

Regulatory Committee - 12 September 2018 Attachments

7.0. Presentations.....	2
7.0.1. YEPT Science Advisor report to ORC & OM Aug 2018.....	2
8.1. Minutes.....	5
8.1.1. Minutes of Regulatory Committee - 1 August 2018.....	5
11.1. Director's Report on Progress.....	9
11.1.1. CO Wilding Conifer Report Final 2018.....	9
11.1.2. WCG Annual Report 2017 18.....	12

August 2018

Quarterly report to Otago Regional Council and Otago Museum

Trudi Webster, Conservation Science Advisor, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

Key activities:

1. Research particularly around marine and terrestrial impacts on hoiho.
2. Monitoring and delivery of optimal species management.
3. Informing relevant policy and submissions.
4. Scientific representation in different forums.
5. Specific Otago Museum related tasks.
6. Other relevant science activities.
7. Public and media relations.
8. Building relationships with key stakeholders and visiting key sites.

1. Research

- Extensive use of the literature review (“The Pathway ahead for hoiho Te ara whakamua”) detailing terrestrial and marine threats to further research objectives and recommendations.
- Continued research into mosquito monitoring (larvae and adults); and control and prevention options (including disruption of habitat, exclusion/deterrence, or direct targeting). Site visits to Otapahi and Okia Reserves to examine habitat and sample pools for mosquito larvae.
- Further research planned using the multibeam echosounder (MBES) to map benthic habitat off Otago Peninsula within the foraging range of hoiho in collaboration with University of Otago’s School of Surveying and Marine Science.
- A long-term collaboration with Otago Polytechnic continues and progress has been made on development of a station for the remote monitoring and weighing of hoiho. This project has been selected as a finalist for the NZ Design Institute Best Awards.
- A summary of set net mitigation options and their likely effectiveness for hoiho has been produced, based on a full report on mitigation options for Southern Seabird Solutions.
- Craig MacDonnell (Surveying Dept, University of Otago) has completed analysis of drone surveys of Okia Reserve. Modelling has been carried out to look at future sensitivity of the reserve to various sea level change projections.
- Contribute to Penguin Research Group meetings at the Zoology Department, University of Otago led by Prof. Phil Seddon and Assoc. Prof. Yolanda van Heezik.
- Liaison with students and facilitation of aspects of their various research projects:
 - Emily Tidey (Surveying, Otago) – benthic habitat.
 - Kathryn Johnson (Massey) – barracouta injuries in hoiho.
 - Ian McDowall (Product Design, Otago Polytechnic) – remote monitoring system.
 - Hannah Mello (Marine Science, Otago) – bryozoans.
 - Craig MacDonnell (Surveying, Otago) – drone imaging.
 - Mel Young (Zoology, Otago) – diet and foraging.
- Collaboration with Dr Mark Payne, Technical University in Denmark and analysis of remote sensing data (particularly sea surface temperature) continues.



2. Monitoring and optimal species management

- A document highlighting critical disease issues and emphasizing management options was refined based on feedback from stakeholders, and was used as the basis of a technical meeting.
- Continued revision of the management response (alongside DOC) for diphtheritic stomatitis ahead of next season. A protocol for dealing with diphtheria details experience and training, monitoring, assessment, treatment and data collection. Two different treatment options are recommended - antibiotics and/or lesion removal depending on operational capability.
- Development of an action plan for malaria to prepare for future events (particularly given the likelihood of increased events due to climate change). A new plan comprises four main parts: environment and vector monitoring, mosquito prevention, monitoring / screening of birds, and treatment (prophylactic and infection).
- Development of an unexplained mortality response plan which is split into different levels of response based on the severity of the event. Level 1 is a small-scale event involving few birds, level 2 is a medium-scale event where necropsy results have been confirmed, and level 3 is a large scale event involving multiple birds in a defined area. The plan includes coordinated habitat searches, communication, defined roles and responsibilities, media response, data collection, testing of birds and the environment, and follow-up analysis / debrief.
- Preparation for the upcoming field season includes planning for monitoring and conservation management work at different locations (Otago, Catlins and Rakiura) and funding applications.
- Ongoing advice on monitoring and species management and support to various organisations.

