

# Upper Clutha Conservation Network

## Newsletter

September 2014



*Haere mai* Kia ora,

Welcome to our first issue of the Upper Clutha Conservation Network newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading all about the great conservation work going on around your community and are encouraged to participate and support them to grow conservation.

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.

E noho ora mai

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## News and Notices

**Conservation Week** *Discover the world where you live*

**1-9 November 2014**



Conservation Week this year is all about celebrating our local treasures and the people and groups who help care for them.

It's a chance for you to get involved in conservation, celebrate New Zealand's special places; local campsites, scenic reserves, wetlands, walking tracks, forests and show New Zealand how much you love it!

Now's the time to start planning your event.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/events-and-awards/conseration-week/>

### **Update - Community Conservation Task Force**

Following on from the Upper Clutha Conservation Forum in May, a taskforce of 11 members was created to work on solutions and next steps for the 3 main issues identified. While the forum outcomes were high-level, the taskforce have identified achievable actions to progress these issues. So far the taskforce have worked on their Terms of Reference, and have established work streams to address collaboration, regional monitoring data and valuing nature projects. This work moves the region a step closer towards achieving many of the "best outcomes" identified at the forum. Please contact chairperson Megan Williams ph 028 229 1607 or [mwenterprises@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mwenterprises@kinect.co.nz) if you have any questions.

## ***Battle For Our Birds***



Monitoring and planning for the proposed 'Battle for our Birds' predator control operations in the West Matukituki and Makarora areas later in the year are progressing well. The operation area over includes 4 sites of approx. 45,000 hectares and are scheduled for November. Collections from the seedfall funnels in the West Matukituki by volunteers from the Matukituki Charitable Trust and DOC staff in July confirmed that the beech masting was occurring in the valley. The trust and staff carried out further monitoring in the West Matukituki valley in late August. The results of this tracking tunnel monitoring are expected to confirm that mice numbers have risen significantly.

## ***TIA Forum***



The Tourism Industry Association (TIA) and DOC recently held a series of forums around the country with tourism and recreation concessionaires. The Wanaka Forum attracted 23 attendees. Geoff Ensor, Director Commercial Partnerships, spoke of DOC's focus on building strong and effective partnerships, with operators requesting transparent and open communication.

## ***Nature Space***



The Upper Clutha Conservation Network now has a page on the Nature Space website. Nature Space is a tool for people working on & interested in ecological restoration to access useful resources, ask questions, gain feedback and network. The website is also a great place to keep up to date with current conservation news. Check out the website at <http://www.naturespace.org.nz/>. We are keen for other Upper Clutha groups to register on the website. For further information contact Rebecca Picard [rpicard@doc.govt.nz](mailto:rpicard@doc.govt.nz)

## ***New Track***



Staff have completed the construction of the scenic Butterfields Wetland Walk linking the Newcastle and Hawea River Tracks. The track project was funded by the Upper Clutha Track Trust.

## ***Pest Off - Evening Talk***

The Community Conservation Taskforce are organising a gathering of people involved or interested in pest control. It is being held at the Gin and Raspberry (above the Lake Bar) on the 24 September at 7.30pm. Look out for the public notices or contact Megan Williams for more details. [mswenterprises@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mswenterprises@kinect.co.nz)

## ***CCPF Funding***



DOC has announced that the Community Conservation Partnership Fund (CCPF) will provide over \$112,000 to the Matukituki Charitable trust to protect threatened native species in the West Matukituki Valley. The grant, over two years, will cover costs of trapping and monitoring lines. Well done to the members of the Trust.

## ***Mou Waho Planting Day***



Central Otago Lakes Forest & Bird, in partnership with Eco Wanaka and DOC, held a planting day on Mou Waho Island recently. 19 keen and motivated people planted 80 native trees grown by Te Kakano. The volunteers were treated to a guided walk by Eco Wanaka owner, Chris Riley to check out the island's buff weka, weta and geckos.

