn't do, the section from Mt Cook to the local airport. As the route then crosses the braided Tasman River you need to get a two minute helicopter flight across with your bike at a cost of \$125. We decided to forgo that part and drove up the Eastern side of the river as far as we could and cycled the 10km to the point where the helicopter drops you off and then we headed for Oamaru.

The track is still under construction and there are parts of it on the main road from Omarama to Oamaru and in some places the road is quite narrow. It was a great experience, especially the group atmosphere.

One thing I did find a little disheartening was cycling behind one gent and I just couldn't seem to catch up with him on a gentle uphill gradient on the road, the most disheartening part being that he was 82 years old. Thankfully once we got on the flat I was able to overtake him (Phew!)

We have a lot of things going on in the Landcare Group and Bushy Point this year.

Last year Chris and Brian Rance opened up the Community Nursery Education Centre and one of our early priorities is to get a track constructed from there into Bushy Point. The clearance of Blackberry and bracken fern is progressing well and we hope to have the whole thing completed by the middle of February when we have a visit from a group of American Exchange Students being hosted by the James Hargest Junior High School.

In March the Otatara Landcare Group is hosting the annual Landcare Groups get-together for the Southland area and we look forward to showing them the effort that has been put in by a huge number of volunteers over the last few years, especially the Living Legends project and how well it is progressing.

Last year we were very fortunate to have someone with the inspiration of Sally Duston get in and take control of a 'Social Calendar' for the OLG with outings and work days featured throughout the year. She and her group of keen volunteers have organised people to do all sorts of tasks from maintaining trap lines to helping clear gorse and broom from where our plants are growing and using the experience gained they have come up with a programme for 2014 which is included with this newsletter.

If you have a spare couple of hours on one of the days listed then we would be grateful for the help.

To everyone we hope you have a great year, full of interesting and varied challenges that stimulate and educate.

Let's Explore

Bushy Point Restoration

Publications

News & Events

A new Website and a new Nature Walk – Chris Rance

The Otatarā Landcare Group has just developed a new website packed full of information and local resources for children and families: www.otataralandcare.org.nz

You will find lots of resources under **Lets Explore**, including: Activity Cards, Leaf Bingo, Who Am I? Birds, Who Did That?). These resources have been designed for Otatarā to make your bush walks or your backyard more fun for children.

Under **Publications** you'll find books produced by the Otatarā Landcare Group such as **Natural Otatarā** – a guide to everything native in Otatarā!; **All A Twitter** – a children's bird identification book; and **Pigeon Post Newsletter**.

There are also sections on the website about Bushy Point showing that walks available, and the other work being done there – such as the Living legends plantings, animal pest control and lots of other work.

At Bushy Point there are now two walks – both with self-guided brochures to accompany them - www.otataralandcare.org.nz/bushy-point-restoration. The main track (the self-guided walk leaflet) starts from the end of Bryson Road and the new nature walk called the 'Super Sleuth Nature Walk' follows fantail signs starting from the Bushy Point pond at the end of the main Bushy Point track. Both brochures can be downloaded from the website or picked up at the start of each track (and returned please!).

On the new Nature Walk you will be able to use some of the resources that can be downloaded from the website – 'Who did That?', 'Colour Matching', 'Beaut Bugs' and 'Leaf Bingo'. Laminated copies are available for you to use from the pond interpretation panel at the start of the Nature Walk. There is a picnic table located at the start of the nature walk by the pond. *Enjoy!*

Why join the Otatarā Landcare Group?

By joining the Otatarā Landcare Group you are supporting the activities we do to enhance the place where you live. Some examples are:

- the Bushy Point project with its walks interpretation and restoration plantings
- publications like **Natural Otatarā** and **Pigeon Post** newsletters
- submissions on your behalf to protect the special natural features of Otatarā
- Otatarā kereru roadsigns to raise awareness of the wildlife on our doorstep
- supporting the Otatarā Pestbusters
- funding the public noticeboard at the Otatarā Four Square shop
- providing a calendar of monthly events for your enjoyment.