3. Policy, permits and submissions

- Attendance at a joint strategic direction workshop for the Hoiho Governance Group and Hoiho Technical Group to discuss vision and objectives.
- Work with DOC, MPI and TRoNT to prioritise immediate conservation management and research recommendations to be achieved this season (Interim Action Plan for 2018/19) and develop a longer term Hoiho Threat Management and Recovery Plan mandated under the Fisheries and Conservation Acts.
- Attendance at a DOC Conservation Services Programme workshop to discuss the indirect effects of fishing on hoiho including benthic degradation and competition effects.
- Continued liaison with fishing industry representatives and liaison officers, Fisheries NZ and local fishermen. A group has been established (“collective wisdom”) to understand risks to hoiho and discuss options for mitigating risk from set-net fisheries.
- Feedback provided on this year’s CSP annual plan which includes a project on hoiho population and tracking, observing commercial fisheries and identification of seabirds.

4. Scientific representation in different forums

- Member of the Hoiho Technical Group tasked with developing a recovery plan for hoiho. Membership of the group spans four organisations: MPI, DOC, TRoNT & YEPT.
- Representation of the Trust at the Conservation Services Programme technical working group.
- Attendance at the NZ Federation of Commercial Fishermen conference and presentation on “YEPT and working with industry”.
- Attendance at the Birds NZ conference and presentation on “Characterisation of benthic foraging habitat for hoiho”. Joint authorship with Emily Tidey (Surveying, University of Otago).
- Revised Oamaru Penguin symposium abstract for inclusion in the NZ Journal of Zoology.



- Presentation on hoiho lifecycle, distribution, abundance and threats at the fisheries liaison group meeting.
- Presentation at the YEP symposium “Disease in hoiho and preparation for future events”
- Scientific input at various conservation management forums (e.g. DOC, YEPT Conservation management committee).
- Collaboration with researchers (University of Otago, Massey University, Otago Polytechnic).
- Continued liaison with vets at Massey, DOC, Dunedin Wildlife Hospital and rehab groups.
- Membership of the Australasian Seabird Group, Ornithological Society of New Zealand and World Seabird Union.

5. Specific Otago Museum related tasks

- Identification guide created for the common penguin species in New Zealand.
- Information provided for the OM annual report.
- Hoiho advocacy mount used by the Trust sent for conservation treatment.
- Historical data and papers on hoiho donated by John Darby with permission for future use.

6. Other science related activities

- Simultaneous Otago Canyon bird surveys and habitat / prey mapping using NIWAs fish stock assessment echosounder and the University of Otago’s multibeam echosounder.
- Analysis has been completed by Matt Desmond (University of Otago/TRoNT) which examines benthic habitat off YEPTs Tavora reserve using the multibeam echosounder.
- Presentation at NZ Marine Sciences Society: Rayment, Lallas, Loh, Parker, Rexer-Huber & Webster. Seasonal variation in diversity & distribution of seabirds over the Otago canyons

7. Public and media relations

- Contributions to social media posts.
- Interview with the ODT about southern right whales around Otago.

8. Stakeholders and site visits

- Building and establishing relationships with the YEP community and wider conservation and science communities. New stakeholder contacts:
 - Southern Monitoring Services Ltd
 - Mosquito Consulting Services Ltd
 - Department of Conservation
 - Fisheries New Zealand (Ministry for Primary Industries)
 - Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
 - Fisheries Inshore New Zealand
 - Fishermen
- Continued site visits to YEPT reserves, and other relevant locations. New locations include:
 - Wildbase, Massey University



Minutes of a meeting of the
Regulatory Committee
held in the ORC Council Chambers at Philip Laing House,
on Wednesday 1 August 2018, commencing at 3:45 pm

Membership

Cr Bryan Scott	<i>(Chairperson)</i>
Cr Sam Neill	<i>(Deputy Chairperson)</i>
Cr Graeme Bell	
Cr Doug Brown	
Cr Michael Deaker	
Cr Carmen Hope	
Cr Trevor Kempton	
Cr Michael Laws	
Cr Ella Lawton	
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	
Cr Stephen Woodhead	

1. APOLOGIES

The apology for Cr Robertson was noted.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

No Leave of Absence was advised.

