

South Wairarapa Biodiversity Group Inc



Newsletter - October 2015

For your diaries - After 5:

Ed and Mel Handyside - Riparian Management Ruamahunga Backwater Thursday 29 October, 5.30pm

Ed farms Te Hopai, 1211 hectares on 2 South Wairarapa sites with his wife Mel & children. They were winners of the 2013 Sheep & Beef Farm Business of the Year. This high performing farm enterprise consists of lamb & beef finishing (16,000 lambs, 700 bulls), beef breeding (120 cows) & cash cropping (seed, peas, cereals) and dairy (700 cows).

Of particular interest are the efforts that Ed and Mel have made to mitigate the environmental impact of their farming operations. This has included a collaborative project with their neighbours, Greater Wellington Regional Council and DOC to plant a 1.6km riparian strip alongside the 'backwater',

a stretch of the existing Ruamahunga river channel that was isolated when the lower valley development scheme was enacted in the 1960's.

Program:

5.30pm sharp - Assemble at the end of Te Hopai Road, Western Lake at the Handyside mailbox (see link on map: <http://tinyurl.com/nth5uej>)

Welcome, overview of history of the property and introduction

6pm - View backwater development and planting - discussion re the planting, process, benefits, the why and the how?

6.45pm Drinks and nibbles - please bring a bottle of your favourite tippie to share. SWBG will provide nibbles

7.30pm - Departure for home

Bring - comfortable walking shoes or gumboots, warm clothing and coats as neccessary and a bottle to share (for after). Invite a friend to come and view this significant project.



SWBG Christmas Do

Friday 4th December 2015 5.30pm

Come and join us at Jane and Victor Lenting's property - they are going to share the story of the development of their property, from bare paddock to fully landscaped garden, complete with plastic houses and water storage. Before Jane and Victor built, Jane had started gardening on the section and also developing the plant nursery with the objective being to grow food and also native plants from eco-sourced seed. Almost all the native plants growing on the section now Jane raised from seed with the

first seeds sown in November 2011. Improving the soil has been an obsession from day 1 for this team.

This will be followed by a BBQ and informal networking.

Where: 41B Weld Street Martinborough (Please leave vehicles on the street and walk in)

Time: 5.30pm

Bring: Food and drink for a shared dinner - there will be a BBQ available

Please RSVP to Jane on [06 306 9077](tel:063069077) or [021 02578799](tel:02102578799)



Before: August 2011



After: September 2015

Membership

We would love you to keep your membership current - this is an annual commitment of \$10 per person and does help us with some of our running

commitment of \$10 per person and does help us with some of our running costs - if you are currently a 'friend' or your membership fee is unpaid for this period, please do consider responding by depositing your \$10 into the SWBG account.

Details are:

South Wairarapa Biodiversity Group Inc

ANZ 01 - 0671 – 0051335 – 00

Please add your name in the reference line so we can check you off our list, with thanks.

AGM

The South Wairarapa Biodiversity groups 3rd AGM was held at the Martinborough Hotel on Sunday 16th August - While we had a modest number of members present we did welcome supporters from as far away as Masterton and we enjoyed meeting several new members which was great! We have retained Roger Gaskill as treasurer, Perry Cameron as secretary and Heather Atkinson as President and are ably supported by management team members Jane Lenting and Diane Buckley. We would be happy to co opt someone to join our management team - if this is you please contact one of us with your interest - it would be great to have you on board!

The afternoon started with liquid refreshments of the tea/coffee variety and was followed by a brief AGM - we received the President's report and financials both of which communicated the activities, projects and support we have enjoyed this financial year - both of these and the minutes are attached for your interest.

This was then followed by a NZ premier showing of the confronting movie **Under the Dome** 穹顶之下, a 2015 Chinese documentary film by Chai Jing, a former China Central Television journalist, concerning air pollution in China. It was viewed over 150 million times within 3 days of its release. The film, which combines footage of a lecture with interviews and factory visits has been compared with Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* in style and likely impact.





Factory in China

It was an extremely well researched movie (all in subtitles) that made you think twice about air quality in China, the impact of rapid economic growth, poor environmental monitoring and the subsequent implications for human health. Thank you Roger for your recommendation of this movie and Phil for managing the IT requirements for us.

We then adjourned to the bar where we enjoyed a meal and some networking. Big thank you to those people who came along or sent their apologies - we appreciate your support.

Project (micro) updates:

Okorewa Lagoon - we are looking at finding a permanent solution to the ongoing stock issues we are having which is likely to consist of a permanent fence of some description. We are talking to our partners in this project in an effort to agree the best solution. This will enable planting to continue next season. Watch this space!

Grey water treatment area - building on the success of last year, this area was planted with around 800 more natives this winter. We have left a 10 metre strip between the old and the new planting with the intension of putting a walking track though the wetland - this will link to the proposed lookout (that the Wairarapa Moana Recreation committee have in mind in the medium term) and in the shorter term, will provide a destination for walkers to the Lake Ferry settlement. It will also provide an opportunity to communicate the value of wetlands as the 'lungs of the earth' and potentially allow the District Council to share the success of the new water treatment system and discharge fields.

To view the AGM documents click on the links below:

Presidents Report: <http://tinyurl.com/olpyo9y>

Minutes: <http://tinyurl.com/pfcg88l>

Financial Performance: <http://tinyurl.com/nafuqzf>,

Financial Position: <http://tinyurl.com/pz3lqtp>,

Financial Policies: <http://tinyurl.com/oxbzf9s>

Country Calendar

A recent episode of Country Calendar featured our SWBG member Barb Turner and James Walker's Lime Gully. Click on the link below to watch it:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/ondemand/country-calendar/26-09-2015/series-2015-episode-26>

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'. Email swbg@hotmail.co.nz for a membership form or check out our website for any further information www.swbg.weebly.com

Management Team Members

Heather Atkinson, President.

Ph: [06 307 7838](tel:063077838)

Email: theatkinsonfarm@xtra.co.nz

Perry Cameron, Secretary

Ph: [06 308 6938](tel:063086938)

Email: pcameron@actrix.co.nz

Roger Gaskell, Treasurer

Ph: [06 306 9075](tel:063069075)

Email: roger@kotinga.co.nz

Diane Buckley

Email: whatarangi.buckley@xtra.co.nz

Jane Lenting

Ph: [06 306 9019](tel:063069019)

Email: janelenting@xtra.co.nz

Copyright © 2014. South Wairarapa Biodiversity Group. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

swbg@hotmail.co.nz

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

This email was sent to amy@perceptionplanning.co.nz
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
South Wairarapa Biodiversity Group · c/- 11 Churchill Crescent · Featherston · South Wairarapa, 5710 · New Zealand

The MailChimp logo is centered within a grey rounded rectangle. The text "MailChimp" is written in a white, cursive script font.