



RARANGI LANDCARE GROUP INC.

LANDCARE UPDATE MAY 2003

March 7th - Celebration of "Sea week"

What better way to celebrate "Sea week" than with the official "opening" of our new interpretation sign by Mayor Tom Harrison.

The ceremony took place at 11:00am around the sign. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout for this special event. In addition to the Mayor, the Department of Conservation's South Marlborough Manager, David Hayes, took time out from his busy schedule to be with us and Landcare members were joined by students from Tua Marina School and Outward Bound.

Speeches made that day by Rarangi Landcare, Marlborough District Council and the Department of Conservation emphasised the need to protect and re-establish native foreshore plants in our area. Not only do they help protect the foreshore from erosion, but they are an essential food source to several species of insects, two of which are unique to the Cloudy Bay area.

The important message of the day was that "once a species is gone it is gone forever" and future generations are deprived of the opportunity to observe its uniqueness and role it played in the Rarangi/Cloudy Bay ecosystem.

NEW INTERPRETATION SIGN

Mayor Tom Harrison officially "opens" the new interpretation sign showing some of the plants and insects being re-established along the foreshore.

(photo- courtesy of the Marlborough Express)



ONE OF OUR FIRST RESTORATION SITES

Landcare member Betty Petterson explains to the group some of the difficulties encountered getting the plants on their site established.

(photo- courtesy of the Marlborough Express.)



More planting areas opened up during Working Bees of 7th and 8th of March

Thanks to the effort of a really great team of lasses and lads from Outward Bound with help from Landcare members we managed to open up more foreshore areas for planting.

New areas

Nine new areas were planned. However, since there's no hard and fast rules about where a site is to be located, three adjoining property owners decided to have one large area between them (see photo). It seems like a good move as the young plants may need a little TLC (*tender loving care*) until they get established and the more involved the better.

Some of the OB students used their artistic flair to create a design with beach pebbles (see photo).

Local Nursery growing plants

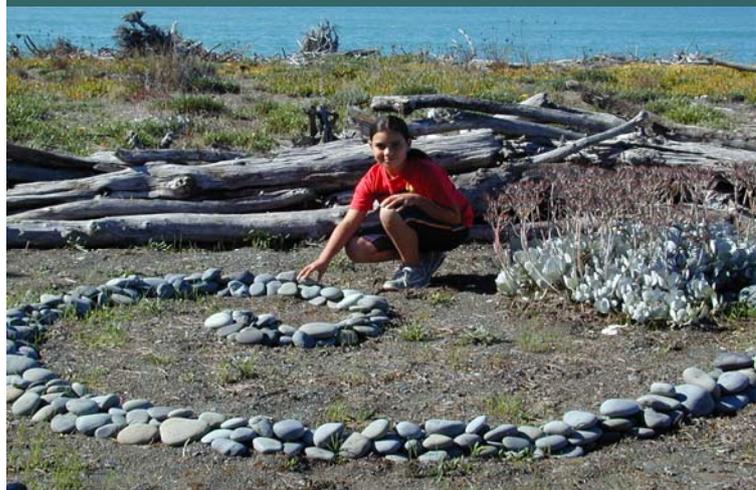
The young plants for these areas, and other existing areas, are currently being nurtured along at a local nursery for planting this autumn.

Protecting existing plants.

In addition to preparing areas for planting, students helped members arrange driftwood around existing foreshore plants in the area for the plants protection.



The Outward Bound Team



Young Landcare member Sophie Palmer is pleased with their newly established area.



A large area is weeded by Outward Bound and Landcare in preparation for planting.

Good news—we got our grant!

It was a wonderful surprise to open the Community Trust letter and read

“We are pleased to advise that Trustees have approved a donation of **\$3,015** to be applied —

Towards purchase of Landcare Project information signs.”

The amount granted was what we asked for to enable us to purchase one large information sign and two sets of the small plant identity signs. Like the one I’m holding in the photo below.

So a big **“THANKYOU”** goes out to Community Trust Trustees.

Location of new large information sign

Discussions will be underway shortly with the Department of Conservation and Marlborough District Council to firm up on the location for this new large information sign on a site south of Blue Gum Corner.

Small plant identity signs

Some members have suggested instead of purchasing “two sets” of these signs we order the same quantity of signs but for the plants we are planting now since we seem to have difficulty in getting some species. We’ll keep you posted.

Damage to sign

According to reports damage done to the foreshore information sign, adjacent to the car park at Blue Gum Corner, took place around the 3rd or 4th of April.



It’s difficult to protect a sign in an isolated location such as the Blue Gum Foreshore car park. In recent years the Department of Conservation’s reserve information sign in that area was badly damaged and had to be replaced. When it was re-installed large stones were placed around the base for its protection.

Being aware of this, large quarry stones were planned for the base of our sign and we were just waiting for their delivery. Whether they would have acted as a deterrent in this incident is difficult to say.

In the meantime the sign has been removed for repair or replacement.

YES, this letter from the Community Trust says we’ve been given a grant of \$3,015. Which means we will be able to purchase another large information sign to be located south of Blue gum corner and more of these plant identity signs.



Spreading the Landcare Message

In conclusion, let's not forget we are doing this for **our children and their children.**

Everyone is welcome to join us. That includes residents and non residents.

Anyone interested can contact any Core Group Member:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| John and Betty Petterson | 570 5534 |
| Barry and Trudie Lasham | 570 5073 |
| Trish Horrey | 570 2088 |
| Neil and Irene Martin | 570 2207 |
| Christine Baker | 570 5834 |
| Roseina Howe | 570 5892 |
| Dympne Swain | 570 5811 |
| Glen Vile | 570 5587 |



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



nz landcare trust
ngā matapopore
whenua