



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

Green Shoots

Coming up ... our biggest planting season ever

This year Greater Wellington will celebrate 10 years of ‘Take Care’, our community environmental care programme. Several of our regional parks restoration projects receive ‘Take Care’ funding – including Queen Elizabeth Park, Battle Hill and Belmont Regional Park.

The 10 year anniversary will be celebrated on 15 August at Queen Elizabeth Park where we’ll be aiming to plant 10,000 trees – our biggest planting day ever! (Put it in your diary and bring a friend – we’ll need **lots** of help!)

Thanks to all our parks community groups for your tireless work in sourcing grants, planning, propagating, planting and ongoing support.



All concentration at the QEP Poplar Ave wetland planting on 23 May

GW Parks Network Plan – ready for comment

After several months of work, discussions and debate, the draft Parks Network Plan was approved by Council and is now open for comment.

Public meetings will be held around the region shortly to discuss the plan and answer questions. Dates are:

7 - 8.30pm, Thursday 10 June
TheNewDowse, Laings Rd, Lower Hutt

4 - 5.30pm, Sunday 13 June
Raumati South Memorial Hall, Tennis Court Rd, Raumati Sth

7 - 8.30pm, Tuesday 15 June
Pataka Museum, cnr Norrie & Parumoana Sts, Porirua

11am- 2pm “Drop in & chat”, Thursday 17 June
Greater Wellington Regional Council offices, 146 Wakefield St, Wellington

Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan – Draft **Have your say**

Quality for Life greater WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

Submissions can be made online at www.gw.govt.nz/parks or you can get a submission form by emailing parks@gw.govt.nz or phoning Sharon Thurlow on 04 381 7753.

Submissions close on 23 July 2010

For more information, contact Greater Wellington:

Wellington
PO Box 11646

Upper Hutt
PO Box 40847

T 04 384 5708
F 04 385 6960

T 04 526 4133
F 04 526 4171

June 2010
GW/PF-G-10/79
www.gw.govt.nz
info@gw.govt.nz

Rare sightings in regional forests

A small group of participants in the *Robins Return* guided walk at East Harbour RP had just spent two hours with a male North Island robin and seen some uncommon silver beech trees. To cap it all off, a Forest Ringlet Butterfly landed on some waterfern near them and stayed around for photos. According to George Gibbs it was the first time in 30 years this species has been identified in the park.



More recently, Gerald Arthur, a regular visitor to Akatarawa Forest, found what could be New Zealand's largest recorded Northern rata tree not far from the Karapoti entrance. Standing 39 metres tall, and with a trunk diameter of 4.9 metres, the Karapoti rata could be up to 1000 years old. As a comparison, the largest officially-recognised Northern rata in NZ is a tree at Bushy Park near Whanganui with a trunk of 3.9m and height of 43m. A surveyor by profession, Gerald could measure the height and diameter of the tree very accurately using a compass, tape measure and abney level

In addition to this discovery, Gerald has also spent several years mapping and measuring over 100 other large rata trees in Little Akatarawa River catchment as well as exploring the network of old logging tramways still present in the forest. This work has added significantly to our knowledge of the biodiversity and historical value of this little-visited part of Akatarawa Forest.

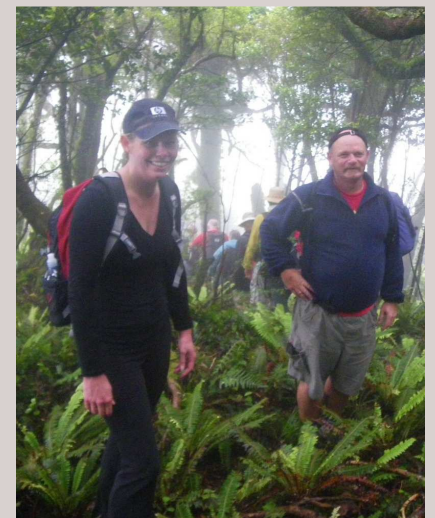


From left; Gerald, Evan & Kelvin Arthur, Ken Moberly. Photo by Daniel Beetham

Staunch support for summer events

The *Robin's Return* was just one of 60 events held over the summer as part of GW's Great Outdoors Summer Events programme. Like everyone else, we were a little rained on but still saw a total 12,234 attended events, 3620 less than last year. The weather improved later on and we still had many keen participants and a lot of very positive and constructive feedback.

