

PIGEON POST

Issue 55 October 2018

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 2131500
Secretary Chris Rance 2131161 Treasurer Glenda Graham
2131397 Pigeon Post editor Lloyd Esler 2130404** Committee members – Brian Rance, Randall Milne, Jane Bowen, Sally Duston, Graeme Childs, Russell Evans, May Evans, Linda Jackson, Ray Jackson, Nathan Cruickshank, Geoff Dembo, Cathy MacFie, Dallas Bradley, Lesley Catterall.

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

FIREWORKS SAFETY – MESSAGE FROM BUSH HAVEN

Once again, a reminder that all Otatara people should be aware 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. There is also the risk of a fire starting in the bush from sparks, which is a very real danger, even after so much rain.

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 ensure when using fireworks that a responsible adult is supervising or setting them off.

Russell & May Evans
Bush Haven
Otatara

Chairspeak - a message from the Chairperson Barry Smith

Recently we had the Annual General Meeting of the Otatara Landcare Group, our 19th, and so we are in our 20th year. I have often made the comment about Kim Jong-Un and myself being elected for life (the only difference being that if anyone else showed the slightest interest in wanting this job I'd be out of there and leaving them to it... happily). This time I made the same comment about being there till I die and then at least I'd be free to get out of it. However when the UCL (London Global University), which has 11,000 staff and 35,000 students, held a retirement function for the Provost, the gathering was attended as usual by Jeremy Bentham which in itself doesn't seem too strange except that he was born in 1748 and died in 1832. He's stuffed, so just to thwart the schemes of any taxidermist who might want to keep me in office after I die I wish to be cremated and quickly. As the old Irish saying goes, 'May you be half an hour in heaven before the devil knows you're dead.' Jeremy Bentham was recorded as present, but not voting.

Activities occurring around the Otatara area organised by the OLG, the Community Nursery and activities at Bushy Point have been quite numerous and diverse during a couple of months in winter. Firstly the Orienteering Club had an event at Bushy Point on the weekend of June 2nd/3rd with over 120 people attending and an age range extending into the 80s. Secondly, a really New Zealand celebration, Matariki. On the 23rd of June a celebration with children's activities, telescope viewing of Jupiter and Saturn and a pot luck tea with 30 or 40 people there. A great evening. The third activity in Bushy Point was Saturday 7th July when a small team of LandSAR (Search and Rescue) volunteers made use of the area for a compass navigation course for a couple of hours in sunny conditions - but damp in the bush. As a side note LandSAR was called out at 5:09am the following morning to go look for a drunk walk-a-bout in the Nevis area. If we look at these it is three diverse groups of people with three different activities but with a common interest in the natural world and what is going on in it as opposed to computer games and other sedentary recreations. It shows that this area is not only a great value to the birds and trees but also to the wellbeing of so many people.

Have fun, enjoy your family and enjoy life

A kaka in residence! Cathy Mcfie

On 29 July I heard an unusual bird call – a combination of harsh screech and liquid notes – from one of the old pine trees down by the estuary, next to Otatara South Scenic Reserve. I looked up to see a kaka, totally unconcerned by my presence. My first thought was that it had somehow come from Bush Haven but May Evans assured me otherwise. Could it have flown over from Rakiura, Stewart Island?

I imagined that it would be a chance encounter but was excited to tell friends and neighbours about the visitor. To my surprise, two of them had heard that same call and wondered what it could be. Then the sightings began ... eating flowers (*Grevillea* among the favourites), leaves, flying or just sitting. One evening I saw a sudden movement outside our kitchen window and there he/she was making a meal of *Hebe* flowers. We even had time to collect our grandsons to see the "massive" parrot. (Picture by Arthur Holmes, age 6)

How long the kaka will stay is anyone's guess. It has been most active first thing in the morning and early evening. And as far as I know, it has stayed in a small area around Huruhuru Road and Otatara South Scenic Reserve. Thanks to the new Birds of Otatara survey form we may hear of other sightings. Email Otatara Landcare Group committee member Lesley Catterall for a copy: lesleymcatterall@gmail.com



The best news of all would be for a mate to arrive and start a kaka colony in Otatara! In late September the Kaka was involved in a window strike. It flew off OK and as at 3 October it's still around.

