



PIGEON POST ***Issue 51 March 2015***

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 2131161

Treasurer - Glenda Graham 213 1397

Pigeon Post editor - Lloyd Esler 213 0404

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

OLG Calendar of Events

We are enclosing the Otatara Landcare Group Calendar of Events for 2015 in this Newsletter. We hope there's something for everyone – from kite making and frisbee golf, to orienteering, history, planting, pest control, talks, Matariki, apple pressing, foraging, plant propagation and art.

We welcome ideas, so if you have a particular interest you would like us to pursue please let us know for next time and please support the events we have organised on your behalf – there is nothing like putting a lot of time and effort into an event and nobody turning up!

Thanks

Thanks to ICC for funding the printing of this one copy of the Pigeon Post for every resident. If you like what you read, want to learn more about Otatara's natural environment, or just want to support what the Landcare Group is doing in Otatara, particularly the Bushy Point Project, please consider joining – the fees are \$20 per year or \$50 for life. Of course donations are always welcome too!



National Award for the Otatara Landcare Group
From the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

Editor's Report

Greetings to everyone. There is a bit of an emphasis on rabbits in this issue. The downside of successful predator control is a rise in the bunny population. Given the choice of stoats or rabbits we'll have the rabbits thanks, but a rabbit-free Otatarā would be wonderful. Rabbits compete with sheep for grass, they damage plantings and undermine banks with their burrows. I'm not sure if a rabbit-free Otatarā is the goal but we have to find the best methods for keeping the numbers in control. Predators, disease, poison, rabbit-proof fencing, shooting and trapping and modifying the habitat to make it less attractive to rabbits have all been tried. We've been controlling rabbits since they were first introduced to Whalers Bay in 1863 and they have cost the country dearly – perhaps 100 billion dollars. Although not the shiniest penny in the moneybox, bunny has an admirable ability to breed himself out of trouble. As Ogden Nash says, "The hare is rare, but the rabbit is a habit." With the breeding comes adaptation. Rabbits that used warrens were most vulnerable and were eliminated first. Then mustelids became a problem for burrowing rabbits and the ones who nested above ground under cover had the advantage. Now rabbits are nesting above ground level. There are nests up in the hedges in the cemetery built by rabbits carrying bedding material into the lower branches. What next? Treetop bunnies?



"The hare is rare, but the rabbit is a habit" - Ogden Nash

You can have a rabbit-free area. Many islands have been cleared of rabbits and before the pressure came off, a number of the old Pest Destruction Boards had the rabbit population close to zero. A number of landowners ring-fenced their properties with netting and kept them clear. I was at Mt Nicholas Station a few weeks ago. It was once one of the most rabbit-prone places in New Zealand. Ten years ago they lost the rabbits to RCD and they never came back. The residual population of predators such as cats, hawks, stoats and ferrets stopped them re-establishing.

Subs Due

At the AGM we approved a new subs structure simplifying the categories to \$20 a year or \$50 for Life Membership. If you are a member who pays annually then annual subs are due. We hope you will consider the life membership option to reduce the need for us to keep reminding you to pay annual subs. The subs help to cover costs of printing newsletters, Bushy Point costs and other events such as the recent History Night and Haggis Night.

Contact our treasurer Glenda Graham to pay by cheque or directly into our bank account 03 1355 0805312 00 - please put your name and OLG subs. Membership forms are on the OLG website and if you can encourage new folks to join all the better!

Bushy Point

Late last year we reached a considerable milestone – over 10,000 hours of volunteer time at Bushy Point! The project goes from strength to strength. After three years' funding for Living Legends plantings we were one of only a few projects round the country that has received an additional three years support. It's now called 'Living Legends Plus'. For those who have forgotten, or never knew, Living Legends was an initiative by the Tindall Foundation with DOC and a community group in each region of the country. It was linked to the Rugby World Cup and each region had a rugby legend promoting it. Our rugby legend is Kevin Laidlaw who was an All Black from the tiny community of Nightcaps – what a feat! Kevin has been a great supporter of our project and has enjoyed the real 'community aspect' of it. On the ground the Living Legends planting days have been very well



Plantings at Bushy Point

supported and we hope this year's event on Saturday 12 September 2015 will be equally well supported. We will have another 1,000 plants waiting to be planted and that will make over 12,000 native plants in the ground in the last 5 years! There's plenty more to Bushy Point too – there is lots of pest control being done by volunteers – over 90

hectares of pest control lines, weed control, maintenance of tracks and educational activities. Come along and check it out on a working afternoon or one of the activities at Bushy Point, or volunteer at a time to suit yourself or walk through from the end of Bryson Road at your leisure.

