



Newsletter May 2009

Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.

Secretary Lyn Whiley phone 905 2748

Chairperson's Report

It's a busy time of year for the Care Group, with ongoing working bees, a number of new initiatives and learning opportunities (refer to the following articles), planning for the winter planting season, funding applications and preparing for the annual Open Day and Annual General Meeting.

In the next few weeks you'll see some innovative advertising for our Open Day on Saturday 23 May (9am, Manly Street entrance) for which we've now secured some great spot prizes for attendees.

Our AGM on Monday 22 June (7pm Paraparaumu Library meeting room) features guest presenter Mary McEwen, ecologist and daughter of well known conservationist Sir Charles Fleming, and some user-friendly changes to our Incorporated Society rules which you may like to know about. Our Mayor, Jenny Rowan, will also be there.

Following on from our success last month in securing Department of Conservation Community Conservation funding for site preparation, we have just been advised that our Greater Wellington Take Care funding has been renewed for a further five years.

This continuity of funding is a great vote of confidence in the Waikanae Estuary project, so thanks to Greater Wellington for the invaluable financial support, and the ongoing involvement of our Take Care representative, Kerryn Penny.

It was with great sadness that we heard of Geoff Park's recent passing. Geoff was the author the Landscape Plan for the Waikanae Estuary which is the vision and planning document for all Care Group planting work. Through Geoff's vision we are well on our way to restoring the Waikanae Estuary to as close to its natural state as possible.

Jeff Eaton

Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.

Open Day 2009

Come along and join us for the Opening Day of the 2009 planting season.



Get your feet dirty, plant some trees and find out what we're doing to improve the Waikanae Estuary

- 9am Planting
- 10.20 am Morning Tea
- 10.40 am Brief overview of the project and recent milestones
 - 'Walk and Talk Tour' led by Department of Conservation staff
 - Ian Cooksley
 - The history of the estuary
 - Matt Todd
 - The significance of the estuary
- 12 noon BBQ

Be in to win an overnight stay for two at the Kapiti Island Nature Lodge, DoC's *Plant Me Instead* guide, and native plants



Kenakena School 'taking action' for the estuary

Written by Kerryn Penny



Our secretary Lyn Whiley supporting Kenakena School students mulching

Kenakena School has participated in planting days with the Waikanae Estuary Care Group for the past few years, but now they're taking their involvement in our special project to a whole new level...

Last year the Year 7 and 8 students (with the help of their teachers and a parent or two) built their own shade house in which they can grow-on native seedlings. Students that choose to work in the Enviro Group participate in the working bees at the shade house, as well as the school's other environmental action projects, such as composting, worm farming, organic veggie gardening, and recycling.

Students have gone from strength to strength in their ability to pot up native seedlings that have been specially eco-sourced for the Waikanae Estuary. This year when the students plant at the estuary they will be putting some of their very own plants into the ground.

The school has joined the 'Trees for Survival' programme, which is supported by Greater Wellington

Regional Council and local businesses such as Gus Evans Nurseries.

Support has also come from some of our own Shade House volunteers on Wednesdays when the Enviro Group do most of their potting up work. Native seedlings and potting mix are provided for the school and plants are potted up into 5cm tubes (GOLs) and then into re-used one litre milk cartons.

Students have also assisted in maintaining their planting sites and have re-visited the estuary to assist the group with mulching and weeding.

A new project for the school involves students collecting atmospheric data at their new weather station. This information will be shared with the Care Group to enable us to compare weather information with planting successes and achievements.

It is a real pleasure to work with this local school, the enthusiasm and commitment from both the students and teaching staff is really quite exciting!



Monitoring Pest Animals

Last Monday an enthusiastic group of 24 people braved a chilly winter evening to attend the Monitoring Pest Animals Meeting.

Colin Giddy from Department of Conservation took the group through different programmes and equipment used for monitoring pest animals and discussed things for the group to consider in the Waikanae Estuary.

It is now intended to get a 'monitoring' group up and running in the Waikanae Estuary to collect base line data on the pest animals calling the estuary home.

If you missed this meeting and are keen to be involved in monitoring work, please contact Kerryn Penny at Greater Wellington.

Phone 04 801 1029 or email kerryn.penny@gw.govt.nz

*Colin Giddy
Department of
Conservation*



Dunes Trust of New Zealand Workshop

Written by Deb Finn

Pat Menzies and myself attended this worthwhile workshop on behalf of our Caregroup on Saturday 18 April. It was run by Greater Wellington (Robyn Smith) and Dunes Restoration Trust members Mark Dean, (Chairman), Jim Dahm and David Bergin.

