

Weeds & Pests Field day: Port Robinson, October 19th

Terry Ashley: Port Robinson Reserves Committee

- Started 20 years ago with Murray Elliot planting natives
- This year 400 plants from Trees of Canterbury – stabilising modified coastal areas
- Control of wilding pines – helicopter & by hand – Mainpower Trust sponsor
- Challenges
 - Rabbits, Nassella, Banana Passionfruit, wattles, gorse and broom
 - Where Jed and Buxton rivers join erodes when in flood – plan to plant Jed estuary
- Project: Bring “Limestone Nob” back to native
 - Well covered now only dryer areas remain to plant
 - Mortality rate around 25%. **Comment** Jamie McFadden: Spring planting hard work with drying and late hard frosts – need irrigation/wetlands/coastal frost free

Noel Crump – ECan Biosecurity Officer

- Working around Cheviot for 40 years
- Targeted plant pest projects (other than Nassella, Gorse & Broom)
 - Old man’s beard – in high environmental value areas
 - Boneseed – coastal invader shrub to tree 3-4 metres tall
 - Often adjacent to villages – pea shape – birds feed and “plant”
 - Since 2003 established north Kaikoura, Gore Bay, Motunau, Leithfield, Christchurch, some eastern bays Banks Peninsula
 - Taken out thousands Gore Bay/Kaikoura – back now to manageable levels
 - Key to weed control is follow up
 - Banana Passionfruit
 - Site led project with little funding – came back with a vengeance
 - Jane Montgomery – continued project with community involvement. Education – humans (don’t) eat and spit out seeds: possums, rats,
 - Bad around Conway/Oaro
 - Research on biological control, weevils etc
 - Issues going forward: Bur daisy, Saffron thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Cotoneasta, Pyracantha – garden escapees
- Biocontrol
 - Gorse – 5 agents: sap suckers, seed feeders, ring barking caterpillars. Stress the plant without taking it out
 - Broom – Broom Gall mite: very successful
 - Horehound – Plume & Clearwing Moths – early days
 - Zipporah Ploeg – ECan Biodiversity officer. Works with private landowners on values/threats/plans
 - Questions: Fennel? – no control as yet. Boxthorn? – not included in pest control plans. Lorna Sandeman (biosecurity) said you can request Ecan to put pest on control request list.
 - New pests go through cost/benefit analysis
 - Need people to recognise pest at early stage and remove.

Ian Hankin – DOC

- Covers area Rakaia to Conway to foothills. Restructure – 2 people down to 1
- Boundary issues with private/reserve land – weeds, requests to clear fences for repairs. Compensate landowner contribution where possible, but no budget for fencing
 - DOC \$78K budget - Nassella work alone is half
 - Too hard! Work is not getting done, puts strain on relationship with private landowners
 - If worried about losing biodiversity get info/stocktake of area
 - Big job covering all weeds on limited budget, especially if out of public eye
- Positive note – some funding for biodiversity work.
 - Tweedies Gully, Gore Bay - isolated Banana Passionfruit, Willow
 - Manuka Bay – weed control
 - Motunau Island – Boxthorn
- Spraying.
 - Surfactants toxic to bees – careful management
 - Drone work – possible; no one has all the tickets. Issue of weight/cost. Algorithm for plant id.

Additional Organisation Reps - funding

- **Scott Butcher** – Trees That Count
 - Free native trees – application process
 - Advisory service
- **Zipporah Ploeg** – ECan zone committee fund
 - Solutions to threats – protection/restoration of biodiversity
 - Can work with QEII
- **Josh Brown** – Hurunui District Landcare Group Coordinator
 - MPI 1 Billion trees fund for native planting & protection
 - 65 ha restoration
 - 75 km riparian
- **Miles Giller** – QEII Trust
 - Protection of long-term covenant
 - Often must kill things to save things
 - Funding for weeds and pests

