

It is significant that in New Zealand trout and salmon are regarded as a valuable recreational resource, while coarse fish are pests. Some coarse fish are valued for food, but mostly they appeal to fishers for the sport fishing potential. Rudd is a sport fish in the Auckland-Waikato Fish and Game region, but a noxious fish elsewhere.

It is likely that Rudd were illegally released into the wetland some years ago and if you see anyone fishing in the Travis ponds and streams please contact the CCC Travis Wetland Ranger (941 8999), DoC (341 9112) or Fish and Game (366 9191). It is illegal to possess, breed or release Rudd under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1987. Offenders can attract a maximum sentence of five years and/or a fine of up to \$100,000.

We are not going to be rid of Rudd at Travis Wetland any time soon, but by netting them regularly, their numbers and adverse effects can be controlled, just like with many plant weed species.



Dawn Patrol for Rudd

9. Chartwell St Box Drain

The box drain along the west boundary of Travis Wetland with Chartwell Street has been filled in and a swale created instead. The box drain was identified as being not needed by CCC drainage engineers some years ago.

The replacing of the box drain with a swale gives us the opportunity to establish a buffer of native wetland plants. Many of the neighbouring properties had steep and unstable banks along this boundary. As part of this project, the angle of the bank was able to be reduced behind most properties using spoil from the swale.

Also, several large poplar trees and willows were felled that were likely to be a hazard to neighbouring properties in the future. There were a lot of favourable comments from the neighbours as the work progressed.

Replanting is required to finish of the job, which will start in spring to allow the ground to settle down over winter. A community planting day in conjunction with the Travis Wetland Trust workday is planned for Saturday 17th October.



Dormer Construction creating the swale, April 2009.

Travis Wetland Trust Membership and Activities

The TWT is an important partner in the continuing success of Travis Wetland and members are important to the success of the Trust.

Become a financial member and/or get involved to support the Trust. Subs are \$10/\$5; \$15 family.

Some possible Trust activities you might like to consider being involved in:

- Monitoring invertebrates and pateke (brown teal)
- Monitoring landscape/plant changes
- Ground water monitoring
- Potential mudfish and giant kokopu introduction and funding
- Marketing the wetland and the Trust to students, local community, interest groups
- History group interviews and research of the wetland and the local community
- Update of Walking Guide book and production of a new DVD supplement
- Site specific wetland restoration projects
- Board membership
- Board membership roles. Can co-opt at any point during year with Board elected at AGM (October).
- Help out on work days (weeding and planting). Come along and see what we are about.



Travis Wetland Contacts

John Skilton Ranger Travis Wetland Phone: 941 7540 E-mail: john.skilton@ccc.govt.nz	Eric Banks Chair, Travis Wetland Trust Phone 382 5756 E-mail: eric.banks@ccc.govt.nz
---	---

Travis Wetland

June 2009



Green Ribbon Awards

From Ministry of environment web site

"The Green Ribbon Awards are presented by the Minister for the Environment to recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals, organisations and businesses to sustaining, protecting and enhancing New Zealand's environment.



Urban Sustainability – Awarded for outstanding contributions to urban sustainability, particularly practical action to improve the environment in our towns and cities."

The Travis Wetland Trust received a Green Ribbon

award from the Minister for the Environment Nick Smith. The Urban Sustainability award recognises the Trust's work in saving and restoring the wetland. The award was presented at a ceremony in Wellington on June 4th 2009.

Prior to the award ceremony the Minister for the Environment Nick Smith and Aaron Gilmour MP visited Travis Wetland to meet Trust members and park rangers. Nick Smith expressed his admiration for the commitment of the Trust and for restoration work achieved in partnership with the Christchurch City Council.

Dates to Remember

Help Restore Travis Wetland

Travis Wetland Trust Restoration Days are an opportunity to help the Travis Wetland Trust and Christchurch City Council restore the wetland. Meet people interested in restoring the native biodiversity of our city, share ideas and do some light physical work. Tasks vary according to the seasons and range from planting, release weeding and invasive weed control. Morning tea provided.

When: 3rd Saturday of every month 9am to 12.30pm.

Where: Meet at the Beach Road car park.

What: Bring gumboots or boots, gardening gloves and clothing suitable for the weather and season.

- Saturday June 20
- Saturday July 18
- Saturday August 15
- Saturday September 19 community planting day
- Saturday October 17 community planting day
- Saturday November 14
- Saturday December 19



Web site

The Travis Wetland Trust now has a presence on the World Wide Web at www.traviswetland.org.nz.

