



FRIENDS OF A'DEANE'S BUSH UPDATE WINTER 2011

Hello everyone

Aren't the trees that we planted last year looking great! As you are all aware it has been the best growing season for any kind of plant, unwanted plants included! We have been beavering away at the Old Mans Beard population in and around the reserve, with most of the infestations along the stream margins. We have controlled the majority of adult plants and can now move into the long term phase of finding and treating all the hundreds of seedlings that will keep on appearing over the next 10 or so years!

The walking track is looking, and feeling, pretty good too! Contractors for DoC have resurfaced the entire track with shingle, and put board walks over the wetter parts. Gumboots in winter no longer required! There are also some new tree signs along the way, so this short walk is a great way to get to know your native trees.

Predator control has been fairly steady throughout the summer with 10 hedgehogs, 2 feral cats, 1 stoat and 1 weasel caught between September and May. We are going to increase the numbers of traps this winter, and we are also keen to involve locals in running some traps. This would involve checking and setting a few traps every two weeks over summer and once a month over winter. Please give us a call if you are interested – it would be a really great help : -)

Rats were in low numbers at the start of the season, and seemed to remain fairly low over summer, with the numbers building up in autumn – which is a pretty common theme for rat populations. Many rats will naturally die over winter (if it ever gets cold enough!) so we will wait until springtime to put out bait.

Bats were detected on one of the nights we listened in summer – it was a bit drizzly and understandably I was the only one there! Good news that there are still some around!

Keep on planting!

A community planting day is to be held on **Sunday the 7th of August 10am -1pm** - with a sausage sizzle afterward (wet weather postponement date of the 14th).

Diary it now!

There are about 500 plants to finish off the gateway and parking area started last year, and we are also keen to start planting the margins of the wetland Thanks to Alan Lee and nursery volunteers at DoC who have again grown over 350 plants for the project.

Kind regards, Kay & Craig
The Conservation Company Ltd 8577291