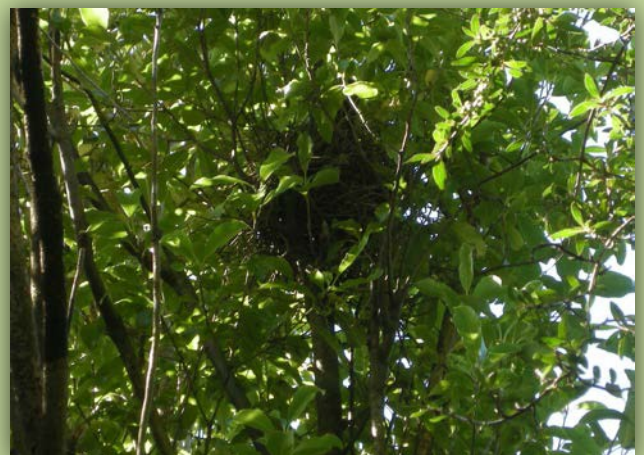
Of course, irrespective of whether you are a member or not we welcome you to participate in any of our events!

You can also join our email list and get monthly event updates about happenings in Otatarā as well as "native plant and weed of the month".

Email otataralandcare@gmail.co.nz to go onto the list.

Yes it's a tui nest!

A bit late in the season I would have thought, but there is a tui nest five metres up in a Black matipo near my front door (see photo). Most birds are quiet and unobtrusive when on the nest. They don't want to attract attention. Not this household. I found them by tracing the source of the racket. One of them relentlessly and noisily sees off any other tui that appears nearby. The one on the nest is chortling, gurgling and muttering to itself all the time.



Community Nursery Education Centre Opening – Chris Rance

On 8th November 2013, Ruud Kleinpaste the 'Bug Man' officially opened the new Education Centre at the Community Nursery – 185 Grant Road, Otatara.

Over 60 guests arrived and were welcomed by Estelle Leask from Bluff who performed a karanga on behalf of the hosts Chris and Brian and Ruud.

While the Community Nursery has been a hub of activity in Otatara for over 15 years it now has a new all-weather facility (including a new 'Bus Park' at 183 Grant Road) that is aimed at school group, kindy and pre-school visits. Bookings can be made through the website or by phoning Chris (2131161 evenings). To see the facilities and activity at the nursery see the 'News and Events' section of the website and the new 'Education Centre' section.

The indoor centre is also available for holding workshops and is aimed at providing a comfortable indoor space complemented by a spectacular natural setting. Just outside the facility is an area of tracks, ponds, restoration and mature bush areas so we envisage that it could be a popular venue for networking meetings, community workshops, team building days, health and wellbeing classes, art workshops – whatever you can imagine that requires a classroom space linked to nature! We have a number of workshops booked in already for 2014 and you can book via the website or by phoning Chris.

The Community Nursery is also a working nursery with volunteer mornings each Friday – do some work and take away native plants for free along with fee advice! You can also support the facilities by purchasing some locally sourced native plants for your property. The nursery is a charitable trust and all proceeds from plant sales go back into the infrastructure of the nursery and education centre.

If you are interested in any of the ideas above then give us a ring and arrange a time to come and visit – or just turn up any Friday morning between 9am and noon (and don't forget to bring some morning tea to share).

www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz



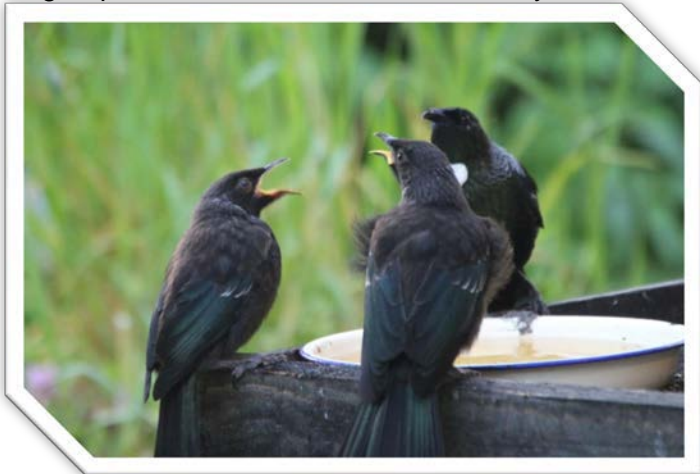
Pestbusters

A group of Otatara Landcare Group members formed the committee of Otatara Pestbusters after a public meeting in June 2010 where about 30 people signed up. We are a group of concerned locals who want to help the birdlife in Otatara by getting rid of rats, possums and maybe even stoats on our own properties.

