

Work Plan for July 2014 to June 2015

Contact: Alice Shanks alice@caverock.net.nz, ph 337-1256, cell 027 366 1246

Core Organisers: Colin Meurk, Wendy Cooper, Ian and Bev McDonald, Melissa Hutchison, Grant Bowden, Eleanor Bissell, Mark Hutchinson, Jon Sullivan

Key focus 2015-2016

1. Liaise with Council to create a long-term vision for reserve
2. Remove all sycamore saplings possible to cut down with a handsaw
3. Aim for eradication of stink iris and drooping sedge
4. Start on veldt grass control in woodland
5. Remove weeds present in small numbers ie. passionfruit, blackberry
6. Plant ground cover ferns and sub-canopy shrubs into plant collections

Actions

1. Hold meeting to align work programmes with Council and contract staff
2. Encourage volunteers with regular email contact and monthly working bees (Alice)
3. Continue long-term monitoring of birds, visitors, weeds, change (Alice, Grant, Jon)
4. Apply for BNZ Closed for Good crew (Alice, Bev, Ian)
5. Apply to CWMS Christchurch-West Melton Zone committee for \$1500 to purchase groundcover ferns, grasses and shrubs. (Alice, Colin)
6. Run Sycamore Slaughter day to remove new crop of sycamore seedlings (Alice, Wendy, Ian and Bev, Eleanor)

Long-term Outcomes

1. Remove weeds using volunteers and Council contractors. Trial selective weeding as the next step in revegetation, to promote the natural regeneration of local indigenous trees and shrubs.
2. Limb up trees and shrubs and keep paths clear of vegetation to maintain sense of safety and security. Trial innovative strategies to manage safety within a closed-canopy forest in an urban area.
3. Adapt English techniques used to retain deadwood to improve habitat for insects and birds.
4. Enhance plant collections/ecosystems, including exotic woodland, with native groundcover ferns and grasses.
5. Manage reserve to increase number of NZ bush birds and improve in-stream habitat for birds, fish and invertebrates.
6. Document and interpret the Maori and colonial heritage and represent with key trees. Support the long history of local resident advocacy and interest in reserve.
7. The reserve is part of the emergency flood areas along the river.
8. The reserve is a model for Opawaho Heathcote river revegetation.