The mower mulcher!

Barry has a new toy! We were fortunate in our application for funding to the Southern Trust for a new mower recently. For the last 15 or so years, Barry Smith has been using his own mower around Bushy Point and it came to the end of its useful life recently.



The mower mulcher in action!

The new version is a mulcher/mower, which means Barry can go where no man has ventured before! Look out all weeds within mower reach! One of the main reasons we got this type of mower was to manage the Living Legends second year plantings in what was previously a gorse paddock. The plants were laid out in lines to allow a mower to go between thereby eliminating the gorse while the plants are establishing. When the natives get high enough they should shade out the gorse. So.... Watch that space!

The mower's other main use is used to keep the tracks open. You will also have noticed that baleage has been taken off again this year – this is a means of funding some of our projects too.

We were also successful in applying for a grant from DOC's Communities Funding which covers, caretaker costs, pest bait and replacement traps, herbicide weed control, pest interpretation panel, plant protectors etc

Rabbit Project

Lloyd is working on a book on the story of rabbits in Otago and Southland. Also included are possums, hares, stoats and ferrets. Any stories, anecdotes, photos or references welcome. These could be about the fur industry, pets, pest control, rabbit farming, and RCD. Rabbits were brought here for sport and to make the place a bit more like home. They soon got out of hand and caused immense devastation, particularly in Central Otago, but we had a massive rabbit skin and rabbit meat industry from the 1870s to the 1960s. Possums arrived in 1858 and were rapidly spread around. The purpose was to provide a fur animal which a settler could trap and turn into a possum fur rug which was an essential travelling item in those days.

As 'coney', the dyed rabbit skins were extensively used by furriers. Here are some of the names used to avoid having 'rabbit' on the label – black fox, brown fox, leopard, lion, red fox, seal, tiger, white fox, Arctic seal, Australian seal, bay seal, beaverette, beaverine, chinchillette, electric beaver, electric mole, electric seal, erminette, French chinchilla, meskin beaver, minkony, sealette, sealine, squirrelette, squirreline, minever and visonette.

The main use for the rabbit skins was to provide fur for felt hats. This process initially involved the use of mercuric nitrate as part of the felting process and the resulting mercury poisoning associated with hatters, is said to have given rise to the expression 'mad hatter' best seen as the Mad Hatter in Alice and Wonderland. Equally likely, however, is that the term was modified by Lewis Carroll from 'mad as an adder', a popular cliché.

Cartoon (right). This cartoon by Gordon Duston from 1983 shows the concern about a super-rabbit breed developing from the large domestic species then being imported for rabbit farming in Southland.





Southland Community Nursery

Since opening the Education Centre just over a year ago, we have had over 1,000 visitors to the site. These are mainly school groups but also workshop activities, plant propagation, apple pressing, swede carving and art. We have lots of activities planned this year – some of which are in the OLG Calendar.

The Education Centre is also a space you can book for holding your own workshops – come and have a look and book through the website:

<http://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/education-centre/>

In early December an unusual phenomenon appeared at the Community Nursery! A Stewart Island plane spotted a huge koru design in Rance's paddock. The idea was hatched by Chris and whilst Chris and Brian were away on holiday Barry Smith and Ray Jackson turned it into reality by designing and mowing a maze/koru in the paddock next to the Education Centre. The idea was to create a run-around area for children to expend energy after their visits to the Nursery. It has proved to be a fantastic success so far! Thanks to Stewart Island Air for the photograph and since looking at the photo, many people have said the pond looks like a kiwi – which is of course how we designed it (not!).



Aerial view of the koru maze at the Rance's



Which way now? Children enjoying the maze

The Community Nursery is also a working nursery where volunteers gather every Friday morning – do some work and take away some plants for free. Or if you are not free on Fridays you can always buy some plants. There are a range of hardy species good for shelter, wetland plants, plants to attract birds and a wide range of landscaping plants. Most plants are \$5 for PB3 size pots and proceeds go towards the running costs of the Education Centre. The nursery is a charitable trust and all time given to the Nursery, including our own, is voluntary.

Check out all the action at the Community Nursery - <http://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/news-and-events/>

Chris and Brian Rance

March is Southland Heritage Month (and includes dates for your Otago diary!)

