



Welcome to the latest edition of the Wildlands' Christchurch Restoration Newsletter. We take pride in our experienced and skilled team of 16 Ecological Restoration staff.

Okains Bay gunnera control

Chilean rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*) was controlled at multiple sites as part of Environment Canterbury's Biodiversity Programme. All infestations were cut off at the base, and the stumps were treated with herbicide. Waypoints of controlled infestations were recorded and sent to the client.

Pest animal control at a lizard relocation site

Predator control is being undertaken in a dryland reserve to reduce predator numbers prior to a lizard release and to maintain low predator levels as the lizard population acclimatises. DOC series traps and Sentinel traps are checked monthly, toxin is pulsed quarterly in bait stations, and tracking cards are used to monitor predator presence.

North Canterbury on-farm plantings

A second-stage planting plan was developed for a dairy farm near Culverden, and Wildlands has overseen its full implementation. This included the supply and installation of over 4,000 indigenous plants with guards over one week. Maintenance is planned for a minimum of two years.

NZDF Burnham planting

Wildlands developed and implemented a comprehensive planting plan for the New Zealand Defence Force at their Burnham site. The team has managed all aspects of the project, including plant supply, site preparation using a motorised gun sprayer, plant installation, and ongoing maintenance to ensure successful establishment.

Stour Scientific Reserve pest plant control

Wildlands has been undertaking pest plant control at this reserve for four years. The primary aim is to control pest plants growing near indigenous vegetation, allowing native species to thrive. Amongst the indigenous species freed up in this reserve are *Clematis quadribracteolata* and *Discaria toumatou*.

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. Over the past three planting seasons, our team have planted over 250,000 indigenous plants across the South Island.

PEST PLANT CONTROL

Our highly skilled team is extremely experienced controlling pest plants throughout the South Island under different RPMP's. Our team has experience with targeted control of species like old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*), grid-search control of wilding pines and other woody pest plants, and specialist control of species such as *Nassella tussock* and great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*).

PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

Our pest animal control specialists have set up monitoring and trapping lines, in forests, around wetlands and in braided river environments. Our pest animal specialists are familiar with a wide range of control methods and devices and can write pest animal control plans.



Top: Cutting and pasting control of invasive Chilean rhubarb on Banks Peninsula.

Middle: Pest plant control to release matagouri/tūmatakuru, and other native species, using hedge trimmers and hand tools.

Bottom: Successful possum trapping using Trapinator traps, as part of a trapping network run by Wildlands.



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, poisoning, monitoring, creating trapping plans and lines.
- **Pest Plant Control** - Surveying, foliar spraying, gun and hose spraying, cutting and pasting, drilling, chainsaw work, scrub-cutting, track building.

Contract Manager

Stuart Houston

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 emphasises 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



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 through backcountry, implementing strict biosecurity procedures, assessing hazards and controlling risks, identifying indigenous and pest plant species, and tree planting.

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 builds on Wildlands' extensive restoration experience in other regions.

