



Otatara
Landcare Group

Pigeon Post



Hello folks, welcome to Pigeon Post, the newsletter of the Otatara Landcare Group. In this newsletter we bring you news of the latest happenings in our area and snippets of information about our past and ideas about improving our environment.

Your committee:

Chairman: Barry Smith 213 1500

Secretary: Chris Rance 213 1161

Treasurer: Glenda Graham 213 1397

Please contact the Otatara Landcare Group if you have questions, ideas or problems relating to the Otatara and Sandy Point areas.

We are always looking for interesting snippets for Pigeon Post. Can you contribute a story, a photo, a memory, an experience, a gardening tip, a pest control tip or a poem? Contact the **Editor:** Lloyd Esler 213 0404.

Subs - \$10 a year \$50 for 10 years \$100 for life.

Chairspeak – A message from the Chairman

We have just completed the third year of the Living Legends planting Programme. We have been lucky enough to have received funding for 11,000 plants over the last three years and this, along with a smaller number we funded ourselves, means that the total plants put in the ground in is close to 13,000 plants. This is quite exciting as it puts our planting programme ahead by 10 years. It is also exciting because when we originally began the Bushy Point Habitat Restoration Project the whole thing was going to take us 60 years to complete, so that meant completion by 2060. By that stage I'd be 105 years old! Not an impossible age to reach, just an improbably one. However now that we are 10 years further on it may mean that we will be finished by the time I'm 95, definitely a more achievable age although the 'Smith genetics' tend to suggest my passing would be sometime in the mid to late 80's. Who knows, by that time we may have had another Rugby World Cup and another Living Legends Planting and goodness knows what else so maybe, just maybe I will see the end of it. For the present though we really do thank the sponsors, Meridian Energy and the Tindall Foundation who put up a lot of monies for the 17 sites around the country to all have a fair share. To the Department of Conservation who (in spite of their recent and continual restructuring) have put a lot of time into this project, and lastly, Project Crimson, set up to plant New Zealand in Pohutukawa, Rata and Mistletoe. They were the perfect organisation to co-ordinate a country wide effort. We would also like to thank our Living Legend, Kevin Laidlaw, A rugby player who came from Nightcaps and played for Southland and the All Blacks in the late 1950's. Kevin has shown a great deal of enthusiasm for this project and he has enjoyed seeing a generation of children getting

involved in something worthwhile – as he says... "Anything that gets kids involved is worthwhile." Special thanks to our many volunteers who gave up their time to come and help, and lastly I'd like to thank the committee and others who spent the previous four weekends putting out plants and digging holes and in general just getting things ready for the event. Well, we finished the planting and I went home and sat down for a few minutes and decided I was too tired to do anything else, so I went to bed for a couple of hours of kip.

One of the other things I have been doing this winter is studying, the toe nail polishing course was still not an option and I didn't manage to get to do papers in a Health and Safety Diploma so I enrolled for a Certificate in Renewable Technologies. This has been really interesting and a lot of fun and provided a lot of things to think about as well and there is one I'd like to share with you. The Earth has some 149 million km² of land... OK, now consider if you had just two people on the planet (reality dictates this needs to be one of each sex). Now four questions, but before you calculate the answers have a guess to see what you think the answers might be.

- 1) How many times can you double the population before we fill up all the dry land? (one person per square metre)
- 2) With a world population growth currently at 1.1% how long would it take to double the population?
- 3) How long would it be from the time we started with two people till we filled the Earth up?
- 4) Which doubling up period are we currently in?

Now compare your calculated answers with your original guess. Interesting? See the actual figures at the end

Barry Smith, Chairperson

Otatara's new Nature Centre – Chris Rance

Over the past year we have been planning and then building a 'Nature Centre' at our Nursery on Grant Road. The indoor space complements the nursery facilities and pond and bush walks we have created on our property. It is full of exciting interactive nature stuff and some amazing art murals by Janet Hodgetts showing many of the birds and animals you will find in Southland.

The 'Nature Centre' is available to schools for a koha and will also be available for holding workshops, for which there will be a charge to use the building. See some of the uses the building has already been used for in the News and Events section of the Community Nursery website www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz



Seven 'princesses' recently enjoyed a birthday party at Otatara's new Nature Centre

Official Opening

There will be an Official Opening of the building and facilities on **Friday 8 November 2013** - when our Patron Ruud Kleinpast (the Bug Man) will be here to do the honours. It will be a chance to thank everyone who has helped with this project and also to have a lot of fun. Look out for details.