A live web cam has been installed and can be viewed at www.wirelessweb.co.nz

The Trust also has a new email address and can be contacted at info@traviswetland.org.nz

1. Changes over time

One of the joys of working at or visiting the wetland is seeing the changes to the landscape that are becoming more apparent with the growth of our native plants which shows up in the photos (below) taken six years apart from the roof of the Education Centre. Bellbirds have become another bird species more frequently seen and heard at the park. They are now about for weeks and months at a time instead being irregular visitors.



View towards Central Pond, May 2009



View towards Central Pond, January 2003

2. CREAS - Christchurch River Ecological Assessment System

Travis Wetland park rangers and summer students assisted the CCC CREAS team with their survey of Angela Stream and Travis Stream. The survey is highly recommended as a way of gaining an intimate knowledge of our waterways.

CREAS is a GIS-based management tool for Christchurch waterways. The purpose of CREAS is to provide natural asset management data of these waterways.



CREAS team get intimate with the Angela Stream

3. Wai Ora Trust

Wai Ora Trust work teams provide us with an important work force at Travis Wetland and other regional parks. This team enjoyed the opportunity to repaint the barn, which must have made a pleasant change from the weeding and mulching they generally do.



Wai Ora Trust team painting the barn

4. Travis stream

In June last year the large willows along Frosts Road were felled and the area replanted in native wetland species. Over summer willows were removed from Travis Stream area opposite Robin Taite Drive, enhancing the views into the wetland from Frosts Rd.



Chrissie and Matt clearing willows, Travis Stream

5. Environmental Education

Over one thousand children each year discover the secrets and value of Travis Wetland by participating in the Learning through Action Programme.

Arbor Day

Arbor day came early to Travis Wetland this year. Some 40 people including trust members and local residents planted 500 harakeke, toetoe, ti kouka, manatu, and kohuhu in the matai-totara forest. This season we have recognised the difficulties of the site and attempted to focus on quality planting of lower numbers of hardier and early successional species to provide protection for previous year's planting. A big thanks to everyone who took part.



Discovering aquatic invertebrates at Travis Wetland

6. New Pateke recruit sighted

Two years ago, on May 16th, 2007, twenty captive-reared pateke were released into Travis Wetland. Initial losses of the native captive reared birds was expected and occurred within the first six months due to predation by cats, harriers and stoats. Eight out of twenty birds (40%) have now survived for two years.

In September 2008 one nest was located with six eggs. In late October two adult pairs were seen with two ducklings each. In May 2009, after much anticipation and on the second anniversary of the release, an un-banded female pateke was seen in the company of a banded male bird. Now that these two-year resident Brown Teals have learnt the ways of the wild and are doing well at Travis wetland, we'd love to boost their numbers with some new recruits.

7. YMCA

Students on YMCA-organised school holiday programmes have been coming to Travis to experience the wetland and to help with the restoration both by planting and by release weeding. These groups have been working in the "Central Willow Forest", one of Travis wetlands secret spots which always involves having a bit of adventure getting to...

In the future this will become a swamp forest community.



Above and below left: YMCA students enjoying and planting at Travis Wetland

8. Update on Rudd at Travis Wetland

Written by Dave Evans

The ponds at Travis were recently checked for the pest fish Rudd by Ranger John Skilton and DoC specialists, a year after 381 Rudd were netted in one night. Numbers were down by 20 percent on last year, but as expected the problem has not gone away.

The Council is in the process of buying nets so that the rangers can do the capture themselves, without the need to call in DoC. It is not a pleasant job as the nets have to be put out after dark and taken in before dawn to avoid catching diving ducks.

Pest fish, such as Rudd, compete with native fish for habitat and food. They also eat native fish and their eggs, and contribute to poor water quality by eating the native plants that stabilise the pond bottom. Only one native fish was caught last month, indicating the predominance of the pests. The Rudd could also be affecting the water bird populations by diminishing their food sources.

What are these Rudd and how did they get there? Rudd are one of a class of fish known as "coarse fish". There are 15 species of coarse fish in New Zealand, including carp, catfish, perch and goldfish. It is said they are called coarse because many species have larger scales than the "game fishes" trout and salmon. Perhaps another reason they are termed coarse is that in England the gentry shunned these fish in favour of game fish like trout and salmon.

Continued on back page