Heritage Month 2015 is packed with a wide range of activities around Southland. Programme booklets are available from many outlets including the Southland Museum and Art Gallery, Invercargill Environment Centre and libraries – but also online. Just visit the Heritage South Facebook page: [facebook.com/HeritageSouthNZ](https://www.facebook.com/HeritageSouthNZ) for programme details as well as online challenges and competitions.

The following activities have special interest for local residents:

- Wednesday 11 March, 6.30 p.m. from east end of Bryson Road

Bushy Point guided walk

Otago Landcare Group chairman Barry Smith is your guide on this informative walk through the Bushy Point Reserve to Brian and Chris Rance's Southland Community Nursery. The walk ends at 7.30 p.m. with supper provided at the exciting new Education Centre. A great opportunity for those who want to check out progress on the

Landcare Group's ambitious restoration project and the educational opportunities now available at the Southland Community Nursery.

Register with Chris Rance: ph. 213 1161 or email rances@ihug.co.nz

- Wednesday 18 March, 6.30 p.m. from Whalers Bay, Sandy Point

Sandy Point Historical Walk

Join Lloyd Esler to explore whaling and early settlers' sites at Sandy Point. The evening will also feature a re-enactment of the 1863 release of rabbits. Don't forget your gumboots!

Contact Lloyd Esler: ph. 213 0404 or email elser@southnet.co.nz

- Saturday 21 March, 8.30 a.m. from Station Street, Clifton

Invercargill Estuary Walk

Retrace the boot prints of the pioneers as they trekked from Invercargill to Bluff around the edge of the estuary. The walk starts near the oyster shell crushing plant on Station Street, Clifton and finishes around 2 p.m. at the end of Clark Road in the Mokomoko Inlet. Bring lunch, snacks, coat, hat and suitable footwear. (Expect to get wet to your knees!)

Booking is essential through Lloyd Esler: ph. 213 0404 or email elser@southnet.co.nz



Enjoying the Estuary Walk - 2013

Southland's Native Mistletoes

Recently Sally Duston from Rata Road, Otatara, noticed a strange plant growing on one of her trees in the bush. It turns out to be one of the rarest mistletoes in Southland – *Tupeia antarctica*.

There are nine mistletoe species in New Zealand including one species that is now extinct. Most are rare enough to be classified as 'nationally threatened'. Mistletoes are unusual plants, they are parasites, living on a host plant. The New Zealand mistletoes are more unusual still – they take half their nutrients from their host but they can also photosynthesise. The technical term for this is 'hemi-parasitic'. Unfortunately most mistletoes don't have common names as they have never been 'common'.



Sally and a rare mistletoe

The most noticeable flowering mistletoes are the three species of beech mistletoes (*Peraxilla colensoi*, *P. tetrapetala* and *Alepis flavida*), with their spectacular large bright red or yellow flowers. These flowers are almost exclusively pollinated by tui and bellbirds who can twist open the flower to obtain the nectar. Thus the mistletoe needs these specific birds and the birds need the plant. These three mistletoes only grow on beech trees so you won't find them in Otatara, however, you will find three different mistletoe species – *Korthalsella salicornioides* – the smallest mistletoe in the world – usually found on manuka or *Coprosma propinqua* (mingimingi); *Tupeia antarctica* – usually found on marbleleaf or lowland ribbonwood and *Ileostylus micranthus*. The latter species is the most common and has a lot of hosts including many exotic species. To spot *Ileostylus* look for a plant that looks like broadleaf which seems to be growing on another type of tree or shrub. Although this species has insignificant flowers, it does have bright yellow fruit which are favoured by birds. All mistletoes are 'ice-cream' plants for possums and many have become locally extinct in other places in New Zealand for that reason. You can make a difference to mistletoes locally by trapping possums.

Sketch shows a possum eating the last mistletoe *Trilepidia*, the only plant whose extinction has been caused by the possum.

To see colour photos of the mistletoes follow the link to the Community Nursery website <http://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/news-and-events/>

Chris Rance



Bush Haven update

Russell and May Evans at 49 Bryson Road have for some years been rehabilitating native birds, mainly kereru (wood pigeons), some of which have been injured by cars but most of the injuries are through window strikes. 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.

If a kereru should hit your window hard, it usually lands on the ground. DO NOT LEAVE THE BIRD THERE TO SEE IF IT FLIES AWAY. Take a light towel and place over the bird, pick it up and bring it in a box, straight away to us at Bush Haven. Obviously you can't always catch it but if an injured bird does fly away it will land somewhere and then start to get sore, go to ground and not be able to fly up again.