Get to know Otatara better with our new website



The Otatara Landcare Group is about to launch our own website: www.otataralandcare.org.nz



We've designed the website to showcase the interesting and exciting things to discover about "Natural Otatara" under Let's Explore, profiling the Otatara Landcare Group's hands-on project Bushy Point Restoration and Publications which help you understand and enjoy this special area.

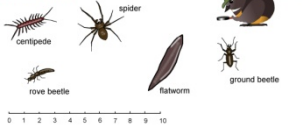
It's also a place you can find out what's new and what local events are happening by looking at latest news and for you to get in touch.

Education resources for families and schools

Interested in finding out more about our local environment? Check out our range of education resources available under Let's Explore. See examples of covers below.

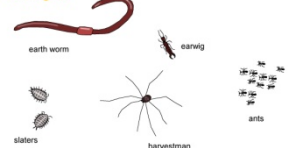
Beaut Bugs

Animal eaters



Scale: centimetres

Scavengers



Scale: centimetres



Where was the whaling station? Lloyd Esler

In 1837 there was a whaling station at Oue on Sandy Point. It lasted only a year and the gear – try pots, barrels, stores and boats – was shifted to Riverton. Much of the oil was lost when the *Lynx* was wrecked on the New River bar opposite Omaui. The site of the station is assumed to have been Whalers Bay but this is most unlikely. No map marks the place but evidence suggests it was not there. A whaling station needs deep water close to shore so you can get your whale up. It needs wood and fresh water.

Whalers Bay was formed much later when drifting sand covered the southern end of the peninsula. The huge macrocarpas protecting the Rask's house trapped the drifting sand. You can check this for yourself as there is a large sand dune on their western side. Sand deflected around the both ends of the trees poured into the estuary making the arms of what is now the bay. The shoreline would have been possibly 100 metres further back before the sand moved. The Maori village Oue would have been completely buried by the sand and no vestige remains although there are odd patches of midden – charcoal and shells along the coast. The village must have been beside the stream Coopers Creek.

I am suggesting that Oue, the whaling station and the present settlement are on the one spot. There would have been channel coming close inshore. The wooden piles of a jetty tell you that the water was once much deeper here.

John Hall-Jones in his book *The South Explored* suggests that the Oue Island mentioned in early writings is the sand flat that appears as the tide drops, but this probably didn't exist then. I think Oue Island was probably a vegetated island similar to those in Awarua Bay that was swept away in a flood or gradually nibbled away.



The old wharf at low tide.

Bushy Point Calendar 2013 – Sally Duston

Well, we're nine months into our great calendar of events for 2013. Should you have been so remiss as to have tossed out your earlier calendar, here's your second chance...also, posters are placed at the Otatara Store, Bushy Point entrance, Otatara Scenic Reserve on Dunns Rd, the Southland Community Nursery, and sometimes the ICC Library, 2 weeks before events, just in case...

You probably know about and may have come along to one of our regular monthly maintenance afternoons – intended to be fun and relaxing (with the exception of one event – sorry!), encouraging you to join us for 10 minutes, the whole 2 hours or not at all – just whatever suits you. You even get a free copy of Lloyd's book 'Natural Otatara', to lure you back (let me know if I've forgotten to give you one). There's been a great mix of people - locals and from further afield - mostly on an irregular basis, which is just fine. Thanks to you all – Bushy Point is looking very spruced up and responding well to the extra weeding and care. New folk have put up their hands to tend trap lines and an adoption programme is in place to care for a small area of trees (be it only one family having taken up that offer!).

Back in May, the Tree and Weed identification at Otatara Scenic Reserve was well attended (thanks to Lloyd and his Explorers). Trying to correctly identify trees in the first place was a challenging exercise! At the first of our winter evening series, we had a whole

bunch of weeds to check out (all found by biking around Otatara) and how to cope with them. The latest event was a relaxed evening of film, if you can call 'relaxing' flying over Fiordland, circumnavigating Stewart Island, checking out Ulva and what lies beneath the Southland waters.

