



OTATARA PIGEON POST

NUMBER 44

DECEMBER 2011

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Otatara Landcare Group wishes all Otatara residents a safe and happy holiday.



**OTATARA
LANDCARE GROUP**

Mission Statement

To focus attention of Otatara residents and others on the natural features and ecological values of the Otatara environment, especially native forest and wetland flora and fauna. To promote and where possible facilitate the protection, restoration and creation of such features in the interests of scientific appreciation and intrinsic worth and to encourage community appreciation of these values.

Objectives

- To act as a liaison forum for Otatara landowners, with the ICC, SRC, DOC and other agencies, in issues of land use and management of natural resources.
- To provide information to Otatara residents and other landowners on how best to manage and enhance natural areas, including weed and pest management.
- To advocate for the preservation and enhancement of forest remnants and other natural values of the Otatara area (including New River Estuary, Sandy Point and Oreti Beach).
- To promote increased use of native plants in gardens and on properties in Otatara.
- To improve the habitat for native wildlife in the Otatara area.
- To run a programme of activities which will include bush walks, field days and talks to improve knowledge of the local environment, and working bees to help individuals and organisations with their environmental projects.
- To promote Otatara's natural areas to local people and visitors through publicity (newsletter, leaflets, e.g., Gamble's Educational Boardwalk).

Your Committee

Please contact any of the committee members if you have questions, ideas or problems relating to the Otatara/Sandy Point area. Elected Committee Members 2009 – 2010:

| | |
|--|--|
| Barry Smith – Chairperson (ph. 213-1500) | Chris Rance – Secretary (ph. 213-1161) |
| Glenda Graham – Treasurer (ph 213-1397) | Lloyd Esler (ph. 213-0404) |
| Linda Jackson (ph. 213-1271) | Brian Rance (ph. 213-1161) |
| Randall Milne (ph. 213-0851) | Cathy MacFie (ph. 213-1267) |
| Jill Warhurst (ph. 216-6234) | Clair Leith (ph. 213-1148) |
| Deidre Francis (ph 213-0957) | Russel Evans (ph. 213 0530) |
| May Evans (ph. 213 0530) | |

Chairspeak – a Message from the Chairperson

The Otatara Landcare Group has had a very exciting year! We were one of 17 regions around the country where the 'Living Legends' project took place. In each of these areas 5,000 native plants were planted in a great effort. We had a lot of children on site, even Stewart Island School came over for the day and since we had a couple of buses available we were able to send one down to Bluff to pick them up as well as those attending from the Bluff area. We were wondering just how the whole thing was going to go, but we needn't really have worried as this was Southland. We had the assistance of some 260 people for the event and this, coupled with the effort of a couple of weekends before where four people with two post-hole borers dug nearly 3,500 holes, meant that our allocation of plants went in the ground in about 1 ½ hours. Registrations for the events around the country were via a website. We had 160 registered so it was great that so many more turned up. If you compare the response of smaller centres vs the big cities then the results were outstanding. Ashburton also had about 160 registered for their event and 300 turned up, Kapiti also another 160 odd registered, 60 turned up! Only 60 turned up in Auckland as well. These plants have been in the ground now for two months and most are liking where they are with fresh growth being seen on a lot of the plants, so that bodes well for the future of the area. This project is ongoing for the next two years and we are looking forward to completing some 10 years of additional work in just three years.

This year we also had the opportunity to heel in some Cabbage trees and about 600 plus were put in. This, coupled with the plants put in by Southland Girls' High School students at the beginning of the year, means that this year the total amount of plants that have gone in the ground is well in excess of 6,000.

It is now coming up to summer once again. Our student from Greenland headed back to a normal life at her home in Mid July and for 10 days we hosted a student from Kumagaya (Invercargill's sister city in Japan) in August. Next year we will have a student from Germany in March and April and in May we are expecting a return visit for about a month from the first student we hosted in the first half of 2009. On the home front our eldest daughter has returned from her first year at university and our youngest is in the middle of her NCEA exams along with all the other year 11, 12 & 13 pupils from around the country.

This year we have had a lot of support from the public. Since 1 April nearly 1100 hours of labour has gone into the Bushy Point Project and for this assistance we are extremely grateful. So to each of you enjoy the coming season, especially with your families and friends and maybe we'll see you all again next year.

Barry Smith, Chairperson

Otatara Landcare Group Events

New Year's Eve Walk at Bushy Point

Meet at 173 Grant Road, Otatara at 730pm

Thanks to ICC for printing the Christmas edition of the Otatara Pigeon Post to all Otatara Residents.

