

# A place of history and a living legacy

This is a walk that provides an insight into Otatara as it used to be. It highlights current activities and introduces the restoration project that is progressively restoring paddocks back to native forest and wetland.

**Walking times:** One-way from Bryson Road at a leisurely pace:

- To viewpoint: 10 minutes
- To pond and interpretation sign: 30 minutes

## 1 Pest control

Introduced animals harm both native plants and wildlife. A study of Otatara's tūi and kererū showed that 86% of their nests were attacked by predators.

The interpretation panel shows the pests we are controlling over the 90 hectares of land around Bushy Point. Monitoring since 2007 has shown consistently low number of rats and increasing bird numbers. Poisons are used in bait stations; please keep dogs on leads.

## 2 Check out the view!

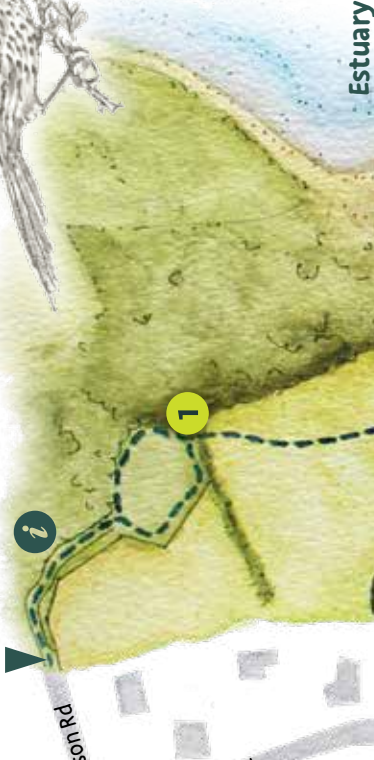
The white trig structure on the hill marks one of Invercargill's high points, 20m above sea-level. The rolling hills are all that remain of sand dunes which date from the stabilisation of sea levels after the last ice-age some 6000 years ago. Most of the dunes were levelled around 1910 with sand removed as fill to create the embankment that carried a tramway across the estuary from Stead Street to Otatara. The work was done using prison labour.

The estuary is fringed by salt marsh. Jointed wire rush/oio dominates the tidal zone then gives way to coastal scrub, including cabbage tree/tī, mānuka and flax/harakeke. Listen for a short metallic 'tchick' which gives away the presence of rare fernbird/mātā (left).



You are here

Bryson Rd  
Marama Ave Sth



## 3 Tōtara forest remnant

Tōtara forest on sand dunes is a nationally significant ecosystem and we are lucky in Otatara to have some of the best remaining examples in New Zealand. Tōtara is a highly significant tree to Māori and its uses are many. Tōtara lives for hundreds of years and provides food in the form of berries and nesting sites for a wide range of native birds and insects.

## 4 It's planting time!

In September 2011, a three year "Living Legends" national planting project was sponsored by the Tindall Foundation. The project here at Bushy Point saw 10,000 locally grown native trees planted over that time. Planting continues to this day with a total of over 30,000 native plants planted by local volunteers since the year 2000. Check out the Otatara Landcare Group website for planting dates and how you can help!

## 5 Creating a pond

In September 2006, a pond and wetland area was created. The pond margin features flax/harakeke, sedges and scattered shrubs, including thickets of coprosma to attract fernbird/mātā. As planting extends outwards, it will provide a vegetation sequence from the pond to adjacent wetland and podocarp forest. The wetland is already attracting waterfowl, white-faced heron, black and little shag/kōau and kingfisher/kōtare. Two picnic areas have been created by the pond.

## 6 Views of the original forest

From here you can look south to see tall kahikatea, mataī and rimu - a reminder of the original podocarp forest that once covered much of Otatara. You can be part of restoring this.

## 7 Get Involved!

Otatara Landcare Group volunteers have now planted over 30,000 native plants at Bushy Point. Volunteers also service pest lines surrounding Bushy Point every two weeks. If you can help with weeding, planting or pest control, please contact us through our website, below.

[www.otatara.landcare.org.nz](http://www.otatara.landcare.org.nz)

'Super-Sleuth' Nature Walk



## Learn more about Bushy Point

Follow the yellow topped posts. You'll find interesting information in this brochure specific to each site.



Once you've reached the interpretation sign by the pond, pick up another brochure for our 'Super Sleuth' walk. Follow the fantail numbered posts.

## Learning activities

See our website for more fun activities you can enjoy while walking at Bushy Point or at your place:

[www.otataralandcare.org.nz](http://www.otataralandcare.org.nz)



Scan this QR code on your smartphone to take you straight to our website



This project would not be possible without generous financial and material support.

Contributors include:

- Department of Conservation
- Environment Southland
- Community Trust of Southland
- Invercargill City Council
- National Parks and Conservation Trust (Transpower)
- ILT Foundation
- Pub Charity



Please return this brochure to the dispenser for other walkers to enjoy

Photos by Jason Hosking, Chris Rance, Janet Hodgetts;  
Sketches by Gordon Duston, Lloyd Esler; Watercolours by Helen Stewart

# Bushy Point

Past, present, future



A self-guided walk

Public conservation land managed by



Otatara  
Landcare Group