Living Legends will be done and dusted by the time you get this but the work afternoons will carry on **Orienteering** is another sport you may fancy having a go at. Along with the Southland Orienteering Club we are holding an Intro to Orienteering on 3rd November – just turn up any time between 11.30am-1pm with \$3 and your glasses and we will show you what to do. Lastly, bring along your sandwiches, family and running shoes on 1st December to escape the pre-Christmas madness; enjoy an informal family picnic and treasure hunt. 11am start. If it's wet, we don't have an alternative plan – too far away to think about that!

The reason for this year's trial programme has been to encourage everyone (be you a resident of Otatara or further afield) to discover what a neat place Bushy Point is and how lucky we are to have this area right on our doorstep, not to mention having the chance to be part of the restoration project. Has this year's programme been worthwhile/interesting for you? Ideas and comments welcome. Tell your friends about it and hopefully we'll see you at a future event. Thanks for those who have supported me (especially the committee!!) this year.

Sally Duston ph: 2131403 email:summerthornwood@yahoo.co.nz

Plant Protectors – Joe Sherriff

It can be hard to get native plants established in Otatara. Strong, cold salty winds, rabbits and smothering weeds, which for some reason the rabbits don't eat, are powerful adversaries. A simple bit of recycling can defeat all of the above and give your trees a really good head start. We got the idea and our first protectors from a friend, Ian Redpath. He was planting at the Waiau River mouth, in an even more of a testing environment than Otatara.



1. Get hold of a clean 20 litre plastic container, the sort that oil comes in. Clean it thoroughly making sure you don't pollute with the washings. It's not so easy to clean residual oil out, so ones that have contained something water soluble are good. The best that we have had were from a wool scour and had originally contained hydrogen peroxide; now that is super clean. They come in a variety of colours but we have found the black ones are best. The others eventually break down with exposure to the sun.

2. Use a hole-cutter to make a hole around 80mm diameter in the middle of the bottom. Then cut the entire top off. A carborundum disc saw or reciprocating saw can be used.

3. Cut right down the middle of one side and across the bottom, through the 80mm hole, to the bottom of the opposite side, so that the container opens and shuts like a book.

4. Finally drill 2 small holes (5mm) about 15mm out from the cut, close to the top and bottom of the side.

5. Get a square of weed mat a little smaller than the base of the container, 2 cable ties 250-300mm long and a stake around 700mm long. Last but not least you need a baby tree.

6. Once you have planted the tree, cut a slit in the weed mat from one side to the middle and place that around the base of the tree.

7. Then open the container and put that on top of the mat with the tree through the middle of the 80mm hole. Line up the stake against the slit in the side of the container and give it a few taps with a hammer.

8. Check that the tree is still in the middle of the hole and then drive the stake into the ground so that only a few cm show above the container. Put a cable tie through each pair of small holes and around the stake.

Repeat this a few hundred times per acre, wait a few years (maybe a hundred or so) and you will have a forest.



Newly planted Totara, mulched with lawn clippings



Your trees are now sheltered from the wind, protected from rabbits and you can weed spray and go all out with a weed eater without risk of damage to the trees. Unfortunately they don't keep cows out as our broadleaves discovered last year. Use a nylon line on the weed eater rather than a metal blade to avoid slicing and dicing the containers. If you make sure the join in the cable tie is on the inside of the container, it is less likely to be broken by the weed eater.

