



Travis Wetland

A newsletter from Travis Wetland Trust and the Christchurch City Council

Travis Newsletter September 2003

The Travis Wetland Newsletter is a combined Travis Wetland Trust and Christchurch City Council publication intended to keep people up to date with developments and events at Travis Wetland. It is produced bi-annually in September and April.

PARK NEWS

People

Many different people play an important role in the management of Travis Wetland. With out their help the project would not have achieved the results it has. A special thank you to Simon Gulland, Christchurch Native Habitats group, for wielding the axe, slasher and scrub-bar to transform the Clarevale corner from a willow and gorse infested area to one where native plants are starting to predominate.

Thank you also to the Worksights team, Jim Payne and the Manuka Group who all achieve results beyond expectations.

Planting Projects

Two new planting projects have been completed during the winter planting season. Preparation and planting of both projects was contracted to Simon Johnson's company Habitat Restoration Services. Following the construction of the new track linking Beach Road with the Inwoods Road the old dune slope adjacent to the track was planted. In July, on the heels of the hardest frosts, the margins of the track across the edge of the Telecom exchange site were planted with over 6000 plants. This project was funded by a \$10000 grant from Telecom New Zealand to the Travis Wetland Trust. It was decided to use this grant to screen the wetland from future developments on this site.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Travis Wetland Trust AGM
28 October 2003, 7.30pm at the
Travis Wetland Education Centre,
Beach Road.

Travis Wetland Trust Work Days
Every one is welcome. Work days
are held on the third Saturday of
every month. Meet at the car park at
9.00 am Beach Road. Bring boots or
gumboots. Work days are a chance
to become involved in the develop-
ment of Travis Wetland and learn
about ecological restoration.

- ✓ 20 September 2003
- ✓ 18 October 2003
- ✓ 15 November 2003
- ✓ 17 January 2004
- ✓ 20 March 2004
- ✓ 17 April 2004
- ✓ 15 May 2004

TRAVIS WETLAND Nature Heritage Park

Gates closed 5.30 pm – 8.00 am
Pedestrians welcome during daylight





Weeds

During September and October rangers and the Manuka Group will be identifying and marking female Grey Willow trees which are easily distinguished at this time by the difference between the yellow male catkins and the green female cones. Poisoning takes place in summer and autumn. Monitoring of the success of last years willow poisoning will also be done. By targeting female trees we reduce the seed source and can use the remaining canopy as a nursery for under planting with native species. A weed management strategy for Travis Wetland which will help prioritise current work and identify potential threats is nearing completion.

Unfortunately some neighbours continue to dump rubbish and plant material over the fence and into the park. This is unsightly but more importantly the plant material in particular is a source of problem weeds which may impact on native species as well as using up funds and resources to control.



Garden Waste dumped into Travis Wetlands from neighbourig properties

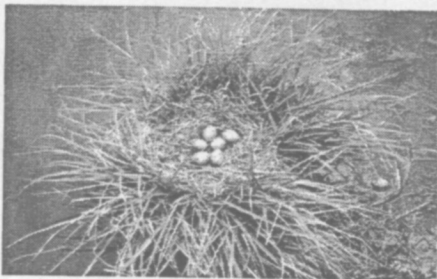
Wetland Walkway

Planning is under way to complete the walkway around the park. The next section of track will pass through the centre of the wetland south of the stock yard and cross Angela Stream to connect with the sealed path on the south side of Angela Stream. Depending on costs it is expected that construction will take place in late summer with Angela Stream being bridged in July. The bridge will include a predator proof gate and fence.

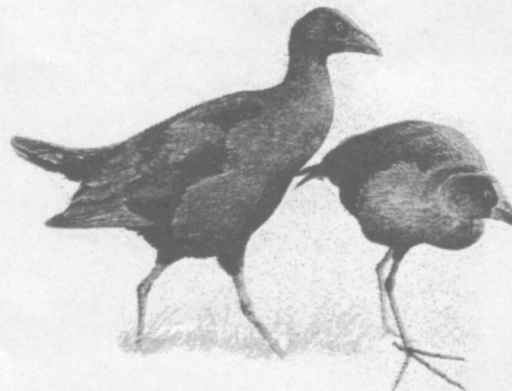
Wildlife

The Glossy ibis is probably due to leave any time now following its six month solitary winter sojourn at Travis Wetland. The ibis can often be seen feeding on the pond margins and in the seasonal ponding area to the south of the information pavilion. Only two sightings were made of the Bittern this winter, both in July, one by the pond and one on the Clarevale side of the park.