Early flax flowering 2018

Flax begins flowering towards the end of October or into November and December. This year is exceptional. Buds began to be visible in July but most of these were killed by frost before the flowers emerged. The first flowers were seen at Omaui on 15 August and there is now a second batch of buds forming and flowering is getting well underway. Two questions here – what has triggered the early flowering and what triggers a prolific flowering season? The answer to the first may well be a response to last summer's drought. The reason for the prolific flowering may simply be that plants are on a rough two-year cycle and following last summer's indifferent flowering, it's again time for a decent one. The principal beneficiaries of this are the nectar feeders – tuis, bellbirds and other opportunists like starlings. The downside could be that if the flowering is over and done with very early, the nectar food source won't be available when it is needed for young birds. On the other hand, it seems like a very early breeding for birds as well with territorial squabbles, mating, hunting out of suitable nest sites and the gathering of nesting material. There are young birds as well. – ducklings, tuis and kereru.

Interest has been expressed in establishing a Pa Harakere or flax garden in Invercargill. This is a garden where all the varieties of flax are maintained for public enjoyment and where flax is grown as a resource for flax weavers. It could also incorporate relics and sculpture relating to the flax industry. The site needs to be half an acre or more with good flax growing conditions, handy to town and with good access. The great thing about flax is that it is portable. If you have to move, you dig everything up and replant it. Suggestions please.



Pictures Flax bud on 19 July 2018. Greenfinch perching on last year's flax stalk

Invercargill Historical Society

In response to the museum closure and as a way of keeping up interest in Invercargill's history, a new group has formed. The Invercargill Historical Society has been incorporated. Meetings are held 7pm on the third Thursday of the month, currently at the Hearing Association Room 126 Leet Street. You are invited to bring along items of interest and talk about a particular interest relating to Southland's history. Contact Lloyd Esler 2130404 esler@southnet.co.nz

Future Proofing – Yeah Right

We have about three acres and one of us has a very long wishlist. Ticked off so far is the vege garden, a small spot for growing flowers, a large plot for on-growing natives, 25m of drainside planted (out of 200m), a kowhai grove, four apples (put along a windy drive but at least they're in!), a large stack of firewood under cover, 25 eucalypts growing and new fencing. There is also the inevitable collection of used roofing iron, second-hand windows, a couple of baths (luxurious outdoor ablutions?) and a quantity of ceramic insulators – harder to explain but a fabulous sculpture was in mind when I purchased them.

The point I'm coming to is why whatever seems to be the obvious, most logical place to store, stack or plant all the aforementioned is NEVER the place they presently occupy. So far the firewood has been shifted twice, the fences moved twice, the vege garden is now shaded by the tree we put in and the driveway turnaround that initially seemed hugely oversized is now barely adequate. All that iron is now in the perfect place to put our container.

Hindsight is a curse, foresight shrouded in unforeseen possibilities and the wish-list continues...

Shining cuckoo The first Shining cuckoo for Otatara this season was reported by a boy from Otatara School on 16 September. He said he used my bird identification guide to identify the bird with the 'stripy tummy' which flew into his window. It bounced off and flew away. Cuckoos seem to specialise in window strikes. They are insect eaters, and one of the few species that can eat the Woolly bear caterpillars that infest ragwort and cinerarias. Shining cuckoos are nest parasites of Grey warblers. They observe a number of warbler pairs building nests and pick a time after the warbler eggs are laid to nip in and lay their own eggs, one per nest. The cuckoo chick shoves the other chicks and eggs out of the nest and its foster parents don't realise they have a changeling to raise.

The other cuckoo breeding in New Zealand is the Long-tailed cuckoo. Its unwitting host is the Brown creeper in the South Island and whitehead in the North Island. We get several other species of cuckoos turning up in New Zealand as vagrants. These the Channel-billed cuckoo, koel, Fan-tailed cuckoo, Oriental cuckoo and Pallid cuckoo. A few of these oddities are reported each year but they don't breed here.



Tui numbers

The good flowering of kowhai means a lot of very excited tuis. There is much shouting and posturing but rarely does it come to blows.

Permaculture Anyone?

