

Travis Wetland News

September 2018



Dates to Remember

Help restore Travis Wetland

Travis Wetland Trust Work Days are an opportunity to help the Travis Wetland Trust and Christchurch City Council restore the wetland. Meet people interested in restoring the native biodiversity of our city, share ideas and do some light physical work. Tasks vary according to the seasons and range from planting, release weed-ing and invasive weed control. Morning tea provided.

When: Third Saturday of every month 9am to 12.30pm.

Where: Meet at the Education Centre near the Beach Road car park.

What: Bring gumboots or boots, gardening gloves and clothing suitable for the weather and season e.g. sunhat, raincoat, warm hat.

Saturday Work day dates for 2018/19 are:

- 20 October, 17 November and 15 December
- 19 January, 16 February and 16 March 2019
- 20 April, 18 May and 15 June 2019

A note from the Treasurer

The Travis Wetland Trust financial year began in July and those who have not already paid a subscription for the 2018-19 year will have a subscription form posted to them. **Note that the Trust has moved its account to Kiwi-bank 38-9018-0341728-00**. Please help the Trust continue its work at Travis Wetland by paying an annual subscription and/or making a tax-deductible donation. If you are sure you have paid your subscription, but receive a form all the same, then contact the Trust treasurer so he can correct his records.

Dave Evans

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September Planting Day

– Dave Evans

Each year for at least 15 years, and probably much longer, Trees for Canterbury have been donating hundreds and more recently thousands of plants towards the restoration of Travis Wetland. The Trees for Canterbury annual public planting day in September has become the highlight of our monthly workdays and a welcome celebration of the start of Spring. The number of people Trees for Canterbury attract to this event increases each year and cooking enough sausages to feed the hungry workers becomes more challenging each time.

Trees for Canterbury has been operational for 28 years and you can read about their inspiring story on their website www.treesforcanterbury.org.nz.

Each year they produce 100,000 plants and on average 45,000 of these are donated to the community. A truly awesome achievement for a flax-roots enterprise.

The September planting this year was a very special occasion, as Trees for Canterbury celebrated their millionth donated native plant. This was a great honour for Travis Wetland and served to underline the many thousands of plants Trees for Canterbury has donated to the wetland.

The planting attracted about 200 willing workers and once the thousand or so plants were in the ground speeches and a ceremonial planting near the car park marked the occasion. Large specimens of kahikatea, matai, tōtara, hīnau and pōkākā trees were carefully set in the ground. This was followed by the traditional BBQ and celebratory cake at the Education Centre.

Christchurch
City Council



Ed Centre Display Cabinet

- Carol Ryan text and image of display cabinet by
Grahame Bell



The family of Anne Flanagan have donated a display cabinet for the Education Centre at Travis Wetland. It will display some of the items pertaining to her fight to preserve the Wetland. Anne was incredibly passionate about saving the Wetland and battled for it while suffering through a long illness that would eventually claim her life.



The highlight of the whole journey for her was being acknowledged by David Bellamy when he came to Christchurch. She was so excited and they spent some time with heads together discussing all the progress.

The cabinet will house the bust of Anne that was carved by Hans Muller as well as the petition to the city council asking them to save the Wetland for future generations.

Trees for Canterbury celebrations

Denise Ford and Dave Evans



Lichens at Travis

- Grahame Bell

You can't wander far at Travis without coming across one or more species of lichen. Most of the lichens pictured here can be found near the bird hide track.

A lichen is a composite organism that arises from algae or cyanobacteria living among filaments of multiple fungi in a symbiotic relationship. The combined lichen has properties different from those of its component organisms.

Lichens come in many colours, sizes, and forms. The properties are sometimes plant-like, but lichens are not plants. Common names for lichens may contain the word moss and lichens may superficially look like and grow with mosses, but lichens are not related to mosses or any plant. Lichens do not have roots that absorb water and nutrients as plants do, but like plants, they produce their own food by photosynthesis. When they grow on plants, they do not live as parasites, but instead use the plants as a substrate.

It is estimated that 6% of Earth's land surface is covered by lichens. There are about 20,000 known species of lichens. Lichens can be seen as being relatively self-contained miniature ecosystems, where the fungi, algae, or cyanobacteria have the potential to engage with other microorganisms in a functioning system that may evolve as an even more complex composite organism.

