

Bushy Point – a place of history

This walk provides an insight into Otatara as it used to be. It highlights some current activities and introduces the restoration project that is progressively restoring paddocks back to native forest and wetland. The land is public conservation land managed by the Otatara Landcare Group.

Walking Times

One-way from Bryson Road at a leisurely pace:

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



Learn more about Bushy Point

Follow the yellow-topped numbered 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.

About the Otatara Landcare Group

For more information see our website:

www.otataralandcare.org.nz

Or contact:

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

In particular, contributions made by:

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



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

Please return this brochure to the dispenser for other walkers to enjoy – thank you!

BUSHY POINT

past, present, future

A self-guided walk



1. Pest Control. Introduced animals harm both native plants and wildlife. A study of Otatarā's tui and pigeons showed that 86% of their nests were attacked by predators. Distinctive pink triangles mark pest control lines that have been cut into the bush areas at 100 metre intervals. This is one of several kinds of traps used to catch offenders. So far 250 possums, 90 stoats and a few weasels have been caught. Many rats have also died after taking poisoned bait from bird- and pet-proof tunnels. Three monthly bird counts test the programme's success and locals are noticing more bird song.

2. Check out the view. The white trig structure on the hill marks one of Invercargill's high points, 20 metres 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 6,000 years ago. Most of the dunes were levelled around 1910 with sand used as fill to create the embankment that carried a tramway across the estuary from Stead Street to Otatarā. The work was done using prison labour. The estuary is fringed by salt marsh. Jointed wire rush or oioi dominates the tidal zone then gives way to coastal scrub, including cabbage tree (ti), manuka and flax (harakeke). Listen for a short metallic 'tchick' which gives away the presence of rare fernbirds.

3. Totara forest remnant. A remnant of totara forest still covers sand dune hummocks in this small area. The big totara have been milled, leaving behind younger trees mixed with kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*) and peppertree (horopito) amongst introduced scrub plants.

4. Living Legends. In September 2011 the Living Legends Project started with 250 volunteers planting 5,300 native plants. The three year Living Legends project was sponsored by the Tindall Foundation.



Since the year 2000, volunteers have planted over 20,000 native plants at Bushy Point – a forest in the making!

5. Creating a Pond. In September 2006 a pond and wetland area was created. The pond margin features flax, sedges and scattered shrubs, including thickets of *Coprosma* to attract fernbird. 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 shag, little shag and kingfisher.

From here you can follow the numbered fantail signs. Pick up a brochure by the interpretation sign and have a go at some fun activities along the way.

6. Views of the original forest.

From here you can look south to see tall kahikatea, matai and rimu – a reminder of the original podocarp forest that once covered much of Otatarā.

7. Get involved – how you can help

From here you are looking over the 2013 Living Legends plantings. The Otatarā Landcare Group volunteers now have over 20,000 native plants to look after at Bushy Point. If you can spare some time on our regular work days or take on a small job in your own time, we would love to hear from you! See our Calendar of events or contact us through the website:

www.otataralandcare.org.nz

Living Legends planting 2013