One of the special features of living in Otatara is having healthy bird populations; especially tui, bellbirds and pigeon (kereru). Lots of people are already helping to protect and enhance the native birds found in our back yards by fencing and protecting bush, controlling weeds and pests and putting out sugar water. Pests are probably having the greatest impact on native birds in Otatara. With pest control the more people that get involved the more successful it will be.

The number of people we know of, who are actually using some form of pest control on their properties is now around 130. The only cost involved is for traps and/or poison. We are sure many people are already undertaking some sort of pest control on their own properties so we want to know who you are – we have a map with flags on attached to the www.Otatara-pestbusters.org site and we would really like to add a flag to your address, plus we will give you a sign to attach to your letterbox to show you are caring for the birds.

Over the past year we have had sightings of several groups of young tui, especially in the east side of Otatara, where extensive pest control has been carried out on several properties. The photo shows a group at a house feeder, taken recently.



You can have this at your place too!

See Russell at 49 Bryson Road:
Wednesday afternoons 3:00 – 6:00 pm or
Saturday mornings, 9:30am – 12:30 pm
Or contact him:
Email: bush.haven@kinect.co.nz
Phone: 213 0530

Pestbuster Newsletter

We are planning to put out a newsletter about pestbusting in the near future.

If you would like an irreverent, irregular newsletter about pestbusting and other similar topics, send your email to djsimpsonnd@xtra.co.nz and put 'Rats' in the subject line.

Cicadas

February has brought the cicadas out in Otatara and on Sandy Point.

These are the big boys that crackle and pop high in the branches. They are just the boys too, as only the males sing.

"Happy are cicadas' lives, for the men have voiceless wives." How unkind. Happy they may be but their adult lives are brief – only a couple of days. Thirteen-year cicadas of the United States spend almost all that time as nymphs feeding underground on the sap from plant roots.



Eventually they emerge, climb from their pupal skin and fly off to sing, fall in love, mate, lay eggs and die the next day. Thirteen years later the whole business starts again.

We don't know how many years our ones spend as nymphs but our good and bad years could be the result of breeding success five years ago.

There are other much smaller species around, rasping away pleasantly in the garden. They are often called crickets in error but crickets, although they sing, are black and live on the ground.

A small cicada lives in the marram grass out by the beach and in our gardens we have a brown and a green species.

Females cause minor damage to shrubs by digging their ovipositors into the growing twigs in a chevron pattern to lay their eggs. The twig usually dies and the newly hatched larva falls to the ground and burrows in for its years of darkness.

Bird Week

Bird Week 2014 runs from Saturday 22 March to Sunday 30 March. Check out the programme below:

Saturday 22 March

The programme starts in the afternoon at Daffodil Bay with an introduction to birds. There are activities and a ramble.

Sunday 23 March

Bring the kids to the Rances' Nature Education Centre (Southland Community Nursery, Grant Road) for some great bird-related activities.

Monday 24 March

There is bird-watching at the old Rubbish Dump lagoon on Monday evening.

Tuesday 25 March

The Queens Park aviary will be open for behind-the-scenes inspection on Tuesday from 5-6pm. This is a great opportunity to find out more about the birds at Queens Park and what it takes to care for them.

Wednesday 26 March

Join us for a Bird Talk at the Middle School Hall in the evening.

Thursday 27 March

Put your detective hat on and join in for the Owl Hunt in Queens Park at 8:00pm.

Friday 28 March

There will be a beach walk in the evening.

Saturday 29 March

This is the day of the *Great Twitch!* The Great Twitch trophy will be awarded to the team that spots the most different birds within the Invercargill boundaries on that day. That includes Bluff, Omaui, Oreti Beach and Bluff Harbour and offshore.

Sunday 30 March

Children wanting to get their Bird Badge can spend a day out observing birds with the Fieldclub.

During the week

During the week Bush Haven Bird Rehabilitation Centre 49 Bryson Road is open 10am-5.30pm.

There is a bird display at the Museum and a family bird quiz.

