



News Letter

February 2009

# Waikanae Estuary Care Group

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## Seasons greetings to you all.

The Chinese year of the Rat has gone, this is now the year of the Ox, is that going to influence this years happenings? I don't think so. The Estuary Care Group Committee trust that you have had a relaxing holiday and are feeling fit and relaxed and keen to join us for a few hours in the various Estuary planting nodes.

## Chairman's Report

Well 2009 is here, and as usual we have had some hot weather and the estuary is getting really dry. However the occasional wet period has meant that very few of our plants have suffered water stress to-date. The main concern at present is releasing recently planted trees from weeds before they are choked and die.

The Department of Conservation is providing contractors to help with weed control, and together with the working bees set out below, and with your help, we may keep on top of it. In November 2008 we applied for Community Conservation Funding for the sole purpose of providing more resources for weed control in future years.

We have had great feedback and appreciation in recent times from Fran Wilde at Greater Wellington, and Jenny Rowan at Kapiti District Council on the progress we have been



making. We even had Jenny at our last working bee for 2008, pictured here having a well-earned tea break and a natter to Tony

It has been obvious that some people have adopted various planted areas and are keeping them weed free and looking fantastic.

Thanks ever so much for your efforts.

We are sad to have recently lost two important Department of Conservation representatives – Stacy Moore, who is now living in Oregon, and Nicky Marriott who is on maternity leave. They have made a huge contribution and will be missed. We look forward to working with their replacements.

In 2009 we hope to increase our membership, so if you know anyone who may be interested, can you please bring them along to a working bee. Hope to see you there!

*Jeff Eaton*

## A Timetable for the next few weeks *Mike Hardiman*

The following working bees consist mainly of clearing weed growth from the plants and some mulching. Starting time is 9.00 am to about midday; we try to mark the selected area by flying our flag as a rallying point. Drinks are provided as are *some* gloves and tools. Please wear good footwear, (not jandals)

We try to have a 'meet and greet' person to take names, remember our funding is largely dependant on the numbers of volunteers doing this work.

Here we are;

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 31 <sup>st</sup> January  | RPS-08 ( <i>Otaihanga</i> )                                |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> February | RPS-08   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> February | RPS-05 ( <i>1/2 way down the Hadfield entrance track</i> ) |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> March    | RPS-06 ( <i>Further down the track</i> )                   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> March    | RPS-03 / 04 ( <i>start of the track</i> )                  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> April    | RPS-03 / 04  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> May       | RPS-14 / 15 ( <i>Waikanae side, end of Queens Road</i> )   |

## Opening Day

Actually we haven't really closed, the shade house plants need watering, administrative work carries on and a small group have been attending to the releasing and tending of plants. However every group needs an opening

day and the agreed dates are for the **23<sup>rd</sup> May**. At **RPS2**, that is by the bend in Manly Street on the track that leads to the beach. A Barbeque to follow, but more on that later.

## Pictorial Essay



Deb Finn and Nicky Marriot, from DoC. On-site in November 2008 discussing site preparation for 2009 planting. *Is that a sun umbrella I see?*



Stacy Moore planting on the fore dunes of Waikanae Beach in August 2006. Stacy is now back in her homeland of USA. Her cheerful enthusiasm will be greatly missed

## Bits and Pieces

**Our AGM** is scheduled for the Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Paraparaumu Library, more on this later.

The Soroptimist Club has approached Lyn, our secretary, about a working day at the estuary, and also making a presentation to their club. We can't say no to that offer so the Care

Group will offer them weeding on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the RPS 6, Honda area.

Pat Menzies (with backup) was volunteered to speak to their meeting, we have decided that she has a good speaking voice that should not be wasted.

## Weed of the Month

### Convolvulus (Greater bindweed – *Calystegia silvatica*)



This is a common garden weed, and unfortunately we also have some of it in the estuary. It is the climber with large trumpet shaped flowers, and large arrow-shaped leaves which climbs over

and up other plants and smothers them. It's a perennial and although the aerial parts usually die down in winter, it has an extensive underground rhizome system (underground stems) which will continue to multiply and spread unless dug out or sprayed. Temporary relief can be provided by stripping the creeper off plants, however any rhizomes pulled out should be removed as they will resprout from any little segment which touches the ground.

*Deb Finn*