Membership of the Otatara Landcare Group costs just \$10 a year and goes towards the production of the Pigeon Post newsletter, the Bushy Point Restoration project, kereru road signs, Otatara Pestbusters, Natural Otatara Booklet and many other local initiatives - please support these projects by joining today.



SUPPORT LOCAL CONTRACTORS

**If you want your driveway to look this tidy, contact
Geoff Timpany Contracting Ltd.**

Phone 03.2131061 or cell 027.2635796

Email geofftimpany@xtra.co.nz

Geoff is a supporter of Otatara Pestbusters and helps
keep our bush and birds safe

Southland Community Nursery

Spring in the nursery is the most exciting time! All of the seeds sowed before winter should be germinating and the time for pricking out and potting up is a busy one as we try to get as much out of the short Southland growing season as possible. Hopefully, over winter you have been planning what plants you would like to plant out and therefore have a plan of how many plants you need and which species you want to grow. If you haven't, don't worry - just come to the nursery on a Friday morning and we can talk it through. Or visit the Community Nursery website and get an idea of the native plants that grow best in Southland. We can also grow plants on contract for your property, so just give us a call. On our property we also have examples of shelterbelts, created wetlands, shrub borders, bush restoration areas and tall native kahikatea forest as well as extensive vegetable growing areas, heritage fruit trees and berryfruits of many kinds.

If you haven't visited the Community Nursery website have a look at these links:

- Wetland creation - www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/restoring-your-patch/planning-your-project/creating-ponds/
- Shelterbelts - www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/restoring-your-patch/planning-your-project/shelterbelts/
- Plants to Attract Birds - www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/restoring-your-patch/planning-your-project/attracting-birds/

Chris and Brian Rance

Pigeon Post goes digital!

We are going digital for the next newsletter and are aiming to email the next *Pigeon Post*. Please send your email address to secretary Chris Rance – rances@ihug.co.nz to receive the next *Pigeon Post* and trip/event updates throughout the year. If you still prefer to get a printed copy, please contact Chris, ph 213 1161.



Otatara Pestbusters

One of the special features of living in Otatara is having healthy bird populations; especially the tui, bellbirds and pigeon. Lots of people are already helping to protect and enhance the native birds found in our backyards by fencing and protecting bush, controlling weeds and pests and putting out sugar water. Pests – rats, mustelids and possums – are probably having the greatest impact on native birds in Otatara. With pest control the more people that get involved the more successful it will be.

The Otatara Landcare Group has been undertaking pest control at Bushy Point in the south-east corner of Otatara for a few years. The monitoring of pest catch results shows that the numbers of pests, notably possums, has decreased. More importantly the birds are increasing, especially fernbirds and tomtits.

Last year the Otatara Pestbusters was formed as a sub-committee of the Otatara Landcare Group. Recently some of the committee, with sponsorship from ICC and Environment Southland, began controlling pests in the reserves around Otatara. This has already had a positive impact on the areas concerned. Tuis are also more prolific this year around properties using pest control.

Many of you are probably also controlling pests on your property – we would like to know who you are so that we can map all the properties using some form of pest control. Please make yourself known to one of the members listed below. We have letter-box signs available for all working pestbusters 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@xnet.co.nz ph 2130851), Russell Evans (bush.haven@kinect.co.nz ph 2130530), Brian Rance (rances@ihug.co.nz ph 2131161) or Tim Riding at Environment Southland (tim.riding@es.govt.nz ph 2115115).

Otatara Landcare Group bait stations, poison and some traps are available from Russell Evans between 3-6.00 pm Wednesdays, OR 9-12 noon Saturdays. All other items must be ordered and can take up to a few weeks to supply.

You may decide to purchase possum and stoat traps between neighbours – it is not necessary for everyone to own these as they can be moved around properties. However there are rats everywhere around Otatara – you don't need to see them to know they are there, and it is amazing the difference a few bait stations can make.

Also see list of trees to encourage birds to your property on www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/restoring-your-patch/planning-your-project/attracting-birds.