OLG Committee member Geoff Dembo is willing to tutor a "permaculture for beginners" workshop at the Community Nursery. We don't have a date at present but it will be a day workshop held on a weekend. To express interest please email rances@southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz



Time to reinvigorate your pestbusting Dallas Bradley, Otatara Pestbusters Coordinator.

The days are getting longer and warmer, and more importantly, the birds are nesting, a time when their eggs and chicks are particularly vulnerable to rats and possums.

What better time to reinvigorate or begin your pest control efforts. Make sure you have fresh, not mouldy, bait in your bait stations and traps are set with fresh bait as well. While you may already have pest numbers down to low numbers, persistence is absolutely necessary to keep it that way.



And persistence pays off – bird numbers are definitely on the rise, tuis and kereru galore, plenty bellbirds and fantails, quite a few kakariki in certain areas, the odd kaka sighting, and it might be wishful thinking, but there seems to be more kingfishers about.



Kakariki



Kaka

Winter has been a time for the Otatara Pestbusters to catch up on 'administrative matters' such as a Health and Safety Plan and a price review for pestbusting supplies. Otatara Pestbusters consists of 230 householders undertaking pest control on their own properties and volunteers who control rats and possums in all the ICC Reserves in Otatara. All Pestbusters need to know how to store and handle traps and poison baits to avoid injury and accidental poisoning, so in the future, when you buy pest supplies there will be a short health and safety conversation and sign off on the matter.

Speaking of conversations, the best part of having the Pestbuster Coordinator's role is meeting fellow Pestbusters. Just about everyone has a pest or bird story, some very interesting too – even some horror stories about costly damage rats have done to property. Don't be shy about sharing your story, especially anything unusual and behaviours and changes you have noticed over time. I mentioned the price review – it was the first review in 8 years so well overdue. While prices have gone up, everything is still very cheap – wholesale or better prices. The main changes are bait (now 40 cents each – still \$20 a bucket but you get a few less) and Victor rat traps are now \$6 each or 2 for \$10. A mix of traps and bait stations is ideal. Prices for new buckets have also increased so bring your old bucket if you need a top up. There is more to it than that though – transport and storage in a well labelled bucket is a key health and safety measure. We won't sell it in plastic bags!



Contact me on 021784962, 2130234 or amberg2@gmail.com if you want to join Otatara Pestbusters, top up your supplies or share a story. For those new to Otatara, membership is free and you receive a pretty little decal to add to your letterbox or fence should you wish. To conclude folks, it's time to spring into action again and deal to a few more rats and possums. Predator Free NZ might be a big ask but we should be able to give Predator Free Otatara a good nudge – think nationally, act locally!



Pest photos courtesy of Nga Manu Images.
Bird photos courtesy of DoC and NZ Birds Online

ICC News

The Invercargill City Council has created a new position – Environment Information Officer – and former Planner Judith Christie has taken up this full time role. It was created because the Council wants to improve the way it gets its message out to its customers, and also make it easier for customers to communicate with the Council. The job is varied, from training staff in writing simple, clear letters, to checking all of the form letters that the Council sends out to make sure that they are easy to understand, to updating the Environmental and Planning Directorate's website. Judith will also be sending information on biodiversity out to new owners of properties in Otatara which contain protected bush.

Another part of the job will be going out to speak to groups about different aspects of what the Directorate does. If your community group needs to find a speaker, get in touch with Judith at the Council on 211 1777 or email judith.christie@icc.govt.nz. She can organize someone to come to speak to your group, whether it is about earthquake strengthening of heritage buildings, animal control, how the District Plan is developed, building regulations, the protection of biodiversity, or any other aspect of what the Environmental and Planning Directorate does.

Explorers Club

There have been three incarnations of the Southland Young Explorers Club in the last 30 years but enthusiasm for getting cold, wet, lost, muddy, bloody, sunburnt, hungry and bitten by sandflies inexplicably wanes after a time. I'm often getting enquiries about restarting and I'd like to have a public meeting sometime if there is enough interest. It's for kids and their families, doing vigorous weekend and summer-evening exploration-type activities. In the past, we had monthly evening meetings but I'd favour learning by exploration rather than learning by lectures. Let me know if you are interested. Lloyd Esler esler@southnet.co.nz 2130404

Myrtle rust and its potential impact in southern New Zealand

- Brian Rance

Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is a fungal disease that impacts plant species of the Myrtaceae family. It's thought to have come to New Zealand through westerly winds from Australia. The initial New Zealand discovery was from on Raoul Island to the north of New Zealand in March 2017. On 17 May 2017 myrtle rust was discovered in Kerikeri (Northland), the first site on mainland New Zealand. It is now known from Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Taranaki, Manawatu Wellington and Tasman districts. To date (16 May 2018) there has been approximately 693 confirmed sites of myrtle rust infections detected in New Zealand.

