

A VISIT TO THE NURSERY



A visit to Morgans Road Nursery last month showed us the success the nursery is having with seeds of our native foreshore plants. Nursery owner Lee Gilbert took time out of his busy schedule to show us around. Over 700 sand tussock seedlings were well underway in their root trainers in one tunnel house, while over 350 daphne were coming along nicely in another tunnel house. Lee explained how the nursery uses all the latest available technology in their propagating house to monitor and control temperature and humidity that achieves a high success rate in cuttings and seed germination. It was a very informative visit and our thanks to Lee for taking the time. The photo on the left shows Lee with the sand tussock seedlings— ready for Spring planting . The photo on the right shows member Dympie Swain with a mature sand tussock.



Can you imagine Rarangi's foreshore in the future with hundreds of these plants!

NATIVE FORESHORE PLANTS & INSECTS

NATIVE DAPHNE—*Pimelea urvileana*

The Pimelea family is a genus of shrubs containing more than 80 species mainly confined to Australia. A few species are found on Timor and Lord Howe Islands and the 15 New Zealand species are endemic.

The leaves are opposite or alternate, usually small. The small white flowers are perfect or unisexual in function. The perianth is tubular with 4 (usually spreading) lobes. There are 2 stamens which are inserted within the throat of the perianth tube. The fruit is small and drupe-like or dry.

This plant has been reported by J.S. Dugdale in *Entomological Values of the Foreshore and Associated Inland Habitats*, to be the habitat of the endemic (Cloudy Bay) Stone Moth.

The following is an excerpt from the Study:

THE STONE MOTH—*Dichromodes sp.cf. sphaeriata*. The Cloudy Bay population differs from all known *D. sphaeriata* populations in its peppering of whitish scales on the dark stone-grey forewings, and consistently smaller size; all others have these scales yellow.



Supported by:



RARANGI LANDCARE GROUP INC. Landcare Update

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PUB CHARITY GRANT BUYS MORE NATIVE FORESHORE PLANTS.

Great news! Our application to Pub Charity for a donation of \$5,000, suggested by member Woody Jones, was successful. This has enabled our group to purchase 2,000 more native foreshore plants from Morgans Road Nursery.

The first installment of plants including native daphne, mingimingi and muehlenbeckia have already been received and these were planted last month. The next installment, underway at the nursery for a Spring planting, will include sand tussocks and more daphne. (See back page).

Thanks go to Pub Charity for helping us in our endeavors to ensure the survival of our native coastal plants and insects.

Photo: Landcare members John & Betty Petterson with some of the 369 native daphne planted last month.



ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNGSTERS HELP WITH LUPIN CLEARANCE



Garden escapees are a real problem on the foreshore, especially the more prolific ones such as lupins. Over the years these, and other non-native plants, have spread across the foreshore in numbers that threaten the survival of many of our native coastal plants; and the endemic insects, found nowhere else in the world, that rely on these plants for food and shelter.

Getting rid of lupins and other garden escapees is, and has been, an ongoing task for everyone helping out at our working bees. So when a group of enthusiastic youngsters stormed onto the beach to wage war on lupins it seemed like the cavalry had arrived.

They pulled and tugged as hard as they could trying to get as many plants as possible for a competition organised by member John Martin. It was a great effort and thanks to everyone who joined in the fun. There's still a few lupins left so... we might have to have another competition! Thanks John for organising it.



OUTWARD BOUNDERS INDISPENSIBLE ON WORKING BEES



Outward Bound students were back again on 9th February helping with weed clearance. A group of 14 young men and women lead by Mike O'Brien worked hard under sunny skies alongside Landcare members, DOC and Council Officers. In addition to weeding three more areas were opened up in preparation for planting. Another group of 16 OB students headed by Joanne Parsons were with us again on the 21st April continuing the good work. This working bee was not so lucky with the weather as it poured with rain all morning—a great test for endurance. This group helped with the joining of 3 planted areas into one large area. The result is a good example of what the foreshore will look like as other areas are planted and enlarged. Thanks again to Outward Bound.
 (photos: opposite is Mike's group with DOC Officer Willi Borst extreme right, below is Joanne's group braving the downpour and also working in the newly formed large planting area.)



JANUARY WORKING BEE & BBQ

Thanks to all who turned out for this working bee on the 15th of January. The objective was to get as many planted areas as possible weeded in preparation for the Environmental Awards Judges visit on the 8th February. Looking at the abundance of weeds in the photo now it's hard to believe we did it in a couple of hours! It was good to relax later at the barbeque. We must do this again next summer.

Close up photo shows some of the members there on the day. (L/R: Tony, Betty, Jim, Trudie, Barry, Dianne & Julia with Rosie the Westie checking it all out).



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS



Our entry in the Environmental Awards was highly commended by the Judges with one judge saying they agonised over their decision. So it seems we were very close to winning our section! After complimenting our efforts the judges recommend that we plant more to offset any losses. Until recently, this has been difficult as the source area ie Rarangi's foreshore is depleted of native plants & any seeds we have managed to collect seem reluctant to germinate. Fortunately Morgans Road nursery has had more success with our seeds, offering them better germinating conditions. With their expertise, and help from Outward Bound, we should be able to restore thousands of plants along the foreshore in the very near future. So lookout 'Awards' we're coming back. (Photos: Opposite—8th Feb. Judgement day. Below on left—the Judges (L/R) Victor Koller, Lynda Neame and Sandra Sewell. Pictured below—members at the Awards dinner. L/R Trudie, Roseina, Barry, David & Sue.)



PURCHASE OF TOOLS, GLOVES & EQUIPMENT THANKS TO TRANSPOWER



We were able to purchase these much needed tools & gloves thanks to Transpower. The tool box was constructed and donated by Landcare member John Petterson who also researched and selected the tools & equipment getting them at discount prices. Well done John! Here's what we purchased: 10 grubbers, 6 forks, 10 trowels and 15 pairs of gloves. The weed-eater in the photo is thanks to the Pub Charity grant.

As you can see it's all being well looked after by 'Monty', John & Betty's cat.