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 a new window cost. 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 into trees and many fly along and across our roads around the bush. If you keep your speed below 50km/h both the birds and you have a chance at missing.

We have circulated invitations to all Southland schools and kindergartens to visit our property free of charge and see the collection of parrots and native birds. Other groups can also visit on either Wednesdays or Thursdays by appointment. We would gratefully accept a \$2 coin donation to help with feeding the birds from individuals and groups.

If you have an injured native bird please phone us on 03 213 0530.

We take only natives - kereru, tui, bellbirds and kingfishers. Visit our website on www.bushhaven.org

Feeding Baby Birds

This season we have had several people arriving at our door with fluffy young chicks. Sorry, we are unable to care for 'ordinary' birds like thrushes and sparrows. One reason is that they are plentiful and we are set up to care for lesser numbered native birds such as tui, bellbird, kereru and kingfishers. Another is that these birds need fed at least every half an hour, so they are very time-consuming.

Often the nest is nearby and chicks should be put back into a nest rather than be removed; as parents are usually nearby. Maybe the nest may need to be relocated so as to be safe from predators.

Some tips for feeding these birds if you care enough to do it yourself... they need a very warm environment, around 30° C for tiny chicks with down/fluff reducing gradually as feathers appear.

Blackbirds and thrushes need mealworms, or mince, ox heart cut up very finely – [the latter two mixed with insectivore powder, available from East Road Pets]. Snails and worms for blackbirds and thrushes. You can feed them tiny bits of bread soaked in water or electrolytes, but they must have a good amount of insectivore mix daily.

You need a DoC permit to look after our special natives but none is required for the ordinary, introduced species as mentioned above.

Kaka Chicks

You may have seen in the Southland Times recently that we now have three South Island Kaka chicks in the nest. The older bird hatched in October is now off to Orokonui Sanctuary near Dunedin where it will be released after some time getting used to their feeding regime. The new chicks will probably go there as well if they eventually all fledge successfully.

Photos below show parents feeding (left), and the three chicks in the nest at around two weeks of age (right).



Wild kakariki in Otatara In the last few weeks several kakariki or native parakeets have been noticed flying around Otatara. These require an environment that is close to predator-free in order to breed. Perhaps this is an indication that pest control is paying dividends. Kakariki now seem to be well established on Bluff Hill where there has been intensive trapping and poisoning for some years.

Black-billed gulls There have recently been thousands of Black-billed gulls using the estuary. Spaced out and roosting in flocks feeding on the mud. Perhaps the habitat has improved? 5,000 gulls is well over 10% of the world population.

Want to find out more about your native bush?

You can get a survey done of your natural area free of charge. Learn more about it - <http://www.es.govt.nz/environment/land/biodiversity/high-value-area-surveys/>

How can I benefit from having a High Value Area survey done on a native area on my property?

A qualified ecologist will write a report for the native area(s) that have been identified on your property and a copy of this will be provided to you free of charge. The report will outline what they recorded during the survey, including any special features of interest with an aerial photo of the area(s). It will describe and identify the vegetation and its condition, record the presence of native fauna (such as birds) which are evident in the area, and list any impacts present that may be affecting the area (such as pest animals). The report will also provide suggestions on how to best manage the area(s) surveyed to protect and enhance their condition.

The information provided by the qualified ecologist will also give you a clearer picture of what parts of the property are likely to be ecologically significant and what parts are not. This will give you a good understanding about what values may need to be managed in the future. Protecting natural areas on your property can add value to it, which has been demonstrated through the recent farm environmental awards. The report will also assist you to seek funding for protecting or restoring the natural values on your property if you wish to do so. A range of organisations provide funding assistance for such protection work and can help to cover expenses such as fencing, planting and pest control.

Bushy Point Geocaching

A Geocaching Event was organised for Sunday February 1st at 3pm from the Bushy Point Community Nursery. Our thanks to Chris and Brian Rance for permission to hold this event from the Community Nursery site, use of the centre and access to Bushy Point via their property.

Joe Sherriff had been busy creating wooden containers with interesting lids to keep the actual geocache containers safe and dry from the elements.

Geocaching explained!! It is a hide-and-seek for adults and children who use the Geocache web-site to get the co-ordinates to locate hidden containers using friendly satellites and a GPS or smart-phone.