New Zealand has 29 formally described native taxa in the Myrtaceae family with an additional 8 variations of manuka which are not yet formally described. These native myrtle species include iconic tree rata species, manuka and kanuka. In Southland and Otago there are eight native myrtle species that are naturally occurring, these are southern rata (*Metrosideros umbellata*), rata vines (*M. diffusa*, *M. perforata* and *M. fulgens*), manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*), kanuka (*Kunzea robusta* and *K. serotina*), rohuu (*Neomyrtus pedunculata*) and rohuu (*Lophomyrtus obcordata*).

The national response to date has been led by MPI with support from DOC, local/regional authorities, iwi and others. All infestations to date have had infested plants removed and destroyed followed by delimitation surveys to determine the extent. The response by DOC includes:

- Undertaking surveillance in natural habitat in high risk parts of New Zealand,
- Collection of all native myrtle species throughout New Zealand,
- Control of the infestation on sites on Public Conservation Land as they are discovered,
- Reviewing the threat status of native myrtle species – all are soon to become listed as threatened species reflecting the predicted impact upon each species.
- Developing response plans.

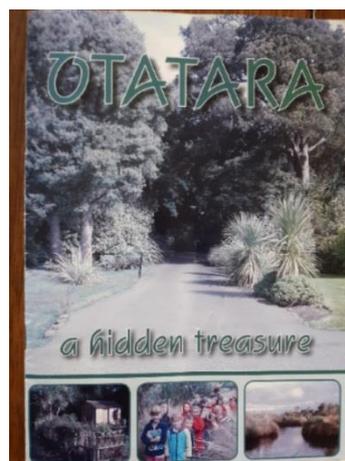
Myrtle rust requires warm conditions to reproduce (10 consecutive days at 15 or more degrees). Therefore southern New Zealand is thought likely to be beyond its ecological preference, however the extent of its impacts remains to be determined. Myrtle rust can be spread by a number of vectors including wind, animals/birds and by people. It is anticipated to be difficult eradicate. The ability to control or contain myrtle rust is dependent upon early detection of new infestations. Therefore if anyone suspects that they may have found a new infestation of myrtle rust (or any other potentially new disease or weed) should notify the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) immediately.



This picture shows a twig with the characteristic powdery yellow rust

Do you remember this booklet?

The OLG published this booklet of information about local Otago businesses and attractions some years ago. Much of the information has changed and we are thinking of re-doing it. If you have an Otago business or venture or attraction you would like promoting please email otataralg@gmail.com





Southland Community Nursery Chris Rance

The Southland Community Nursery is open again for spring. Volunteers are welcome to come anytime from 9am – noon every Friday.

Seeds sowed in autumn are coming up and there are lots of clean-up jobs in the nursery as well as the usual potting, pricking out, weeding, moving plants, trackwork etc. With the good spring weather plants are coming into flower early – kowhai, fuchsia and pittosporum are in full flower giving bellbirds and tui plenty of food. Birds are carrying nesting material and preparing for the nesting period. It is at this time of year crucial to control pests while birds are nesting to avoid chicks being killed in the nest by predators.

We have had diverse groups of visitors to the Nursery this year from the usual school groups learning about native plants to weaving and printmaking workshops. One of the most recent groups has been a SIT Health and Wellbeing course wanting to do 'Forest Bathing' – no, it's not what you think! An article in Stuff describes it as follows... 'While it may sound like getting clean in the woods, forest bathing is a healing practice inspired by the Japanese immersion therapy 'shinrin yoku'. Translating to 'taking in the atmosphere of the forest', the discipline was first introduced in 1982 by the Forest Agency of Japan as a method of stress relief for civilians in urban areas. The idea of the experience is to slow down and connect with the present moment or to simply be in the forest'. So..... we went into our forest understorey and soaked up the atmosphere created by our 400 year old trees. There is no doubt that taking time out in nature is good for our physical and mental wellbeing and it is not a new idea (it's just that it's now called mindfulness rather than a walk in the woods!).