Roger Chambers, Farmlands (Retired) – weed control chemicals

- Fennel – Grazon, Metsulphuron – residual 1 year
- Banana Passionfruit – cut very close to ground – liberal herbicide gel
- Horehound – 2,4D ester or Pasturekleen & Kondemn additive
- Wattles, Lupins – Versatil
- Willows and other trees – Metsulphuron – drill holes and apply with drench gun
- Cape Ivy – Amitrole. Respray after dieback
- Old man's beard – Versatil. Trace back to main vine, cut stump, treat.
- Summer grass, paspalum, boxthorn – Glyphosate every leaf plus Kondemn
- Periwinkle – Weed Weapon – over counter or Glyphosate & Sharpen

- English Ivy – Amitrole – residual six weeks
- Boneseed – pull out small plants or cut trunk and treat with Glyphosate or Versatil gel within 30 seconds
- Chemical Notes:
 - Kondemn – additive, works like a penetrant, non-residual, anti-drift
 - Buster plus Kwickin – good post plant spray warm temperature. Contact spray doesn't translocate down to plant roots - safe (Jamie)
 - Buster also better option amongst natives for gorse & blackberry than Tordon which has drift and residual issues
 - Paste – 20% Grazon 80% canola oil
 - Salt & Vinegar gels need trials – volunteer?
 - Cut'n'paste gel – Glyphosate, residual but safer than Vigilant gel close to waterways

Jane Demeter – Gore Bay Bring on the Birds

- 2010 something needed to be done about biodiversity in Gore Bay – began trapping
- 2013 Grant from Mainpower Trust Fund for traps
 - Community volunteers built trap boxes; 3 lines; 3 valleys
 - Since with Cheviot Menz Shed – 150 box traps
 - Traps need to be set all the time!!!
- We must do this work ourselves – no one's going to “save us” – the whole nation
- Over last 7 years 13-1500 vermin killed
 - 50% rats; 30% stoats; 10% weasels, hedgehogs and cats
 - Hedgehogs eat eggs of ground nesters
 - Cats eat lizards and baby skinks
- Birds are the “Poster Child”
 - More attractive than native slugs
 - If birds doing well, all insects and reptiles must also be doing well
- From mouth of Hurunui to Jed a lot of work to do
 - Educate the kids; in the bush, up the creeks, finding native orchids etc
 - Enviro schools
 - 60 species of native birds in Gore Bay including: Kotuku, Grey warblers, Kereru, Falcons, Hawks & visitors: Godwits, Tuis, Fiordland Penguin
- Traps
 - Doc 200: humane, effective on stoats, rats and weasels
 - Timms (Yellow): mostly cats. Put well into bush away from children
 - Have 5 trap lines. Short line 1.5 – 2 hours. Long: Manuka bay to Hurunui 2 – 3 hours.
 - In perfect world traps would be in 100m square grid, but success is due to community volunteers – need to put lines where people can/like to walk!
 - Live capture cage: Cats in villiage – check daily
- Stoat – dark tail tuft. Dark to light belly line is straight. Rub bum around entrance of trap as lure. Get mainly juveniles.
- Weasel – smaller, shorter dark tail no tuft. Variable light/dark belly line
- Ferret – Bigger, stockier, more grey/brown under face with black face mask
- OSPRI Possum control work has been good, getting hardly any
- Set up own group – leader/plan/funding/stick with it!

Amber Sweeney-Jan from Goodnature Traps

- Began 14 years ago as small team in Wellington. Now 45 employees making a trap a minute
- All NZ made
- A24 trap is “set and forget”
 - Powered by CO2 canister with a constant chocolate-based lure
 - After six months replace lure and CO2
 - Sends signal back to phone app.
 - \$200

Makarini Rupene – Ecan Cultural Advisor

- Spread understanding of what mahinga kai is.
- Keep people updated with legislation, enabling land users to stay productive.
- Deliver one on one or shed talks
- Mahinga kai and biodiversity are tied together
- If we’re losing species, we’re losing our interconnected environment and mahinga kai

Sam Thomson – Ecan Land Management Advisor

- Relationship building through soil conservation and revegetation
- SCAR program – poplars
- LUC mapping – biodiversity values
- Fencing for land retirement
- Carbon farming opportunities

Final word:

- Miles: carry a saw and paste; Ian: glyphosate gel
- Jamie: need a district biodiversity strategy outlining priorities; carry a rifle for deer and pigs
- Noel: awareness of target pest species and projects; pass it on at field days such as this
- Jane: everyone get involved in some form of pest control; five weeds a day!