

August
2011

Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.



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Hello all,

A weird looking fungus was found during the planting on open day, 28th of May. After a bit of internet searching, I found this interesting item.



Lleodictyon cibarius Tul Woodside, 2007

Basket Fungus

Ghostly Baskets

The sudden mysterious appearance of basket fungi led to their being called the "droppings of ghosts" in Maori lore.

The basket is 15cm across and a member of the stinkhorn family *Phallaceae*, which includes some of the strangest fungi

The basket fungus forms a small puffball-like "egg" under the soil. The "egg" has a two-layered wall, the outer one lined with jelly.

Inside the wall is a mass of brown spores as well as the future basket, tightly folded up.

The basket soaks up moisture and BURSTS out of the "egg" with such force that it sometimes breaks free and rolls across the ground.

The spores on the inside of the net become a foul-smelling, olive-green sticky mess - a feast for flies!

The sticky spores stick to the flies and get spread by the flies when they fly away.

The baskets seldom last for more than a day.

I read that slight ground vibration may initiate the bursting out, i.e. someone planting a shrub. They are not uncommon around the estuary.

Lots of Fungi are poisonous; wash your hands after touching them.

Chairman's report

The winter planting season is almost over with only a postponed planting day or two. Our nursery has supplied well grown plants, and heavy rain after every planting has given this year's plants a great start

Thank you members and a big thanks to the teapot ladies.

The midweek planting days for Kenakena and Waikanae schools, run by Greater Wellington,

went very well. It is satisfying for WECG to supply plants and helpers. Working with teacher, pupils and parents is always especially enjoyable.

Thanks Matt, KCDC, your contribution is appreciated.

The AGM

Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.

Annual general meeting

7pm Monday 5 September 2011

Community Meeting Room, Paraparaumu Library

This AGM is one of our important annual administrative fixtures, and though brief, the agenda includes the election of officers and a committee. We would like to see you there.

The Guest Speaker is Alison Davies, Greater Wellington.

Alison is an expert in New Zealand Conservation, and has had huge experience in bringing back shorebird species, such as shore plovers and more recently, fairy terns from the brink. She will speak about the threats and issues of bird conservation and habitat restoration.

Saturday work programme

For the next few weeks

20th August – Planting at “A” south (near the beach south of Kenakena school planting)

3rd Sept – First weeding day RPS01 behind dune

5th Sept - AGM

17th Sept – Weeding location to be advised

1st Oct – Weeding

15th Oct – Weeding

29th Oct – Weeding

