

Trelissick Park adopt-a-spot news

Kia Ora,

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the adopt-a -pot newsletter. The sun has started to shine and volunteers have responded by tending to their spots. I have been blown away by how much work has been done over the last month!

The adopt-a-spot BBQ was fantastic! After changing both the date, and location we ended up with a beautiful sunny afternoon at the Historic Magazine Site on Sunday 10th November. About 25 people turned up, with good representation from both the TPNGWG, and adopt-a-spot volunteers (as well as a few council staff). On the day I gave away some copies of the DoC publication 'Plant me Instead'. I still have a few copies of this great weed identification book which usually retails for about \$7. Please let me know if you would like a free copy!

If you have space at your home to care for small native trees in milk cartons that would be greatly appreciated. We have already found homes for about 700 plants, but Otari still have plenty left to pot up! Please let me know how many you are able to store at home (100 plants take up approximately 1m²), and the best way for Otari Wiltons Bush staff to contact you. You need to be able to ensure that the plants will receive enough water over summer, that they are rotated every few months to ensure all plants grow strong and that they are protected from the wind and pests.

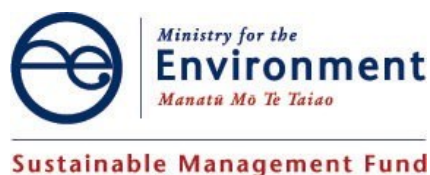
I have also been working on a 'target plant list' which identifies 10 weeds that you can help control in the park. I am currently liaising with our web site expert, and you should soon be able to check this out online at www.trelissickpark.org.nz. Please let me know if you would like me to post you a printed copy.

I hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Regards,
Kate Mackenzie
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Please let me know if you would like me to send you backdated copies of this newsletter, and if you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email.

Please let me know if you would no longer like to receive this newsletter.



Plant of the month

Koromiko *Hebe stricta* var. *atkinsonii*

Plant of the month:



A hebe endemic to the Wellington region (may hybridise with other species). A hardy shrub which grows up to two metres, with white to pale mauve flowers. This is a great revegetation species as it grows very quickly. It has spindly whipcord like branches. Leaves are dull surfaced and somewhat leathery. The Maoris used concoctions of these leaves for medicinal purposes. Hebes are easy to cultivate from fresh seed and semi hardwood cuttings. It thrives in full light and is often found

on stream banks, shrubland and on the edge of forest remnants.

Weed of the month

Buddleia *Buddleja davidii*

A many-stemmed shrub, up to four metres tall with dull green, narrow, tapering leaves up to 20cm long. The leaves are usually serrated and often hairy, as is the stem. In early summer, the plant produces numerous tapering heads of sweetly scented lilac flowers with orange centres. Buddleia will



spread either by dropping hundreds of seeds from the flowers heads, or by sprouting from stem cuttings. It is listed in the global invasive species database, and is native to China. This is a high priority weed, and is easy to identify at this time of year. Treatment methods:

- Pull or dig out small plants.
- Paint stumps with Vigilant (ask me to contact one of our 'vigilantes').
- Remove all plant matter from the park.
- Follow up six-monthly.