



## RARANGI LANDCARE GROUP INC.

### LANDCARE UPDATE —SUMMER 2006/2007

#### PUB CHARITY GRANT ENABLES PURCHASE OF MORE NATIVE FORESHORE PLANTS

A big thankyou goes to Pub Charity for the \$5,000 given to our Group last November for the purchase of Rarangi native foreshore plants. The money has been passed on to Morgans Road Nursery as a pre-payment for plants currently underway at the nursery. Nursery Owner Grant Robertson (in picture) has had considerable success with our spinifex seed which should be ready for the Autumn planting. In addition to spinifex other nursery plants include native daphne, coastal tree daisy, tauhinu and sand tussock.



*Grant with a tray of spinifex seedlings*

#### WORLD WILDLIFE FUND PROMOTES AWARENESS OF RARANGI'S ENDEMIC INSECT SPECIES.

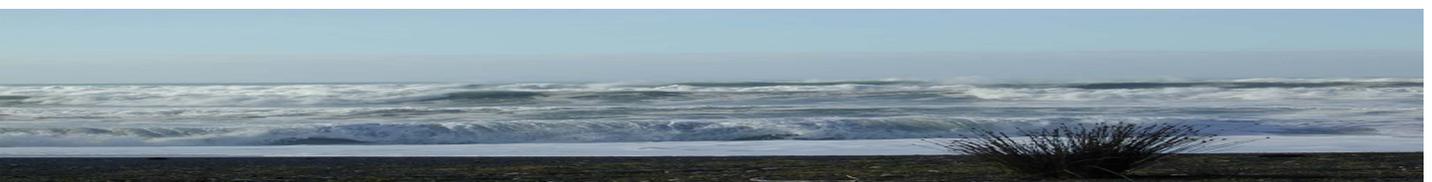


*L/R: Betty Petterson, DOC Officer Colin Davis and Barry & Trudie Lasham.*

Thanks to the WWF and their Journalist/Photographer David Hansford our Group's project has had considerable publicity with articles in both the Marlborough Express and the WWF Magazine.

In their magazine WWF highlight the importance of our foreshore insects with this comment from Habitat Protection Fund Officer Agnieszka Kowalik: "WWF supports Rarangi Landcare because they're batting for a vital underdog. The community is helping to restore the building blocks of an ecosystem. They might lack charisma, but they reflect the health of an ecosystem — no bugs equals no life."

*(Photo courtesy of David Hansford).*



## WORKING BEES

### OUTWARD BOUND

Thanks go again to Outward Bound for sending a great team of students over the weekend of 11th & 12th of November. Under the direction of Team Leader Helen (*extreme left in photo*), an enthusiastic environmentalist, a considerable amount of weeding got done.

The Group worked hard, alongside Landcare members, over the two days which resulted in most planted areas being cleared of garden escapees leaving space for the native foreshore plants to grow.



### MARLBOROUGH RANGERS LEND A HAND.

The article in the Marlborough Express highlighting our landcare project caught the attention of Marlborough Rangers Leader Cathy Leslie who immediately contacted us with an offer of help. It was a very cold day when the Rangers arrived on the 9th of December. However, the strong Southerly did not deter this Group from giving it their best effort and in no time at all another planted area was sorted out.

So a big thank you goes to the Marlborough Rangers who said they would like to come back to help out again. Good one!

(*In photo L/R: Kathryn Millard, Clare Gwynne, Hailey Smitheram, Joshua Gwynne and Cathy Leslie.*)

### LUPINS ATTACKED AGAIN!

Youngsters gave lupins the heave-ho again last October in an attempt to control their spread. It was great to see so many lupins being uprooted by such enthusiastic little hands.

Lupins are a real problem on our beach. They spread rapidly, and are a serious threat to our native foreshore plants. It has been suggested that old dry lupin plants can also pose a fire risk if not removed.

The smaller plants take very little effort to pull out. So next time you go for a walk and see a lupin why not pull it out. You'll be doing our native plants and the insects that rely on them for food & shelter a big favour.

Thanks go to the youngsters and John Martin who helped organise their efforts.

Well done!



## DOC USES SATELLITE POSITIONING TO RECORD AND NUMBER PLANTED AREAS



Department of Conservation Officer Rebecca Mitchinson (in photo) carried out a satellite survey of planted areas in September. The purpose was to establish the position of each planted area on an aerial map for future reference. Rebecca was back again in November armed with warratahs, each with an aluminium number tag attached, to number the planted areas. The information was later added to our Landcare Group's photographic files and cross referenced. Both DOC and Marlborough District Council received copies of our files. DOC have also passed on a copy of the aerial map showing the satellite position of each area. This will be updated as planting continues across the foreshore.



*Warratah with number tag*

## STUDENT SUGGESTS MONITORING PROGRAMME FOR BLUE GUM CORNER

Student Amy Nicholson (in photo) made contact with our Group in September for information on our Project: ie the restoration of native foreshore plants, habitat of endemic insect species. Amy said she was currently doing an environmental management course and her last paper was on 'Environmental Monitoring and Reporting'. The target area was Blue Gum corner.

Armed with our Landcare brochures, including the plant book Amy set off to carry out her survey and work out a monitoring programme.

The good news is that Amy has sent us a copy of her Report which makes interesting reading and is on file with our other Landcare Reports.



## MORE TOOLS!

Great news! The Department of Conservation have provided us with border forks and spades to add to our tool collection. Being lighter they will no doubt be a valuable asset on our working bees.

So thanks go to DOC for their continued support.

*(Photo: DOC Officer Rebecca Mitchinson delivering the tools.)*

## PLANTED AREAS DOING WELL

Council Officer Nicky Eade (in photo) paid a visit in December to look over the planted areas. She thought the native plants were doing well in these areas with our controlled weeding programme (thanks to help from Outward Bound) but noted problem foreshore areas still exist covered in lupins, gorse & broome.

It is hoped that these problem areas can be brought under control as planting of native species and weed control continues along the foreshore.



### Spinifex sericeus — Silvery sand grass



*A female Spinifex plant showing seed-heads. Feb.2007*

Spinifex is a valuable sand-binding plant, particularly for stabilising coastal sand-dunes because it helps to build more effectively shaped dunes with a lower profile better adapted for withstanding the destructive effects of wind. Upon maturity, female plants produce large, spiny, ball-like seed-heads which eventually break off, to be bowled and bounced along the beach by wind. If they come to rest in a suitable position, the spines trap sand, which buries the seed-head so that the seeds have a chance to germinate. If the seed-head lodges in a place where it can become saturated by the tide, it will break up, thus giving the seed another chance to be transported to a situation more suitable for germination.

Note: This is the plant referred to on the front page which the nursery has had considerable success propagating seed-heads collected in Rarangi last year. The nursery said the young plants should be ready for planting out in the Autumn.

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