## Conservation groups directory

### - what they are striving to achieve and how:

<b>Upper Wilkin Stoat Trapping Project</b>	<p>Aspiring Guides initiative for predator reduction in Mt Aspiring National Park's Wilkin Valley. Work undertaken includes checking and clearing 20 traps throughout the summer months. A handful of volunteers – guides, clients and community members.</p> <p>Contact: Andy Oxley, <a href="mailto:action@aspiringguides.com">action@aspiringguides.com</a></p>
<b>Forest and Bird - Central Otago-Lakes Branch</b>	<p>Protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity (fauna and flora) on private and public land; community engagement with protection and restoration activities; advocacy and dissemination of information about the natural values, to raise awareness and build up empathy and respect for them. The local branch has around 270 members with volunteer groups ranging from 2 to 40. The branch runs two local Ecological restoration projects and manages the stoat trapping up at Haast Pass in collaboration with the DOC. As well as submissions on proposals, they run an annual programme of field trips and host 1-3 talks a year.</p> <p>Contact: Anne Stevens <a href="mailto:astevens@xtra.co.nz">astevens@xtra.co.nz</a></p>
<b>Diamond Lake Predator Control Group</b>	<p>Remove stoats, rats, hedgehogs, cats &amp; possums to enable bird life and trees to flourish within Diamond Lake Conservation Area. Consist of 8 volunteers checking the circuit of traps each 3-4 weeks.</p> <p>Contact: Gordon Brander <a href="mailto:gbbrander@gmail.com">gbbrander@gmail.com</a></p>
<b>Diamond Lake Group B</b>	<p>Reduce possum, stoat, rat and cat numbers to increase bird life. Involves 10 volunteers checking traps near Diamond Lake.</p> <p>Contact: Max Shepherd <a href="mailto:max.shepherd@biocellcorp.co.nz">max.shepherd@biocellcorp.co.nz</a></p>
<b>Mou Waho Island Revegetation Project</b>	<p>Eco Wanaka Adventures initiative to replant native species that occur or have occurred naturally on the Island. Beginning with the track up to the Arethusa Pool but also extending where possible to other areas. To encourage the native flora and fauna on the island to thrive by improving the availability of food providing trees and shrubs and by providing shelter in the form of the Weta Motels for the weta and geckos. The small company plant a tree on every trip they take to the island and then have usually at least two planting day trips to Mou Waho during the planting season with other organizations. They have also provided 44 Weta motels for the island in a joint project with Mt Aspiring College.</p> <p>Contact: Lee Eadie <a href="mailto:explore@ecowanaka.co.nz">explore@ecowanaka.co.nz</a></p>
<b>John Darby</b>	<p>Population ecology of the Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>). Basically comparing survival and numbers of GCG on lakes Wanaka and Hayes. In addition it is hoped to build up a picture (species list) of the bird life on these two lakes. A one man project however a number of people volunteer information.</p> <p>Contact: John Darby <a href="mailto:john.darby@xtra.co.nz">john.darby@xtra.co.nz</a></p>
<b>Local Food Wanaka</b>	<p>Local food production that regenerates our air, land and water. Six organisers involved in local food celebration events.</p> <p>Contact: Robbie Lawton <a href="mailto:rlawton3000@gmail.com">rlawton3000@gmail.com</a></p>
<b>Longview Environmental Trust and Matukituki Natives.</b>	<p>Regenerate the native vegetation and enhance/ restore the ecosystems that go with it, for private land owners on Roys Peninsula and around Emerald Bay. A small business run by two fulltime staff and seasonal employees.</p> <p>Contact: Doug Beech <a href="mailto:beechdoug@gmail.com">beechdoug@gmail.com</a></p>