3. ATTENDANCE

Sarah Gardner	<i>(Chief Executive)</i>
Nick Donnelly	<i>(Director Corporate Services)</i>
Tanya Winter	<i>(Director Policy, Planning & Resource Management)</i>
Michele Poole	<i>(Acting Director Stakeholder Engagement)</i>
Gavin Palmer	<i>(Director Engineering, Hazards & Science)</i>
Scott MacLean	<i>(Director Environmental Monitoring & Operations)</i>
Sally Giddens	<i>(Director People & Safety)</i>
Ian McCabe	<i>(Executive Officer)</i>
Lauren McDonald	<i>(Committee Secretary)</i>

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as tabled.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was held.

7. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were held.

8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2018 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Cr Scott
Seconded: Cr Noone
CARRIED

9. ACTIONS

Wallaby Control discussions with Environment Canterbury

Chair and CE to progress the opportunity at the meeting with Environment Canterbury scheduled for 19 September 2018.

**10. MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION
Nil**

11. MATTERS FOR NOTING

11.1. Director's Report on Progress

The report described the regulatory activity and processes for the reporting period 19 May to 6 July 2018.

A request was made for feedback on the wallaby incursion control discussions with Environmental Canterbury (to be held on 19 September) to be reported back to the October committee round.

Resolution

That this report is received and noted.

Moved: Cr Neill
Seconded: Cr Hope
CARRIED

11.2. Enforcement Activities from 19 May 2018 to 6 July 2018

The report detailed Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council during the period 19 May 2018 to 30 June 2018.

Infringements and Enforcement

A request was made for enforcement decision information to be provided in a report back to Council (to explain the detail and the reporting outline of the report).

Cr Lawton left the room at 4:19 pm and returned at 4:22 pm.

Cr Noone left room at 4:23 pm and returned at 4:27 pm.

Discussion was held on resourcing and regime for dairy farm inspections, including high risk catchments.

Resolution

That this report be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Scott
Seconded: Cr Woodhead
CARRIED

11.3. Consents and Building Control

The report detailed consents and building control and deemed permit replacement progress for the period 19 May to 6 July 2018.

Resolution

That this report is noted.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Noone
CARRIED

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

No Notices of Motion were advised.

13. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Resolution

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely: Enforcement – Current Matters

Also move that Mr Scott MacLean be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of his knowledge of infringements and enforcement in process. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed.

Moved: Cr Woodhead
Seconded: Cr Scott
CARRIED

The meeting resumed in public session on the motion of Crs Woodhead and Scott.

14. CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 04:35 pm.

Chairperson



Final Report to the Executive to 30 June 2018

My last report to the executive was to 31 May so this report includes some minor additional spend that occurred in June to show the final financial spend for the 2017/18 year ending 30 June.

The spend for 2017/18:

Beaumont	\$ 14,293	
Castle Dent	\$ 26,292	
Glendhu	\$ 63,501	
Waipori	\$ 1,913	
Deep Stream	\$ -	
Loganburn/Rock & Pillar	\$ 50,601	
Poolburn/Manorburn/Onslow	\$ 6,642	
Upper Manorburn	\$ 13,179	
Matangi/Little Valley	\$ 178,214	
Project Management	\$ 45,365	
MPI Lammermoor MU		\$400,000
Danseys	\$ 0	
Fraser	\$ 7,448	
Strode Road	\$ 26,173	
Blackmans/Conroys	\$ 15,556	
Roxburgh Gorge true right	\$ 0	
Flat Top Hill	\$ 10,304	
Upper Manuherikia/St Bathans	\$ 7,613	
Naseby	\$ 30,035	
Pigroot	\$ 27,750	
Project Management	\$ 20,861	
Locally funded projects		\$ 145,740
Total Spend to date		\$ 545,740

Funding to 30 June has come from the following sources:

MPI (National funding)	\$240,000
Central Lakes Trust	\$ 83,686
Otago Regional Council	\$ 87,000
DOC CCP Fund	\$ 29,054
LINZ	\$ 6,000
CODC	\$ 20,000
Land owners	\$ 80,000
Total	<u>\$545,740</u>

The total area treated is as follows:

Boom Spraying	36 ha
Ground control	12,254 ha
Aerial lancing or skid hopping	<u>36,506 ha</u>
Total area treated	<u>48,796 ha</u>

Review of the 2017/18 year:

What went well;

The inclusion of Matangi and Riverside (Doctors Point) in the National Programme (Lammermoor) allowed us to tackle one of the significant areas of spread within Central Otago district. Because we only had one national MU to deal with we were able to refocus on some local areas outside the national programme such as Earnsclough. We reduced the frontier of spread significantly.