Lichens may have tiny, leafless branches (fruticose), flat leaf-like structures (foliose), flakes that lie on the surface like peeling paint (crustose), a powder-like appearance (leprose), or other growth forms.

Xanthoria parietina

Xanthoria parietina is a foliose, or leafy, lichen. It has wide distribution, and in NZ is known by the common name maritime sunburst lichen.

Gold-eye lichen, *Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*

Teloschistes chrysophthalmus, often referred to as the gold-eye lichen or golden-eye, is a fruticose lichen with branching lobes. It has a global distribution, but is often localized and rare in many parts of its range. This species grows on twigs and is rarely abundant, but is easily found on the bird hide track.

Lecanora carpinea

Members of the genus have roughly circular fruiting discs (apothecia) with rims that have photosynthetic tissue similar to that of the non-fruiting part of the lichen body (thallus).

Ramalina celastri

Ramalina is a genus of greenish fruticose lichens that grow in the form of flattened, strap-like branches. Members of the genus are commonly called strap lichens or cartilage lichens.

(This information was sourced from Wikipedia)



Maritime sunburst lichen, *Xanthoria parietina*



Gold-eye lichen, *Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*



Lecanora carpinea



Ramalina celastri

News from the Travis Rangers

- John Skilton

EMguards Biodegradable Plant Guards

Robert and Jan Fry, FuturEcology, visited Travis in July and we were able to show them some of our restoration sites and discuss their EMguard. They say it will last at least 1 year in the wettest "southern woods" (Tōtara/Mataī) site and longer on our dry sites. Now that there is an alternative I think it's time to move away from plastic, and model a more environmentally friendly product to others. Advanced Landscape supplies have wool mats which will be suitable. I have ordered 5000, which is the amount we will use over the next 2 years. We can continue to reuse the combiguards for the next year.

Many thanks to Craig and the IDEAS conservation team (stationed in the cottage by the Education Centre) for enabling the reuse of the combiguards. If it wasn't for the team sorting and washing dirty guards we would not have been able to reuse them for as long as we have.

New Signs

New bollard style direction signs have replaced the blue ones and do look very tidy. Next will be the double post signs around the perimeter. We have some signs with "Caution, Seasonal Flooding keep to path" for when it next rains. There is a budget for replacement of interpretation panels.

Predator Control

In April we finished our predator trapping for the season. We followed the recommendations in the Wildlands report by:

- a) Decreasing the distance between traps and rat bait stations from 100 metres to 50 metres around the perimeter and added more bait stations at 50 metre intervals to our internal trap lines to be more effective considering the home range of rats
- b) Two poison controls one in November one in March using Cholecalciferol (vitamin D), as recommended in the Wildlands review, with the poison pulsed for 7 days or until the bait stops being taken. This is to avoid sub-lethal doses and bait shyness. Over the next 5 years we hope to see if there is a corresponding change to the number of rats caught and tracked.

Blair Balsom (our fixed-term student) went back over the trapping numbers for the previous 5 years and produced a graph showing numbers and highlighting trends as well as identifying the "hot traps", which makes it very useful for Kenny and I to see what's happening with each predator and monitor "hot spot" for follow up or future control.

Results for 2017-18 were:

Rats 124, Hedgehogs 14, Weasels 1.

Green Mistletoe, *Ileostylus micranthus*, Pirita

- Denise Ford text and Grahame Bell image

In 2017 the Christchurch City Council started the Backyard Mistletoe project. The purpose of this project was to get Christchurch citizens to spread the native green mistletoe/pirita around the city by putting it in their own back gardens and in reserves.

The Travis Wetland Trust went along and got a pack of seeds to put out at the wetland. Some were put on trees in the carpark and others along the track to the bird hide.

A year went by and the Council started promoting the 2018 Backyard Mistletoe project. Feeling a little deflated that our mistletoe had not struck from 2017 I went out and checked again. Much to my pleasure and surprise one of our seeds had germinated! We now wait to see if the plant will establish and one day hope to see pirita more widely spread in the wetland and the city.



Travis Wetland Trust Meetings

The Travis Wetland Trust board meets monthly on the Tuesday following the work day, from 6.30pm – 8.30pm at the Travis Wetland Education Centre. The board extends a welcome to all who wish to attend.

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