

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN READING AND WATCHING.

Bomb, Book and Compass Simon Winchester. The story of Joseph Needham, a young biochemist from Cambridge who as a result of a love affair with a Chinese student developed an abiding interest in Chinese history and culture. A fascinating read and an amazing history of invention in China, eg Cast Iron 5th century BC.

A Harvest of Thorns. Corban Addison.

A garment factory in Bangladesh burns down and hundreds of workers are killed. On the face of one of the few survivors is a mask with the label of an American clothing brand. A novel revealing some disturbing truths about the fashion industry and corporate greed. Well worth a read.

North of the Sun. Inge Wegge and Jørn Ranum

A delightful film of 2 young adventurers who spent 9 months of the Norwegian winter surfing the Atlantic and surviving in a cabin they built of driftwood collected on the beach. Link to the trailer below. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vb_YFd2GzhM

TOOLS.

We went to a demonstration of how to use a scythe. A beautiful tool purchased in England with a blade that was modelled on a 400 year old Austrian Blade. Apparently there is a local scythe maker in Nelson so we will be investigating.



FUTURECOLOGY
Smart solutions for land and water usage.

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WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

This cold snap is a bit of a shock but the rain is welcome. Hopefully it will mean we can get onto planting good and early this year. What an interesting couple of months in terms of weather. Cyclones, sea surges, flooding. We hope you have all survived okay.

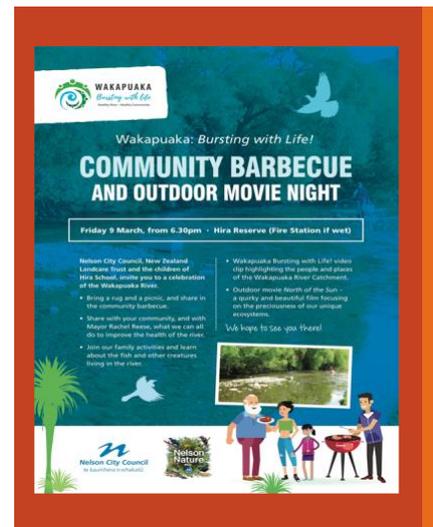
Over the last couple of months, we have been involved in a new project with NCC and Nelson Nature focused on the Wakapuaka River in North Nelson. The official launch of Wakapuaka - Bursting with Life occurred on the 9th March at Hira Reserve. NCC had commissioned a video about the river and this featured at the launch along with activities around water monitoring and fish, identifying hopes, dreams and issues around the river.



You can view the video via this link. Bursting with Life video project on Vimeo. <https://vimeo.com/259226187> password = bwl123

As mentioned, the evening also featured an Outdoor Movie, "North of the Sun" The two young adventurers also spent the winter picking up rubbish off the beach and it was quite horrifying just how much rubbish and plastic washed up on the beach. A lovely and inspiring film of a really good adventure.

NZ Landcare Trust have partnered with Nelson City Council to develop community based solutions to improving water quality in the Wakapuaka and other catchments in the Top of the South. A workshop was held in Hira on the 24th March which was well received by the local community. Annette Litherland is the key contact person for the Top of the South. Phone 027 724 4445.



General Observations from Jan.

We have been lucky to be working on a wide range of projects for many different customers. However, after having read the comment below in a book I was recently reading, I have been left contemplating whether in some instances, while efforts are made to protect some of our threatened habitats, an over zealousness particularly around expectations may indeed have the opposite effect. It is worth thinking “are we the handle or the axe” and what impact are we having especially where it is vitally important to take the landowner with us in order to make greater ecological gains. Is it possible that we are getting lost in expensive processes rather than looking at the bigger picture of what we are really trying to achieve?

“You know what the trees said when the axe came to the forest.

No, what asks Orhan

The handle is one of us, she says.”

From Orhan’s Inheritance by Aline Ohanesin.

WAR ON WEEDS AND WASPS.

Convolvulus species. Having made a major impact on old man’s beard and Japanese honeysuckle in one of our large projects, we were then faced with the daunting prospect of an invasion of convolvulus or bindweed as it is aptly named, in the cleared areas. It seemed to thrive even more once its competitors had been removed.

Timing of control is absolutely crucial to managing convolvulus invasion. It has an extensive underground root structure and manual control through hand pulling, while desirable, is difficult, as like tradescantia, it will grow again from any small piece that is left.

If using chemical control, you must tackle the plant while it has the most leaf area available to take up the chemical. This is most likely around early to mid-February in the Top of the South area. We have had excellent control achieved through spraying Glyphosate at standard label rates using a knapsack sprayer. A key to success however is to return to the site about 1 month later to get any stragglers and with a follow up in the next growing year being critical.



We have also had an intensive wasp control programme underway with many nests dealt with using “Dust to Dust” if we are able to identify the nest and VespeX for a general baiting programme. Robert had the unfortunate experience of stepping on a nest while we were dealing with an old man’s beard infestation. Traffic passing by must have wondered at the sudden eruption of two people in high-viz vests bursting out of the undergrowth and tearing up the road verge as fast as they could. That nest was dealt with very severely the next day.

ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY PLANT GUARDS UPDATE. EMGUARDS



The first 5000 of these EmGuards or Environment friendly Bio-degradable plant guards that we have developed have been distributed and there has been a lot of keen interest in them. The trial of these in areas in the Maitai Valley and the Wakapuaka River have shown that they are withstanding the variety of different pressures that are being thrown at them. There have been two significant flood events and the guards have stood up to these without problem, providing the stakes have been well secured into the ground. There has been good growth in the plants that have been in these guards since December 2017.

We are in the process of having the next lot of guards manufactured so if you wish to order any for this year's planting, please let us know as soon as possible.

The price is \$1.60 plus GST per guard. They are packaged in multiples of 25 guards and we are able to supply bamboo stakes if required at 25 cents plus GST along with the guards.



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