Friends of Ernle Clark reserve

Looking a long-way ahead –

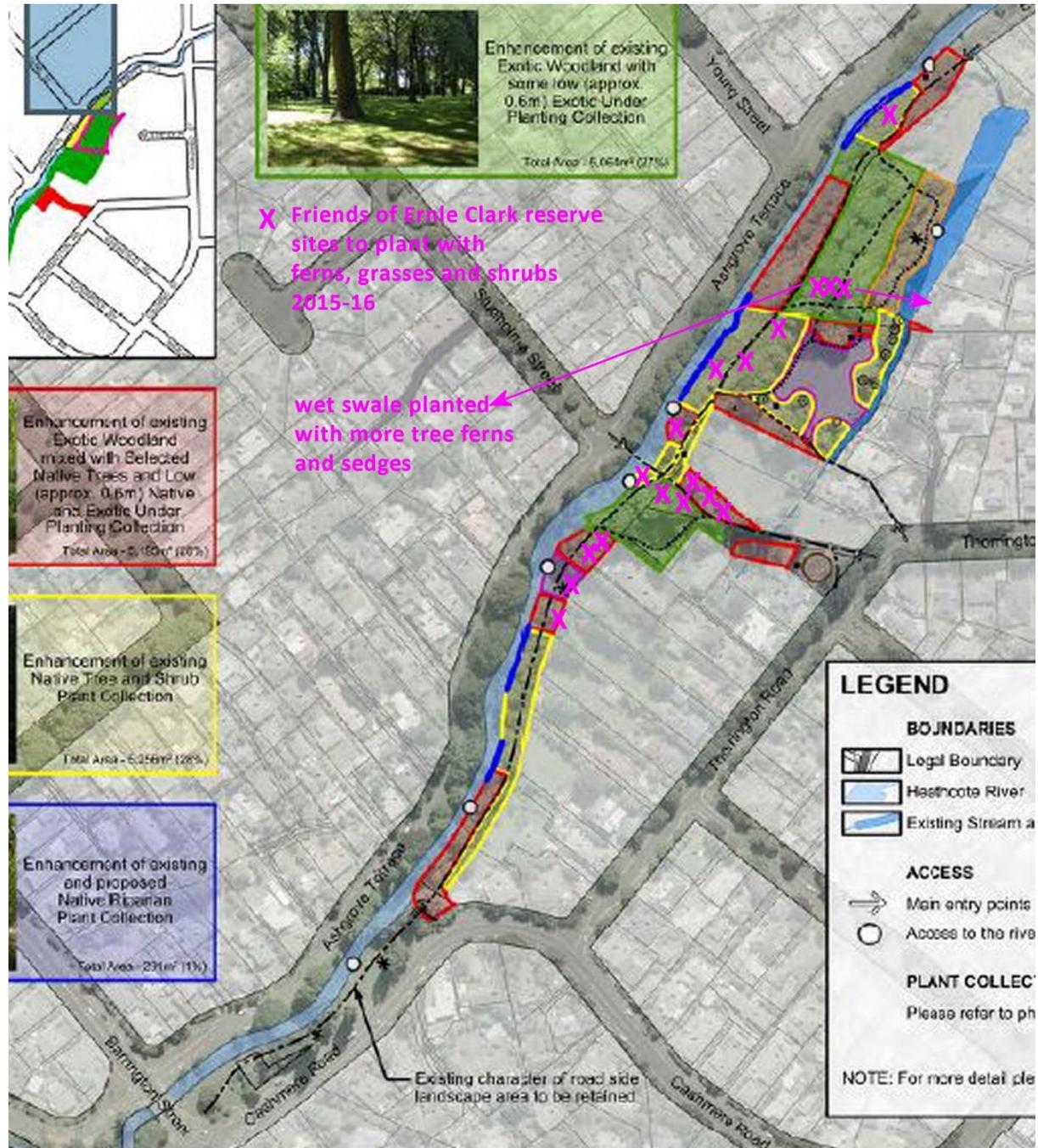
	Weeds	Native trees	Ground cover
5 years	All sycamore and cherry laurel trees removed	1990 kahikatea and pokaka producing young seedlings	Tree ferns established
15 years	Weedy ground covers removed (aluminium plant, tradescantia, periwinkle, veldt grass)	Senescent European woodland trees replaced with local indigenous trees	A green carpet of hardy NZ ground ferns and a fringe of sedges along river
30 years	No more sycamore seedlings	Spring show of kowhai a clematis flowers	No grass outside main lawn and pond area
100 years	Continual removal of invading exotic climbers and shade-tolerant shrubs and trees	Canopy largely 25m kahikatea, totara, matai, pokaka and hinau trees	Recreation of NZ forest tiers
150 years	A recreation of Riccarton Bush: an oasis of native bush with resident NZ bush birds and butterflies, requiring little maintenance and resilient to flooding, and in demand for events and weddings.		

2014-15 Timetable

	Activity	Focus
July	Monitoring	Garden Bird survey, photopoints, species list updated
Saturday 25 July	Working bee 3-4 pm	Sycamores, Buckler fern, drooping sedge, stink iris
Saturday 29 August	Working bee 3-4 pm	Sycamores, Buckler fern, drooping sedge, stink iris
Wednesday 2 September	BNZ Closed for Good day 9.30am – 4.30 pm	South of bridge weeding and planting
Saturday 19 September	Clean Up Mid-Heathcote day 9-11 am	Scouts, BNA, Opawaho River coalition
Saturday 26 Sept	Working bee 3-5 pm Planting day	Plant ferns into 1990 and 2000 areas, sub-canopy shrubs around boardwalk area with Somerfield Youth Group, Somerfield Residents Association, neighbours, volunteers
Saturday 31 October	Working bee 4-5 pm	Woodland, veldt grass, weeds riverbank bush lily/Astelia area
Saturday 28 November	Sycamore Slaughter 2-5 pm	Community day with BBQ – Thorington school and residents. Weed out sycamore seedlings, boardwalk school planting,. Water new plants.
Saturday 19 December	Working bee 4-5 pm	Social time with volunteers Woodland, veldt grass, watering, weed kowhai
Saturday 30 January	Working bee 4-5 pm	Woodland, veldt grass, watering new plantings
Saturday 27 February	Working bee 4-5 pm	Woodland, veldt grass, watering new plantings
Saturday 2 April	Working bee 4-5 pm	Weed new plantings, boardwalk planting

Friends of Ernie Clark reserve

(week after Easter)		
Saturday 30 April	Working bee 4-5 pm	Woodland, veldt grass, watering new plantings
Saturday 28 May	Working bee 4-5 pm	Sycamores, Buckler fern, drooping sedge, stink iris southern end
Saturday 25 June	Working bee 4-5 pm	Sycamores at southern end



Annotated map with marked sites to be enhanced with ferns, native grasses and sub-canopy shrubs.