The main attraction for many geocachers, is 1) a good excuse for a walk/outing, 2) visiting nice places you don't know about, but often in your own back yard, or 3) if travelling, finding nice places (lookouts, parks, picnic reserves etc) known by the locals.

There are well over 2 million caches located around the world, and even on Antarctica and the Space Station – although there's hardly public access to those places!

Occasionally, a Geocaching 'meet' is organised, so you can put faces to the 'names' you may have seen in the local log-books. Many people use nicknames, or pseudonyms, often relating to their job.

About 12 people turned up, and were 'escorted' through the Rance's property to the Bushy Point reserve to locate 3 new Caches that had been placed the day before by 'Jojoes'. A rather hot and muggy walk, but enjoyed by all, followed by afternoon tea.

Once back home, (or on site if using a smart phone), the cache is logged and added to your personal tally.

Cheers Jo & Joe

Planting Progress – Bushy Point

If you have had a walk around Bushy Point recently you will have seen the success of the planting. The trees from the first year of Living Legends planting, 2011, are thriving. We are offering a prize for the first person to find a nest in one of these. It will probably be a blackbird or dunnock. Start looking from August onwards. The most obvious success is Black matipo *Pittosporum tenuifolium*, also called Black mapau, kohuhu, Black maple or pitto. As these spread out they block the light and not much grows under them so in a couple of years there could be a thinning process and planting between them. Rabbits are much in evidence around the 2014 planting. This is sandy soil on a sunny slope – ideal rabbit habitat. We have been casting around for a way to deal with bunny but nothing positive yet. The excavations undermine the plantings and they nibble endlessly on exposed leaves. It is interesting to see the mixed survival of the 'pull-up' seedlings in this area. These were yanked out of the ground the day before planting from a variety of local spots – gardens, under pines and bushy and swampy places. Flax, toetoe, *Carex secta* and Cabbage trees seem to be the survivors. We marked the stakes next to the pull-ups with blue tape. Perhaps this means that we don't have to have potted-up specimens of those species and we just heave them out as required.

The Pond – Bushy Point

The pond is looking good. It attracts ducks, swallows and fernbirds. It's not deep enough for a lot of aquatic vertebrate life but it will be breeding an immense number of dragonflies, damselflies and gnats of all descriptions. These in turn feed insectivorous birds. This time of year the seed-eating birds are everywhere. There are large flocks of redpolls and goldfinches at Bushy Point.



Bushy Point pond

On the subject of rabbits and their control, one method is to eat them!! Here are few contributions:

Rabbit Recipes

Rabbit & Prune Casserole

(from '*Slow Cooking Properly Explained*' by Dianne Page)

25gm Butter
1 onion, finely chopped
2 carrots, sliced
2tbsp flour
1kg rabbit joints
397gm tomatoes and
Water, (to make up to 550ml liquid.)
8 dried prunes
½tsp sage
1tsp salt, pepper

Gently fry onion & carrots in large fry pan, until starting to brown.

Toss rabbit joints in flour and brown all sides. Add tomatoes and liquid, and remaining ingredients, bring to the boil, stirring continuously until thickened and transfer to a slow cooker.

Cook on Low for 7-10 hours.

Mustard Rabbit - A French Farmhouse Stew

(from '*The Cookery Year*', Readers Digest)

2½ - 3lb or 6 rabbit joints
4 rounded tbsp. Dijon mustard
Seasoned flour
2oz unsalted butter
2oz streaky bacon
1 onion
1 clove garlic
½ pint double cream

Wash & dry rabbit thoroughly. Cut into 6 or 8 neat joints and place in large bowl. Cover with salted water & soak for 1-2 hours. Drain & dry thoroughly. Coat the rabbit joints with mustard & leave covered OVERNIGHT.

The following day, dust lightly with seasoned flour, lightly brown in a flame-proof casserole, in butter. Remove the rind and chop the bacon, fry for 2-3 minutes, add the onion and garlic and cook over a low heat until soft.

Return the rabbit joints to the casserole, simmer with the lid on for 30 minutes, stir in the cream, cover and simmer, (or put in oven at 160°C) for 45 minutes. Stir a couple of times.

Otatara Pestbusters

Once again, Otatara Pestbusters would like to remind you about looking after the birds in your area. Summer 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 can 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.

Some of our Landcare committee members plus Peter Simpson and other local people have been working really hard in various reserves but that doesn't mean you should stop doing your bit. Many people purchased bait stations and

poison a year or so ago who have not returned for more bait...you must need it by now! Please check your traps and bait stations and replenish if necessary.

