



Waikanae Estuary Care Group

Secretary: Lyn Whiley ph 905 2748

Whats next?

Winter, and the planting season is over (at last) some planted areas have suffered from sea erosion and some from frost damage and what could be called survival of the fittest. The next thing is to decide on the next years activities, see the 'plans for next year' item.

The working bees for the coming few weeks include a couple of changes to the advertised programme. The corporate groups have looked at the weather forecast and wisely postponed the visit. This is the time table

Thursday 19th November; Westpac, probably at the same place.

Notes from Room 14, Kenakena School

Kia Ora!

Throughout this year, the year 7/8 students of Kenakena School have been releasing, mulching and planting at the local Estuary. We also took part in the Take Action for Water program that was put together by Greater Wellington Regional Council. We were inspired by these actions and decided to beautify our school and community by building our own Shade House and cold frames for young plants to grow.

Currently we don't have any room in our original Shade House because it is full of plants for trees for survival. First, we needed to see how much it would cost so a group of girls, Sophie Cormack-Wright, Sarah Lawrence, Star

Wilson-Jennings and Samantha Maguire from Room 14 went out to MITRE 10, Creighton's Building Centre and Place Makers to get prices for the costs of timber, tools and other related materials that we would need. Once we found out the price, we asked Meridian Energy for a grant of and we got a great response, as Meridian gave us \$1900.

Friday 27th November; NZ Post, on the North side of the river. Planting site 14 or 15.

Anyone with a spare few hours to help on those times would be greatly appreciated

Further to these working bees, are the regular Estuary Group's working days.

Saturday 14th November;

Saturday 28th November; and

Saturday 12th December; with whispers of a sausage sizzle to finish the year. The time will be the usual 9.00am start to about midday.

The place is yet to be decided, information will be e-mailed to you.



Currently we are buying seed holders to sell the seedlings or vegetables at the Kena Kena Fire Works Fiesta; we have also cleared the area where the new Shade House will go. Next term we are planning on buying the materials needed to build our Shade House and cold frames. The students of room 14 are really excited to get started next term.

Plans for next year

A group of members comprising a planning committee along with Roy, the DoC contractor, who organises the clearing work, took a wander around the Estuary in the middle of October in order to select sites for preparation for next year's planting

Six sites have been identified:

RPS1 back dune (new area) – 1,600 plants will be planted in an area on the northern side of the track, just behind the dunes. Boxthorn will be sprayed and left to rot. Roy and Eric said it made sense to leave a corridor for a tractor to get through this area for future plantings – especially to get to the residential side of the track.

RPS2 (extension) – the 'horseshoe' which is just inland from the Manly St entrance will be extended to allow 800 plants, including grasses along the water's edge. This area is very wet and grassy.

RPS3-5 The creek under the foot bridge and surrounds, clear out the rubbish and weeds – 800 plants (1/3 in grasses) along the main track and sides of the creek. This is a more public area and a tidy up will be appreciated

A rampant celery-like weed growing in the waterway was noted as taking over. We were advised that although this is a problem weed, it has a weak root system, so the Care group will need to keep an eye on this and if it is felt necessary, to rake the area remove the weed.

RPS6 Honda Trees site (extension) – 500 plants will be provided again by Honda Trees. This area will have a track and board walk going through it so the plan is to wait until all that work has finished. (June 2010?)

RPS7 (extension) – 1000 spinifex/pingao plants to be planted in this dune area.

RPS 09-10. on the north side, not shown in the photo below, -2000 Spinifex/Pingao.

Most of these areas will require clearing, Roy is at the moment busy with his tractor and flay cutter, doing most of the clearing. A follow up with hand held scrub cutters will clear areas unreachable by tractor. Two lots of spraying will then be required in order to knock back the weeds.

Satellite photo below was supplied by Eric Stone (DoC). The planned 2010 planting sites for the southern side of the estuary are shown



Below, Ron at work.

