

## Trelissick Park adopt-a-spot news

Kia Ora Volunteers,

As you may have seen we had a great article about the adopt-a-spot scheme in the 'greenzone' in the weekend dominion post this month. This resulted in a good number of enquiries about the programme, including a number of new spotees and an approach from the <http://www.wotzon.com> website. We now have a page up and running on this great community events webpage!

You may have heard that the sustainable management fund grant from MfE will be running out at the end of June. This means that I will no longer be working as a paid coordinator in this position. It would be sad if that meant the end of the Adopt a Spot programme, as it is such a great way for people to be involved with your local environment. For this reason I am asking you all to continue with your hard work. We will have to work together to come up with an answer for how you as a group can best communicate with WCC - our key partners in this project. If you are interested in being involved with some of the administrative work involved with this project please let me know!

The key tasks are:

- asking WCC weed team to pick up bags of weeds from the entrances
- asking WCC to carry out spraying of specific adopt a spot sites
- helping new spotees get underway
- attending quarterly meeting with the Trelissick Park Group.
- organising delivery of plants once a year
- asking WCC and GW tricky questions about weed control and plant species etc.



Fungi on an old pine stump in Trelissick Park.

The programme will still be receiving as much support as we need from GW and WCC – it's just a matter of asking. Your key contacts will be Kevin Jamieson at WCC, and me, Kate Mackenzie at GW. The networks and support systems are all in place and I will be around and on email to help you out until the end of the year. Please keep emailing me!

We have also begun planting some of the Take Care sites in the park. We have about 2000 plants to put in altogether this season with the help of corporate groups and other volunteers.

WCC have put together a draft weed management plan and will be working with GW to spend a large amount of money on controlling wattle, sycamore and Tradescantia amongst other things in Trelissick Park during the next year.

It was great to see some familiar faces at Restoration Day at Tauherenikau Racecourse on 12 May. We had a small display which attracted a lot of attention! Everyone who attended had a great day out and learnt a lot about lowland forest restoration.

## Plant of the month

Rangiora/ Bushmans friend

*Brachyglottis repanda*



Rangiora has wide wavy edged leaves up to 25cm long with obvious veins. Leaves are dull green on the upper side with a felted white on the underside. It grows well in undergrowth, and up to 3m tall in open spaces, but can be difficult to establish. The name is said to refer to the return of fine weather as tiny flowers are borne in large panicles in spring and early summer. The leaves hold spiritual meaning

for Maori, representing life forces – ‘rangi’ being sky and heaven, ‘ora’ meaning well-being and health. The large leaves had many uses for Maori and Pakeha settlers. Maori used to wrap food, and make clothing and dressings from Rangiora leaves. The gum or honey from this tree is quite poisonous if consumed. Settlers used the leaves for writing letters and as toilet paper – both relevant today in case of emergencies! It is a great revegetation species for under the canopy. Rangiora can be propagated easily by cuttings or seed. Unfortunately WCC does not supply Rangiora, however we are able to plant it if we collect seed or cuttings from the park and propagate it ourselves.

## Weed of the month

Cotoneaster

*Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*

This spreading evergreen shrub is part of the rose family. It has hairy young leaves and shoots and small white-pink flowers from late spring to early summer. Leaves are alternate. Berries are orange-red to scarlet and appear from summer to winter. They are much enjoyed by birds and are quickly spread.



Cotoneaster forms dense stands blocking out natural regeneration. It is tolerant of a wide range of conditions. There are a number of different cotoneaster species in New Zealand. The best way to control cotoneaster is to dig out small plants and hang them in a tree. Larger plants need to be cut at ground level and painted with vigilant. Cleared sites should be replanted quickly to prevent seedling regrowth.

Contact Kate Mackenzie on 021 136 0812 or at [trellissickpark@seaforth.co.nz](mailto:trellissickpark@seaforth.co.nz)