Enjoy this newsletter – packed with activities and achievements by members and volunteers of Bushy Park Sanctuary.

Have you been into our new website yet? [www.bushyparksanctuary.org.nz](http://www.bushyparksanctuary.org.nz) I’m thrilled with it, and we hope to add updated information to keep it a live site. We want to encourage children to upload their stories of their Bushy Park Sanctuary visits, with their photos and drawings.

With the help of Rotary North Wanganui, the pathways are easily accessible and looking great around the wetlands area. The boardwalk is taking shape, with donor’s names stencilled into the planks. We are aware that back in 2011 some members may have purchased a plank. If so, please could you advise Wilf Emmett at WMEmmett@xtra.co.nz Ph 06 345 0082, 027 345 0082. We want to ensure we have all your names for the boardwalk.

If you’ve not yet purchased a plank, $55 will stencil your name for posterity into the Boardwalk. I bought one for my son and one for me. It’s a lovely way to celebrate our involvement with Bushy Park Sanctuary. If you are interested, contact Wilf and he will make it happen.

We welcome your attendance at this year’s AGM - 10am Saturday 18 October 2014 at the Bushy Park Homestead. Apart from formal business we will be discussing the recently released Conservation Plan for the Homestead and Stables. It outlines suggested restoration and redevelopment proposals and we want to hear your views. The meeting will start with a free morning tea.

Fundraising for the Trust is always a challenge; however we have achieved success with the care and sale of a small herd of cattle, the sale of donated lambs, a successful Kitchen Tour, and donations from the many members and friends who support Bushy Park Sanctuary.

Sponsorships and in-kind support have also generously been given by KiwiWebs, Treadwell Gordon, Meteor Printers, North End Rotary Club, Hire Master, Horizons, and many others. And, don’t forget the hours of work donated by our volunteers to manage the Trust Board, lead the different projects and physically work in the sanctuary. It’s very satisfying to be involved, so come on board!
Wetlands Project - Tracks and Boardwalk

Earlier this year Rotary North End Group approached us about partnering a project at Bushy Park Sanctuary.

Shell rock was ordered and Wilf Emmett provided a 4 ton Digger. He opened the track from the homestead lawn down to the lake and removed all the vines choking the trees around the lake edge.

The Rotary team of 6 spread the shellrock nice and level. A hired roller from Hire Master compacted the track, protecting it from the heavy rains we have had since completion.

We put a pile driving rig on the digger and drove in 42 piles for the boardwalk, then drilled and placed the cross heads ready for more donations to place the beams and the deck planks engraved with the donors’ names.

We have plans for a covered amphitheatre which will seat 35 children, plus an equipment shed back in the bush for teachers’ equipment.

The Rotary team has opened up the bush track on the northern side of the lake, timber-edged it and placed shellrock so now the track goes through the bush, along the internal fence and at the gate back to the main track. This has been done by a great team of volunteers, and Wilf has really enjoyed working with them.

We have placed 60metres of shell rock on the tracks so far, and have a very good base for future widening as can be afforded.

We hope to finish the project this year, and need a lot more purchased planks to complete the boardwalk. Planks are $55 each - such a great way to leave a legacy for future generations. Engraved seats will also be placed along the track, and companies are being asked to sponsor them.

Outdoor Education

Thanks to the work of our Education Committee, school visits to Bushy Park Sanctuary are growing and the children love it.

The Education Committee, all volunteers, has developed a comprehensive school programme and teaching package for teachers to assist them with their day of outdoor teaching. The children love their treks through the bush identifying the birds and spotting the odd gecko or insect in the Wetlands.

Taking turns at scooping in the Wetlands.

A group of teachers learning about the wetlands in preparation for school visits.
Bushy Park’s Forest and Farm Committee carries a heavy responsibility and meets regularly. It is working on updating the sanctuary’s operations plan, maintaining fence and track maintenance, ensuring predator and weed control, and overseeing the translocation protection of the hihi. Many volunteer hours are dedicated to these tasks in the park, and we are always grateful for more volunteers to help. There is joy and satisfaction to be found in spending time in the forest and wetland at Bushy Park Sanctuary, and helping in some way to care for this treasured ecosystem.

