

Travis Manuka Group Report – Eleanor Bissell

Throughout the year we have continued to manage the special plants plots. This involves constant clearing of exotic weeds which include seedling willows, ivy, birch & honey suckle. We have appreciated the involvement and advice of Ranger John's Technical Group which includes our super tireless advisor Colin Meurk and now we are so lucky to have Nick Head too. We value their knowledge, expertise and guidance. This area is habitat for invertebrates and is managed as 'organically' as possible.

As time permits, we endeavour to keep the four open viewing spaces along Sanctuary Villas section of the walk way in good shape. Ivy, blackberry, convolvulus, as well as other weeds continually challenge us. The plots add to the biodiversity to remind us of what the original vegetation may have been like.

We continue to work with and are ably assisted by Craig's Ideas [I H C] team with plant propagation and maintenance along the Mairehau Dunes and other areas of the Wetland.

Conservation Volunteers:

It is great to have them involved at the Wetland. They work on weed control and have planted carex at Mairehau. They have another work day planned for December. Thank you to organiser Donna; is always a fun as well as a worthwhile work time.

Wayne's Wednesday Weekly Willing Workers:

We begin fairly early and supposedly finish early p m with coffee and a recap of the day's endeavours. We are allowed a brief lunch break! Early 2017 work began on a special lizard habitat. It was inspired by the Halswell Quarry rock piles, which were replaced when this building was repaired after the quakes. Planned by Dr Colin Meurk a mounded rock habitat has been established. The back breaking part has been cheerfully managed by Ranger Kenny Rose. [We couldn't have done it without him!] He was ably assisted by Ranger Dave along with Blair & Hannah the last two being capable Summer Staff. Huge thank yous to them as the construction involved dragging placing substantially sized heavy stumps & large logs from the beach as well as adding and stacking heavy rock also from Halswell Quarry. Kenny also sourced the amazing old totara posts! Craig's Ideas team helped with construction by adding suitable soil and watering the plants we have established. All plants have lizards in mind so provide shelter and food. Skinks have been spotted there!

The Dripping Bore has been worked on over the past year with the establishment of many small N Z plants locally uncommon due to habitat loss; once again our adviser has been expert Colin. When a bellbird is spotted bathing in the ponding part or sparrows are lined up waiting to have a turn at bathing we have our rewards. We also assist with weed control and maintenance around the Ed Centre as well as at Mairehau Rd. Big thank you's to the 'Group'. Is great to have Ranger John come along as his time allows so we can all work cooperatively and discuss what is to be done and the best methods to use.

Thank you, Ranger John, for your valuable input to our projects. You always listen and advise.