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 213 0851), Russell Evans (bush.haven@kinect.co.nz ph 213 0530), or Shaun Cunningham at Environment Southland (Shaun.Cunningham@es.govt.nz or ph 211 5115).

The lizardium - Lloyd Esler

Some years ago I noticed a large infestation of lizards in a heap of rubble by my driveway. I built a timber frame around it and put several large sheets of glass over the top. These are toughened glass from showers. I've added rocks and a few plants. I've been seeing up to 12 lizards at a time enjoying both the heat trapped by the glass and the security from cat predation afforded by the cover. They are free to come and go and no doubt some get nabbed by predators, but as with many things, habitat enhancement boosts the population. This might be an interesting project for your garden.

The Fieldclub recently paid for about 50 lizard covers for a research project. These are available to anyone to borrow. They are Onduline which is a heavy corrugated roofing material in squares about 50x50cm. Lizards live under them.



Lloyd's Lizardium



Skink

Chilean Flame Creeper

Want to get on top of that 'flamin creeper' in your bush? Chilean flame creeper is one of the worst weeds in Otatara. It smothers shrubs and trees and is a devil to get rid of completely.

You can help control it by tracing the stems down to the ground and breaking them off. At this time of the year it stops it producing fruit and spreading further. Doing this regularly also helps reduce the damage it causes in Otatara bush.

For more info, phone Randall (213 0851)



Notices

Calling all ARTISTS, POTTERS, CRAFTSPEOPLE, SCULPTORS!

Interested in being involved in a Tour of Otatara Artists' Studios or being part of creating a pamphlet of Otatara studios? Please register your interest by emailing the Otatara Landcare Group otataralg@gmail.com

Garden Tour – native gardens wanted

Anyone wanting to offer a garden as a good example of the use of natives for a garden tour? If there are enough offers we will organise a tour.

Contact Glenda Graham Ph 213 1397.

Lloyd Esler Editor 213 0404 esler@southnet.co.nz

This year's pick of events for you ...

Kites and Bubbles

Saturday 14 March – 1-4pm

Southland Community Nursery Education Centre, Grant Road.

Kite making and Bubble Fun for kids of all ages – **FREE** – just turn up

Frisbee Conservation

Sunday 3 May – 1-4pm

Bushy Point

You may well be wondering what this is!! (we are too!!) Come along and find out

Million \$ Mouse

Monday 15 June – 7.30pm Evening Talk

Otatara Church Hall, Oreti Road — FREE

Stephen Horn and Brian Rance of DoC talk about and show slides of the mouse eradication programme, sponsored by Gareth Morgan, of the Antipodes Islands

Orienteering

Sunday 5 July – Start 11.30am-1pm

Bushy Point

Map and estick hire \$4.00

More information on www.otataralandcare.org.nz;

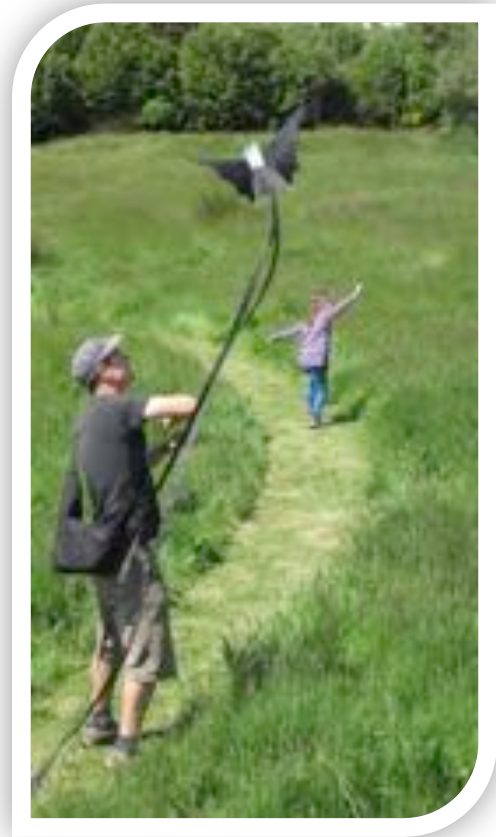
phone 213 1161; email otataralg@gmail.com

Get out there and get involved!

Haggis Night



Enjoying the koru maze at the Rance's



Fuelling up at Bowmans Bush

