



# TRAVIS WETLAND TRUST



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## Education programmes

A great step forward for us this year was the launch of our first outdoor education school programmes at Travis Wetland during 'Seaweed' in March. Individual classes arrived from Chisnallwood Intermediate, South New Brighton, Somerfield and the Kiwi Conservation Club. Armed with maps, students found hidden treasure boxes which when opened helped to reveal the secrets of Travis Swamp. The area between two huge poplars had great appeal for our outdoor classroom, nicknamed the amphitheatre.

Conservation Week participants had no idea when they arrived at Travis that they were going to become part of a "Jury" that would sentence some of their classmates for environmental crimes - with great glee! Neil Birkett's class from Beckenham school had the added bonus of becoming PRIME TV stars! Rudolph Steiner students also enjoyed this programme and the mud.



Environmental Education at Travis, Eleanor with Queenspark School.

Queenspark school students chose the 'Wonderful Web Weavers' programme to tie in with their food chain studies. Many saw their first native worms and flat worms, discovered where lizards go when it's cold and what happens when we tamper with food chains. Parkview School students found out why we need wetlands, what lives there and how the smart plants survive. They also became part of a water web and discovered some gloomy facts. Students from the various schools also discovered how noisy feeding time is in the pukeko world.

Apart from when someone's dog would race along and scare the birds away students were able to view close up the babies being fed just the juiciest, most tender pieces of grass. The Malvern Cubs enjoyed a muddy night walk at the swamp. They found the amphitheatre lit by candles and a huge spider web complete with glow in the dark critters. Thanks to Neil Jamieson and his helpers for being so adventurous. And a huge thanks to Eleanor who ran all these programmes voluntarily.



Te Roopu tu Tangata work on the track towards the viewing platform.

## Clarevale Working Party - Christchurch Native Habitats Group

Dave, Simon, Matt, Steve, Fiona, Nick, Lou - Congratulations on the great progress in this area. This groups amazing slog, strength and determination has changed the landscape dramatically. The removal of large gorse bushes and willows has improved the Clarevale entrance to the park.

## Manuka Group

This Daphne, Simon, Nicky, Eleanor and John continue weekly revegetation and weed control work in the South West willow woodland and surrounding area. If you like being outdoors and have a few hours to spare on Monday morning, there's a variety of work, including maintenance of the school and community native plantings Phone Eleanor 337 1209 or Christchurch City Council Coast Care 382 1678

## Volunteer Work Party Days

All welcome to join in - Every 3rd Saturday. Meet at the Mairehau Rd

carpark, 9am. Don't forget the gumboots - other equipment provided.



Windsor School Arbor Day planting near Clarevale Reserve.

## Arbor Day

In spite of the cold day our experienced Windsor School students cheerfully arrived to plant natives at Travis, this time on the Clarevale Park section, it will look great and provide screening for the birds when the plants have grown. Thank you to Trees For Canterbury who generously donated most of the plants through one of their community give-aways.

Pegasus Lady Lions and the friends of the Estuary enjoyed their walks and meeting the 'gnomes' at Travis, who helped them find out how the Wetland was formed.

In conjunction with the Year of the Older Person, the national Council of Women, with spouses and friends did a great job underplanting another area of our willow woodland with cabbage trees, coprosmas, ferns and native grasses.

## Thankyous

Thankyou to all our regular 3rd Saturday of the month workday people. Joe Greenaway continues to organise this - thanks to everyone, especially Joe.

Thankyou Coast Care - Jason, Kay, Rodney, Manja and support staff. We are grateful to you for your support in co-ordinating so many of our activities to make them run smoothly and successfully. And a special thankyou for your help with the Earth Education

Thank you Trees for Canterbury, Riccarton Bush Nursery (John Moore) and DOC Motukarara Nursery for your ongoing and valuable plant contributions.

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

This will be held on Monday 8 November 1999 -7pm - at Ascot Community Centre, Ascot Rd . Agenda items include Election of officers, review of the last years work and future projects planned at Travis. Members please bring a plate. Contact secretary Rima Herber 383 8116 for details.

Guest speaker - ornithologist Andrew Crossland will talk about the terrific potential Travis has for wetland birds and some of the new species already using the wetland.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Laings working on the Central Ponding area, March 1999-10-20

### Pond enlargement

The small stock pond near the stock yard at the end of Beach Rd has been enlarged to 2.5 ha. This project was funded by a grant from the Lottery Board. The pond expanded considerably over the winter months making the grassed paddocks a 'bird supermarket' The pond has already attracted numerous birds like stilts, paradise shelducks, oyster catchers, shovellers and scaup.

### Beach Rd/Frost Rd pond

Another new pond for the wetland. The Water Services Unit have recently built a new pond in the park. This pond will gather water that currently flows into wooden sided box drains along Frosts Rd. Recent plantings will help create an attractive entrance in the park.

### Predator Study

A predator monitoring programme is

being set up with the help of Landcare predator ecologist. The study hopes to gauge the success of the design of the waterways to see if they are effective in restricting predator movement to enable successful bird breeding. Tracking tunnels will be used to see what and where mammal predators are in the wetland. It is impractical to ban cats, but valuable to gain information that may help to improve the design of wetland to enhance the habitat for wildlife by using natural features to discourage cats and other predators.