The Welcome Swallow

One of the commonest birds along our waterways is the Welcome swallow which arrived from Australia in the 1800s and established itself.

Locally swallows nest under the Stead Street bridge and in the roof beams and under the eaves of farm buildings and maimais.

The nest is a mud cup with four pale eggs. Their population seems to be increasing. Swallows are insect eaters, catching flying midges, caddisflies, mayflies and moths. They are familiar to us as the fast, dark birds which zip around streams, never seeming to pause. On the wires their forked tails are a giveaway.

Make sure you tick off the swallow (pictured below) on March 29 when you are doing your big bird count.



Got a great garden at your place?

Anyone wanting to offer a garden as a good example of the use of natives or fruit trees or vegetables for a garden tour? If there are enough offers we can organise a tour.

Contact Glenda Graham ph: 213 1397

Blackberries – Lloyd Esler

It's shaping up to be a good season for blackberries and those of us with the longer reach and the tougher hide have an advantage.

Botanists are still undecided whether blackberries are one variable species or many different species. Southland ones tend to be very robust and some plants show the cut-leaved form (see photo below) although the fruit tastes the same from all different varieties. Being closely related, raspberries and blackberries sometimes hybridise. The hybrids are thorny, have large flowers and few fruit which are large and dark red. It is from these hybrids that loganberries and boysenberries have been bred.

Late summer is the one time of the year when we look on blackberries with favour. Mostly they are just a curse, growing rapidly to impede tracks, spreading over newly developed land and taking over from your carefully planted natives. Sprays are effective however and small infestations can be grubbed and pulled out to be mulched or burned. Stout leather gloves come in handy.

Blackberries are nice stewed with breakfast cereal or made into jam.

Melt them without adding water to the pot and when well-boiled add an equal weight of sugar and allow to boil some more. Easy. The good thing about blackberry jam is the colour. It is only 99% blackberry but the darkness hides the innumerable tiny carcasses you know are floating around in it, legs in the air. *"Don't be fussy,"* our mothers said. *"It's all protein in the end."*



*Young blackberry fan Aedan Mulligan knows what's good for him! (left)
Variations in leaf form found (right)*



Collecting Corpses – Lloyd Esler

Karen Maw from the Environmental Management course at SIT is looking at what predatory animals are eating in Otatara.

She wants possums, rats, stoats, hedgehogs, ferrets and owls. If you have trapped an animal or found one recently killed we want it. We don't want it too flat or too manky but a couple of days dead is fine.

Corpses can be left in the container on the porch at 15 Mahuri Road with a note about where they were found. I can collect them from your place if you like.

Lloyd Esler Ph: 213 0404

Local Weather – Lloyd Esler

There's no such thing as bad weather – just inadequate clothing. Perhaps this is the motto that Southland should adopt. You don't need a roof, just a decent raincoat.

It's not uncommon to hear nasty things about Invercargill's climate, but, while less than perfect for some lifestyles, it can equally be described as bracing, healthy and character-building. The climate is a product of Invercargill's latitude of 46°24', its proximity to the sea, the prevailing westerly wind and of the lack of hills between the city and the coast. In short – coastal, southern and exposed.

In 1859 an attempt by the Otago Provincial Council to entice labourers down from Auckland elicited this response from an Auckland newspaper which railed against the project:

“They are going from the mild, temperate and fruitful north to the frigid, bleak and snowy south, inhabited only by the squatters of Otago, Lords of Wastes and Princes of Deserts.”

When we advertise Southland's virtues, the weather side is usually downplayed, falsified or merely ignored.

At times an acknowledgment that the weather can be rotten is used as a selling point or to emphasise the toughness of its inhabitants. Here is part of a 1910 advertisement for Lakshmi skin lotion.

“We all know that the things said about the climate of Southland in the north are silly and unjust. Invercargill is not frigid, and it is not a place of gloom. The climate is crisp and bracing. It makes for hard bone and solid muscle; it turns out men and women that statistics show to be among the healthiest in the world. It is in every way to be preferred to the enervating climates of the north... but there is one fact that women of intelligence need constantly to bear in mind. The climate of Southland, by reason of its very virtues, is trying to delicate skin....”

