

EASTENDERS' ANNUAL REPORT 2009

In preparing this report I have been surprised to find the variety of places and tracks where we have worked in the past year. This was our 25th year of operations and we have covered a considerable amount of ground ranging from Godley Head to Cooper's Knob and Omaha Bush and also Hinewai above Akaroa, where a small group of volunteers from the workforce spent three days helping Manager, Hugh Wilson, with work in the reserve.

Our main activities continue to be the maintenance and upgrading of tracks on a bi-monthly basis. These always involve the whole group although sometimes we may spread the work to two different sites. There are times when only 4 or 5 are required for a small job and these are usually carried out separately at times convenient to those involved. Using brush-cutters and erecting stiles are two such works that come to mind.

Total man-hours worked for the year totalled 1806 and the average attendance at bi-monthly work days was 24. The largest turnout was in February when 31 (including 3 new members) started - and finished the morning. Current numbers stand at 48 with 6 new members during the year.

Major projects included:

- Completion of the upgrade of Major Hornbrook track
- Renovation of the Sumnervale track including a diversion to avoid an under runner.
- Re-benching Whakaraupo track from Stan Helms track to lookout point.
- Preparation for Schools' Arbour Day plantings - digging 480 holes in 2 hours!
- Re-Benching the Waterfall track, Sumnervale.
- Clearing and re-benching CRW under Cooper's Knob.
- Clearing broom from the fenced Area at the gun sites overlooking Lyttelton.
- Renovation of lower Chalmers track.
- Benching the formerly poled route from the Quarry track (upper) to John Britten Reserve.
- Renovation of the Quarry track from Heathcote to Rockview Place. This work continues into Morgan's Valley.

Bob Cawley has hung up his spade and grubber after long service. He has been a valued member of the team and a section leader for many years. He retains his connection though, as controller of our supplies of Tordon. Thanks Bob for your work and contribution over the years.

Thanks too, to section leaders Ken Rossiter, David Tucker and Alan Davey. They make a valuable contribution and lighten my load in managing this large group.

Thanks also, to Paul Devlin and his team at the Port Hills Ranger Service. We enjoy their assistance and input and value the close co-operation that we share with them.

Finally, to the workers, without whom we would not exist. They turn out cheerfully twice a month and get through an enormous amount of work - and still find time to lean on their shovels. They have also developed skills in negotiating with passing walkers of the female variety. On two occasions over the past 3 months they have managed to wheedle a batch of freshly cooked scones delivered in time for morning tea.

Geoff Bendall
Convenor.