

Volunteers mucking in

He tangata, He tangata, He tangata! National Volunteer Week 2013 — Te Wiki Tao a Motu, which runs from June 16 to 22 — acknowledges the importance of people volunteering to help their communities.

Conservation volunteering is no different — it's all about the people. And there are some fantastic innovative examples of people mucking in for conservation in our local area.

New Zealand business Setpoint Solutions knows a thing or two about energy. As a leading provider of energy management solutions for commercial businesses in New Zealand, they can identify with the sun-basking behaviour of lizards.

For the past six years, they have been supporting jewelled gecko/moko kakariki conservation in Otago and Canterbury. Setpoint employees in Dunedin regularly get out of the office and get their hands dirty. Along with local community group Stop, they are helping to improve gecko habitat by planting the native trees and shrubs the geckos love to live in.

Sponsorship funding from Setpoint has directly contributed to greatly improved knowledge and protection of this threatened lizard.

At the Orokonui estuary near Waitati, the Living Legends conservation project has brought together greenies and rugby diehards in a novel partnership. It's a common love of mud and a desire to leave a legacy for our

CONSERVATION MATTERS

Lucy Hardy, Doc community relations

children that binds them together. It's one of 17 planting projects throughout New Zealand run in conjunction with provincial rugby unions and dedicated to a rugby legend. Kees Meeuws is the Otago Living Legend who has supported the project since its inception.

This partnership between the Tindall Foundation and Project Crimson, sponsored by Doc and Meridian Energy, will see 170,000 native trees planted throughout New Zealand by the end of 2015. On Sunday, August 25, another 2500 plants will be planted along the estuary banks.

There are heaps of other organisations and groups co-ordinating their own conservation projects that would like your help. If you want to muck in too, check out the Conservation Volunteers Coastal Otago Facebook page, @DOCcoastalotago on Twitter or doc.govt.nz/otagovolunteers for listings of what's going on locally.

And if you have a great conservation idea you want to put into practice, contact the Doc Coastal Otago office (03) 477-0677.

★ Thanking our volunteers: Pages 23-26

SLICE OF LIFE

The St Clair Esplanade sea wall has been plagued by problems since it was built, with parts of it subsiding in recent weeks. *The Star* asks four Dunedin residents at the Esplanade "What should the Dunedin City Council do about the problems with the sea wall?"



Richard Higham recalled King Canute who placed his throne below the high tide mark and ordered the sea to stop advancing to make the point that God was more powerful than himself, "and there was a chap here called Rene Balox [former Port Otago chief executive]. He was in charge of Port Otago, a hydro engineer and they should bring him out of retirement".

Jane Higham: "People underestimate the strength of the sea. I have no idea what they should do about it. They need a decent engineer who can understand the problem. They might have to put in some kind of groynes."

Shane Barrett: "Building the steps side on is a big mistake. They used to be straight down and made of steel mesh and the water went through it. This is side on and the water hits it hard. I am no engineer but it doesn't make a lot of sense... The old one was there for years and years and never had any problems."

Bruce Trainor: "I think they have just got to get people with the right qualifications to come in and have a look at it."

MOLEMAP IS COMING TO YOUR AREA

Invercargill	June 12, 19, 26, July 2, 3, 4, 18, 30, 31.
Gore	June 17, 18, July 15, 16.
Queenstown	June 10, 11, July 8, 9.
Clyde	July 10, 11.
Dunedin	June 5, 5, 7, 24, 25, 28, 27, July 22, 23, 24, 25, 28.
Balclutha	June 4
Timaru	June 4, 5, 11, 18, 25, 26.
	July 2, 3, 16, 23, 24, 30, 31.
Oamaru	June 20, July 18.
Ashburton	June 12, 13, 14, July 10, 11, 12.
Te Anau	July 29.
Winton	July 17.

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