Here is a 1923 advertisement for sheep bred at Bainfield Stud near Invercargill. Would you use the same terminology when encouraging tourists?

“... Bainfield is situated alongside the bleak and stormy Foveaux Strait, and is exposed to all the Southerly and Westerly storms which come over the seas, for there is no land break nearer than the South Pole or the South American Coast... Sheep bred under such conditions as exist at Bainfield will thrive anywhere under any conditions.”

Compare this with an advertisement for a subdivision at the same time when Oreti Beach Township was being falsely advertised as ‘beautifully sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds’.



Lightning Storm – Barry Smith

In late December 2013 Southland was hit by a number of thunderstorms. From our home in Otagara we could see one developing to the north and another in the east. As they grew in size the humidity increased and the lightning intensified in both storms.

You could hear the thunder rolling although it was too bright a day to see much in the way of the lightning itself.

I took my camera out into the Bushy Point area and set it up for multi shots, hoping that I'd get a photo of a good lightning strike. But, alas this was not to be, 500 photographs later I gave up and went inside, just as the storm from the east moved over the area.

In 40 minutes we got 16.5mm in our rain gauge. A couple of times the power flickered, just a short time apart and I put it down to the storm. However, the truth was somewhat different. About a week later I was talking to our neighbours and they said they were looking up our drive when there was a series of sparks coming from the top of our power pole (the one with the transformer on it). He said they got out the binoculars to have a look and then there was a ball of flame about a foot in diameter and something fell off the pole. It was a dead tui.

These sorts of events can blow the socks off the electronic gear in the house – computer and TV-related stuff in particular. Fortunately we have our electronic bits protected with surge suppressing plug boxes and we have never had a problem.

I encourage everyone to invest the few dollars needed for surge protection. Otagara is vulnerable to power outages because of branches, possums and wind gusts.

Save the Birds – Stop Window Strikes!

Russell and May Evans at 49 Bryson Road have for some years been rehabilitating native birds, mainly kereru (native pigeons), mostly injured by cars or hitting windows.

Since the road signs went up, very few kereru have come into care from injuries sustained in this way so it has proved a very successful exercise.

However, kereru are still being injured from hitting windows. When the sunlight hits windows on a certain angle, the birds see clear sky or bush and assume they can fly safely through, sometimes hitting so hard they die on impact.

Others fall to the ground and sit there for a little while, later walking away. You are sometimes left with a complete bird outline on your window from the oil in the feathers.

Most sustain at the very least, some chest bruising which stops them flying and they will probably end up dying as they cannot get much food on the ground and are prey to cats etc.

The trick is to pick the bird up by either approaching cautiously and merely picking it up, or dropping a light cloth such as a tea-towel over it. Then pick it up, put it in a box and bring it as soon as possible to 49 Bryson Road.

If you can't catch it straight away, check again before nightfall and you will have a good chance of picking it up in the near dark. We will give the bird vital fluids and keep it warm and later feed it – they need several weeks, sometimes months in care to slowly progress to flying again before release.

You can help stop these window strikes by hanging a mobile of some sort in your windows or purchasing a tasteful crystal transfer from Bush Haven which goes on the inside of the window and lasts for many years. These cost a mere \$12 – not much when compared to a new window cost. Others are available from www.projectkereru.co.nz

Have you had a look at our website yet?
www.Otatara-pestbusters.org

Please continue to drive carefully around Otatara – kereru do swoop down low after eating to gain momentum to get back into trees and many fly along and across our roads around the bush. If you keep your speed below 50 km/h you are less likely to have a collision.



We have circulated invitations to all Southland schools and kindergartens to visit our property and see the collection of parrots and native birds. Other groups can also visit on either Wednesdays or Thursdays by appointment.

If you have an injured **native** bird please phone us on 03.213 0530.

We take only natives - kereru, tui, bellbirds and kingfishers.

Visit our website on www.bushhaven.org



Photo shows Bubs and Lennie who are our 'resident' birds, living nearby and bringing several new birds into the Otatara population every year. Sometimes we see the chicks, but not always

Otatara Highlights and Lowlights over 25 years – Cathy Mcfie

A quarter of a century is quite a long time to stay in one place. Change tends to creep up sneakily – but comparing then with now, there's nothing subtle about the differences.