The management system with DOC and the on ground working relationship with Otago Regional Council is working well. The community based system where trusts such as ours front the programme implementation has some important strengths that are being recognised and supported at a national level.

Engagement at a national level has been good having been given the opportunity to input into the business case for further funding of a national wilding control programme. I am on the executive of the NZ Wilding Control Group as one of two trust representatives.

Public awareness of the threat of wilding conifers has grown and some landowners who have previously resisted have come on board.

What didn't go well:

There are still a small number of landowners who are not prepared to participate in a programme of wilding control. Some of these have a significant area of wildings that are a seed source for adjoining land.

Pinus contorta shelter belts are a recently recognised seed source, particularly in the Maniototo. Despite this specie being recognised as a Pest Plant in the RPMS since 2001 we have not managed to make any progress in getting landowners to commence a programme of removal and replacement.

Several commercial forests in Otago region are infested with Pinus contorta which are spreading to adjoining properties. The effort being applied to eradicate this specie in these forests is patchy at best.

Engagement of the group (COWCCG) with the programme has been poor. This has largely been due to circumstances outside its control such as the Chairman being unavailable for meetings and a change of staff at the CODC and loss of treasurer.

Engagement with the higher levels of ORC and CODC has not happened due to the unavailability of the chairman.

Priorities for 2018/19:

1. Meet with ORC CEO and Chair to establish position going forward for managing wilding conifer control in the region and confirm funding.
2. Meet with CODC CEO and chair to confirm position going forward for managing wilding conifer control in the district and confirm funding.
3. Continue to liaise with MPI, LINZ and DOC over national programme.
4. Develop strategy for addressing the remaining threats:
 - Properties that have significant wildings that are not being addressed
 - Spread from commercial forests and shelter belts
 - Amenity plantings around townships that cause spread
 - Monitoring and maintenance of previous work
 - Maintaining public awareness of the threat of wildings

Phil Murray
Project Manager
Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group Inc.



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

WAKATIPU WILDING CONIFER CONTROL GROUP INCORPORATED

CHAIRS REPORT * FINANCIAL STATEMENTS * MANAGER REPORT



OUR MISSION

“To obtain and coordinate funding to control and contain wilding spread within the Wakatipu district, with the aim to promote and protect values including but not limited to biodiversity, landscape, recreation, and historic features . The society’s vision is to advance education and raise awareness by promoting its achievements which will increase community support for a control programme.”

The purposes of the WCG:

- (a) To source funding to control and contain the spread of wilding conifers within the Wakatipu district.

Left unmanaged, the various conifer species will completely dominate existing beech forests and tussock land, replacing the natives with a dense impenetrable forest of pine trees. This takes away the opportunities that the community currently enjoy with our indigenous flora and fauna and the open high country tussock scenery.

The Society's vision is to advance education and raise awareness by promoting its achievements, which will increase community support for a control programme.

Any income, benefit, or advantage must be used to advance the charitable purposes of the organisation.

- (b) Implement/recommend updates to the Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Strategy (2008-2012) which was prepared to:

Meet the local communities desire to see wilding conifers controlled

Clarify the wilding control responsibilities of the QLDC, other land administrating agencies, land owners/managers and the general public.

Determine a strategically scheduled and cost-effective control program.

Promote awareness and education relative to wilding issues, and to improve support for a wilding control program.

- (c) Do anything necessary or helpful to the above purposes.

Pecuniary gain is not a purpose of the Society.



Chairs Report 2017

This year has seen a significant amount of progress on a number of fronts, which gives your executive a great deal of satisfaction.

Continuing growing awareness of the threat that is posed by these weeds has led to the community accepting the early harvest and removal of significant seed sources in the district.

Government funding through MPI has seen an enormous amount of work being put in train on the three management blocks that fall into our area.

Continuously raising the issue to those who influence the further funding is as vital as the cutting of the trees themselves, as without further resource and funding what has been invested is quickly lost.



