



A Stitch in Time Saves Nine

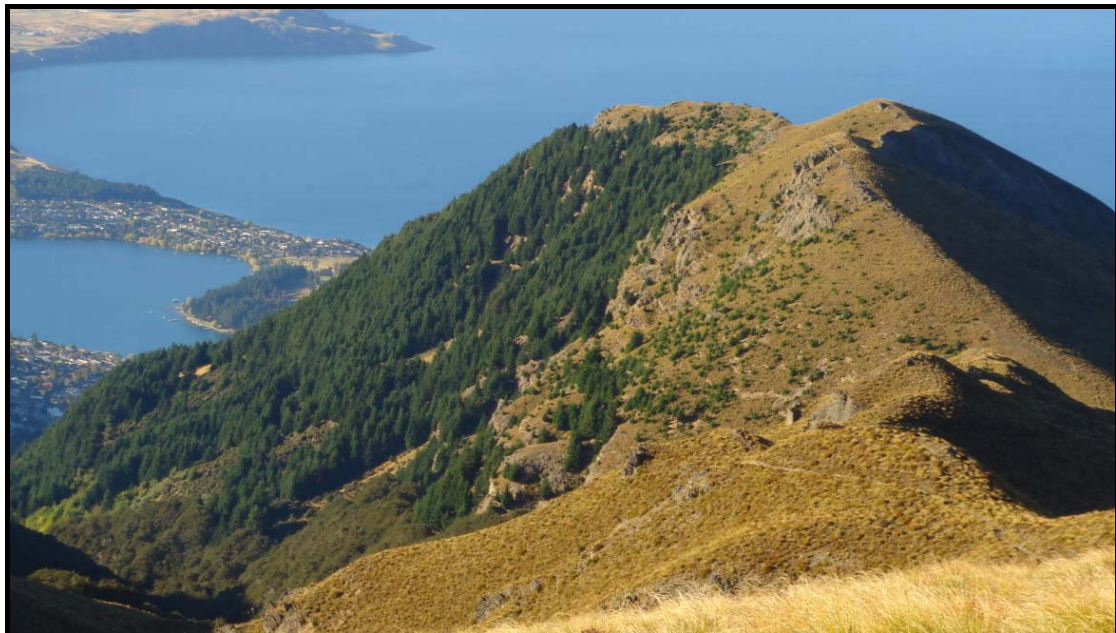
April 2010 WWCCG Newsletter

From a fledgling beginning exactly one year ago the Wilding Control Group is now firmly established. We are encouraged by the number of people who are concerned about the rapid wilding spread. Volunteer days are popular. Businesses offer financial support. Council is incredibly supportive. Landowners and Managers join forces to tackle the wilding spread. DOC's proactive commitment continues. Requests for our newsletter roll in. And so we could go on but we write to confirm what we believe is a growing tide of determination to control wildings before we lose the battle to keep our tussock, rock bluffs, bird and insect life, our beech forest areas, yes, our heritage.

The Tide of Progress

Skyline Queenstown

Jeff Staniland, Skyline's CEO, announced a \$50,000 annual grant towards controlling wildings on Ben Lomond and Bowen Peak. Conifer encroachment is changing the mountain and seed spread by the wind is travelling kilometres into the back country. Skyline Board and WWCCG member Grant Hensman believes this initiative will encourage other businesses to "sponsor a mountain, or a hectare"