May Evans

Subsidised prices

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Timms possum kill trap | \$15 |
| Possum Master possum kill trap | \$35 |
| DOC 200 stoat trap stainless steel | \$52 |
| DOC 200 stoat double trap set box (S/S) | \$150 |
| DOC 200 stoat single trap set box (S/S) | \$83.50 |
| OLG rat bait stations | \$5 |
| Confrac rat poison blocks - small | 0.30 |
| Confrac rat poison blocks - large | \$3:00 |
| Poison Bait Buckets with \$10 or more bait | Free |
| Victor rat snap trap | \$3 |
| Victor mouse snap trap | \$3 for 2 |
| Trex Rat snap trap | \$6 |
| Trex mouse snap trap | \$3 |
| Plastic rat trap tunnel | \$10 |

Starter pack - special offer \$75

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Timms trap | Poison bait bucket |
| 6 OLG rat bait stations | 2 Victor rat snap traps |
| 6 Confrac rat poison blocks – large | 18 Confrac rat poison blocks – small |

Information Wanted

Do you have any photographs or stories of flax-milling in Otatara or elsewhere in Southland? I am doing a small book on the story of the flax industry in the south. Do you have a story or photograph relating to Omaui? The Omaui history book is almost complete but photos of the signal mast, shipwrecks, holidaying and recreational activities are scarce. Do you have any photos or stories that relate to old Otatara? *Pigeon Post* is always keen to get new material.

Save the Birds ! Stop Window strikes!

Russell and May Evans at 49 Bryson Road have for some years been rehabilitating native birds, mainly kereru [wood pigeon] and most are injured by cars or hitting windows.

Since the road signs went up, very few kereru have come into care from injuries sustained in this way so it has proved a very successful exercise. However several kereru have died recently from hitting windows. When the sunlight hits windows on a certain angle, the birds see clear sky or bush and assume they can fly safely through, sometimes hitting so hard they die on impact. Others fall to the ground and sit there for a little while, later walking away. You are usually left with a complete bird outline on your window.

Most sustain at the very least, some chest bruising which stops them flying and they will probably end up dying as they cannot get much food on the ground and are prey to cats etc. The trick is to pick the bird up by either approaching cautiously and merely picking it up, or dropping a light cloth such as a tea-towel over it, then pick it up, put it in a box and bring it as soon as possible to 49 Bryson Road. If you can't get it straight away, check again before nightfall and you will have a good chance of picking it up in the near dark. We will give the bird vital fluids and keep it warm and later feed it – they need several weeks, sometimes months in care to slowly progress to flying again before release.

You can help stop these window strikes by hanging a mobile of some sort in your windows or purchasing a tasteful crystal transfer from Bush Haven which goes on the inside of the window and lasts for many years. These cost a mere \$12 – not much when compared to the cost of a new window. Others are available from www.projectkereru.co.nz

Please continue to drive carefully around Otatara – kereru do swoop down low after eating to gain momentum to get back up into trees, and many fly along and across our roads around the bush. If we keep to the speed limit and less both the birds and drivers have a good chance of seeing each other in time to avoid a collision.

We have circulated invitations to all Southland schools and kindergartens to visit our property and see the collection of parrots and native birds. Other groups can also visit on either Wednesdays or Thursdays by appointment.

If you have an injured native bird please phone us on 213 0530. We specialise in kereru, tui, bellbirds and kingfishers.

May Evans

Southland Living Legends – Bringing the Field to the Forest (or the mother of all planting projects!)

On 11 September 2011 an amazing event took place at Bushy Point, Otatara. A mass planting of 5,300 locally grown native plants by 250 people in less than two hours! The event was the result of many hours of preparation by Living Legends national organisers, the Otatara Landcare Group, Environment Southland and the Southland Department of Conservation. The event became part of DOC's Conservation week celebrations and Living legends was nationally sponsored by Meridian, Tindall Foundation and Project Crimson in association with the Rugby World Cup.

The Otatara Landcare Group's ambitious project to plant a forest that links two bush remnants got a massive boost. Bushy Point had been selected by Living Legends to be part of their nationwide conservation project. Living Legends is a community conservation project co-ordinating 17 native tree planting projects throughout New Zealand during Rugby World Cup 2011. In 2011 Living Legends will have planted 85,000 native plants across New Zealand.

Each planting project was managed in conjunction with provincial rugby unions and was dedicated to a regional 'Rugby Legend' selected by the unions. Southland's Living Legend is Kevin Laidlaw. Born in Nightcaps, Kevin represented New Zealand in 17 All Black games, including three tests. He made his test debut for New Zealand against South Africa at Cape Town on 23 July, 1960. He has been a stalwart of Southland's rugby scene as a player, coach and administrator. His advice to young people is to "join a club and be active". Kevin was one of a number of 'celebrities' who attended the event – 'Bugman' Ruud Kleinpaste was MC despite having bronchitis, Mayors Tim and Frana and DOC Conservator Barry Hanson planted more than their fair share of native plants and the site was blessed by Michael Skerrett. Lions Club volunteers were marshalls and provided the BBQ and the whole Southland community supported the event including locals, volunteers from Te Anau and Stewart Island and local guide groups. There were over 80 children involved and "that was what made this event so fantastic" said Otatara Landcare Group Chair Barry Smith.

