
Return Address:

LOGO HERE!!!!

Friends of Ben Rudd's Newsletter, No 6

(Stamp)

16 October 2000

Welcome to the sixth Friends of Ben Rudd's Newsletter. This issue lets you know about our picnic on November 5.

Joining the Friends, Donations of money, time or expertise

- If there is anyone you know of who might be keen to join the Friends of Ben Rudds, please let them know about us, what we do, and how we can be supported. Thanks again to all those who have supported us so far.
- Donations help the Trust and the Friends in the important work of rehabilitating Flagstaff for indigenous ecology and for trampers. Money, or offers of assistance or expertise are always welcome. Subs are \$5 per year per membership. Membership can be individual, family or club. Please send your money to the above address.

PICNIC!! 5 NOVEMBER

Don't miss this year's picnic, Sunday 5 November. An OTMC day trip will arrive via Spiers Road and will descend via the Davies Track. Things to do while there include laying about in the sun, visiting Big Rock or Bruce Campbell's dell of delights down the Jim Freeman Track. You can check out the new "Douglas seat"! Again, the rhododendrons will be a sight at this time. People will be leaving from the Bullring from 10.30 onwards. If in doubt about the weather, phone Richard or Tracy Pettinger 487 9488.

Obituary – James Malcolm, of Levin

I am extremely saddened by the news that one of our greatest Friends, Jim Malcolm, has passed away. Jim was the second person to sign up for the Friends, at the OTMC's 75th Anniversary celebrations, where he had so much enjoyed catching up with old friends. Only recently, Jim bought a copy of the laminated aerial photo of the Ben Rudd's property from us, and made a donation to the Friends. It was great to know that we had a Friend who was so attached to the property, and was keeping in such close touch with our activities, from so far away. Jim was OTC President in 1957. His wife Jean has fond memories of taking their children on Club picnics, over the years when he was active in the Dunedin tramping scene. These picnics would undoubtedly have included many at the Ben Rudd's hut site.

The Trust's sympathies are with Jean and the rest of Jim's family.

Growing your own native plants - Part 1 - by Bevan Blackmore

Collection of seeds can be done two ways. Easiest is to buy your seeds from a reliable source or collect them from within your own ecological area. Ecological areas are classified by their geology, soil, landform, climate and native vegetation. It is best to collect your seeds as close to the growing area as possible. This helps to retain local genetic material. Dunedin comprises three ecological areas being:

1. Dunedin District Number 69.02
2. Waikouaiti District Number 69.01
3. Tokomairiro District Number 69.03

Seeds are best collected in the autumn, but they must be fully developed for germination. To test for this, cut some seeds open and if they are not hollow and they do have white food tissue, they should germinate easily.

You should sow your seeds as soon as practicable after collection, as seeds eventually lose their ability to grow, if stored for long periods. Each seed contains a dormant plant and a small food reserve. The bigger the seed, the larger the reserve; the smaller the seed, the least food reserve.

In some cases, you may want to store your seeds before you wish to germinate them. In colder areas like Dunedin, storing over winter and sowing in spring is a better idea, as the seeds do not then lie dormant in the cold ground over winter, becoming slow growers in spring.

Storing your seeds in the bottom of the refrigerator gives an environment similar to winter ground conditions. Depending on the seed type, the seeds will need to be stored in dry or damp conditions. This will be determined by where you obtained the seeds from.

Try to keep good records of names, where, when and what conditions you found your seed source. This will allow you to on-plant same-variety plants together during propagation. - *Part 2 next issue.*

Bits and Pieces report:

- Of notice lately is the large number of PIGS digging up the property. Their obvious sign is all over the place.
- Also of notice is the devastation caused to wilding trees by Forest & Bird folk David McFarlane and Kelvin Lloyd. Yet more thanks go to you chaps. Your efforts are really appreciated, and future users of the land will benefit.
- *The City's work on felling wildings in the Silverstream catchment is progressing, and they will be getting on to the Ben Rudd's land in the near future. A six-person team will be on site from time to time, so, if you are in the area, please be careful, observe any signs put up and stay clear of anyone working!!*
- Ken enjoyed taking Bev Price and a keen group of other Hokonui Tramping Club members on a tour of inspection of the property on a recent weekend. They were very interested in learning more about Trust activities, having seen info sent out with the OTMC bulletin. Despite a bit of horizontal snow, they thoroughly enjoyed their visit and a descent of Spiers Road. They will host a visit by the OTMC to the Hokonui and Blue Mountains, later. See the OTMC trip list.
- A small group of Trustees will use scrubcutters on 'old man' broom above the firebreak on 28 - 29 October weekend.
- On Saturday 25 November, Peter Mason will host the Mid Otago Farm Foresters Association, which is coming to the Ben Rudd's property to look at past and present forest management, native revegetation, wilding tree control and noxious weed management (involving use as a nursery for native regeneration). The association was interested to hear about our work and is keen to view the property. It is good to know the land is serving a useful purpose! All Friends of Ben Rudds are most welcome to attend also, if you are interested. Please phone Peter on 455 7074.
- We were recently pleased to welcome Chris Wells & Jenny Lowe of 897 Brighton Rd (ph 481 1755) to the Friends.
- Another new Friend, joining for 1999 and 2000 (*funny, that*), is Antony Hamel, 180 Maitland St (474 1240).
- The KCC plantings a month or so ago didn't happen, due to bad weather. This meant the stash of young trees etc were still awaiting being given their freedom, and had to wait until 17 September.

DAY OUT, ON THE BEECHES

17 September was a very pleasant and rewarding day, planting many locally-sourced silver beech along with some snowtussock in the vicinity of the skid site. A small but enthusiastic team enjoyed themselves planting the trees among the rotting logs (to protect the trees from pig damage). Some minor roadworks and broom clearance was also carried out.

Please contact me if you have any contributions, advice, suggestions, etc, for these newsletters. I can be emailed at richard.pettinger@orc.govt.nz, or phoned at home at (03) 487 9488. - Richard P.