Restoration of Historic Buildings

As most of our Friends & Supporters know, we have been waiting for the completion of our “Conservation Plan” on the Bushy Park Homestead and Stables. It has now arrived and has been sent to Heritage NZ (previously NZHPT) for their comment and approval.

Once this is given the Bushy Park Trust can apply to Lotteries Heritage Fund for financial support. The Conservation Plan itself cost $25,000 and was funded by Lotteries, so we are hopeful for the next funding stage.

The Conservation Plan is a very well-researched and compiled document. Prepared by Wendy Pettigrew, Historian, and Bruce Dickson, Architect, its main purpose is to describe and record the architectural / heritage/social history of the buildings in their farm context.

It comprises over 100 pages of text and many appendices relating to such matters as earthquake strengthening / required remedial work / development options and cost analysis. All Board members have an electronic file copy – please feel free to talk to any one of them about your areas of specific interest.

The debate about future development is wide ranging; the detail within each will be part of a continued discussion. The Bushy Park Buildings Committee and Board are committed to restoration work on the stables as a first priority. This will contribute to the work of the forest and farm and our education programme. The buildings restoration is certainly one of our key responsibilities.

The Stables cost estimate is $400,000. Lotteries require us to contribute one third of the total cost, $133,000. We believe this is achievable through local trusts and benefactors, donations of goods and services and voluntary labour.

We also need a person/s to assist sorting our collection of historic tools and implements.

A further update will be given at the AGM. If you would like to become involved in this important project, please contact Denis McGowan, denismcgowan@xtra.co.nz Ph 06 345 5452, 027 252 2246.

Drive Sealing Completed

After a few frustrating delays, our drive was double-chip sealed last November, making the entire length from the road to the Homestead a permanent surface. Our thanks go to our funders, NZCT, The Lion Foundation, Powerco Wanganui Trust and to Downer NZ who not only did the work but incorporated a significant community contribution. Also to K Jordan Contracting who carried out all the pre-sealing work. The new drive looks absolutely fantastic and gives visitors a great first impression.
Saddlebacks (Tieke) Trans-located To Rotokare

An important milestone for Bushy Park Sanctuary was reached on May 31st when forty tieke (20 each of male and female) from Bushy Park Sanctuary were released into Rotokare Scenic Reserve, 12 km inland from Eltham. A team from Rotokare, headed by Kevin Parker, arrived earlier in the week and set up the capture facilities, including a small aviary inside an existing one.

On the Saturday a crowd of 250 people assembled at Rotokare to witness the release. The Bushy Park Sanctuary birds joined 20 others which had arrived from Little Barrier a week earlier.

The translocation is of great significance because it means the original introduction of forty birds into Bushy Park Sanctuary in 2006 has progressed to the point where we are now a source population - to our knowledge the first time that a mainland sanctuary has achieved this status. Reports indicate that the Bushy Park birds have settled well into their new home.

Stitchbirds/ Hihi Update

We successfully fledged eighteen of these very rare birds earlier in the year. At this stage we do not have precise numbers of females entering the new breeding season and, as is normal with this fragile bird, a follow-up translocation of predominantly females is scheduled for next March. Kevin Parker, who was at Bushy Park for the saddleback transfer to Rotokare in May, was impressed with the health of the juveniles (pictured). Our thanks go to Chris Devine for his work over the nesting period and also to Whanganui DoC and Massey University staff. It will be some years before we will be able to gauge the success of this programme which has as its goal the establishment of a new population of hihi within the sanctuary, but we have high hopes.

This juvenile stitchbird / hihi from our first nesting, is so tame it couldn’t wait for dinner to be served by Peter Frost and helped itself to the sugar water in the feeder bottles. Photo: Peter Frost

Bushy Park saddlebacks being transported to the far end of Lake Rotokare. Photo: Allan Anderson

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