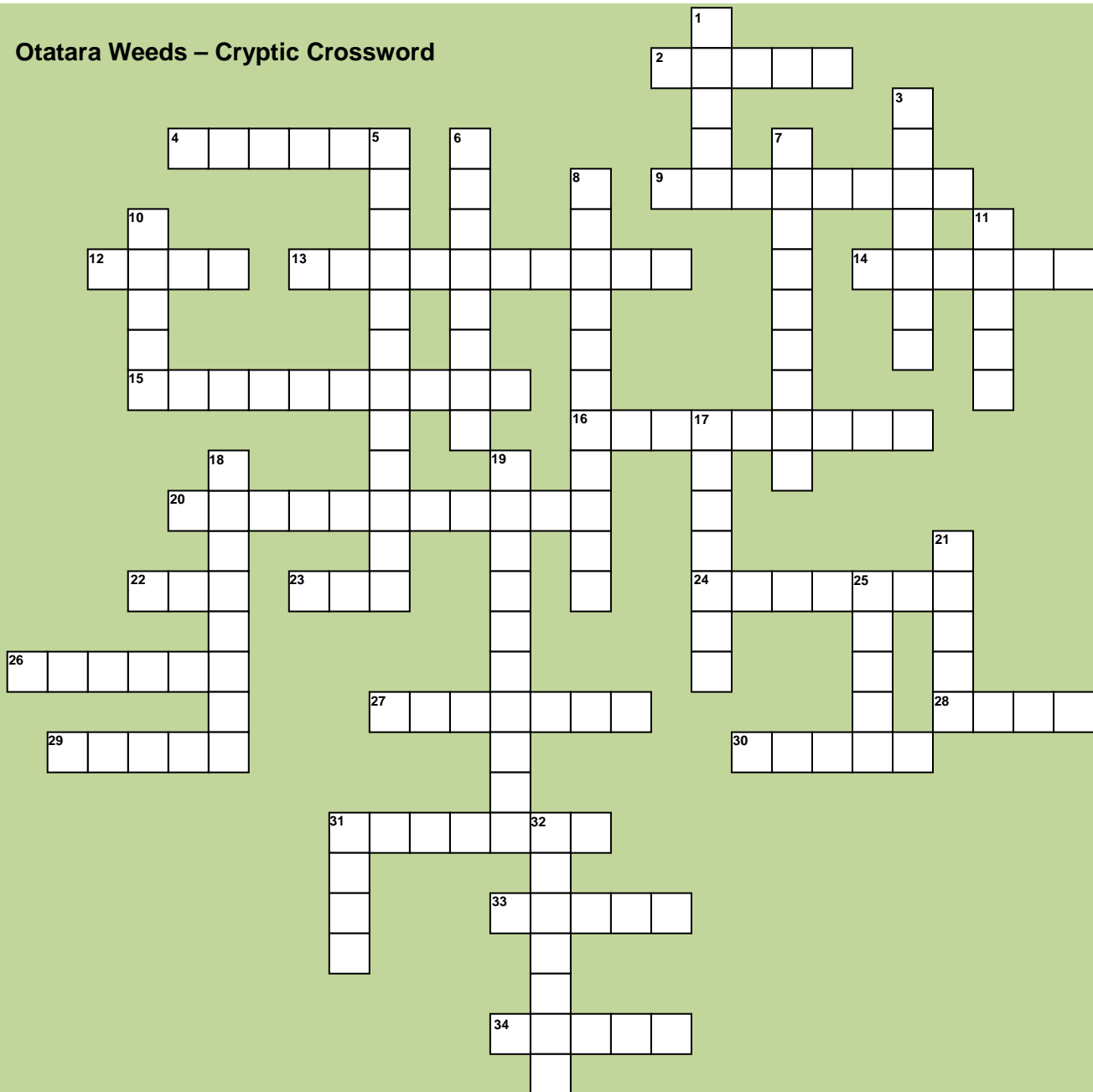
Photo: 2012 planting

Once the tree is about three times the height of the container the latter can be removed and reused. This is usually only one year for wineberry and cabbage trees, a couple for Pittosporums and tree fuchsias and rather more for slow growers such as totara and broadleaf. Manuka is very prone to the black mould which can kill them after a couple of years, just when they are about to get established. They seem to do better without the weed mat and removing the protector as early as possible.

Photo: 2011 tree fuchsias ready for protectors to be removed.



Otatara Weeds – Cryptic Crossword



Across

- 2** Alternative name for peak littered with remains of fire (5)
4 Where the cattle roam (6)
9 Sounds like he's ill to a greater degree (8)
12 see 32d
13 Motet Brian rearranged (10)
14 see 7d
15 The older lobster's egg (10)
16 and 25 d Found at Tiwai (9, 5)
20 Opposite tastes (11)
22, 28a and 29a Mature male's facial hair (3, 4, 5)
23 American football is in this league (3)
24 see 31a
26 see 33a
27 and 30a This flu needs an open space(7, 5)
28 see 22a
29 see 22a
30 see 27a
31, 11d and 24a Result of South American striking a match in front of bird (7, 5, 7)
33 and 26a Inexperienced maiden loved by Apollo (5, 6)
34 see 17d

