



Travis Wetland

June 2005

A newsletter from Travis Wetland Trust and the Christchurch City Council

PARK NEWS

Dates to Remember!

Travis Wetland Trust Workdays

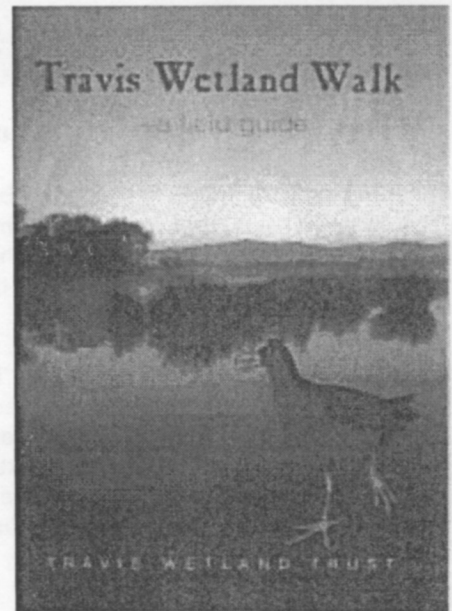
All welcome! Workdays are held on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm. Meet at the Beach Rd car park, bring gum boots or boots. The workdays are an opportunity to become involved in and learn about the restoration of Travis Wetland.

- 18 June 2005
- 16 July 2005
- 20 August 2005
- 17 September 2005
- 15 October 2005
- 19 November 2005
- 17 December 2005

World Wetland Day - Travis Field Guide Book Launch

The launch of the guide book on, Wednesday 2nd February, World Wetland Day was a great success. About 70 people turned up to the launch to enjoy the moment and the wine supplied by the by the principle sponsor Banrock Station Wines. Guests included Sir Kerry Burke, Chair of Ecan, Bryan Jenkins CEO of Ecan, Garry Moore Mayor of Christchurch City Council, Lesley McTurk CEO, CCC, Ossie Latham Director of Wetland Care New Zealand, Joanna Orwin guide book author, Sandra Parkkali graphic designer and Travis Wetland Trust members.

The completion of the Wetland Walk and Field Guide is the culmination of several years of development of Travis Wetland aimed at enabling people to enjoy this special place. Now with many of the public facilities in place future development will focus on improving habitat for plants wetland and forest birds and fish through planting and the creation or naturalising of waterways.



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Wildlife

There was an exciting start to the autumn, non-breeding season. In February an Australasian Bittern was seen just north of the central willows, this is the earliest record for the past 5 years. At the end of March a Glossy Ibis was seen on the west side of the pond and has been seen regularly since. In the second week of April a Kotuku turned up and spent several days at the main pond adjacent to the bridge seemingly unperturbed by the people and vehicles passing close by. This is the first kotuku visit for 8 years.

The Ibis has become a regular autumn and winter visitors travelling all the way from Australia to the wetland. The Bittern is likely to be a local visitor from a coastal wetland in the area or perhaps from a wetland in the Canterbury foothills. Both species are probably attracted by good feeding habitat free from disturbance. Generally all three species do not tolerate disturbance such as rapid movement and close approach, this is one of the reasons why **No Dogs** are permitted in the park. If we wish to continue to see these birds close to an urban centre and perhaps reintroduce other wetland species in the future it is important to maintain high quality wetland habitat.

Construction of Belfast to Christchurch Sewer Line



Thoughts from a workday volunteer

Living my childhood in the suburb of Brighton I had always known 'Travis Swamp'. I remember going to the Florence's farm on a school outing and having to be taken home because of an asthma attack brought on by hay in the barn!

When I picked up a Travis Wetland Trust pamphlet from the City Library I read with interest that they held a workday on the third Saturday of each month. I made a decision too myself to go to the next workday. This I did and have never looked back, I have now been involved in workdays for about 6 years and am now a member of the board.

There are many things that are great about being involved with Travis Wetland, great people, the feeling that you are doing something positive for the environment and helping to restore a city icon, learning about the plants and birds, just getting done and dirty! and of course our morning tea with Joan's baking.

It's a great buzz when you see other people enjoying the wetland, sometimes not so great when they have dogs or are cycling. To see the growth in the areas that have been restored and know that you have been part of it – can't wait to one day bring my grandchildren!

Subscription Reminder

The Travis Wetland Trust relies heavily on the financial support received from members. A recent check of the membership database has confirmed that there are a number of outstanding subs payments from past/current members. The inclusion of an 'N' on the address label of your newsletter indicates that your membership falls into this category (a 'Y' indicates subs are current). Should you wish to maintain membership (and we sincerely hope you will) please forward the appropriate payment to the Travis Wetland Trust (P O Box 2750).

Thanks in advance – Sean Ward (TWT Treasurer)

New sewer line enhances Travis Wetland

A new sewer line originating in Belfast is to be laid along the north-eastern edge of Travis Wetland from Mairehau Rd to Beach Rd. It will follow the line of the Wetland Walk for most of the way. Work is expected to start soon from the northern end and the project must be complete by April next year. While there will be some disturbance as the work is carried out, there are long-term benefits for the Wetland environment. After the work is completed the walkway will be replaced and improved. Passing bays will be added and the path re-levelled. Up to \$20,000 worth of planting will be done along the pipeline route, including the addition of some large specimen trees. In keeping with the sand dune environment plant species will be representative of a coastal bush community. Some big willows will be removed as part of the project. There will be a pumping station built near the Beach Rd end and service access to this will provide the first part of the proposed new foot access from Frosts Rd to the Wetland Walk. Beach Rd will be widened near the Travis entrance and 400-500 plants will be added to this area. A level grassed area for a bio-filter will be created on the southern side of Beach Road.

Dave Evans