

May
2011

Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.

Open day



Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.

Secretary: Lyn Whiley
Phone: 04 905 2748

Editor: Caroline Cowie

Our open day is scheduled for 28th May; the planting will be carried out on an area by the end of Takahe Drive, the area we used to call the Honda site. Look out for our advert in the '*Observer*' we would appreciate you coming along.

The programme will be, to meet at the end of Takahe Drive at 9.00am, Start planting the potted plants we will have on the site.

Morning tea on site.

Finish off the planting, and at about 11.30, move on to our plant nursery for a barbeque and a talk by Mike Peryer.



Because of the cutback of government funding, the various support agencies are only covering the bare essentials, (if that) therefore there will be no expensive giveaways at this open day.

Our Treasurer, Brian Chittenden, has been hard at work sorting out the required forms and the necessary verbiage to support the argument that our cause is greater than others, mostly to no avail. He reported that our application for funding from MFE represents a very small amount of the \$8.5 million of applications turned down in this round so we are not alone.

PLANTINGS 2011

What a wet autumn we have had. The ground will be well and truly ready for planting on our opening day, Saturday 28 May.

We have learnt a lot over the last six years of plantings, and hopefully getting smarter as to what will grow in this estuarine environment. Over the next five years

we will include a wider range of plants typical for this area, some not so obvious perhaps for people to see - such as sand tussock, wind sand grass, native spinach, sand piripiri, shore bindweed etc - but none the less important.

What do spinifex, pingao and toheroa have in common?

This year we will once again be replacing the currently dominant introduced marram grass with our native dune plants – spinifex (obvious by long runners) and pingao (golden colour). Not only are these plants, particularly spinifex, good at building sand dunes and repairing storm damage, but according to James Te Tuhi from South Kaipara (an author who's written a book about *Amphidesma ventricosum* / 'toheroa'), they are also vital to the survival of toheroa. By observation he's learnt that toheroa juveniles (spat) spend three weeks in the surf before being washed ashore in wave foam and settle above the high tide mark amongst pingao and spinifex grasses. The spat are then transferred along the shore very fast in the spinifex's female flowers (the 'tumbleweeds') which roll down the beach in the wind, or disperse more slowly from the pingao. The introduced marram grass does not provide this function. Toheroa also don't like vehicles riding over them. So another reason to plant New Zealand's native dune grasses and keep vehicles off our beaches!

Deb Finn

28 May – Open Day, south of river

- 11 June - north of river
- 25 June – south of river
- 9 July – south of river
- 23 July – north of river
- 6 August – south of river
- 20 August – north of river

Wanted, a Posthole borer:

Because of the tightening of Government funding, we are unable to obtain a posthole auger to drill the holes for the plants, has anyone out there got a posthole borer and are they prepared to assist us with this job, the Secretary will be pleased to hear from you.

Delivery

The news letter is now being delivered by e-mail and post where appropriate. If you do not wish to receive this news letter, please inform Malcolm McLeod e-mail mhmcleod@paradise.net.nz



Waikanae Estuary 2011-15 Planting sites

2010 Aerials supplied by GWRC

0 30 60 120 Meters



Above is a satellite photo of the estuary with the various proposed planting sites included in the next five year plan, the colours indicating the intended year of planting.

Purple:	2011	Pink:	2012
Dark green:	2013	Light green:	2014
Yellow:	2015	Grey: (P)	2011-15

To confuse you even more, the planting sites are now indicated by letters of the alphabet