The focus of the workshop was to raise awareness of likely effects of climate change along the coastline, and of what coastal communities can do to strengthen the ability of dunes to adapt to that change. Here are some of the key points I found interesting:

- Our unspoiled beaches experience massive storms which are natural events we must live with. Storm cut (erosion) and recovery are natural processes.
- Native dune plants such as spinifex and pingao which once cloaked all our coastlines act as storm buffers, protecting coastlines from permanent erosion. These plants are designed to catch windblown sand which drops in front (seaward side) of the plant, thus forming a dune. In storm conditions, dunes erode and the plants respond by sending out fast growing runners, thus rebuilding the dunes to act as another buffer ready for the next storm.
- Unfortunately most of our beaches have been replanted with the Northern European grass – marram – which does not do this job. Marram grows in clumps and catches the sand

behind it, thus builds a high and retreating dune, which is further undercut when the next storm comes.

- Severe storms come in cycles which can last decades. So a person living on a beachfront for 50 years may have not seen the full effects of the most severe storm.
- Ninety percent of New Zealand is within 50 km of the coast, and is thus threatened by population growth and increasing human activities. A lot of development on beachfronts has occurred in times of dune accretion, thereby not allowing for the full movement of a dune lifecycle.
- There is now a move away from the old 'engineering paradigm' of building expensive seawalls which, while 'perhaps' protecting a property, results in a loss of sand in front, leaving no beach to walk on high tide. In many places such as Coromandel, people are now choosing to instead trust the plants to do their work. And in the very few cases where a wall is required, it is placed as far back as possible so that spinifex/pingao can be planted in front, creating a dune/storm buffer and beach to walk on.
- If the climate changes as predicted, as well as sea level rise, it is expected that there would be more storms, and these would last longer, having a greater impact on our coastlines. All the more reason to protect our dunes.



Photo taken by Laurie Petherick from a glider



*Pat Menzies
Committee member and
very hard worker*

Newsletter by email now available

Would you prefer to receive our monthly newsletter in your in-box instead of through your letter box? If so, we are now able to provide this service and would like to hear from you.

The electronic newsletter will be sent as a pdf attachment to an email.

Please contact Kerry and let her know if you would like to sign up for the next newsletter to be sent electronically.

Email kerryn.penny@gw.govt.nz

Subject line –
Waikanae Estuary Electronic Newsletter

Message –
Please include your name and address

Secretary – Lyn Whiley

Phone:
04 905 2748

Up-coming Annual General Meeting

7pm, Monday 22 June, 2009

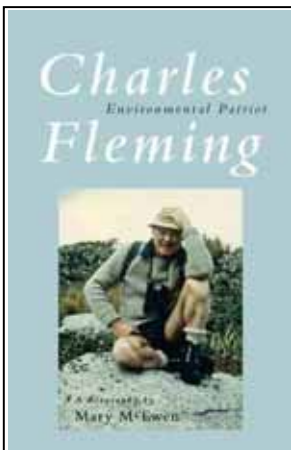
**Community Meeting Room
Paraparaumu Library**

Guest Speaker – Mary McEwen

Daughter of Sir Charles Fleming and author of 'Environmental Patriot'
Finalist in Montana NZ Book Awards

But it was in the conservation movement that Fleming had his largest following. Actively involved in the Save Manapouri Campaign in the early 1970s, he later became a fearless spokesman for the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and the Native Forests Action Council in campaigns to save New Zealand's native forests. In this fascinating, readable and timely biography, Charles Fleming's daughter, Mary McEwen, tells the extraordinary story of an extraordinary man.

If you are interested in being more involved in the group by joining the committee, please don't be shy! If you have any questions about the committee, please contact our current Chairperson (Jeff Eaton) to have a chat. Phone 905 1396.



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gw.govt.nz/waikanaeestuary

Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.

Up-coming Calendar Events

May

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Details of up-coming calendar events

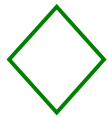
At all events / venues, keep your eye out for
the Waikanae Estuary Care Group flag



OPEN DAY & PLANTING – Saturday 23 May
Meet on bend of Manly Street, Paraparaumu



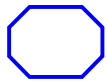
PLANTING DAY (Dune planting) – Saturday 6 June
Meet at the bottom Manly Street entrance (closest entrance to the beach)
Planting site no. RPS 1



PLANTING DAY – Saturday 20 June
Meet on Manly Street, opposite Hadfield Place, Paraparaumu
Planting site no. RPS 3



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Monday 22 June
Paraparaumu Library Community Meeting Room - 7pm
Guest Speaker – Mary McEwen, daughter of Sir Charles Fleming and author of
'Environmental Patriot', a biography on the extraordinary life of her father



PLANTING DAY – Saturday 4 July
Meet on Manly Street, opposite Hadfield Place, Paraparaumu
Walk along track to planting site no. RPS 5



HONDA TREE PLANTING – Saturday 18 July
Planting day at planting site RPS 6 – our Honda Tree planting site
Meet at the end of Takahe Drive, Paraparaumu

PLANTING DAY - 1 August
Planting at planting site RPS 7 (Back dune site).
Meet at the end of Takahe Drive, Paraparaumu

PLANTING DAY - 15 August
Planting at RPS 8 (The Oxbow). Meet on the bend of Otaihanga Road and walk
down gravel road towards boat ramp.