If you haven't yet visited the Bushy Point Restoration Area, you should! From Bryson Road, a self-guided walk along the estuary edge, past wetlands to a pond, introduces you to this 'forest in the making'. The Landcare Group's pest control activities are being rewarded by increased numbers of native birds, including the rare fernbird and bittern. Today's area of open grassland is being turned steadily into forest. Planting an additional 5,000 native trees on 11 September has added to the 10,000 plants already planted and

Living Legends are committed to another 5,000 plants over the next two years!
Special thanks from the Otatara Landcare Group go to our Rugby legend Kevin Laidlaw, DOC Southland's Mark Oster and Colin Bishop and Living Legends coordinators Kay Eade and Gordon Hosking.

It looks like next year's event will be early September - look out for advertising and visit the Living Legends website at www.livinglegends.co.nz

Chris Rance

THE GREAT LIVING LEGENDS MUCK IN



Taking a Break for the Winter

Undoubtedly some of you have been lucky enough to have a winter break, maybe just skiing for a weekend or two, although maybe the winter break conjures up more an image of a couple of weeks on the Gold Coast, Rarotonga or perhaps Hawaii. Ahhhh, the mere thought...

I too have had a winter break, unfortunately it wasn't a break conjured up of exotic places, the only place I ended up in my break was in Kew Hospital and the break I had was a leg! (I'd have preferred Hawaii... really). The real moral of this story is if you are going to pick a fight with something don't pick a 20 tonne digger, the likelihood of it coming out on top is 100 to 0 at any TAB. I suppose if there was any good time to have a broken leg it would have been this winter with there having been three snow storms in the province during my break and so therefore if, sometime in the future, you are given the opportunity to have a break such as this, turn it down, it's not a lot of fun!

Barry Smith

Native or Not?

When is a native plant not native? When it is a New Zealand native but not an Otatara native. There are several species established in Otatara forests with those credentials. Lacebark, Karamu *Coprosma robusta*, Kanono *Coprosma grandifolia* and *Pseudopanax laetus* are examples. The latter species is spreading in Otatara Scenic Reserve. It is a large handsome shrub like an oversized fivefinger but with fleshier leaves and purple petioles. Seeds are spread by birds. Oddly, its natural range is very much north of here.



Pseudopanax laetus

It is native to the Coromandel Range through to Taranaki. If it does so well here why hasn't it spread throughout New Zealand? Is it a desirable plant? Yes and no. Yes, because it grows rapidly, it is handsome and it adds a more tropical look to a garden than might be expected from a casual glance at the thermometer. No, because it is spreading, possibly eventually displacing natives and hybridising with them.

Historical Snippets

Thanks to *Papers Past*, lots of our early history is becoming readily accessible for the first time. In each issue of *Pigeon Post* there will be a few snippets from Otatara's past. Here is an article from *The Southland Times*, 15 June 1904.

Deputations to Sir Joseph Ward

A number of deputations waited on Sir Joseph Ward yesterday morning before he left for the north by the express. The matters brought forward were all of importance to Southland, and the Minister was obviously in sympathy with most of the views put forward. Sir Joseph Ward will not be in Southland again before the session commences hence the necessity for the deputation taking this last opportunity to meet him and discuss affairs.

Reclamation

Ten landowners and settlers at Otatara presented a petition praying the Minister to give his assistance in getting a bill passed to authorise the estuary reclamation scheme. Mr C. Brodrick said that the object of the deputation was to urge on the Minister the desirability of getting the amended bill as applied for by the Invercargill Borough Council passed next session, as they believed it would be the means of assisting them in getting in the near future a direct sheltered road of about two to three miles to their land instead of the tortuous road of about seven or eight miles to be traversed at present. The existing road was almost impassable, and the County Council had lately imposed a wheel tax to assist in the upkeep. All the settlers mostly depended on the sale of firewood for a living and a short road to town would greatly assist them. The