Lowlights include:

- the erosion of Otatara's rural character and open space to land development
- the replacement of wide grass verges with deep ditches and tar seal where speeding vehicles have relegated walking and horse-riding to pleasures of the past
- the appearance of mega-islands of silt in the lower Oreti River that threaten both its recreational and ecological values
- the transition from simple lifestyle blocks to up-market subdivisions and sophisticated homes with an urban ambience
- participation in two Council-organised Focus Groups that recommended future directions – from which nothing has changed

Highlights include:

- kingfishers nesting on our (Otatara) side of the Oreti River and seeing good numbers all year round
- a noticeable increase in birdlife, especially the delight of tui and bellbird contributions to the dawn chorus (thank you Pest Busters!)
- greater provision of walking/cycle tracks around the estuary and Otatara (including Bushy Point – thank you OLG!)
- Cord grass (spartina) has virtually disappeared from the estuary (thank you DOC!)
- increased awareness of Otatara's special qualities and native forest remnants, exemplified by more native planting on sections (thank you Southland Community Nursery!)

All in all, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. A few things haven't changed:

- Otatara's mail rural delivery service continues to provide 200% above what we should expect.
- Folk are generally friendly and love living here

What do other people think? Will the changes be as dramatic over the next 25 years??

Black Orchids or Gastrodias

Besides three species of mistletoes, Otatara has other parasitic plants.

Common but often overlooked are the Black orchids or gastrodias (pictured left). There are three species at least. Two are common under the pines on Sandy Point.

The third and more robust species is in Bowman's Bush, Otatara Scenic Reserve and no doubt elsewhere. I usually get several coming up under my shrubs each summer and this season there were four.

The stalks are up to about 50cm high and have around 30 flowers which mature over a period of weeks. The plant grows from a tuber which is intimately associated with the roots of pines, beeches and other native and introduced plants. The Gastrodia draws some sustenance from its host which probably benefits from the orchid in some way.

Keep an eye out for it – it is widespread.



Shellfish on the Beach

From time to time there is a mass die-off of shellfish on Oreti Beach. Sometimes it is just toheroas and at other times Trough shells and Triangle shells (pictured) – collectively called sou-westers – are cast ashore in their tens of thousands to provide a feast for Black-backed gulls.

There are several possible causes. A bloom of toxic algae kills shellfish. Excessive fresh water reaching the beach after a flood might weaken the shellfish meaning they are unable to dig back into the sand when scoured out.

Prolonged offshore wind prevents plankton from reaching the beach and the shellfish have starved as bivalved molluscs feed by filtering minute marine life from seawater.



Native Plant Profile

Kotukuku – Tree Fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*)

The largest fuchsia in the world!

A native endemic tree (grows nowhere else in the world) that grows to 12 metres tall. It has papery bark and delicate leaves and likes a shady spot.

Its delicate red flowers are present from early spring through summer and autumn providing sweet nectar for much of the year for bellbirds and tui.

In autumn large black fruit, which Maori call konini (pictured right) are popular with birds and are filled with many tiny seeds.

Kotukutuku is one of the best plants to use to attract native birds to your place.

The sweet konini berries are delicious to eat and have culinary uses:

- They make a sweet tasty jam
- Māori ate berries raw and also squeezed them to make a sweetish drink
- The watery sap from the tree was also drunk - by sucking it out from a cut-off length of branch.

Olden Times in Otatara

An opportunity to tell our stories

Otatara Landcare Group's calendar of events for 2014 includes a historic Otatara evening on Monday 14 July. (For details see the calendar.)

There are still many residents and ex-residents who remember Otatara 'as it used to be'. Recording their stories can bring our community's history to life – and safeguard it for future generations.

Would you like to help? The Southland Oral History Project is looking for Invercargill-based (including Otatara) volunteer interviewers. Training is provided to use the digital recording equipment; to learn good interviewing techniques; and to understand the ethics associated with oral history interviews.

The Southland Oral History Project is based at the Invercargill City Library's Archive (Information Services on the first floor).

