



South Wairarapa Biodiversity Group Inc

Newsletter - July 2014

**Important dates for your calendar
(keep up-to-date by checking our [website](#))**

Date: 13th July 2014

What: Planting Day

Where: Lake Ferry (Lake Ferry Road, off Pirinoa Road)

Time: 9.30am - finished. BBQ and refreshments to follow



Meet at the Lake Ferry Hotel for safety briefing and planting plan. Suitable most ages and fitness levels, but as the bank is steep, older children may find it easier than little ones (children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent). The planting will be mainly under the cliffs at the Lagoon but there may also be other planting to do nearby.

Bring: Gloves, planting spade, drink and appropriate clothing.

Supported by: Greater Wellington Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Lake Ferry Hotel.

RSVP: South Wairarapa Biodiversity Group swbg@hotmail.co.nz or phone Jane Lenting on 06 306 9077

Postponement if wet - listed to 89.3FM or 1035AM Newstalk ZB. Standby date is Sunday 20th July.

A seminar not to be missed

The Business of Farming for the Future

- Returns
- Resilience
- Responsibility



Date: Wednesday 16th July 2014

Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm (followed by cash bar)

Venue: Poppies, Martinborough

Cost: \$20 cash at the door (eftpos facilities available) (includes morning & afternoon tea and lunch)

Come and discuss with our panel of specialists how you can build resilience into your business, ensure your focus is on returns and not just production, and do all this while meeting your personal, professional and environmental responsibilities.

- [Dr Alison Dewes](#) - lead consultant for Headlands Consultants and Sustainable Land Use Advisor at Raukawa Charitable Trust. *Research findings and alternative farm practices delivering resilient farming models - maximising return on capital and minimising risk.*
- [Fred Lichtwark](#) - Manager of community restoration group Whaingaroa Harbour Care (Raglan). *"Plenty more fish in the sea" - how on-farm improvements translate into environmental improvements.*
- Geoff Burke; Managing Director of Agro-Ecological Investment. *"A tale of two farms" business approaches that affect investment decision making.*
- Ed Handyside; Wairarapa Sheep & Beef Farmers of the Year 2013. *Combining profitable and sustainable farming in the Wairarapa.*
- Phillip Percy; Director of resource management consultants, Perception Planning. *What is really driving environmental regulation and what does this mean for Wairarapa farmers?*
- Erica van Reenen; Beef + Lamb NZ Environment Extension Manager. *Land Environment Plans - developed by farmers for farmers to manage the natural resources on your farm.*

**A "NOT TO MISS" SEMINAR
REGISTER TODAY!**

Registration essential as there are limited spaces

**email erica.kinder@beeflambnz.com or
phone 06 370 2979**

Save the Date

Date: Sunday 24th August

What:: SWBG AGM

Where: A venue to be confirmed

Time: Proposed start 2.00pm (subject to change)

Reminder: Subs are due and can either be paid by internet banking (please use your name as a reference), or payment when you attend the AGM. Details of how to make payment can be found on our [website](#).



A plan is being developed to meet in Martinborough for the formalities of the AGM, followed by a vineyard tour and tasting! More info to follow.

Past Events Update

Gro-Tector's at Okorewa Lagoon - 24th April



Some of the SWBG Management team (Vanessa, Heather, Diane and Perry + helper Vincent)

met Don Bell at the Okorewa Lagoon (at Lake Ferry) to take a look at Don's, newly developed 'Grow-Tector' tree protection system. This consists of 3 main components - a green plastic tree-guard, wooden stake and a black weedmat complete with purpose built plastic pins to hold in place.

Some of the features include:

- ability to use system in pre-sprayed or unsprayed sites
- ability to use the stake even after the need for the sleeve is past
- it can support the plants to a larger size than many of the other systems on the market

Don demonstrated how to make them and we then used the system to plant a couple of plants on our Okorewa Lagoon site.

We were really impressed with the 'Grow-Tector' system and the ease of use, also the apparent length of time that it offers protection to the tree.

Don kindly gave us 25 units to trial for this year's planting and Perry was so impressed he put in an immediate order!!

Perry and Heather

World Fish Migration Day - 24th May



This was celebrated locally at Carters Reserve (just out of Gladstone).

Hardy souls including SWBG members, Vanessa Tipoki and Vincent Edge, braved the wild weather to attend. It was well worth the effort!

Carter's Reserve is a real gem of a place - a remnant wetland which is one of the last refuges for Giant Kokopu in the upper Wairarapa valley. This was a family day out with lots of activities for the kids and (my favourite) the chance to view real live native fish with local native fish experts.

We saw inunga, bullies, brown mudfish (extraordinary little guys who can survive out of water) and a huge banded kokopu (who knew they grew so large.....). A fantastic and insightful initiative from the Wairarapa Moana Network.

One thing is for sure - I will never be eating whitebait (the offspring of our remarkable native fish) again.

Vanessa and Vincent

**Join the
'EEL RESCUE RESPONSE TEAM'
for eels & other aquatic animals during farm drain cleans**



Farmer and drainage contractor's learnt more about 'Managing Drains for Farming and Fish' at a lakeside field day, Wednesday 2 July.

Speakers helped people understand the differences between types of drains and the fish species that have already been identified in the Wairarapa Moana drains.

Some advice on clearing and managing drains was shared and this information can be found at waiwetlands.org.nz.

A recent survey confirmed the importance of drains as a habitat, showing the presence of eight native species and four introduced species. Initiatives being recommended include shade planting to provide cover against predation, control water temperature and reduce aquatic weed growth. Supporting water flow to promote oxygenation and modifying spraying machinery to protect vegetation at the margin of drains have also been discussed.

The South Wairarapa Biodiversity Group's response to this is to create a **'EEL RESCUE RESPONSE TEAM'** - offering support to farmers looking for help to return species to the waterways following drain clearance – they can organise a group of volunteers to do the job. This initiative is led by Vanessa Tipoki who spent hours over a two-day period last year returning short and longfin eel, brown mudfish, bullies, kokopu and freshwater crayfish back into the water from a couple of drains on their property. She found it to be one of the most rewarding (and eye opening) experiences she's ever had and gave her the idea to put the team together.

Farm drains are cleaned out regularly –diggers are brought in to remove weeds and sediment and there is often a resulting loss of aquatic life in the process. While there is growing concern about the decline of habitat and indigenous species in our rivers, lakes and streams, drains are often overlooked – and these man-made structures are sometimes teaming with life.

If you are interested in having people on your property returning eels and other fish back to

the water during drain cleans, or would like to be part of a team of volunteers together who could oversee drain cleaning at short notice, please contact Vanessa.

Email: vanessa.tipoki@gmail.com Phone 06 3077826 or 027 8931441

Join

Please share this newsletter with anyone that may be interested by clicking the 'forward to a friend' link at the bottom of this page. Join as a member (\$10 per person annually) or join as a friend. It's made easier by having our bank details on the membership form for direct crediting - just remember to add your name as a 'reference'.

Please [click here](#) to download a PDF membership form from our website.

Management Team Members

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