

# Travis Wetland

OCTOBER 2002

A newsletter from Travis Wetland Trust and the Christchurch City Council

## Dates To Remember

### Travis Wetland Trust AGM

22nd October 7.00pm at Travis Wetland Education Centre, Beach Road.

The guest speaker is Sjaan Charters from Dept of Conservation speaking on Freshwater Fish and Pest Fish.

### Workdays for Travis Wetland Trust

Meet at the car park at Beach Road at 9.00 am on the third Saturday of every month.

19 October	15 February
16 November	15 March
21 December	19 April
18 January	

**Trust Committee Meetings** are held on the Tuesday following the workday. Meetings start at 5.30 pm and are held at the education centre on Beach Road.



## The Boardwalk

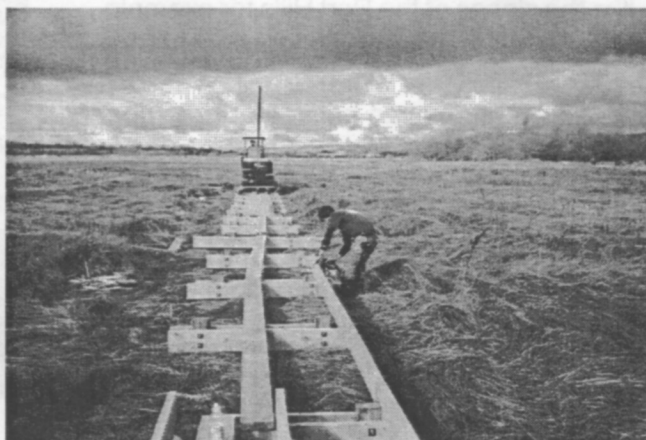
A key piece of the Travis Track network was completed in the first week of September. The 400m wooden boardwalk on the western side of the park links the Stout viewing tower with the "Telecom land". The board walk traverses the willows and passes through the Manuka area one of the most botanically important sites in the park.

A 10m wide strip of land was purchased from Telecom last year as an addition to the park for the purpose of a walk way. A compacted grit path has just been completed across this land and links the new board walk with the Anne Flanagan Dell. In January a further piece of track will be constructed to link Inwoods road track with Beach Road. Representatives of the Kiwiable organisation made a visit to Travis and checked out the facilities with a view to evaluating the facilities for accessibility for people with limited mobility.

John Skilton has spoken to City Streets engineers and councillors about improving access for Burwood Hospital patients using the Mairehau Road entrance to Travis.

### Celebration Event

60 people attended an Celebration Day for invited guests on August 4<sup>th</sup>, despite the rainy weather. The day provided the chance to thank individuals and organisations who contributed to the success of the restoration programme at Travis were thanked officially. Faye Wilson-Hill described the Council run education service, Learning Through Action, Eleanor Bissell outlined the activities of the Kiwi Conservation Club, which runs many of it's activities there and members of the Travis Wetland Trust talked about the work they have been carrying out.



Boardwalk May 2002



## Wine and Wetlands by Eric Banks

Tony Sharley, Manager of South Australia's very successful Banrock Wines and Wetlands Centre, enjoyed time at Travis Wetland recently as a part of his recent visit to several New Zealand restoration sites.

On a fact finding trip Tony and his team checked out Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and other North Island restoration sites sponsored by Banrock Wines. Travis Wetland was one of the sites Tony might consider for future support.

While in Christchurch Tony gave talks at Lincoln University and Travis Wetland Education Centre. The capacity audience at the Travis evening were treated to an inspirational story of the successful partnership between business and the environment as well as a couple of glasses of the fruits of Banrock Station.

Having a market oriented general manager with specialist knowledge of local ecology has been the key to developing Banrocks initiatives. By associating their wines with their own exciting and successful wetland restoration, Banrock have been able to differentiate their product and capture a particular market niche. This market is targeted in each of the countries which benefit from their sponsorship to take advantage of local support for wetland restoration.