Once again, the walks, talks and "have a go" events run by volunteers were very popular. A very big thank you to all our partners who contribute so much time, resources and knowledge – we couldn't do it without you

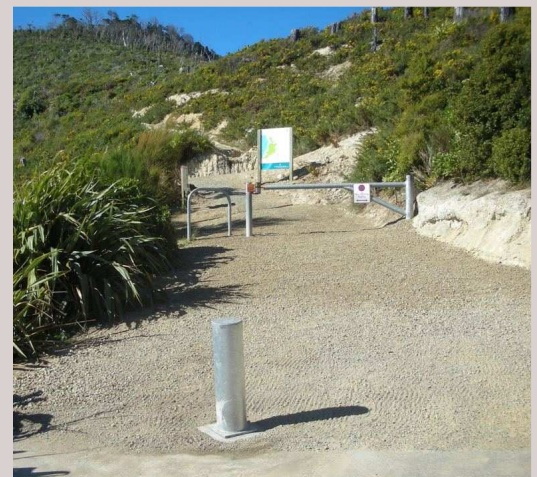


Clockwise from top left:

Take a Kid Tramping (Kaitoke RP), Mt Lowry Challenge (East Harbour RP), Farm to Coast (Battle Hill – QEP), Old Coach Road (Belmont RP)

Upgrade for East Harbour's Ferry Road track

Our maintenance team has been working hard on the Ferry Road track, near the top of Days Bay, Eastbourne. The work was needed to control water that was scouring the track and potentially destabilising the hillside. The grading, metalling and removal of large tree stumps has created a much more user friendly and environmentally sustainable entrance to the park.



New park rangers on board

Watch out for them on your next visit.



Grant Timlin – ranger, Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo Water Collection Area



Mark Ross – ranger, Queen Elizabeth Park



Chris Wootton – ranger, Belmont Regional Park

Planting days for your diary

26 June - Friends of Maara Roa community planting. Belmont Regional Park. Meet 9.30am Brandon Intermediate School, Cannons Creek.

17 July – Remnant bush, Queen Elizabeth Park. Meet 9.30am at the ranger’s office, MacKays Crossing

18 July – Friends of Belmont Regional Park community planting day. Meet 9.30am at the Woolshed, Stratton St entrance.

15 August – Celebrate 10 years of care groups. Meet 10am at the Queen Elizabeth Park ranger’s office, MacKays Crossing,

For more information and other planting days see www.gw.govt.nz “What’s On”.

Launching Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Park

A project to improve the largest wetland area in the lower North Island is being formally launched with a weekend of community activities in mid June.

The Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Park project focuses on improving the health of native plants and animals, and the opportunities for people to enjoy themselves on the public land around Lakes Wairarapa and Onoke. It involves a partnership between local iwi, hapu, South Wairarapa District Council, the Department of Conservation and Greater Wellington.

You are invited to attend any of these launch activities:

- Launching a book about eel conservation, Greytown Town Hall, 16 June, 5pm
- Inside Wairarapa Moana, ANZAC Hall, Featherston, 19 June, 10am - 3pm
- Native tree planting at Wairarapa Yacht Club, Lake Domain Reserve, 20 June, 10am - 1pm



Encore, encore... for all that hard work

Greater Wellington, the Wellington Hawke’s Bay Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation (DOC) have launched a new awards programme to honour people demonstrating a commitment to the Wellington region’s environment

The Encore Awards are open to groups, individuals, businesses and schools improving and restoring our region’s rivers, lakes, wetlands, dunes and coasts and conserving natural, cultural and historic sites, and to businesses and resource consent holders reducing the impact of their activities on our region’s environment. See overleaf for more information.

A little craziness to finish with...



The **Butterfly Creek Nighttime Madness** is on Saturday 14 August 2010. It’s a fun race for all fitness levels and all ages ... all in the wonderful Butterfly Creek valley, East Harbour RP at **NIGHT**.

You race in pairs; there are categories for youth, adults, and parents with children and of course walking or running categories.

Have a go – register at www.paardekooper.co.nz now.