Down

- 1** The pure in heart converted fifty (5)
3 and 6d Origin of the Species author included a thorny bush (7, 8)
5 Sounds like a pin for an artist's hat (12)
6 see 3d
7 and 14a Roaming with Bill (9, 6)
8 Bed for one flower (11)
10 May be found in Feilding or Seddon (5)
11 see 31a
17 and 34a A central American showing ironical admiration (7, 5)
18 Tightly wrap pot (8)
19 Could be found at the rocky shore (10)
21 A new one sweeps clean (5)
25 see 16a
31 see 32d
32, 31d and 12a Order a thousand nails for Baccus(7, 4, 4)



The starlings and me

The early spring weather stirred the starlings into action. During the colder months there were half-hearted efforts to defend nest boxes but now the battle is raging. In the last couple of years I have suspected that some pairs own more than one nest box, using only one of them, or perhaps one male has two females or there may be feeding of a brood by an adult which is not a parent. I've started getting colour bands on as many as I can catch to see what is going on.

I started with small cage trap but after three days I had caught a greenfinch and eleven silveryeyes so no future there. Next attempt is a booby trapped nestbox in which the door closes when a trigger is dislodged. They won't go near it. Then I discovered a new technique. There is a nestbox two metres from the kitchen window.

When a pair of fighting starlings is battling it out inside the box I can block the hole with a ball of string on a pole. Then I take them out and band them. This has worked three times so far with a green and a red band put on in the first capture and a silver band applied in the second and a blue on the third. Old Red was recaptured in the second capture and Old Silver on the third.

I thought that the traumatic process might put off the birds from using that box but Silver (pictured above) was back ten minutes later with his new bling. 'His' or 'Her', you can't tell. I had hoped to use DoC bands but they won't sell me any despite the fact that this isn't a protected species and doesn't need a banding permit, so I have to buy pigeon bands from East Road Pets. I'm hoping to get 20 birds banded within a few weeks and I intend to band the nestlings before they fledge.

Fireworks Safety – A message from Bush Haven

All Invercargill and especially Otatara people should be aware that the native birds are nesting at present and the noise and flares of fireworks could seriously risk losing eggs, chicks and even parent birds. People often move to Otatara because of the beauty and proximity of tui, bellbird and kereru and of course the bush, so why risk losing them?

Fireworks are also very scary to horses, and most other animals. It is relatively easy to keep cats and dogs inside but not too easy with horses in paddocks.

Fireworks follow an English custom of Guy Fawkes attempting to blow up Parliament – it is celebrated in the Northern hemisphere in Winter which doesn't disturb fauna as much as it does here, in the Spring/Summer – our predominant breeding season for most birds and animals.



Russell tells another of his weasel stories



There is also the risk of a fire starting in the bush from sparks, which is a very real danger.

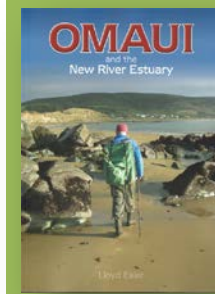
Be responsible – if you **MUST** have fireworks, please ensure you attend public gatherings or let them off in large clear areas, well away from all animals and bush habitat.

Please take care when using fireworks that a responsible adult is supervising or setting them off.

Russell & May Evans - Bush Haven, Otatara

Photo above right: Here we go again. Russell Evans telling another of his weasel stories at the Fire Awareness night on 29 August

Photo left: Young Otatara man Ryan Conner is a possum trapper. Here he is with the end product.



Omaui book for sale

Interested in the history of the Omaui area and the estuary?

Available from the author Lloyd Esler –

Omaui and the New River Estuary

\$25

Ph: 213 0404

Pest study

My name is Karen Maw and I am a second year student studying Environmental Management at the Southern Institute of Technology.

I am seeking the participation of individual property dwellers in the Otatara area who are involved with trapping predators such as possums, ferrets, weasels, stoats, hedgehogs, and rats.

My study will involve examining what these animals have been eating and then trying to locate live prey animals by looking at how long it takes to digest the prey and the possible distance the pest animal may have travelled before being trapped. I would then put tracking tunnels near the traps to get footprints of ground dwelling animals on ink coated cards. If there are footprints of the animals I am looking for I would swap the tracking tunnels with Artificial Cover Objects (ACOs). These ACOs are made from a roofing material called Onduline, which has the same ridging as corrugated iron except it's much lighter in weight and easier to move. The ACOs would need to be left undisturbed for at least two weeks and then I would check them and try to get photographs of any small creatures that are on or under them.