<b>Matukituki Valley Charitable Trust Matukituki Valley Protection Project</b>	The Vision of the Trust is to minimise the predator population in the Matukituki Valley and restore the native species under threat including SI Robin, SI Kaka, Kea, Rock Wren, Whio, braided riverbed birds, SI longtail bat and up to six species of lizard and scarlet mistletoe. The Trust is setting up a pool of volunteers to assist with monitoring trap lines, seedfall funnels and tracking tunnels. Contact: Gillian Crombie <a href="mailto:gillian.crombie@gmail.com">gillian.crombie@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mount Aspiring College Students in the Community</b>	Every Year 13 student at MAC to do at least 16 hours for a voluntary placement and 4 hours for a voluntary project during the year (preferably term 1 and 2). Contact: Liz Breslin <a href="mailto:breslinl@mtaspiring.school.nz">breslinl@mtaspiring.school.nz</a>
<b>Mt Aspiring Station Limited</b>	Sustainable Agriculture. Producing food for human consumption while maintaining or improving the surrounding environment. Contact: Randall Aspinall <a href="mailto:mtaspiringstation@farmside.co.nz">mtaspiringstation@farmside.co.nz</a>
<b>Otago Kiwi Recovery Charitable Trust</b>	Establishing a predator free environment in the East Matukituki Valley with a long term goal to bring back Kiwi to the Otago's alpine region. Contact: Sam McLead <a href="mailto:alpinepredatorcontrol@gmail.com">alpinepredatorcontrol@gmail.com</a>
<b>Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust</b>	To support communities in fostering healthy lands and waterways so as to create a stronger link between the environment and humanity. We do this by supporting native habitat restoration in the Upper Clutha Basin and our work involves local community groups, schools, businesses and governmental bodies in the effort to promote hands-on community land care. Six trustees and two part time staff coordinate approx 300 volunteers. Contact: Raewyn Calhaem <a href="mailto:info@tekakano.org.nz">info@tekakano.org.nz</a>
<b>Think like a skink</b>	An individual who is enhancing the natural home of a McCann's Skink population. Contact: Jan Kelly <a href="mailto:ejkelly@clear.net.nz">ejkelly@clear.net.nz</a>
<b>Upper Clutha Deerstalkers</b>	Undertake conservation work in conjunction with hunting trips. Operating as a charitable trust with 170 members. Involved in volunteer predator control. Contact: Dan Orbell <a href="mailto:larwood@xtra.co.nz">larwood@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Upper Clutha Environmental Society</b>	Community watchdog group that in the main aims to maintain the integrity of the District Plan and its implementation within the framework of central government legislation, especially the RMA. 35 members. Conservation advocacy through submissions on resource consents and district plan changes. Contact: Julian Haworth <a href="mailto:uces@xtra.co.nz">uces@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Upper Clutha Tracks Trust</b>	Promote, support, fund and advocate the establishment of tracks for walking, hiking, mt. biking and cycling in Upper Clutha & the roading network for commuter and recreational cycling. Plus have input into policies and strategies affecting walking and cycling. 8 Trustees with reps from DOC and QLDC. Contact: Alan Gillespie <a href="mailto:awg@xtra.co.nz">awg@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Upper Clutha Tramping Club</b>	Involvement and support with conservation and environment projects. 48 club members assisting in predator control and track maintenance. Contact: Glyn Baker <a href="mailto:uctcwanaka@gmail.com">uctcwanaka@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mohua Charitable Trust</b>	To aid preservation and rehabilitation of native birds and wildlife, especially the Mohua, in the South Island of New Zealand. Work involved research, predator control and population surveys including the Makarora Valley. Contact: Nigel Babbage <a href="mailto:nigelbabbage@mohua.co.nz">nigelbabbage@mohua.co.nz</a>
<b>South Island Kokako Charitable Trust</b>	Obtain unequivocal evidence of the South Island kokako. Research and develop methods to assist the management of the species. Goal - recovery of the South Island kokako with the aim of establishing a sustainable population within 20 years. Trust based in CHCH. Contact: Ron Nilsson <a href="mailto:kokakodreaming@paradise.net.nz">kokakodreaming@paradise.net.nz</a>

Is your group/ project missing off this list? Please let us know the details. In the next newsletter we will look at how the groups collaborate and their strengths and challenges.