Friends of Ernle Clark reserve

Application for CWMS Christchurch West Melton Zone committee funding

26 July 2015

Attention: Heken Greenup, Zone Biodiversity officer

The Friends of Ernle Clark reserve have been carrying out working bees in this floodplain woodland reserve on the Opawaho Heathcote river since July 2006, to support the 25 and 15 year old school plantings of native trees. The whole reserve is gradually being rewilded with seed spread from early native tree plantings from c. 100 years ago and 50 years ago.

There is a set of landscape plans guiding the development in the reserve that limits the exotic/indigenous plant mix. Recently the City Council have removed trees in poor health opening up canopy gaps in areas designated for native trees or native ground cover.

The Council will plant some big native trees but they do not have a budget for sub-canopy trees, shrubs and ground cover ferns.

We would like to carry out a late winter planting for the community to add in less common understory shrubs and ferns. We can co-ordinate the many community groups involved in the reserve who would be very keen to help; there will be no problem finding people keen to plant. Groups that have helped in the reserve recently include: Closed for Good BNZ crew, the Somerfield Youth group, Thornington school, and Somerfield Residents Association.

Now that we have a canopy of native trees the time is right to establish a sub-canopy of local trees and shrubs. The more frost-tender should be protected by this canopy. An urban planting has different challenges to a countryside planting. We would not mark the new plants nor use combi-guards as that may attract the attention of vandals. We have had tree ferns stolen in the past but that is a risk we think is worth taking again to try and recreate a green, attractive groundcover.

The monthly working bees would be responsible for watering the plants through summer and removing any weeds.

We see this as a demonstration site for future landscaping of the Opawaho Heathcote banks. It has become a destination reserve and an example of how semi-natural woodland can be safely created, the minimal management required once a closed canopy cuts out the light that promotes weed growth, and a successful example of community involvement.

Our last grant was \$3000 in 2007 from the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board for shrubs and ferns. The Friends of Ernle Clark Reserve are not a registered society but the Somerfield Residents Association or Beckenham Residents Association would be happy to hold and administer the grant. I have had informal assent from Heritage Parks Officer Nicky Brown to plant into the reserve.

Some funds towards pizzas would be a nice way to finish up the day.

regards

Alice
contact person
Friends of Ernle Clark Reserve

Friends of Ernle Clark reserve

A draft plant wish list:

- 10 kowhai
- 5 hinau
- 5 titoki
- 5 kaikomako
- 5 pate
- 10 Coprosma rotundifolia
- 10 Coprosma areolata
- 5 Coprosma rhamnoides
- 5 Coprosma virescens
- 5 Coprosma pedicellata
- 10 Teucrium parvifolium, NZ verbena
- 5 Lophomyrtus obcordata, rohutu
- 5 Streblus heterophylla, turepo, milkwood
- 5 Melicytus micranthus, swamp mahoe
- 5 Raukua anomalus, raukua
- 10 Cyathea dealbata, silver fern, ponga
- 10 Dicksonia fibrosa, wheki ponga
- 5 Dicksonia squarrosus, wheki
- 15 Microsorium pustulatum, kowaowao, hounds tongue
- 10 Polystichum vestitum, hard shield fern
- 10 Polystichum oculatum, pikopikopricky shield fern
- 10 Blechnum discolour, pui pui, crown fern
- 5 Asplenium gracilimum, hen and chicken fern
- 5 Blechnum fluviatile, kiwakiwa
- 5 Blechnum penna-marina
- 5 Lastreopsis velutina, velvet fern
- 5 Pellaea rotundifolia, button fern
- 5 Microlaena polynoda, bamboo grass
- 5 Muehlenbeckia axillaris, pohuehue
- 5 Muehlenbeckia complexa, pohuehue
- 5 Arthropodium candidum, small renga renga lilly
- 5 Parsonsia heterophylla, NZ jasmine
- 5 Clematis foetida, scented clematis

30 trees @ \$6 = \$180

65 shrubs @\$6 = \$390

25 tree ferns @\$12 = \$300

70 ground ferns @\$8 = \$560

15 miscellaneous ground cover @\$6 = \$90

10 climbers @\$6 = \$60

Total: \$1,525