

November
2010

Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.



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Seasons Greetings from the Chairman



Season greetings to the volunteers of the Estuary Care Group, DoC, Greater Wellington and KCDC people involved.

Now is the time to look back at the planting, weeding and mulching we have done and admire our achievement.

What a great job you are doing.

Show off - Take your friends and rellies' along the walkways during summer months

Enjoy the holidays and look forward to continuing fellowship in 2011. May it be a good year.

Graeme Cook



Last planting for 2010

After a number of cancellations due to wet weather and the planting site being completely under water for much of the winter, the horseshoe finally dried out enough to be planted. Despite the muddy conditions under foot, there was a good turn out for volunteers and no gumboots were lost in the mud. Being a quite wet site the new plantings should be fine over the summer months. This planting marked the end of another successful planting season at the Waikanae Estuary Care Goup. Thank you all again for your help and for your ongoing commitment now these plants are in the ground.



Weeds in the Waikanae Estuary's Dunes



Pingao (*Ficinia spiralis*) and Spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*) are native New Zealand dune plants. In the 19th and 20th centuries they were quite severely affected around New Zealand by grazing, fire, rabbits and introduced plant species (particularly marram grass). Later, extensive development further reduced their habitat.

Nowadays some dune areas are being restored to something like their original forms. In Waikanae Estuary marram grass and rabbits are targeted near planted pingao. But there are other weeds that inhabit sand dune areas to the detriment of native species. Apart from smothering vegetation, the weeds tend to bind the sand and create stable dunes, which is detrimental to natives. Some, like boxthorn, are tough customers. But others are easier to destroy, and if you like, you can make a difference by pulling out some of these weeds. Here are two examples:

Lupin (*lupinus aboreus*)



Purple groundsel (*senecio elegans*)



If these weeds are pulled out and left with the roots elevated, they will die. But don't hurt your back! If the plant is too big or deep rooted to pull out, it can be cut at the base with loppers or a saw, or left.

For more information on weed control please contact Eric Stone from DOC on (04) 296 1392.

Up-coming working bees

Looking ahead to summer weeding bees

Saturday	5 February	RPS 1	
			Meet on the bend of Manly Street, Paraparaumu
			Walk along track towards the beach
Saturday	19 February	RPS 3	
			Meet on Manly Street, opposite Hadfield Place, Paraparaumu
Saturday	5 March	Venue TBA	
Saturday	19 March	Venue TBA	
Saturday	2 April	Venue TBA	
Saturday	16 April	Venue TBA	
Saturday	30 April	Venue TBA	

