

breeding season in the Canterbury high country. They are attracted to the short grass areas at Travis on which they graze. Only a hand_full breed at Travis but over 1000 geese may congregate at Travis at this time. Such large numbers put pressure on other wetland birds and their excrement pollutes the pond and grazing paddocks. There is no easy solution to control geese numbers however, as we plant more areas the open areas will become smaller and less attractive to them.

Native Plants:

Plants are being planted at Travis according to soil type and tolerance to dry or wet conditions. Plants are also sourced from seed collected as close to the area as possible to maintain locally identity (sometimes referred to as eco-sourced). In this way we hope to recreate plant communities that would naturally occur in a wetland area. The plants already are providing fruit, seeds, nectar and nest site for birds. If you live next door to Travis and would like advice on what to plant, or are keen to help maintain native plants on your boundary, rangers are happy to advise.

Vandalism

During the past school holidays some of the plantings were destroyed and many hours of work lost. Perhaps parents may like to remind children on holiday that, Travis Wetland is a special place for both wildlife and plants.

Treasure Not Trash: Ranger staff and Trust

members are concerned about the household rubbish and garden waste being dumped over fences into Travis Wetland Heritage Park. Travis Wetland is an ecological wonderland, a place we should treasure. Rubbish dumped here is unsightly, and is a potential danger to bird-life which may mistake it for food. Offenders are liable to be prosecuted.

Get a Grip- on that leash! As Travis Wetland is a valuable breeding and feeding area for many birds, dogs are **not** permitted in Travis Wetland. Dogs on a leash are permitted on the sealed walkway alongside Angela Stream at Clarevale. **Remember, dogs are welcome at Bottle Lake Forest Park.**

Want to get involved? Learn about the wetland? Organise a guided tour? Sponsor a boardwalk? Find out more?

Phone the Coastal Parks Office, Parks and Waterways Unit, Christchurch City Council

Ph: 3722 840

Travis Wetland Ranger

John Skilton Ph: 025 968 935.

Email: skiltonj@ccc.govt.nz

www.ccc.govt.nz/programmes/coastcare/TravisWetland/

Or contact the Travis Wetland Trust (evenings),

Jenny Lineham Ph: 388 6628 or Jessica

Hawke Ph: 331 6065



Travis Wetland



Nature Heritage Park

Update – June 2001

This information sheet is produced by the
Christchurch City Council
Parks and Waterways Unit

to inform residents of recent developments at
Travis Wetland.

Thank you to friends and neighbours!

Thanks to the neighbours and friends of Travis Wetland who keep a watchful and friendly eye on the park. Without your help managing Travis would be much more difficult and Travis would not reach its full potential. Whilst out and about I have met people weeding native plantings, picking up rubbish and making sure nails in the board walks don't trip people up.

How Can You Be Involved?

Travis Wetland Trust Work Days are held on the 3rd Saturday of every month. The work-day usually lasts for 4 hours and is an opportunity to do some weed control or planting and to learn about restoration. Please bring a grubber or planting spade and gumboots if you can. Everyone is welcome.

Where? Mairehau Rd car park at 9am.

Next workdays will be on:

16th June
21st July
18th August
15th September



What's happening at Travis Wetland?

Plantings

The schools involved in the Native Trees Please! project in 2000 who planted shrubs and trees at the central pond continue their interest and commitment to the project. Queens Park and Park View have both recently visited and carried out some weeding and further planting. The original planting has been a great success putting on impressive growth in one year. From 30cm some plants are now 1 metre or more tall. The area will receive some in-fill planting to replace losses in the spring. It is great to see a relationship developing between the schools and this special area.

Predators

A predator-trapping programme was carried out for 10 weeks during summer around the main pond. The results were 1 male stoat and 5 hedgehogs caught. In the last week of May further monitoring and trapping was done across the wetland. In spite of the wet conditions 1 female stoat and several possums were caught. The tracking tunnels were well visited by mice. The trapping of a female stoat is important, as at this time of year they are likely to already be in a state of pregnancy ready to give birth next spring.



New Developments

A lot of exciting activity is happening at the moment which when complete will enable visitors to experience the magic of the wetland. In the coming spring of 2001 when current work is complete there will be a celebratory open day.

Currently under construction at Beach Road is an information building which when complete will be open to the public and house information displays on the history and ecology of Travis Wetland. The farmhouse is being reconfigured inside and out to form an education centre which will be for use by visiting schools and other educational groups.

Shortly work will begin on a uniquely designed bird-viewing hide at the main pond. Construction of a car park at the end of Beach Road is almost complete. Residents on this boundary will be contacted regarding screen planting to be carried out in late winter or early spring.

Birds

The breeding season is now well over. Among the many birds now at Travis several are itinerant seasonal visitors. The Glossy Ibis a winter visitor was seen in early April on a holiday programme walk. The change from summer dryness back to a wetland is rapid and began to occur before the recent rains as temperatures dropped and less water evaporates. This change provides lots of new feeding places for wading birds such as pied stilts and herons. Canada Geese numbers have increased as the geese return to the coastal areas following their