Lloyd Esler has agreed to keep the specimens frozen until they can be dealt with. Drop them off at 15 Mahuri Road in a plastic bag with where and when they were caught and by whom.

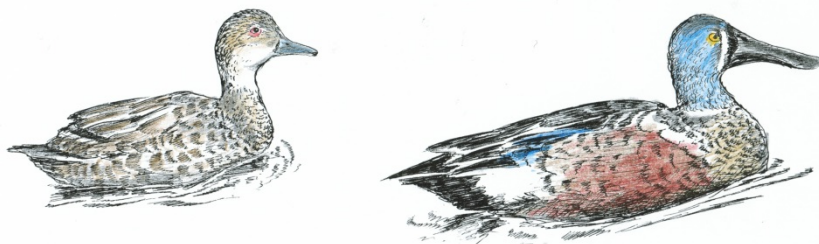


A kingfisher midden

Otatara and Sandy Point have a small kingfisher population. You get that occasional flash of kingfisher blue when what you thought was a starling swoops from the wires. It may be a lack of suitable nesting habitat that limits numbers. It won't be food as there is an abundance of crabs, fish and snails. I recently found a kingfisher midden at Noki Kai beach. I thought at first it was a Maori midden but it consists only of broken mudsnails. Maori ate mudsnails and you might like to try them yourself. Kingfishers pick them up and bash them on a branch or stone until the animal is dislodged and swallowed and the pile of broken shells grows.

Many Ducks

On 18 March this year the sewage pond had five duck species – Paradise duck, mallard, shovellor, Grey teal and scaup. It shows that even a pongy pond is important in attracting birds. They aren't feeding there but water offers protection to birds which aren't good runners, can't slink away into the undergrowth and don't perch in trees. Paradise ducks do perch in trees sometimes and occasionally you see a pair high up in the dead top of a forest giant. They may well be nesting there, raising the ducklings in a down-lined hole. The youngsters' exit from the nest must be a bit of a leap of faith with a tumble to earth barely slowed by undeveloped wings.



Mallards nest around the edge of the pond and possibly the other species do as well. Missing from the list was the Brown teal, extinct in Southland and barely holding on in some North Island localities, the Blue duck which is confined to torrents in Fiordland, and the Grey duck which is smaller close relative of the mallard. The Grey duck has been hybridised almost out of existence but still hangs on in remote high country lakes which are not favoured by

mallards. Ironically you can shoot Grey ducks in season, but not Grey teals which are much commoner.

Pictures show a Grey teal and a shovellor.

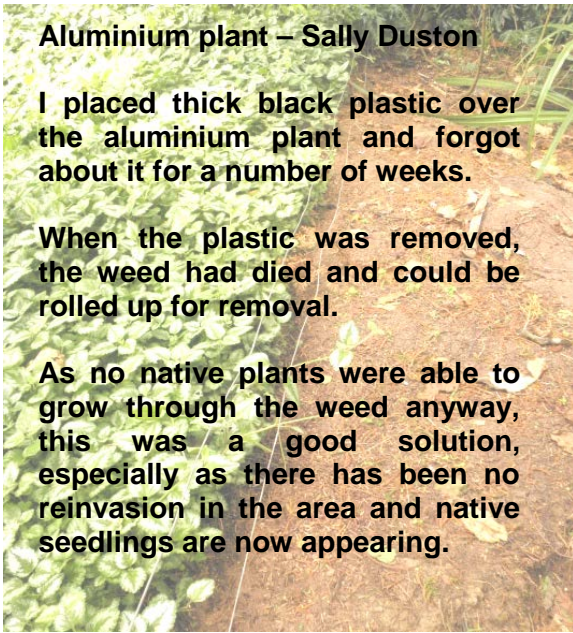
Dealing with pests

Aluminium plant – Sally Duston

I placed thick black plastic over the aluminium plant and forgot about it for a number of weeks.

When the plastic was removed, the weed had died and could be rolled up for removal.

As no native plants were able to grow through the weed anyway, this was a good solution, especially as there has been no reinvasion in the area and native seedlings are now appearing.



Vine-pulling day

A day in Bowman's Bush in February (pictured above) resulted in great heaps of Chile Flame Creeper being pulled.

There seemed to be less than last year, perhaps a sign that a persistent effort pays off.

