

BIRD CALL

May 2016

Issue 26



orokonui
ecosanctuary

Chris's Column

We are honoured to be a finalist in the national Green Ribbon award for biodiversity. This is a high commendation of all the work that the team of staff and volunteers do here for biodiversity conservation and education.

Planting season is upon us with volunteer teams assisting with putting plants in the ground as well as doing the ongoing weeding to give previous years' plantings the best chance of survival. The Ecosanctuary is looking better than ever.

We have recently welcomed another 7 kiwi chicks into our crèche population with most of the previous cohort having grown big enough to leave.

With the extended good weather our busy period with visitors lasted longer than usual. For our quieter period we have organized a great range of activities for the Science Festival, the Cadbury Carnival and Matariki. Please see our website for details. I hope you can join us.

Kind Regards, Chris - General Manager

Volunteers' Voices

Thank you to all who responded to our fruit request for the young male kaka in the aviary. The cheeky wee lads have now been released and are frequently being seen at the feeding stations.

With the stunning April-May weather work has been ticking along nicely at the Ecosanctuary. Regular turn-outs from working groups are showing with the internal plantings and the Pa Harakeke looking rather sharp!

With it being May already, it is time for another volunteer get-together. This is being planned now with more details to follow but save the 12th June from 5.30pm...



Enthusiastic students from Carrington Hall helping with the annual prune of flax plants in our pā harakeke.



Butler University students whose volunteer stint coincided with the only period of rain for the day!

Shop

Due to interest from our neighbours in helping protect our 'halo' we will soon have DOC 200 traps available at cost price. Please phone to order them.

Elton's Army

Towards the end of May results from a reserve-wide tracking tunnel pulse, immediately followed up by a rodent dog survey will determine the true extent of our recent rodent problems, and how we react to them. DOC has approved our use of poison in bait stations and this has the support of Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki. Sometimes the use of poison is the best option and it is a tool that we fortunately haven't had to use here since July 2012.

Researchers, Yolanda van Heezik and Robert Davis, have deployed 20 trail cameras on the outside of the fence to try and determine how many cats and other mammals are roaming around. The results of which will see the start of some honest dialogue between the sanctuary and landowners about what to do with these cats.



Orokonui Ecosanctuary and Landscape Connections Trust teamed up at the recent Blueskin A&P show. Cats and the Orokonui Halo project were the most talked about topics.

Forest of Knowledge

April has been a very busy month with many schools visiting us and many successful events.

We loved being part of the Wild Dunedin festival Frog Day at the Otago museum which nearly four hundred people attended. Our own Nature Watch day, part of the Wild Dunedin festival, was also very successful. Suzy Cato attended and has since promoted the Ecosanctuary through writing articles and would like to promote our education resources through her show "Suzy's World".

We were very fortunate to share our work with the Governor General on his recent visit here. We focussed on our ongoing education work at Orokonui and visits to rural and low decile schools on the West Coast with the Lab in a Box and the "Shedding Light on the Night" project, a native moth conservation project in collaboration with Landcare Research. Student representatives from Te Kura Kaupapa o Otepoti joined us on the day to share their findings and beautiful artwork.

We have recently taken on new staff from students of Zoology and Science Communication departments at the University of Otago who are a great addition to the team.



Suzy Cato and her family loved visiting Orokonui for our Nature Watch day.

A big thanks to

- The Otago Masonic Charitable Trust for funding the purchase of a water tank.
- The Dunedin City Council for supporting a flax weaving workshop we will hold in Matariki.
- The Otago Community Trust for supporting removal of weed trees.
- Valerie Fay for growing all our own seedlings and coordinating the team inside the fence.
- Maree Johnstone for coordinating the team outside the fence, around the Visitor Centre.
- Robert Washick for helping resolve IT issues.
- Phil Hoogenboom for the continuing work he does for us on handyman tasks
- Men in Sheds for building a donation box.



Open Daily 9.30am-4.30pm for Guided Tours and Self Guided Walks
Orokonui Ecosanctuary, 600 Blueskin Rd, Waitati, Dunedin
Ph 03 482 1755 info@orokonui.org.nz www.orokonui.org.nz