

Upper Clutha Conservation Network

Newsletter
December 2014



Kia Ora

Welcome to the latest issue of the Upper Clutha Conservation Network newsletter. The Upper Clutha Conservation Network was established as an avenue for DOC to inform, provide advice, unify and support groups and individuals involved in local conservation projects.

[Watch DOC's Christmas message](#)



Congratulations to all the groups involved in the Upper Clutha Conservation Network for doing great conservation work over the year, and we look forward to a working together in the New Year.

We trust you are all enjoying the summer and wish you well for a safe and happy holiday season – don't forget to water your plants!

Conservation Groups Directory

In the last newsletter we profiled all the groups involved in the Upper Clutha Conservation Network, with a summary of each group's projects. We are keen for updates from each group: what's going well; any problems or issues that other groups may be able to help with; what your group can help other groups with.

Battle For Our Birds



The Department of Conservation's largest ever aerial 1080 campaign to combat this year's rodent and stoat plague has successfully knocked down predator populations in key target areas.

Over the last four months, DOC has completed an unprecedented 25 aerial 1080 operations over about 550,000 hectares to combat the biggest beech seed-fuelled rodent plague seen in 15 years.

Locally, the Matukituki Valley operation was a logistical challenge: 31 staff from around the lower South Island were involved. After the weather forced us to postpone in November, the operation took place in the first week of December. Teams of staff were responsible for track clearance, bait loading, site safety and communication. Monitoring of rodent tracking tunnels in the Matukituki Valley is due to take place in mid January; the results of this will indicate the success of the operation.

This year's aerial 1080 phase may be over but the Battle for Our Birds continues and we are moving to strengthen our predator control networks around the country to reinforce the gains made in recent months. Due to operational constraints, in part due to the unsettled weather pattern in recent weeks, scheduling of the Makarora Valley aerial operation has been postponed until the New Year.

[Find more information about Battle for our Birds here](#)



Upper Clutha Conservation Taskforce



The Upper Clutha Conservation Taskforce, created to work on solutions and next steps for the 3 main issues identified at the May forum, have been focussing on preparing their draft recommendations to the Shaping our Future committee. The committee will in turn determine recommendation to go to relevant organisations.

[Find more information about the process here](#)

The taskforce members have also been involved in the ‘pest-off’ gathering and the conservation fundraising workshop held recently. Next, the taskforce will be working on consultation regarding their recommendations, and preparing comments regarding the [Otago Regional Policy Statement Review](#)

Please contact Chairperson Megan Williams ph 028 229 1607 or [mswenterprises@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mwenterprises@kinect.co.nz) if you have any questions regarding the Taskforce.

Pest Off Information Evening

The inaugural “Pest Off” information evening, organised by Andrew Penniket, aimed to encourage networking between pest control groups in the Upper Clutha. The event was attended by 23 individuals representing 7-8 Groups on the night, including Central Otago-Lakes Forest & Bird, DOC, Diamond Lake Predator Control groups, Otago Kiwi Recovery Trust, Matukituki Charitable Trust and Longview Environmental Trust. Predator control specialists Sam McLeod and Paul van Klink were able to share some of their knowledge on the information night. Overall participants agreed that it was a useful meeting and everyone came away having learnt something new. Guest speakers have already been lined up for the next gathering. If you would like to be involved, contact Andrew Penniket on andrew@deepandmeaningful.co.nz.

Conservation Fundraising Workshop

At a fundraising workshop organised by Volunteering Central, a session entitled “Considerations for Conservation Fundraising” for those interested in fundraising for conservation projects was well supported. Successful conservation fundraisers, Grant Norbury (Landcare Research, Central Otago Ecological Trust) and Rob Wardle (QEII Trust, Ex DOC, Central Otago Ecological Trust) talked about best practice when seeking funds for conservation projects. The main workshop, held in Wanaka, was attended by an estimated 40 locals with a quarter of these taking the opportunity to attend the conservation fundraising session. If anyone is interested in follow up from this session, contact Megan Williams ph 028 229 1607 or [mswenterprises@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mwenterprises@kinect.co.nz)

Nature Space



Nature Space provides groups with an easy to set up web-presence – users don’t have to have web designing skills. The website is also a great place to keep up to date with current conservation news. This newsletter will be uploaded to the Upper Clutha Conservation network page, along with information about the groups who are part of the network. Check out the [Nature Space website](#). Local groups that already have a page on Nature Space are the Lindis Pass Conservation Group, Longview Environmental Trust and Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust.

We are keen for other Upper Clutha groups to register on the website – our vision is that this will become an online community resource for local conservation groups. For further information contact Rebecca Picard rpicard@doc.govt.nz.