A sort of Animals Pests Quiz!

General

1. Where were the first possums released in NZ and in which year?
2. What is disliked by possums a) windy weather; b) fire; c) chocolate; d) rain?
3. How many species of deer are there in NZ? Name them?
4. Which ant doesn't smell when squashed?
5. Male and female feral goats both have horns. True or false?
6. Which 3 deer species occur only in NI?
7. Which is the largest mustelid in NZ?
8. Place in size-order, from largest to smallest – weasel, ferret, stoat
9. Who brought goats to NZ and where were they released?
10. Which is a 'pest' fish – koi carp, gambusia, catfish, rudd?
11. From one pair of rats, how many will they produce, from all the combined offspring, in a year?
12. Which animal pest is considered 'public enemy no. 1'?
13. What are the 3 types of rat in NZ?
14. In which year was legal protection of mustelids removed?
15. Which has a black tip to its tail – stoat or weasel?
16. Which rat can be identified by ears which cover the eyes when pressed forward?
17. What is an un-neutered female ferret called?

Pests in the Written World

1. 'Good _____ of virtue, answer me' (Twelfth Night)
2. 'I can suck melancholy out of a song, as a _____ sucks eggs' (As You Like It)
3. Which animal has these in common – a chair, a clock, the night before Christmas?
4. 'Do _____ eat bats? Do bats eat _____?' (Alice in Wonderland)
5. 'How now! A _____! Dead for a ducat, dead' (Hamlet)
6. Which animal has these in common – Cheshire, an owl, a fiddle?
7. 'You know Trotwood, I don't want to swing a _____' (Mr Dick, David Copperfield, Dickens)
8. 'Oh the rising of the sun, and the running of the _____ The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir' (Christmas carol)
9. 'Pop goes the weasel' – what is the meaning of 'weasel' in this nursery rhyme?
10. Who launched the 'Cats To Go' campaign?



Group Names

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 1. Ferrets | 4. Rats |
| 2. Weasels | 5. Cats |
| 3. Stoats | 6. Deer |

Useful Animal Facts??

1. Most rats are right handed
2. Isaac Newton invented the cat flap door
3. France sent the first cat into space in 1963
4. Jupiter was suckled by a sow
5. Cats have contributed to the extinction of 9 native bird species
6. A rat can go longer without water than a camel
7. A rat can swim ½ a mile in open water and tread water for 3 days
8. Ferrets sleep 14-18 hrs a day

Continuing Sally's animal theme, you may not be aware of Edward Lear's follow-up poem. It clears up which was the male and which the female too.

The Children of the Owl and the Pussy-cat

Our mother was the Pussy-cat, our father was the Owl,
And so we're partly little beasts and partly little fowl,
The brothers of our family have feathers and they hoot,
While all the sisters dress in fur and have long tails to boot.
We all believe that little mice, for food are singularly nice

And finally a question from the editor: What was the largest two mustelid species in *The Wind in the Willows*?

Otatara Pestbusters

Once again, Otatara Pestbusters would like to remind you about looking after the birds in your area. Spring is here and the predators – possums, rats, mustelids are having babies so they need to kill more birds, eat their eggs etc to feed their young. Let's get in NOW and get rid of the predators so that the birds safely rear their chicks, and we will hear more bellbirds, tuis and the big whoosh of kereru wings in our bush and surrounds.

Even if you don't have bush, the rats will find a place to live. Several people in the past year have found rats in their ceilings keeping them awake. If you kill the rats on your property they will not get into the house.

Come and see us at 49 Bryson Road Wednesday afternoons 3-6pm or Saturday mornings 10- 12 for your products. We keep supplies of bait and some traps and if not in stock, we can get it for you cheaper than the shops.

Peter Simpson has been working really hard in the Otatara South Reserve for which DoC have given funds for the traps and bait. However without the dedicated work of Peter in this reserve, and other members of Pestbusters/ Landcare in other areas this work would not be done.

We would also encourage people to talk to their neighbours about pest control. There are many people out there who are doing something to look after their properties, but we need to speak to you, to get you on the list and the map of Otatara with a coloured dot at your address to show you care.