Patrons

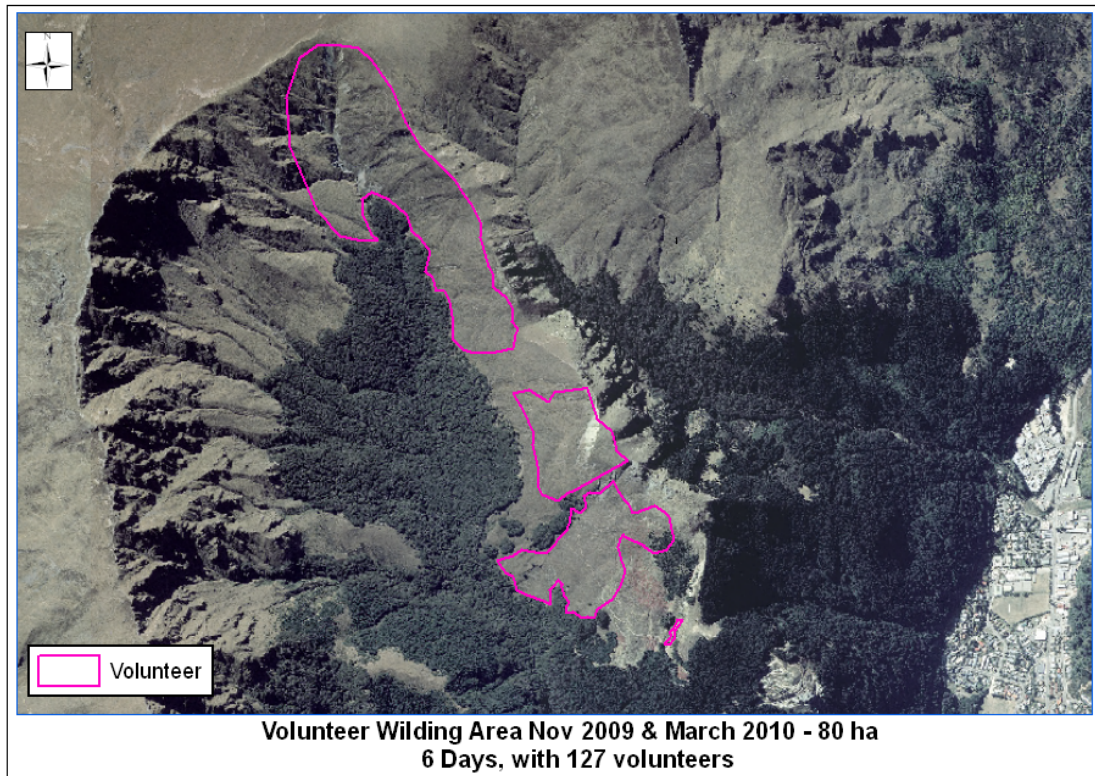
We are delighted to announce that Sir Eion Edgar and Lady Jan are WWCCG Patrons. Both are deeply concerned about the wilding spread and are committed to controlling the pines.



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Volunteers

Debra McKenna inspired 56 cheerful people to clear 9.5 hectares over a weekend in March. Our thanks to our smiling Debra. Skyline (Gondola), Subway (lunches), and The Collision Centre (fruit and drink) sponsored the costs. Watch out for a November 'wildings day' on the Ben Lomond track.



The map below shows the area cleared by the volunteer group this season – Well Done!

WWCCG Wilding Work:

Control work has taken place in conjunction with:

- Walter Peak & Cecil Peak Station - Skid hopping operation was completed in McKinlays Creek in February, a crew of 12 removed over 400 mature trees, the operation was managed by Jamie Cowan (DOC)
- Cecil Peak Station - Wilding control work was completed on Bayonet Peak in February, a crew of 12, spend a day sweeping the Colin's Creek Faces
- Mt Dewar Station - January – March 2010, over 70ha of Mt Dewar has been cleared of scatted wildings
- Ben Lomond Station - Trees encroaching on the One Mile have been removed, and a containment line has been set
- Coronet Peak Station - Go Green consulting has started removing coning trees from the Coronet Peak Station side of the Mace town road



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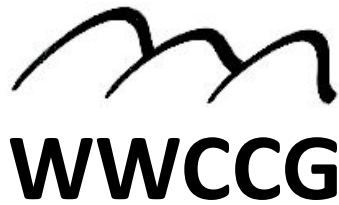
- Glencoe Station - The mature stand of conifers at Hayes Creek on the Glencoe side of the Arrow river has been felled



Before and after pictures of the removal of the mature conifer stand at Hayes Creek



- Ben Lomond Station - Dunstan Sprayers have completed 4 more days in Bushy Creek, they have brought the spread down from the ridge top and beech forest.
- QLDC road reserve - Work is continuing on the Coronet Road reserve to remove the dense stand of mature conifers



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- We understand that Soho and Glencoe Stations are tackling wildings on their side of the Arrow river faces. Great news!

DOC Sponsored Work:

- Mt Aurum Reserve - first week of March crew of 15 completed 3 days skid hopping and chainsaw work around the Mt Aurum reserve
- Mt Aurum Reserve – 7 hours of spot spraying in the reserve

Understanding the 'Wilding Challenge

Grant Hensman has produced a DVD outlining the challenge of wildings and this will soon be available. Another offer is from WWCCG to organise a speaker to talk, show visuals and answer questions to groups or organisations.

Submissions to Otago Regional Council

Can we encourage you to write a submission urging that enforcing compliance and offering finance be included in their Annual Plan. Email Briana (below) for a submission form, with some ideas on what to say, and post it to arrive May 2. A submission with a few sentences will help our WWCCG submission.

First Birthday Party

A warm invitation is extended to you to help us celebrate a great year on Thursday June 17th. We look forward to welcoming you from 5.00 p.m. onwards in the Council Chambers, Queenstown for a wine and cheese event. An official welcome, the new DVD, display photos, power point pictures of control work, introduction of our Patrons and Skyline sponsors begins at 5.30p.m. A brief annual meeting will also form a short part of the evening which will finish by 7.15p.m.

Emailing

If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving WWCC newsletters please email Briana.O'Brien@qldc.govt.nz

Briana O'Brien CEO

Peter Willsman Chairman