Volunteers

Across the district from Arrowtown to Queenstown and beyond many dedicated volunteers are tackling the issue.

Spreading the word with education and patience to inform and raise awareness.

Large areas of the Ben Lomond track have been cleared and maintained in that condition due to the Adopt a plot program.

Arrowtown faces and beyond have a large dedicated group of locals, ably led, who regularly work on preserving the autumn colours.

A long term strategy is in place, so that the end goal is in site and worked towards in a efficient planned and coordinated way.

All this is being achieved by the Arrowtown community independent of but with the support of the WCG

We are expanding adopt a plot with volunteer days now working on Queenstown Hill.

Well done to all involved and particularly those who regularly lead, organise and participate in all of the above and the many other tasks that make this group the success that it is.

It takes time and effort.

Thank you

Funding

This is the perennial issue as bluntly it requires a large amount of money to fund the work that is being completed on behalf of the community.

As mentioned last year QLDC have now reached their current target of 500k per annum.

MPI / Government has contributed largely through the three management units which has been a huge boost.

ORC are also now on board and have made a start.

Others have made important contributions and we thank them all on behalf of the district.

Going forward it is our belief that the Government has to step up to the plate on a National level or we won't win.

Funding from the Government / ratepayer, tax payer is the only sustainable long term solution in our minds. This has to be across the country at a nationally lead level.

This will dove tail with local support and ownership. So to that end after a forum that addressed the funding issue as the sole subject we have elected to appoint a manager to drive this forward to allow the expansion of the work we are engaged in.

This will be implemented shortly.

Communications

We continue to develop and expand on this front.

But there is still a lot to do.

Regular news letters are sent out and the web site is being updated.

It is the view of your executive that we will win or lose this battle long term on communicating and educating the wide community on the threat that this pest poses.

We undertook the usual round of submissions to the QLDC and ORC. In addition we have meet with the new Conservation Minister along with numerous other parties all to advance what we are undertaking.

It is pleasing to report that the Arrowtown forest is scheduled to start coming out this year. This is the only decision in our minds that will give a chance of control at an affordable level to all the country behind, which is regularly drenched in seed from this source. Because this is being removed and leadership shown the owners of the other forest block below the Coronet Road have agreed to its removal also. You can't miss the seeing the spread up Mt Dewar from this forest so its removal is a major step at control by removing a major seed source.

Without the removal of these forests the largest part of our hard fought funds would have been consumed going forward maintaining this area alone.

We have not been able to find a contractor who can control wildings for \$30 a hectare as suggested by some submitters. Frankly to state that is misleading and mischievous at best.

Thank you all for your support and for asking the tough questions to answer as if our answers aren't good enough then neither is our argument.

Signed Grant Hensman Chairman July 2018



2017-18 Officers of the WCG

Patrons	Sir Eion and Lady Jan Edgar
Chairman	Grant Hensman
Landowner Representative	Grant McMaster
Communications	Dick Hubbard
Technical advisor	Jamie Cowan
Volunteers co-ordinator	Peter Willsman/ Grant McLennan/Tom McPhail
Executive Committee:	Bryan Hutchins/Jon White/Graeme Watson
<i>Co-opted onto exec.</i>	
QLDC	Briana Pringle /Jess Thomson/Alison Howie
LINZ	Murray McKenzie/David Rhodes/Kevin Gallagher
DOC Operations	Geoff Owen/ Sarah Keeble/Alice Webster/ Catherine Boyes
ORC Contorta Manager	Richard Lord
QLDC Treasurer	Rajas Kumar

Financial Report

Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Inc Summary Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2018

	<u>Jun 30, 18</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	1,840,553.80
Accounts Receivable	40,250.00
Total Current Assets	<u>1,880,803.80</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,880,803.80</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	1,105,394.90
Other Current Liabilities	7,193.36
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,112,588.26</u>
Total Liabilities	1,112,588.26
Equity	<u>768,215.54</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,880,803.80</u>

Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Inc
Profit & Loss
July 2017 through June 2018