The more people that get involved the more successful the control work will be – **as it is now nesting time, we should be involved now!**

If you want more information contact:

Randall Milne: milnes@kinect.co.nz ph: 2130851

Russell Evans: bush.haven@kinect.co.nz ph: 2130530 or

Derek Richards at Environment Southland: Derek.Richards@es.govt.nz ph: 211 5115

Bushland Fungi – Glenda Graham



Whilst growing up on a farm, fungi came in three forms, mushrooms which could be picked and eaten, large horse mushrooms, not for eating, and puffballs, for kicking. As I wasn't fond of eating mushrooms, there wasn't much about fungi of interest.



However, living in Otatara with bush on the doorstep has changed things. I now realize that fungi come in an amazing variety of the forms and colours.

The first I noticed was this orange mushroom-like fungus which appeared on a tree stump (above left).

It is very attractive. It would last for a while and disappear, to return again, even one year after another. Above right is the Honey fungus, or Armillaria.

It is one of the fungi which decompose wood by secreting enzymes to aid the it breaking down. This helps nutrients to be released. The red fungus is called Red tobacco pouch (below left).



Photos from Living Legends



Kereru Award (Conservation Badge)

Do these five
activities.

Suggested ages
7 up.



- Pot up ten native seedlings and maintain them until they are ready to be used in a restoration project.
- Adopt a stretch of road, walkway, riverbank or beach and keep it free of litter for a month.
- Improve the family's recycling arrangements.
- Assist with an organised conservation activity such as a bird survey, weed eradication or habitat restoration.
- Focus on one particular local pest plant or animal and reduce its numbers over a month, or select a useful species and boost its population.

No posters, no pandas, no whales, no kakapos, no internet. Ask us for advice on your project

Answer Page

Weed Cryptic Cross Word Answers

Across

- 2 Rowan
- 4 Pampas
- 9 Sycamore
- 12 **see 32d**
- 13 Montbretia
- 14 **see 7d**
- 15 Elderberry
- 16 **and 25 d** Aluminium plant
- 20 Bittersweet
- 22, **28a and 29a** Old mans beard
- 23 Ivy
- 24 **see 31a**
- 26 **see 33a**
- 27 **and 30a** Spanish heath
- 28 **see 22a**
- 29 **see 22a**
- 30 **see 27a**
- 31, **11d and 24a** Chilean flame creeper
- 33 **and 26a** Green daphne
- 34 **see 17d**

Down

- 1 Holly
- 3 **and 6d** Darwins barberry
- 5 Spindleberry
- 6 **see 3d**
- 7 **and 14a** Wandering Willie
- 8 Cotoneaster
- 10 Gorse
- 11 **see 31a**
- 17 **and 34a** Mexican daisy
- 18 Bindweed
- 19 Periwinkle
- 21 Broom
- 25 **see 16a**
- 31 **see 32d**
- 32, **31d and 12a** African club moss

Pest Quiz Answers

General

- 1. Riverton 1837
- 2. Rain
- 3. Seven, red, wapiti, fallow, sika, rusa, sambar, white-tailed (Virginian)
- 4. Argentine
- 5. True
- 6. Sika, rusa, sambar
- 7. Ferret
- 8. Ferret, stoat, weasel
- 9. Captain Cook, Marlborough Sounds
- 10. They all are
- 11. 15,000
- 12. Stoat
- 13. Ship, Norway, kiore (Pacific)
- 14. 1936
- 15. Stoat
- 16. Ship
- 17. Jill

Group Names

- 1. **Ferrets** - business, cast, fesnying, busyness
- 2. **Weasels** - gang, colony, pack, confusion, boogle
- 3. **Stoats** - pack, trip
- 4. **Rats** - mischief, colony, plague, pack, swarm
- 5. **Cats** - clowder, clutter, pounce, dour, nuisance, cluster, parliament, seraglio, kindle, litter, glorying, glare, destruction (of wild cats)
- 6. **Deer** - herd, leash, bevy, game, quarry, bunch, mob

Pests in the Written Word

- 1. mouse
- 2. weasel
- 3. mouse
- 4. cats cats
- 5. rat
- 6. cat
- 7. cat
- 8. deer
- 9. Cockney rhyming slang – 'weasel and stoat' = coat (pawn the coat)
- 10. Gareth Morgan

Other

What are the largest two mustelids in
The Wind in the Willows?
Answer: Badger and Otter

Answers to Barry's questions from Chairspeak
(These are open to debate)

- 1) 57
- 2) ?
- 3) 1,140 years
- 4) 32