If you would like to know more about it, contact co-ordinator Rebecca Amundsen at phil.becs@xtra.co.nz or 027 2252 664



To see photographs of Fuchsia leaves and flowers click the following link:

<http://www.otataralandcare.org.nz/lets-explore/native-plants/>

Leaf Bingo and Leaf Bingo – Maori Uses

Southland's High Value Area Programme Derek Richards (Biosecurity Officer, Environment Southland)

In 2007, Environment Southland developed an on-going initiative called the "High Value Area" (HVA) program to identify, define, describe, rank and record the native habitat that remains on privately owned land in Southland.

HVA surveys use a rapid ecological survey approach (by a qualified and local ecologist) to assess the state of biodiversity of an area. Landowner participation in the process is entirely voluntary but in return for access to the site, they receive a short, comprehensive report on the biodiversity values of their property.

The information delivers a clearer picture on areas of the property are likely to be ecologically significant and those which are not. This will provide good understanding of what values may need to be managed in the future. Protecting natural areas on private property can add value to it, which has been demonstrated through past winners of the farming category at the environmental awards in recognising their efforts.

The report outlines what was recorded during the survey, including any special features of interest. It describes and identifies the vegetation and its condition, records the presence of native fauna (such as birds), and lists any impacts such as pest animals, that may be affecting the area.

The report also includes suggestions on how to best manage the area(s) surveyed in order to protect and enhance its condition. Management recommendations which include a range of options for both regional and national funding are also included. This could be the Environment Enhancement Fund administered by ES or QEII covenant funding.

Environment Southland can also use this data to build a picture of the remaining natural areas across Southland. It will then be collated with other survey information and used to identify biodiversity trends in the region. This will provide a valuable base line against which future improvements or declines in natural areas can be measured.

Information collected will not refer to individual properties. The information collected does not place any obligations on the landowner, nor does it place any additional protection on the areas surveyed.

Since the programme's inception, there have been over 200 surveys conducted on private land in Southland covering an area of some 13,169 ha. If you are interested in finding out more about the HVA programme, contact us on (03) 211 5115, or 0800 76 8845. Alternatively you can email us at service@es.govt.nz or call in and see us at Environment Southland, located on the corner of North Rd and Price St in Invercargill.

Native Plants for Sale - Southland Community Nursery

Hardy, locally sourced native plants for sale - \$5 for PB3 size - for shelter, wetland and forest restoration.

Pittosporum, red tussock, cabbage tree, broadleaf, wineberry, Fuchsia, Coprosma etc - some kaka beak (pictured) and other special plants available.

Proceeds to the Southland Community Nursery Charitable Trust to run the new Education Centre.

Email or phone Chris (evenings) rances@ihug.co.nz or ph: 213 1161 - www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz





BUSHY POINT – OUR RESTORATION PROJECT - A calendar for OUR enjoyment

Otatara Landcare Group Events - 2014

www.otataralandcare.org.nz

<p>FEBRUARY Friday 7, 14, 21, 28</p> <p>Sunday 16</p> <p>Monday 17</p> <p>Monday 24</p>	<p>Southland Community Nursery, 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings – 9am-noon (ph Chris 2131161). www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz</p> <p>Bushy Point work day – 1pm-3pm (ph Sally 2131403)</p> <p>Visit to Bushy Point by Tacoma School – James Hargest 12noon-2pm (helpers welcome ph Barry 2131500)</p> <p>Chilean flame creeper removal, Bowman’s Bush, Ruru Ave – 7pm-9pm (ph Randall 2130851)</p>
<p>MARCH Sunday 2</p> <p>Friday 7, 14, 21, 28</p> <p>Tuesday 11 Wednesday 12</p> <p>Saturday 15</p> <p>Saturday 22 to Sunday 29</p> <p>Sunday 23</p> <p>Monday 24-Sunday 29</p>	<p>Bushy Point Treasure Trail Activity Day! for Kids (of all ages) any time between 1pm-4pm; park at Bryson Rd entrance and meet at the pond at the other end of Bushy Point (15 minutes walk); full details on website or ph Cathy 2131267 Bring a snack</p> <p>Southland Community Nursery, 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings including seed collecting – 9am-noon (ph Chris 2131161). www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz</p> <p>Southland Girls High School Breakout days at Bushy Point, volunteer help always appreciated (ph Barry 2131500). This replaces our March Bushy Point working day so feel free to come and help.</p> <p>Landcare Groups Networking day hosted by the Otatara Landcare Group (ph Nathan Environment Southland 2115115)</p> <p>Southland Bird Week – a week of Birding activities around Invercargill including Otatara events (ph Lloyd 2130404). Look out for local advertising for all events.</p> <p>Bird Conservation Day at the Southland Community Nursery Nature Centre 1pm-5pm – park 183 Grant Road– Lear about bird feeders, learn about plants to feed birds, pest control, see the display of bird photographs and children’s drawings, get the full programme of events for the week (ph Lloyd 2130404)</p> <p>Bush Haven Bird Rehabilitation Centre - Open daily during Bird Week 24-29 March - 49 Bryson Road 10am-5.30pm daily (ph Russell or May 2130530)</p>
<p>APRIL Friday 4,11</p> <p>Sunday 13</p>	<p>Southland Community Nursery, 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings – 9am-noon (ph Chris 2131161). www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz</p> <p>Bushy Point work day – 1pm-3pm (ph Sally 2131403)</p>
<p>MAY Friday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30</p> <p>Sunday 18</p>	<p>Southland Community Nursery, 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings – 9am-noon. Friday 9 May – APPLE PRESSING afternoon. (ph Chris 2131161).</p> <p>Bushy Point Planting Day 1pm-3pm ph Barry 2131500</p>

