

Tena koutou

Haere mai ki te Oruapaeroa

Thank you all for continuing to be the kaitiaki of Oruapaeroa-Travis wetland. With all your passion and volunteer time the park is looking very welcoming. Kay Holder, Regional Parks Manager, visited some of our sites today and asked me to pass on her thanks for the success of the restoration work that has been achieved by the Trust.

Thanks to the Manuka group, Eleanor, Shona and Al for their work every week rain or hail. Thanks to The Wednesday Watering and Weeding team Wayne, Beryl, John, Eleanor and Shona contribute at least at least 20hrs per week as volunteers. Thanks to Craig Taylor and the IDEAS Conservation Work Team and to the Wai-Ora Trust conservation work teams for maintaining our amenity and planted areas.

Thanks to Kenny for your work and setting a high standard in the field. Welcome to new ranger Dave Rate-smith and Mitch Thorn 8 fixed term we have a great team.

Because of all your mahi we have a restoration project that has a 25 year head start on the Otakaro red zone land and is a fantastic example to emulate and learn from.

I welcome Oruapaeroa as our name, I mihi to Ngai Tuahuriri and Ngai Tahu for making this happen. Oruapaeroa recognises the ancestral links and cultural traditions of Tangata whenua as a mahinga kai site.

The wow factors

1. New Signs
2. Sealing of Beach Rd entrance road and car park
3. New brochure

Community events

The Trees for Canterbury planting event was very successful, at least 230 people, our largest number. Thanks to Al for remaining calm at the BBQ.

- 600 Waitakiri School students, with parents and teachers planting 600 plants along the embankment at Clarevale.
- The "Breeze" walking festival events; A Future Forest, The Generation Game and 360 Walk were well supported and showed off Travis to new audiences.
- JADE staff visit was rescued by John Dunlop after mix up with cancelation due to rain

Flora and Fauna

- First long-finned eel, *Anguilla dieffenbachia*, confirmed, caught at Hard Rush Corner during the pest fish monitoring.
- The species status of the spider orchid is still to be determined, an acknowledgement from Nick Head of the work done by Daphne Banks and Eleanor to ensure its survival and the need to continue and support this.
- Luke Martin, Native Curator Christchurch Botanic Gardens has just sent through some pictures on successful germination of Drosera and Celmisia seeds from this site, this is exciting news.

Restoration planting

Planting tertiary and enrichment species in the dunes, Millennium and Matai-Totara forest has been a highlight this year. Finding seedlings of more species including totara, kahikatea, manatu, and cabbage tree shows the natural processes are taking place.

Thanks to Niall Muggan for the terra forming of the mounds and shallow scrapes. The Matai-totara forest is now 6ha, 2000 plants were added to the totara-matai forest, of which 800 were donated by Trees For Canterbury. This was followed up by Keystone Ecology doing a complete check of site, including replanting and plant guards as needed. About 800 coastal forest plants have been added to the Mairehau Rd dune and Beach Rd sites.

Pest Plants

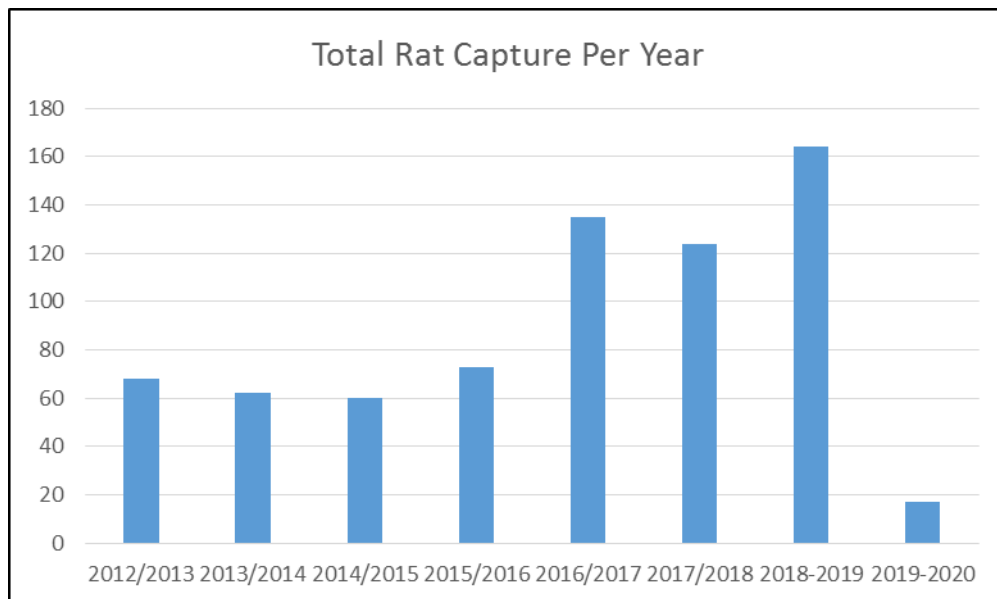
- Great Willowherb, *Epilobium hirsutum*, at first unrecognised, then found in abundance at the matai-totara forest in February. An invasive plant of wetlands on MPI's unwanted plant list, currently still under MPI control for the coming season.

Pest Fish

Six seasons of good news, no Rudd were caught in February 2019 therefore only one control is planned for February 2020, the main part of Angela Stream will be included, thanks to Helen McCaughan for keeping the enthusiasm going.

Pest animal control

It's time to stop tinkering, we have completed the adding additional traps and bait stations as recommended in the Wildlands report. This graph shows there had been a trend of increasing rat numbers. Hopefully we will see a reduction this year.



Visitor Numbers 2017 -2018

The raw numbers from the people counter recorded 68,747 from October 2018 - October 2019, the monthly count it has been fairly consistent around 5500 per month a slight increase from last year.

Projects

- Design work is underway by CCC staff for the board walk to replace the path from Clarevale Park to the viewing tower. 2019-2020
- Karyn Durham, CCC, is working on updating the interpretation information at the park including plant signs with botanical information.