

## Weed Busters Update May 2025



Hi everyone from Kathryn and the Team.

As you may have noted our team has been busy working at keeping all the reserves tidy and trying to knock the weeds back. We are now into winter planting of new natives as the drought has finally broken (sorry about Anzac and Easter) so we can get underway with the forward looking part of the plan. It's been very dry up to now believe it or not and many of our last years plantings are really welcoming the rain. As well as weeds we have been felling dead trees when we spot them to keep our reserves safe.

Our current main project has been on the Tuna Creek Reserve continuing to convert it into a beautiful place to be and to walk. It is ideal now for walking with friends and grandchildren and even your dog although it's a bit wet. Neil the eel is still in residence with his friends (or was at Easter) and there are usually piwakawaka, tūī a plenty and kereru about. It is now an accessible walking loop track and some young rascals have been cycling it (In the winter one side might get a bit wet underfoot though Rob, Bruce and Roderick are working on that right now.)

### Once again we are asking for your help!

Can you please remove noxious weeds before they seed from your own properties (probably a bit late so maybe next year) The Wooley Nightshade, wild ginger, wattles and cherries are a real problem as the birds and wind just can't help spreading the seeds. (Please check that your dumping of pruning pile is not on the reserves.) The weeds we need removed are pampas, wild ginger, acmenia, wattle, wild cherries, privet, queen of the night and watsonias. Click on the link to display the "dirty dozen". <https://www.weedaction.org.nz/whangarei-heads-weeds/dirtiest-dozen/>

We would also ask if you can help us by giving us native plants. This winter we are looking for ferns, nikau and the beautification plants (little plants) for under planting but as you know we are not fussy so anything native will do (although I don't much like Caros so give them to Rob or Bruce)

**If you have seedlings growing on your section, please pot them up for us if you are able and you can drop these to Bruce, Ruhi or Rob. Alternatively contact them and they will collect. We ideally would like these in May/June so we can plant while it's wet and the weeds are dormant.**

If you would like to come and plant with us as well have we got the opportunity for you. Working bees are coming up and they are always a great community occasion. Watch this space as they will be advertised via email and Facebook.

If you can't help us physically, but would like to be involved, feel free to pass on a donation to ORCA for native plants or maybe a little baking for the working bee team to keep us fat and happy. If you are buying us trees or ferns, aim to buy under a metre tall, as they need to fit into cars and then be carried into the bush and often up hills.

*Don't despair, we are also still keeping the Lakes Reserves tidy (the Matariki planting we did 3 years ago are just blossoming...go and have a look) also Arthur's Pass (the reserve below Russell Bruce). The boys (well maybe) are also keeping the road entrance tidy, spraying, clearing the tracks, moving bark, clearing the creeks etc etc so there is no peace for these reprobates. Just a thought, if you want to join the team contact Rob or Bruce as they would love the company and the new boys Roderick and Derek are keen to have an assistant.*

I appreciate I've been a bit light hearted but thanks in advance for whatever help you can give. If you see us working, stop and say hello as we love the encouragement.

**If you would like to make a donation it can be made to the ORCA bank account:**

**BNZ 02-1254-0028390-00 Particulars: YOUR NAME Reference NATIVE**

**We are a registered charity so you can get 33% back from IRD.**

Thanks all.

We do enjoy doing it and while all the projects are long term when we stop and look at what's been achieved already you can't help but smile.

Kathryn