Sir Joseph Ward

only objection to the proposed bill was apparently that the Minister of Marine thought it might interfere with the scour. The settlers considered this scarcely probable, as the greater part of the water did not pass out in any channel but was spread out and ran so slowly over the flats that it deposited mud and made mud-banks instead of removing them. If it was the scour at the New River Heads that was referred to, the deputation did not think that the cutting off of this small watershed could, make any difference, as the scour there was caused by the large volume of water coming out of the Oreti river. If the Minister had seen the basin proposed to be reclaimed the deputation

thought that he would have suggested an even larger area, viz., by placing a lock in the Waihopai itself, thus making a continuous wall from Spey street to the school-house road, Otatara. The Minister having expressed himself as in sympathy with the proposed reclamation, and promised all the assistance in his power, Mr Brodrick further asked if the Government would take into consideration the granting of a subsidy of £1 for £1, up to £3000, to the settlers, for the construction of a road over the flats, possibly coming out at the Invercargill jetty.— The Minister seemed to be favourable inclined towards something being done in the direction asked.

Lewis Acker

The first New River pilot was Lewis Acker, appointed on 14 November 1856. Ackers Road in Otatara is named after its first settler. Here is his obituary from The Southland Times in July 1885.

Mr Acker come to this part of the world as long ago as 1835, and for a considerable time was settled at the Bluff, where he followed the avocation of a whaler. From thence he moved to Stewart Island, and subsequently moved again to the Otatara Peninsula, where for many years he pursued a mixture of occupations, partly nautical, partly agricultural, and latterly joining to these the sawmilling industry.

For a while he lived with his family on the spit or strip of land between the New River and the ocean, where he had the honour of being the first victim of the rabbit pest. It was upon his land the rabbits were first turned on, and it was not long before they had so completely cleared the soil of vegetation that the sand was let loose and soon drifted over in such clouds that his homestead was buried, and he had to leave. Deceased at one time acted as pilot and harbourmaster of the New River, but for many years he has lived in retirement at his farm. He was a capital specimen of a pioneer settler, and only a short time since was seriously thinking of migrating to some other country where he could enjoy more freedom. A thickly settled district was distasteful to him, and the fact that lately he could not ride half a mile without coming to a fence vexed him sorely.



Lewis Acker

Our Shipwrecks

The *Hindu*, bound to Dunedin with a cargo of tea, was wrecked on Oreti Beach in March 1871. The Dog Island light was obscured by thick weather and the captain was landwards of his intended course.

Here is the account of the wreck from Thomas Waugh. *"The captain was found the next morning sitting on some boxes on the beach with his sword drawn and his pistols ready. He evidently did not know where he was and feared the natives. Some of the tea was got out and we lived on Hindu tea for many a day."*

A few ribs of the *Hindu* and the boiler of the Guiding Star are the only visible shipwrecks in the area although the skeleton of another ship is said to be visible at very low tide on the western side of the Mokomoko mouth. Further west along Oreti Beach, the keel of the *Wanderer* is sometimes exposed at the mouth of the Taunamau Creek and a few ribs mark the resting place of the cutter *Fly* at Otaitai Bush.



Wreck of the Wanderer on Oreti Beach

Bushy Point Pest Control

At Bushy Point over 90 hectares of land has been under intensive pest control for over three years. Rats are being poisoned with dithrac (a poison that is not persistent in the food chain) and stoats and possums are being trapped with very efficient kill traps. Our volunteers are walking lines of traps every week to two weeks and replacing baits and resetting traps.

Over 200 possums have been removed from the area and 60 stoats, five weasels and one ferret have been killed. Although you may never see a possum, stoat or rat, they are eating bird chicks every night and their removal can only be good for our native bird populations. You can help on your own property by joining Otatara pestbusters.

Chris Rance

Here's a Mystery...

Is this the first description of the area we are now replanting? This little excerpt from *The Southland Times*, in 1870, is possibly a description of a sandhill on the site presently covered by the Bushy Point Reserve. It gives an indication of the size of the hill that must have been mined away for reclamation work.

Leaving the noisy mill (possibly Bryson Road), we proceeded to have a look at a dwelling-house in course of erection for the owner. On the way, we passed the workmen's cabins, some of weatherboards, others formed of the railway carriages built for the Winton line, and afterwards sold for very little. Ascending a terrace, we found ourselves on the uneven plateau of the Otataru Peninsula, in the bush, and before, us a little thinly-wooded conical hill, about 150 feet or so high, on the top of which stood the house. Ascending again, by a rather steep path, and facing round when the front of the house was reached, a splendid prospect was obtainable. Looking over the trees growing below, the eye could take in at a glance the whole of the estuary, the town, and all to the eastward, southward, and northward, as far as sight could reach. Indeed that such a view could be obtained so near town was a matter of surprise to all the visitors. The little cone, when its top had been traversed, was found to have a spur, or rather a couple of them, running out in the rear, and joining it to ridges further in the bush. On the way down speculations were freely indulged in as to this beautiful spot becoming the site of the palatial residences of the future merchant princes of Invercargill, with half-hour trains running round the Bay Railway." The railway did eventually reach the area but only to carry away the sandhills for reclamation. These photos from 1911 show the railway as it extended along Marama Ave South to carry sand from Bryson Road to build up Stead Street.