A masters student from Lincoln University is studying cats in Travis. She is looking for cats - and cat owners, to help her with her study. Please phone Coast Care 382 1678 if want more information. (Study cats get a yummy reward for taking part)

### Bird Life

Ornithologist Andrew Crossland's last bird count showed a high number of birds using the wetland - including three species new to Travis - glossy ibis, banded dotterel and caspian tern "This brings the total bird list for Travis up to about 57 species. All 3 new species recorded this month are wetland birds, no doubt attracted to the newly available pond, ephemeral wet muddy areas, and wet grassland habitats."

### Plant Life

The currently flowering spider orchid has been recently identified by orchid specialist Brian Molloy, as *Corybas iridescens*. It has not been previously recorded in Canterbury. Over the past 2 years, two native fern species of *Blechnum/kiokio* have been discovered for the first time at Travis.

### Visitor Centre

Architect Peter Kent is drawing up plans for the information building, which is funded by the Community Trust. The information inside the shelter will background saving the area and show the values of Travis Wetland.

### Viewing platform

Plans are well underway for the Stout Trust funded viewing platform just north of the Clarevale corner, at the edge of the willow forest. A gravel and raised boardwalk track has been built to the platform site.

### Tracks



Pile driving near Anne Flanagan Dell.

Contractors have recently finished driving piles in the Anne Flanagan Dell area. This track will link the existing track to the Telecom reclamation land.

The Pages Road 'P D' crew have done a great job on building the track to Inwoods Rd from the Mairehau Rd carpark - We need more walkers along here please - to keep the spring weeds from smothering the track.

### Motukarara Nursery Biodiversity Day

One for your diary - Sunday 16 April 2000 "Planting for Life" An informative day at DoCs nursery -guided tours of the nursery and displays - information on revegetation projects throughout Canterbury.

### Sponsor a Board Walk

More boards needed for the forest tracks. Only \$25 for an engraved board. Contact Jessica Hawk 354 1470 for more detail. Those who have already ordered boards you will be able to see them in place this November. Samples will be on show at the AGM.

### Riparian Walk from Travis to Bexley Wetland

A guided walk through Travis Wetland, Cockayne Reserve, along the Avon River to Bexley Wetland, with historian Bill Karaitiana and ecologist Colin Meurk. Meet on Sat 30th October, at 10.00am on Maiehau Road opposite Burwood Hospital. BYO lunch, transport back to Travis will be organised, cost around \$2.00 For more information phone Mia 3822 987, or Eleanor, 337 1209.

This newsletter was produced by Eleanor Bissell, Travis Wetland Trust and Kay Holder, Christchurch City Council, Oct 1999



### Recent Grants

The City Council's Parks Unit recently obtained a grant from the Lotteries Board of \$200,000. The grant will be used for the excavation of the central ponding area, connecting waterways, planting and fencing. A canal connecting the central ponding area to the expressway canal has just been completed and excavation is due to begin of the central ponds themselves shortly.

The New Brighton Horticultural Society has donated \$2,000 towards seating.

### RMA Award

We are all so proud to have been chosen as the 1998 Overall Winners. Our trophy will have pride of place when we have a visitors centre. A huge thank-you to Kay Holder of Coastcare who submitted the application.



A trophy presented to the 1998 Overall Winner, Travis Wetland Trust, by Kay Holder of Coastcare. The trophy is a large, ornate cup. The certificate is a framed document. The people are dressed in formal attire.

We wouldn't have won it if it hadn't been for her!



### Interpretation Plan

Linda Burns an Interpretation Consultant is currently preparing an interpretation plan for Travis Wetland. The aim is to develop interpretation policies and design guidelines by incorporating the needs of potential users, and Park objectives. The Plan will impact upon sign layout, publicity material and building design. The main focus at present is to develop a concept plan for the proposed visitors centre which is due to be constructed in 2000. Contact Eleanor for a copy (337 1209).

### Wanted - Secretary

*Any current member or potential member who is interested in taking an active role in developing this important city asset please read on!*

After 7 years of super service Jenny Lineham is to retire as current Secretary/Treasurer but will retain Treasurer duties. The position would

involve approximately 8-10 hours a month of dealing with inwards and outwards post, typing minutes, taking enquiries and maintaining Trust files.

Work would be home based and require attendance at Trust meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Please contact Jenny Lineham (outgoing Secretary) for details on 388 9247 (Wk) or 388 6628 (Hm).

### New Logo

The Trust has decided to adopt the logo illustrated as a standard for all Trust related publications, signs and so on.



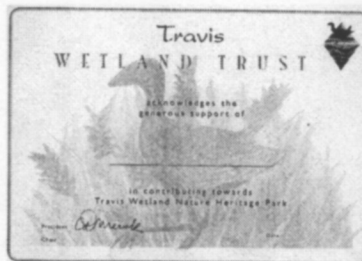
It was developed by Angela Andrews, art student for use on the Buy a Board Campaign.

### Boardwalk Sales

Firstly a big thank-you to Graham Tapper of Burwood Hospital for his continued support in producing the engraved boards.

As of December 1998 70 boards had been sold amounting to \$1111. The remaining board-walked section of the Anne Flanagan Walkway is due to be completed by June. A great deal more board-walking will be required so ...**Buy a Board Today!** Boards are available at \$20 engraved or \$10 not engraved.

Contact Jessica Hawke 354 1470.



*Certificate provided to Buy a Board campaign supporters.*

### Native Habitats Group

Simon, Simon and Steven have made great progress in the Clarevale experimental planting area. To-date 6 plots of kahikatea and some mixed broadleaved trees have been planted with some peripheral shrub planting. Different methods of maintenance being tested include bark