Birds are now pairing up and preparing to nest. This season rangers will be monitoring the nests of some species including Pied Stilt, Pukeko and Spurwing Plover to determine the impact of predators on nesting success and to determine the effectiveness of the predator control programme.



Pukeko Nest





Kiwi Conservation Club - by Eleanor Bissell

We filled every chair in the main meeting room at the Education Centre, some of the smaller children sat on the floor.

As our "travellers" (KCC participants) went through Border Patrol with their undeclared goodies (items seized by NZ Customs) we discovered what people try to bring into our country illegally. Annette and Chandra from DoC explained the categories of threatened, endangered, rare and extinct species to our very interested group. We learned about the C.I.T.I.E.S. agreement of which New Zealand is apart. A very memorable experience for every one, a great learning experience for our future adults. A huge thank you to Annette and Chandra for their great presentation. Afterwards KCC members could be seen dispersing not to their cars but along the trails and to the bird hide!

Christchurch Native Habitats - by Dave Evans

This group continues to make steady progress towards replacing with native vegetation the willow, gorse and blackberry in an area adjacent to Clarevale Reserve. Centred on three plots of kahikatea trees, a variety of native species have been planted over a substantial area.

While the day-to-day change is unnoticeable much of the area has been transformed in the 4 years since work began. When they started out the group cleared areas of tall weeds completely. More recently areas of willow and gorse have been thinned, leaving a partial canopy that protects young natives from frost and helps slow the growth of sun-hungry gorse seedlings. Some frost tender species, such as wineberry, are managing to grow significantly each summer and hang on through the heavy frost of winter.

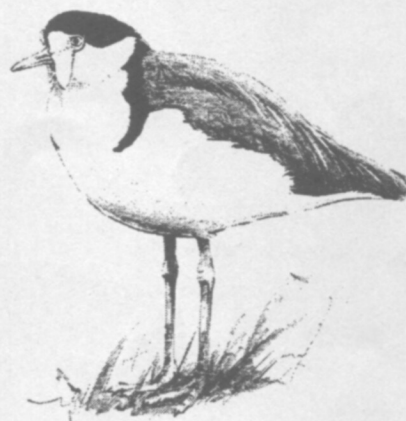
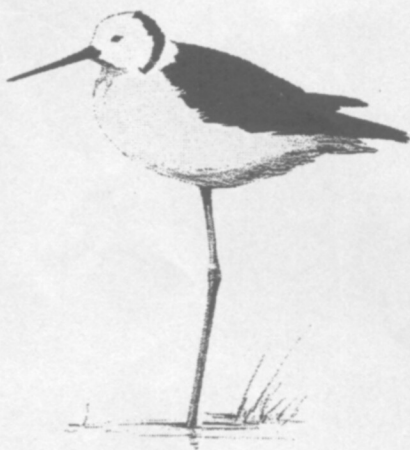
The kahikatea trees are weeded to a plan, with the intention of finding the optimum way to promote their growth. So far it seems that intensive maintenance does not necessarily lead to the fastest growth. Simple releasing from tall weeds that threaten to topple the trees appears to be sufficient for good progress. However, results could be quite different in an area where there is more competition for moisture. The tallest specimens are now over 2.5 metres tall and put on up to 30cm per year. If growth continues at this rate there will be some substantial trees in 10 years time.

The spring planting season has arrived and the group will be putting in another 200-300 plants over September. After that the seasonal battle with smothering weeds kicks off. Group membership has been static over the past year, so they look toward the departure of Simon Gulland with some trepidation. A Burwood resident and long time stalwart at Travis, Simon and family are moving away. Simon has made a tremendous contribution to the Travis environment and his weekly contribution will be sorely missed. The group will give him a warm welcome whenever he is able to get back and help out.



Bird Hide at Travis

"Rangers will be monitoring the nests of some species including the Pied Stilt, Pukeko and Spurwing Plover....."



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



**Travis
Wetland**

John Skilton, Coastal Parks Ranger - Travis Wetland
Phone: 941-7540, Email: john.skilton@ccc.govt.nz

Eric Banks, Chair, Travis Wetland Trust
Phone: 332-0111, Email: eric.banks@ccc.govt.nz

Helen Braithwaite, Secretary Travis Wetland Trust
Phone: 328-9958, Email: helenrob@actrix.co.nz



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