JUNE Friday 6,13,20, 27 Sunday 15 Saturday 28	Southland Community Nursery , 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings – 9am-noon. Friday 13 and 20 will be CUTTINGS WORKSHOPS please book a place (ph Chris 2131161). Bushy Point Work Day 1pm-3pm ph Randall 2130851 Matariki Celebration and Night Walk at Bushy Point (ph Lloyd 2130404)
JULY Friday 4, 11 Sunday 6 Monday 14 Sunday 20	Southland Community Nursery , 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings – 9am-noon (ph Chris 2131161). Nursery closed for winter – reopens 26 September. Orienteering Event at Bushy Point (ph Sally 2131403) “Olden times in Otatarā” – talk on Otatarā’s history by Lloyd Esler and your own stories - please bring your recollections and photographs - Otatarā Community Church (ph Lloyd 2130404) Bushy Point Work Day 1pm-3pm ph Sally 2131403
AUGUST Sunday 17	Bushy Point Work Day 1pm-3pm ph Sally 2131403
SEPTEMBER Friday 12 Saturday 13 Sunday 21 Friday 26	Conservation week Living Legends big tree planting day for schools at Bushy Point (ph Barry 2131500) Conservation Week Living Legends big tree planting day for families at Bushy Point (ph Barry 2131500) Clean up Otatarā Day – involve your neighbours, adopt a street and clean it up! (ph Sally 2131403) Southland Community Nursery , 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings – 9am-noon (ph Chris 2131161). www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz
OCTOBER Friday 3, 10, 17, 23, 31 Sunday 5 Sunday 19	Southland Community Nursery , 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings – 9am-noon (ph Chris 2131161). www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz Geocache picnic at Bushy Point 1pm-4pm (ph Edith 2131571) Bushy Point Work day 1pm-3pm (ph Sally 2131403)
NOVEMBER Friday 7, 14, 21, 28 Sunday 16	Southland Community Nursery , 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings – 9am-noon (ph Chris 2131161). www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz Bushy Point Work day 1pm-3pm (ph Sally 2131403)
DECEMBER Friday 5, 12, 19 Sunday 14	Southland Community Nursery , 185 Grant Road - volunteer mornings – 9am-noon (ph Chris 2131161). www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz Bushy Point Work day 1pm-3pm (ph Sally 2131403)

Join the Otatara Landcare Group

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cellphone _____

Email (for newsletters and events) _____

Subs (please tick)

- 1 year \$10 _____
- 10 years \$50 _____
- Life \$100 _____
- Donation _____

Please email (otataralg@gmail.com) or send this form with cheque to our treasurer
Glenda Graham – 33 Rakiura Parade.

Subs or donations can be deposited directly into the

OLG bank account 03 1750 0305721 00 but please make sure they are labelled with
your name and olg subs as references.

