

EASTENDERS ' REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 28/2/10

The work over the year, as usual, has been varied and ranged from Omaha Bush to Sumnervale. Good attendances have been maintained but, especially through the winter, work was disrupted because of bad weather- 7 outings had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, we have managed to keep up with what needed to be done and the usual enthusiasm and hard work of individuals continues.

Probably the main project for the year was the planting under Meridian Energy's "Project Red" in Barnett Park. Christchurch City Council has come to an arrangement whereby Meridian fund plantings in the park over a five year period. Meridian staff are also involved on a voluntary basis for the actual plantings and we assisted CCC ranger staff with site preparation and carrying plants to the site and actual plantings for 2009. Sites were prepared and about 900 trees were carried up and planted over a 6 day period in August for a total of 120 man hours. Nearly all group members were involved on at least one day of the operation. We also received some generous assistance in delivering plants to the site by a group of women walkers who were enthusiastic about the work.

The usual Arbour Day preparations did not involve us last year as Ranger staff tried a new method but it seemed to make plantings more difficult for the age group involved. Another outing was connected to "Clean Up Christchurch" week and we volunteered our services to clear rubbish on the Summit Road from the junction of Mt Pleasant Road to Castle Rock. As well as getting plenty of exercise, those who assisted collected 150kg (22 bags) of glass, bottles cans etc plus 7 car tyres and a variety of car parts – possibly enough to assemble a car – of sorts!

Upgrading work on the lower Kahukura and Quarry tracks was completed and maintenance continued at Barnett Park, Whakaraupo and Omaha Bush, the latter including installation of guard rails on 2 bridges. In addition to normal work days there were some tasks requiring only two or three hands and these took place as and when required. Turnout on normal days has averaged 20 per outing indicating a hardcore of willing hands.

Another trip to Hinewai will have been completed by the time of this meeting, a group of 9 having volunteered to assist with woody weed clearance at the reserve over a 3 day period.

Group numbers have remained relatively static over the year and, as usual, some have found the problems of age restricting their abilities. Unfortunately, Section leader Ken Rossiter, a stalwart for many years, has been laid up and awaits knee surgery. We look forward to his return in due course.

To conclude, I would like to thank all those involved in the group for their cheerful and willing work over the year. Also, thanks to the Board and Society members for their support and Paul Devlin, Nick Singleton and Di Carter and their staff at Port Hills Ranger Station for their unfailing help and support.

Geoff Bendall,
Convenor.