	Jul 17 - Jun 18
Income	
Contributions	
Bank Rebates	9.45
Grants	1,756,969.99
Landowners	205,000.00
Log Sales	6,165.25
Total Contributions	1,968,144.69
Interest IRD	84.30
Interest Received	19,231.84
Total Income	1,987,460.83
Expense	
EXPENSES	
Advertising / Media	1,239.88
Bank Fees	9.55
Boom Spraying	111,975.50
Charity Annual Return	44.44
Chemicals	266,827.05
DOC Mgt Fee	0.00
General Expenses	32.17
Ground Crews	597,054.78
Lance	895,982.20
Planting	2,025.09
Resource Consent	3,819.72
Signs	10,060.00
South Island Wilding Group	2,000.00
Tools	720.36
Traffic Management	2,697.50
Training	1,251.48
Transport Costs/Skid Hopping	48,935.10
Travel Expenses	893.30
Total EXPENSES	1,945,568.12
Total Expense	1,945,568.12
Net Income	41,892.71

Manager Report:

It has been an exciting year with a new DOC operational team on board consisting of Sarah Keeble, Catherine (Cat) Boyes and Alice Webster. The WCG program is challenging and the team have had a successful season getting familiar with the pesky wildings.

This season has seen the WCG implement our largest budget to date, no wilding job is the same and planning and problem solving are part of daily operations.

The DOC team are on the front line and initially spent many hours at the start of the season in a machine lancing, the best way to understanding of the threat of the different wilding species!

The new DOC crew have been vital in nurturing and creating new landowner relationships and we have had many exciting 'wins' or removals , as the program continues to grow so does the education and acceptance in the community.

The WCG would especially like to thank our hard working contractors, they are the link which solves this problem. We would like to thank the ground crew of Central Wilding Tree Control and the lancing pilot and crew of Aspiring Helicopters, they have spent many hours planning organising and killing and then I'm sure dreaming of wildings....



A lot of planning goes into our boom program and we covered a total of 383 ha this season, we would like to thank Alpine Helicopters for their early starts and execution of the program.

Approximately 8,000 trees have been removed from the Cecil Peak area this season. Cecil Peak could be a forest now if it wasn't for the efficient survey and clearance over the past 10 years.

There has been a large increase in the lancing area this season, which is targeting trees directly from the helicopter, this tool or method can cover vast areas quickly and we fly to a grid pattern and when possible we use the machine to drop our ground crews into hard to access areas.

The Remarkables block has had a major sweep removing many thousands of wilding trees, hours of lancing were carried out by Aspiring Helicopters along the front faces and in behind around Doolans Creek.

You may have noticed trees disappearing from the Crown Terrace faces, this will continue into this current season. The WCG have installed three information panels along the Crown Terrace to inform the public of the program and work carried out within the basin.

We have also seen a large increase in ground work this season, many large seeding trees have been removed from areas such as Whitechapel and the Arrowtown faces.

Roaring Meg saw a further boom operation to remove conning trees from the area, and we continue to attack the Mugo pine at the Muddy Creek site, advancing our containment/eradication lines each year.

This is our second season of Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) funding. The WCG was granted \$945,000 this season to remove wildings in the three management units (Remarkables, Northern Eyre Mountains and Kawarau).

The MPI funding was for a proportion of operational costs within the three Management units. MPI paid this money to ORC, who in turn paid it to DOC. The WCG did not receive this funding directly but have accounted for the MPI share within our annual accounts.

We would like to again acknowledge and say a big thank you to all our important volunteers, over 9,400 volunteer hours have been recorded which could equate to over \$261,000, and we know that there are a lot of volunteer hours happening around the district that are not recorded.



The Wakatipu Reforestation Trust and the WCG have been working together on an exciting research project. This project investigates the viability of sowing beech seed (and other pioneer native seeds) directly under areas of sprayed wilding conifers. The project is still in the initial stages and hopes to eventually replicate re-foresting areas on a large scale.

We are nearly at our 10 year anniversary and as I drive around the district although wilding conifers are very visible around town there are many large seed sources no longer standing, and if you hit the back country we can be proud that we have halted spread of wildings in many locations.

Briana Pringle WCG Manager



***WCG Spend 1 July 2017 to 30th June 2018:
\$1,945,568***

***Volunteer hours > 9,400 equates to \$ 282,000
(Calculated at \$30 an hour)***

***The WGC would like to say a big thanks to all
Volunteers and Landowners involved in our
program.***