Earlier in the day Tony had an enjoyable tour of the wetland and took part in an interview with TV3 News. In the news item Tony talked about the purpose of his visit and Eric Banks of the Travis Wetland Trust outlined the benefits such a partnership could provide Travis and wetland restoration in Christchurch.

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## Manuka Group Report by Nicky Bodger

With the new advent of the boardwalk extension, a whole new area will be opened up to visitors. For the first time people will be able to pass by the last remnants of Manuka in Canterbury wetlands. Locals have informed us of groves of Manuka being present in the general area, including Bassett Street as recently as the 1960s. *Leptospermum scoparium* - Manuka or teatree - has a very diverse habit. I find it quite amazing that the same plant will not only grow in very wet conditions, but also in very dry conditions - like the slopes of the Port Hills for example. It is a small tree that only grows up to 3 or 4 metres.

The Manuka flowers anytime between September to June, so you can often see one in flower. The flower itself is white sometimes flushed with pink

*Leptospermum* means thin seeded. Unfortunately *Leptospermum* species are susceptible to scale

infestation, which results in a sweet secretion that is in turn fed upon by a black fungus. Honey-dew is the product produced by this relationship. No major harm is done to the plant and a wonderful, sweet scent is emitted.



*Manuka in Flower (Daphne Banks)*





# Park Roundup

## Bird Hide Wins Award

The bird hide won a NZIA-Resene Local Design awards. The awards are presented for excellence in architecture and colour design in Canterbury.

**Congratulations to Crispin Schurr**, Architect at City Solutions, for his design and receiving this award.

## New Brochure

A new information brochure with a map is now available for Travis Wetland.

**A big thanks to John Moore**, Riccarton Bush Ranger, and the Riccarton Bush Trust for permission to collect seed from their impressive wetland forest. These seeds, swept up with a small brush and pan from the feet of majestic and towering Kahikatea and Pokaka trees, have been added to an experimental broadcast seed sowing trial along the west bank of 'Big Pond stream', which drains 'Big Pond' into Angela stream. All going well, in just a couple of years, seedling trees will begin growing safely out of reach of weeds just a few meters from the walking track planned to connect the bird hide with the Angela Stream walkway. Thanks again, Simon Johnson.

## Wildlife

Over winter there have been regular sightings of an Australasian Bittern near the central pond and one or two Glossy Ibis at the central pond and the paddock south of Curzon Place. A banded dotterel was seen recently feeding in the muddy margin of the shallow pond south of the stock yard. Spring is the start of the breeding season, pied stilts have begun to nest and there are several pairs of black swans with cygnets.

## Jenny Lineham

Jenny has signalled that as long as someone else is willing to take on the Treasurer's position on the Trust Board she will no longer continue on the Board.

As a member of the Foundation Board Jenny has always fitted in Travis Wetland Trust work among many other voluntary and paid positions she has held in the community, mostly in the New Brighton and North New Brighton areas. She held the Secretary/Treasurer position from the beginning and continued with Treasurer when the positions were split.

She helped lead the Board through the lobbying to the Council for purchase of the swamp, and has put together many funding applications over the years.

She has a love of nature and living beings, and at times has presented differing view to others regarding weed and pest control - she avoids using herbicides and during discussions on possibly reducing Canada Geese numbers. Jenny has advocated for protecting the geese as creatures sharing the planet with us.

Jenny's interest go well beyond Travis Wetland and she has worked over 20 years for the Pier and Foreshore Promotion Society, the Pier Promotion Trust and the New Brighton District Business Association. So has been involved with fund raising efforts for the pier, New Brighton Christmas parades and heritage events in the district.

The Trust Board will miss Jenny's active contribution, but she will remain a member of the Trust and will be there as an advisor when we need her. We know she will continue to watch the progress at the wetland and will have pride in what she has helped achieve thus far.

*Chrissie Williams*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



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Wetland**

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