Bird of the Month – Scaup (Black Teal)

The scaup is New Zealand's diving duck. It is fully protected of course but a few become casualties in the shooting season and there is the ever-present threat from stoats, ferrets, weasels and cats.

Scaups are generally freshwater birds but a few have been seen lately on the Sutton Lagoon, which is the former rubbish dump. Here the water is brackish, but it no doubt provides the birds with plentiful food. There is an abundance of other waterfowl there as well – mallards, paradise ducks, shovellers, grey teal, Canada geese and black swans.

Scaup feed on the bottom for worms, crustaceans and other invertebrates. They spend more time underwater than other ducks which generally just upend themselves. Elsewhere in our area, scaup live and breed on the old gravel pits towards the beach and on Silver Lagoon. Their nest is well hidden. Eight or more eggs are laid and incubated only by the mother.



The Birds, the Bees and the Bunnies

There's never a dull moment living in the country – or so it seems to me. One Sunday we got a call that a heron had fallen out of its nest and could we help by liberating it on our pond? Russell and May Evans were going away so we took charge of a cardboard box containing what turned out to be a fledgling heron. We put it in a cage in the shed and fed it tinned fish (the only thing we could think of that we had in the cupboard).

On the Monday we were going to work and so called on neighbours, Ian and Jenny Gamble, to help feed "Fluffy" – named by Tesca Edwards. However, it became apparent that Fluffy also had something wrong with its leg and, after a call to Russell and May, the bird was taken to a vet and an x-ray taken. It turned out that the leg had been previously broken and no further treatment was recommended.

So we picked Fluffy up from Russell and May, but this time with a whole lot of bird rescue gear – a saline drip, a hypodermic needle, a tablet of calcium, insect powder, live insects, maggots and a sheep's heart! Fluffy wolfed down the heart but seemed

to detect the “medicine” covered meat and tossed it aside – having to be hand fed. This goes on every few hours throughout the day – for how many days? – we don’t yet know! Oh, you have to regularly change the newspaper which has a distinctive smelling ooze!

Russell and May do this every day for four or five injured kereru and tui at a time, along with feeding and looking after of their aviary birds. They are incredibly dedicated and you

have to do a little bit of the rehab to really appreciate their efforts for our native birds. I would recommend that if you want to support this fantastic work put a donation in an envelope and drop it into 49 Bryson Road, it will help pay for the vet bills, food and equipment that Russell and May are providing on a daily basis. Their time is freely and lovingly given, so please support them.

While looking after “Fluffy” we also had a swarm of bees make their home in our chimney. They were “removed” via our lounge, as we watched (through glass doors) in fascination as the bees were coaxed into a box. Many hundreds more were crawling all over the floor, the windowsill, the chairs, but in the end they were removed – thanks to Bevan – give him a call (ph 215 6830) if you ever have the same problem. Incidentally he had only dealt with two swarms in a chimney and the other was Barry Smith’s place a few days earlier!

And the bunnies – well, they are doing what bunnies do. We are victims of our own success – targeting their predators stoats, ferrets and weasels has resulted in rabbits everywhere! We have tried most methods of control, to little effect – if you have a good solution we would welcome your advice.

Chris Rance



“Fluffy” the heron



I Want to Help Care for the Birds, the Bush and Wetlands at Otatara and see them Prosper for Future Generations to Enjoy. I can Help by Joining the OTATARA LANDCARE GROUP.

Membership

First Name/s

Last name/s

Address

.....

.....

Contact phone/email

I enclose an annual membership fee \$10 per household \$

Ten year membership \$50 per household \$

Lifetime membership \$100 per household \$

I wish to make a donation \$

Enclosed Total Payment of \$

Tick if receipt required ()

Activities

I want to (please tick):

() help with restoration, weed control or growing plants

() help with or attend local Otatara walks

() help with bird surveys

() help with liaison with local councils

Send to:

Otatara Landcare Group

33 Rakiura Parade

Otatara.

