

UPDATE ON OKAREKA MISTLETOE RESTORATION PROJECT

Paul Cashmore

Another successful workday was held in April. Although the attendance from RBS members was again fairly low a good amount of work was achieved in Tikitapu Scenic Reserve and some in the marginal strip areas as well. Most of the hard manual work involved recutting jasmine at sites previously controlled. John Hobbs and Grant Milligan spent quality time on the knapsacks treating jasmine and wandering willie mainly. Some further control work was also done on wattles and a follow up on old mans beard, amongst other things.

Three further work days are planned this year. Our next day will involve further weed control and site preparation for our planting day in September. John Hobbs is working on ordering planting stock which will be mainly *Tupeia* hosts. Our third day in November will be to release the September plantings from spring weed regrowth and some further general weed control work.

In addition to the work day three RBS members have also successfully completed the Growsafe Certification Course for weed sprayers. This one day course is required for people using herbicides and it was important that some members who were frequently spraying herbicides on the workdays obtained this certificate. The cost of this course has been funded from our Environment BoP Environmental Enhancement Fund bid which we successfully applied for the Okareka project. Thanks also to DoC for allowing RBS to “piggy back” on the course that they had organised for their staff.