



A Stitch in Time Saves Nine

WWCCG Newsletter - June 2010.

Fantastic 1st Birthday Celebration

Over forty people enjoyed a great wine and nibbles evening as we celebrated our first WWCCG year. Briana's Power Point illustrations of our wilding control programme, Jeff Stanisland reaffirming Skyline's commitment, introducing our Patrons Sir Eoin Edgar and Lady Jan, passing our Annual financial report, viewing the new DVD and Nick Ledgard's update on wilding control throughout the country all contributed to a happy birthday.



WWCCG Chair's Report June 2010 (Peter Willsman)

I am delighted to bring the first Annual report of WWCCG. We have had a brilliant year.

We are a fledgling group which started in April 2009 with a few committed people who are passionate about arresting the spread of wildings before they destroy our wonderful Wakatipu heritage.

It is good to honour visionary people who have gone before us. Highlighting names is dangerous. I mention some visionary folk because whatever we do today we build on the shoulders of others. The late Arthur Borrel of Branches Station saw the spread of wildings and pulled thousands as early



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as the 50's and 60's. Others like Colin Day, EcoAction volunteers and Run holders have battled alone, a few people helped them but many said, "you're wasting your time".

At my first WWCC meeting Briana was the Chair person, the secretary, the treasurer, the minute taker, the correspondent secretary, the administrator, the person who landed every task. Today she is our CEO, administrator, a warm person with a great team working along side her.

I include QLD Councillors past and present among the visionaries. With the challenge of keeping spending to a minimum they have wisely factored \$125,000 annually into the Council's budget. Without that seed finance the battle would be well and truly lost. We attempted to hold ORC accountable to wilding control but have lost that battle for this year. Next year!

You be delighted to know that WWCC operates very positively now as a team. We have formed and continue form workgroups, note, not committees. All our meetings are open to anyone and no one is tasked with a job they do not feel happy about. I wish to honour and thank all committee for your hard work, your tenacity in the face of a tough task, your sense of humour. Most of you give your time after a hard day at work.

To the volunteers, about 60 - 70 of you, at each of the twice yearly voluntary wilding days, a big thank you.

To Landowners and Managers who attend meetings, pull wildings, donate time and share your expertise. You finance helicopter time, provide transport, stock the land. You are great stewards of our high country. A big brownie point!

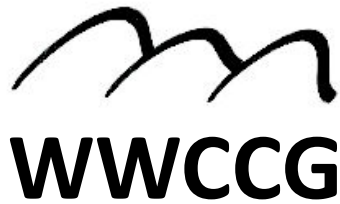
To DOC, and particularly the local staff, your enthusiasm, your commitment and your willingness to volunteer time and knowledge, we thank you. Likewise LINZ back us 100% with their support, expertise and finance.

Where to from here as we attempt to care for our tussock, bush, flora and fauna that is so precious to our area?

Three challenges:

WWCC is incredibly encouraged by the newly announced support of Skyline's annual donation of \$50,000 for wilding control on Ben Lomond and Bowen Peak. Their Board's visionary investment throws out a challenge to other businesses to plough something back into the Wakatipu Basin's beauty. You have initiated an example.

Secondly, WWCC is committed to challenging and changing a wider group of people to understand wildings as a local and a national problem. To help people unite and win the war now, before the



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exponential spread of seedlings changes our landscape is a major goal. We plan to work with schools and groups in this educational task.

Thirdly, funding is the huge challenge. We will lobby politicians, apply for grants, thank and encourage local funders. A million dollars today will accomplish some major control in the Wakatipu area. . It will take five million in six years time.

Thank you everyone.

Funding Update

- Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund - \$96,581 towards control in five target areas.
- Our submission to the Otago Regional Council (special thanks to the 60 people who sent submissions) failed to move ORC to match the other South Island Regional Councils financial support.



Resources and Speakers on Wilding Control

The new DVD Grant Hensman has produced is available. We can offer to speak to any group about the need to control wildings. Contact Briana 450 1705 or Peter 442 236

Next Meeting - August 12th is 5.30 p.m. in the Council chambers when our business agenda will include outlining and discussing anticipated work for the summer season.