When we were contemplating building the Education Centre there was a whole raft of research about the benefits for children of play in nature. It inspired us to build the Education Centre and welcome schools to our property. Southland Kindergarten Association is leading the way with their Bush Kindy even purchasing a native forest area in which to do it.

We also hold workshops – photo below is a printmaking workshop held with NZ artist Jo Ogier earlier in the year. If you want a workshop venue or you have an idea for a workshop let us know.



The Nursery is also a great networking place and sharing information about diverse subjects and learning from each-other over a coffee and food is also good for us in many ways. So it's not all about growing plants! However, **we do sell plants** (\$5 for a PB3) to fund the Charitable Trust and are happy to give advice freely about your restoration requirements and of course if you come and help out at the nursery you can take some plants away for free.



Check it out at www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz and come for a visit. If Friday's don't suit then email to arrange another time that does.

29,000 plants in the ground- so far! Chris Rance

On Saturday 8 September 2018 eighty-five people came along to Bushy Point in Otatara to help with the annual Otatara Landcare Group (OLG) planting project. In the Year 2000 (you remember, that year everything electronic was going to stop!) Barry Smith came up with the “2000 in 2000” project. The idea was that every resident of Otatara would plant a native tree at Bushy Point. Now, 18 years later we are onto our 29000th tree. It’s a big OLG effort supported by the community and it seems to go from strength to strength. The aim of joining up two areas of bush (the totara forest and the regenerating kahikatea forest) has largely happened and large area of former paddock are now a flourishing regeneration area. For those not so familiar with the project it also got an injection of enthusiasm and funding in 2011 from the Rugby World Cup (well the Tindall Foundation under the banner of the world cup) supporting a project in every region of the country by funding the purchase of native plants and their maintenance for the following

three years. On the ground that meant an extra 10,000 plants in three years. The large turn-out of people in September meant that the 1000 locally grown plants were in the ground by lunchtime – snug under their combi-guards (to prevent rabbit browse) and we were all tucking into a well-earned BBQ sausage. Planting days are great for their camaraderie and fun – it’s a family day and it is gratifying to see so many children who will remember planting here and visiting in years to come. Bushy Point is Department of Conservation land where the OLG has a 30 year lease to convert the paddocks back to nature. It is open space, available to everyone and has walkways, a pond, native planting, tracks and interpretation – check it out, access from the end of Bryson Road, Otatara.

Photos show the three vital stages in the planting process. Instructions, actual planting and eating sausages (Ed).



Life membership of the OLG just \$50, annual membership \$20

The Landcare Group is a Charitable Trust supported by members and volunteers. If you would like to support the work of this group or become involved in projects to enhance the natural values of the Otatara Area please consider joining or making a donation – the Bushy Point project alone costs the group over \$10,000 a year

Subs or donations can be deposited directly into the OLG bank account 03 1355 0805312 00 but please make sure they are labelled with your name and olg subs as references.

Please email (otataralg@gmail.com) or send cheque to our treasurer Glenda Graham – 33 Rakiura Parade, Otatara – please put your name address phone number and email address.

UPDATE FROM BUSH HAVEN – AND KAKARIKI

We have been busy over the last few weeks, with number 18 Kereru since April arriving on 2 October, although sadly after being injured by a car strike in Marama Avenue North, it had such severe injuries that it had to be euthanised. We have several released kereru and wild birds coming to Bush Haven for extra food, which, while not being what we really want, at least helps feed the young birds they are obviously rearing.

Our special birds, South Island Kaka have not yet decided to lay this season, and as they already have 19 chicks in Abel Tasman and Orokonui maybe they are taking a rest this year? In April Russell had a leg fracture, and although he is mobile we have had a very difficult year looking after the birds. We are looking for adult volunteers to come and help occasionally with feeding or outside work on week mornings, please call in if you are interested, or phone 032130530.

