



Welcome to the latest edition of the Wildlands Christchurch Restoration newsletter. We take pride in our experienced and skilled team of 14 Ecological Restoration staff.

### **Ahuriri Lagoon Vegetation Fish Passage Maintenance**

Our team has been maintaining indigenous fish passage through Ahuriri Lagoon by creating a pathway through vegetation. Vegetation was trimmed low to the ground in a meandering pattern, designed to improve water flow between deeper ponds during higher water levels, enabling fish to move more freely. Using scrub cutters, we carried out the work while taking advantage of the low water levels in December.

### **Predator Trapping at Lake Hood**

A population of Tarāpuka/black-billed gulls recently established a new colony at Lake Hood after their nesting site on the Hakatere/Ashburton River was flooded in November. To protect the colony, the Wildlands Restoration Team has been undertaking predator trapping around the perimeter, for Environment Canterbury. These traps are being checked fortnightly.

### **Berm Transition Asset Maintenance**

Wildlands is maintaining 42 planting sites for Environment Canterbury, along Canterbury's braided rivers.

### **Pest Plant Control in Marlborough**

The New Zealand Defence Force has been proactive in preventing the spread of declared pest species, such as Nassella grasses (Chilean Needle Grass; Nassella tussock) at their bases. Wildlands grid-searched for these species at the RNZAF Base Woodbourne, and conducted pest plant control at Dip Flat Military Training Camp.

### **Lizard Habitat Management**

Our team has been undertaking managed vegetation clearance for indigenous lizard mitigation, using hand tools and scrub cutters, at a proposed subdivision site.



**Top:** Managed vegetation clearance at a lizard mitigation site.

**Middle and bottom:** Before and after completion of planting maintenance for berm transition plantings along Canterbury's braided rivers.

#### **PLANTING**

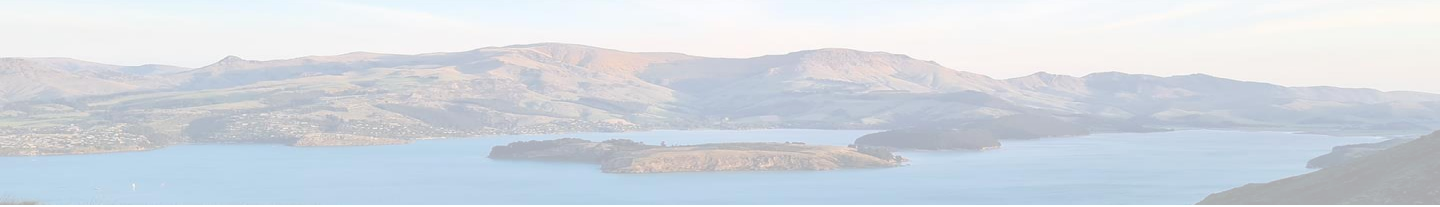
The Wildlands' Christchurch Restoration Team has written and implemented planting plans across the South Island, planting in wetlands, drylands, subalpine zones and marine estuaries. Our expertise results in exceptionally high plant survival rates.

#### **PEST PLANT CONTROL**

Our highly skilled team conducted several pest plant control projects, targeting common pest plants like old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*), grid-searching and controlling of wilding pines and broom, as well as specialist pest plant control for rarer threats, such as Nassella species or great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*).

#### **PEST ANIMAL CONTROL**

In the last year, our pest animal control specialists have set up monitoring and trapping lines, such as a project aiming to protect at risk braided river bird populations. Our pest animal specialists are familiar with a wide range of control methods and devices and can write pest animal control plans.



### Our Restoration Services:

- **Planting** - Indigenous planting in dryland habitats, riparian and wetland plantings, river beds, subalpine and alpine areas, road sides, landscaping
- **Plant Maintenance** – Agrichemical plant maintenance, hand releasing, scrub cutting, mulching
- **Pest Animal Control** - Surveying, trapping, monitoring, creating trapping plans and lines
- **Pest Plant Control** – surveying, foliar spraying, gun spraying, cutting and pasting, drilling, chainsaw work, scrub-cutting, track building

#### Contract Manager

*Stuart Houston*

#### *BSc Biology (Endorsement in Biosecurity)*

Stuart is a highly skilled and experienced restoration specialist with a proven track record in ecological restoration and management. He oversees all restoration staff in the Christchurch office, ensuring efficient coordination and support for field teams. His leadership emphasizes safety, high performance, and delivering outstanding outcomes for clients.

Stuart brings extensive expertise in managing and implementing planting plans, ecological weed control strategies, and habitat restoration projects. He has successfully led large-scale restoration initiatives, balancing environmental goals with practical solutions.



#### Restoration Supervisor

*Fabian Froehlich*

#### *BSc Geography*



Fabian loves New Zealand’s unique plant biodiversity and is passionate about contributing to restoration projects. He has wide-ranging experience in searching for and controlling pest plants; navigating off track and use of GPS, implementing strict biosecurity procedures; assessing hazards and controlling risks, identifying indigenous and pest plant species; and tree planting. In the field, Fabian mentors staff and conducts site visits.

### DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SITE...

...where you would like to improve the vegetation and habitats, but need to be careful around native plants and animals that already live there? Wildlands’ Christchurch Restoration Team can carry out pest plant and animal control and planting to a high standard. Wildlands has implemented ecological restoration projects all around New Zealand, including award-winning projects. We have an expert team in the South Island that is building on Wildlands extensive restoration experience in other regions.



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