



Welcome to the latest edition of the Wildlands Christchurch Restoration newsletter. We take pride in our experienced and skilled team of 11 Ecological Restoration staff.

Huritini Enhancement Node Planting

Our team has installed plants in several areas along the Huritini River, some were installed underneath an existing canopy. Areas were sprayed and cleared using scrub bars, before being planted and guarded with terrafelt weed matting.

Pest Animal Control at Tārerekautuku/Yarrs Lagoon

The team has been servicing and maintaining a wide range of traps in this extensive wetland for the last three years, and used the collected catch data to refine trapping efficiencies by relocating some traps, and adding traps where necessary.

Old man's beard control at Governors Bay and on Banks Peninsula

Old man's beard was controlled at multiple properties as part of the site-led program of the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan. The team used a mix of cutting and pasting, and foliar spraying to control infestations, while carefully avoiding all indigenous species present at these sites.

Argyle Park and SH1 Planting

The Wildlands team supplied and installed 3,850 indigenous plants within the riparian margins of the Mill/Wakanui Creek, to help restore the two creeks.

Te Pirita Dryland

This dryland Significant Natural Area (SNA) supports rare indigenous species but is also affected by widespread gorse and broom. Wildlands conducted a systematic search of the reserve, controlling the scattered infestations throughout the site.

Lees Valley Willow Control

The Wildlands team undertook crack willow control in Lees Valley, using the drill and fill control method. A known purple willow (*Salix purpurea*) was also controlled.

Pest Plant Control on the Denniston Plateau

Wildlands continued controlling gorse, broom and exotic rushes (*Juncus squarrosus*) on the Denniston Plateau. This is project Wildlands has been working on for three years.

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 is extremely experienced controlling pest plants throughout the South Island under different RPMP. Wildlands regularly target common pest plants like old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*), grid-searching and controlling of wilding pines and other woody pest plants, 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, including a project aiming to protect Threatened 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.



Top: The crew braving the cold on their way into their willow control area at Lees Valley.

Middle: Planting at Argyle Park in Ashburton, which is part of an ecological restoration project of the Ashburton District Council.

Bottom: Plants and terrafelt matting installed along the Huritini River.



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
- **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 control, pest 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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