You may have heard that due to our health Russell and I are having to leave Bush Haven in a few months. We have several prominent Invercargill people helping us to try and retain Bush Haven as a going concern and you will see more about this in your newspaper soon. If you know of anyone who is passionate and dedicated enough to take on the rehabilitation work please get in touch by phoning us on 032130530.

We are nearly at the stage of putting in our application to have red-crowned Kakariki released from our collection into Otatara to enhance the numbers out there. If anyone wishes to write in support of this, please email to me at bush.haven@kinect.co.nz. The more support we can get from Otatara residents the better our chances of release are.



OSNZ Youth Camp

In April a group of 22 youth members of the Ornithological (birds) Society from all over New Zealand visited Bush Haven. We spent about 40 minutes finding out about the work being done there and enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the birds.

Bird Watch – Observing the Birds of Otatara - Lesley Catterall

In the last few months, several “bird count” surveys have been conducted nationwide. In the first week of July the [NZ Garden Bird Survey](#) tracked all the birds seen in a particular location for one hour during that week. Then most recently in the last week of September, [the Great Kereru Count](#) tracked the number of Kereru sightings (18,981 in total for 2018), their location and behaviour over that period.

The Otatara Landcare Group has also been tracking sightings of native and naturalised birds in the area. Prompted by sightings of kakariki and kaka which seem to have established themselves in some of our scenic reserves and enjoy visiting properties on the outskirts of these, we were keen to track both the numbers, behaviour and the range of territory for these new members of our community.



To this end we created a Bird Sighting Observation form (now in its 3rd revision) which can be downloaded from the website:

<http://www.otataralandcare.org.nz/lets-explore/native-birds-animals/birds/>

We started tracking at first, just those sightings or soundings of rare birds new to Otatara: the Kaka, Kakariki, fernbird and ruru, but we've since expanded that observation to include any native or naturalised bird that chooses to make its home with us. In particular we are interested in increases in numbers, any changes in their behaviour or habitat and what the bird was doing when you saw it, like this kereru that was nipping at buds in my plum tree when my husband took this lovely photo.

Every report we receive goes into a database that will help us determine patterns of behaviour and any obvious changes to numbers or habitat for our precious avian residents. The impact of our pestbusting work in making Otatara a safer place for birds to live and our native plantings in Bushy Point and on private properties to expand the bird natural habitat are contributing factors to the increases in

numbers many of us believe we've seen. But what we think is all circumstantial if we don't have the data of actual observations to support those impressions.

If you have noticed any increase in the number of birds in your part of Otatara, like the fantails that have set up residence at my place in the last year (few and far between during the previous two years), or the kaka that took up residence in a few gardens on the edge of Otatara South Scenic Reserve through July and August of this year, then tell us about it. Download the form, fill it out (it takes less than a minute to complete) or take photos of the birds and email Otatara Landcare Group otataralg@gmail.com with your observation.

The data we collect will be used to establish a baseline against which future observations can be compared, to support the release of native species like kakariki raised in captivity in Otatara and to broadening our understanding of what these birds need to support a safe and sustainable habitat.

In addition to that, any bird sightings accompanied by photos or sound recordings that we receive will be loaded into [iNaturalistNZ](https://inaturalist.nz) as a permanent record of our observations. Of course anyone can join the iNaturalistNZ site and participate in the wider global community both adding your observations of all manner of flora and fauna and exploring those added by others. If you are interested you can log on at:

<https://inaturalist.nz/home>

So if bird watching is your thing and you'd like to help us in our data collection, we'd be delighted to receive your reports, photos or sound recordings. If you are unsure what bird species you are seeing, describe it as best you can, or take a photo and we can help you identify it. Due to the interest we've already had in our Bird Watch, the Otatara Landcare Group is thinking of holding a bird walk and bird ID workshop, so if you are keen on participating in this let us know at:

otataralg@gmail.com



Eco – Fun Day Sunday 4 November 2018

Starts at 1pm

Start at the Southland Community Nursery Education Centre (park in the 183 Grant Road carpark and follow the signs to the Nursery) and pick up your passport for activities at Bushy Point on insects, pests, plants, pond-dipping and more!



The OLG organises monthly events – <http://www.otataralandcare.org.nz/news-events/> and also manages the Bushy Point Restoration Project so you can be involved in a very hands on project - <http://www.otataralandcare.org.nz/bushy-point-restoration/>

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