



Sumner Environment Group

Update Winter 2016



Kia ora koutou,

There's been plenty going on around the Sumner environment in the last few months!

Sumner Coastcare Project

Last year's Big Plant Out!

Stage 2 of the restoration project got a boost with the Big Plant Out last winter. Since then the plants have been doing well and a new sand dune is beginning to build on this section of the beach. Keep an eye on it over the coming summer! All up 2000 plants were put in the ground including lots of back-dune natives. In the new foredune area the pīngao is doing very well, much better than in the first restoration area closer to Cave Rock / Tuawera. Thanks to the team who smashed the big plant out day and the following-up working bees, plus Environment Canterbury for supplying the plants and CCC for the BBQ!

We've now got 2/3 of the beach done (save a little TLC as we go) ... see below!



Backdunes maintenance

We've had several working bees to keep weeds under control in the new back-dune restoration area while the native plants are getting established. The maintenance is especially important now while there's plenty of moisture around and lupin seedlings sprouting up. These won't be a problem in the long run once the natives are established but for now they need to be kept in check before they get too big. Lupins grow much faster than the natives and can easily take over – but are easy to pull out when they're small. Thanks to the team who have been on the case so far.



Coastcare events coming up

To get news of the next working bees ... drop us an email to environment@sumnercommunity.org.nz

or keep an eye on the facebook page
<http://www.facebook.com/sumnerenvironment>



Sumner Coastcare Project

Saturday 17th September

Dunes Planting Day!

Join us for this year's plant-out at Sumner Beach

Sumner Dunes

10am – 12noon

Meet at the dunes. All welcome, see you there!



Taylor's Mistake Stream Restoration

You may have noticed the new swale created near the back carpark at Taylor's. This will soon be restoring the stream connection between the tidal creek and the valley. The overflow carpark for busy days (in the paddock) will remain unchanged and there will be better control over where the stream floods in rain events. Look out for a Community Planting Day coming up to start restoring this area!



A schematic of the new stream connection in Taylor's Mistake valley with some potential areas for 'greening' adjacent to the car parks

Natural recovery of dunes at Taylor's

A couple of years back there was a major storm event (or two!) that removed a decent chunk of the foredunes and eroded sand away from the area around the surf club building. Spinifex has been growing back into the erosion zone since where it traps windblown sand. This has rebuilt a new foredune along the beach – an example of nature's natural resilience in action!



Scarp formation at Taylor's Mistake after a storm event (left) and natural Spinifex recovery (right)

Mahoe-nui restoration project

This is a joint project with CCC Port Hills Rangers and North Canterbury Forest & Bird to restore Mahoe-nui Bush, a fenced reserve that extends above and below the Summit Road in the gully behind Sumner.

It has been another good year at Mahoe-nui Bush and we are very grateful for the ongoing support of our volunteers and supporters. We have continued the in-fill planting at the Upper Site and are getting really good coverage now. We have had three years of planting at the Lower site and that is starting to take shape. The volunteer days have been well attended and we have noticed plenty of birdsong and were accompanied by a beautiful grey warbler on the recent planting day at the Upper Site.

The Pest control group are doing a great job of keeping the possums under control and there has been less vandalism by our possumy friends of the fivefinger and other tasty offerings at the site.



Upcoming events - Spring Plantcare Day - 17th Sept, Lower Site on Evans Pass Road.

Keep in touch - To keep updated with working bees please join our mailing list at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/mahoenui> or contact us (Peter - peterandtressa@gmail.com or Vanessa – Ness.green@gmail.com).

Volunteer your team to help Sumner environment!

We have an excellent range of tasks needing willing volunteers this spring. Contributing to the Coastcare projects at Sumner and Taylors Mistake or the restoration project at Mahoenui is an excellent team building exercise away from the office!

We can usually arrange all equipment and supervision needed, and even sometimes dates to suit your team! Contact Freya to register your work place today and keep us in mind if you have willing volunteers looking for a worthy project!

Join the Environment Group email!

To join the Sumner Environment mail list email environment@sumnercommunity.org.nz

-- to unsubscribe at any time send an email with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line --

Facebook

Like the Sumner Environment page to keep touch on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/SumnerEnvironment/

Contacts

Shane Orchard or Freya Wilkinson

Email environment@sumnercommunity.org.nz

Phone Shane (021) 318 548 | Freya (021) 026 66304



Please feel welcome to forward this newsletter to anyone interested in helping these projects

Look out for further news on email and on the Sumner Environment facebook page!
