

# WWCC

## WAKATIPU WILDING CONIFER CONTROL GROUP INCORPORATED

A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

WWCC is off to a flying start for 2010 and we write to let you know the good news as well as the challenges ahead.

### WWCC sponsored field work

- Queenstown Hill - Queenstown Hill Station: continuation from last year's control work.
- Cecil Peak - Cecil Peak Station: 2 wilding days completed this season (with crews of 12).
- Bushy Creek - Ben Lomond Station: continuation, further scattered outliers have been removed from both side of the ridge, leading down into native beech.
- Wedge Peak - Closeburn Station: continuation of last year's control work, working towards the dense infestation.
- Mt Dewar, Mt Dewar Station: scattered outliers have been removed from the east facing slopes.



**Coronet Peak Station Spray Operation**

- Coronet Peak Station, owned by Eamon Cleary, has heavy wilding infestation. We are encouraged to receive \$5,000 from him for spraying Contorta on the face below the Coronet ski field. This trial was carried out in conjunction with DOC (\$10,000) and WWCC (\$5,000). We look forward to increasing financial support from the Station to tackle the huge amount control work required.

### DOC sponsored field work

- Spot and boom spraying in Skippers/Mt Arum area (\$40,000)
- Spot spraying on the Remarkables from Wye creek to the ski field road (\$25,000). Over 50,000 trees have been taken off the Remarkables in the last 6 years.
- DOC has successfully completed over 420 ha of hand tool control work on and below the Coronet Peak ski field faces.
- Wilding control work has been completed at Bobs cove

### Queenstown Hill spray trial

The Queenstown Hill spray trial which was carried out in conjunction with DOC, QLDC and Queenstown Hill Station is now 12 months on, and the results are proving very promising. The success rate will be evaluated in Jan 2011; two years after the operation took place.

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Queenstown Hill Spray Job completed Jan 2009, Picture taken Dec 2009

### QLDC sponsored work

- QLDC sprayed the top ridge of the Coronet Forest, at the end of December 09, to inhibit the spread of Douglas fir from the plantation.
- QLDC have started to clear old wilding infestation on the QLDC road reserve above Coronet Peak Road.

### Volunteer wilding days

- Debra McKenna inspired sixty three volunteers to give their time pulling and cutting wildings below the Ben Lomond track in late November. Helicopter transport and lunches sponsored by Grant Hensman and Phil Dunstan; helped inspire an experienced tree man say “by far the best turnout for a wilding day ever”. All participants experienced firsthand the huge challenge wilding control presents to the Wakatipu area. Another Community Wilding Weekend is planned for March 20-21
- EcoAction tackled wildings above the tree line on Queenstown Hill on a very hot Feb afternoon.
- At the start of Feb, Cecil Peak Station flew two wilding crews over to Cecil Peak to clear scattered wildings; the crews consisted of DOC staff, WWCC volunteers and contract workers. A vast area was cleared (this is an ongoing project).



Cecil Peak wilding control day in January

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### **Otago Regional Council and Land Information NZ**

WWCC values the contribution of both these overseeing organisations and their representatives on the control group. We continue to work with them in lobbying for finance and alerting them to enforce control compliance issues.

### **Helping Community to Understand the Wilding Challenge**

Grant Hensman is working hard at developing a DVD aimed at assisting groups, clubs, Trusts and Corporates to grasp the time bomb ahead of Wakatipu if the wildings are left to spread. We have started conversations about developing an opportunity for schools to learn about and experience wilding control.

### **The WWCC group**

Our meetings are short, sharp, creative and fun. A wide variety of experienced people attend and creative ideas are bounced around. We are developing specific workgroups to tackle particular tasks. The contribution from Station owners and Managers is greatly valued. A warm welcome is extended to anyone to attend.

Next meeting Thursday March 11<sup>th</sup> 5.30 pm., in the Council Room. (Please note the change of date from 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>)

### **Emailing**

If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving WWCC newsletters please email [Briana.O'Brien@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:Briana.O'Brien@qldc.govt.nz)

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