

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

WAITOHU STREAM and DUNE
CARE GROUP Inc.

Otaki, Kapiti Coast.





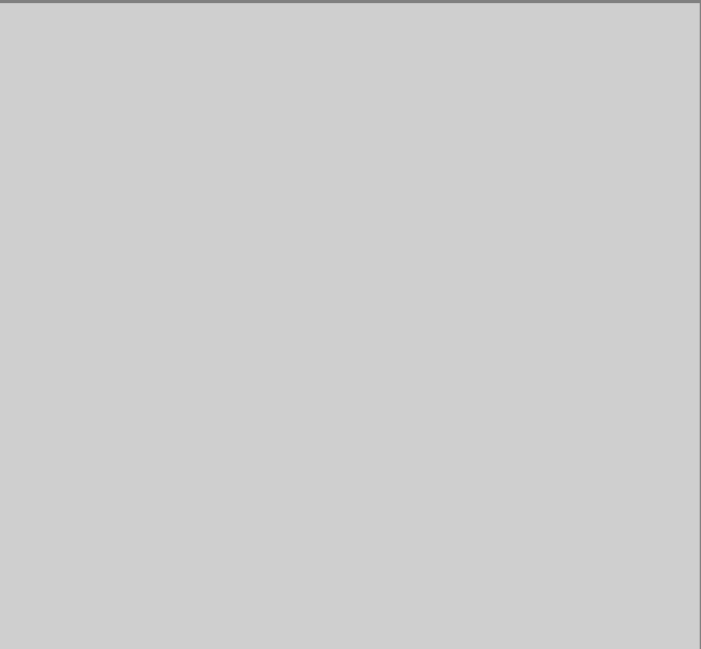
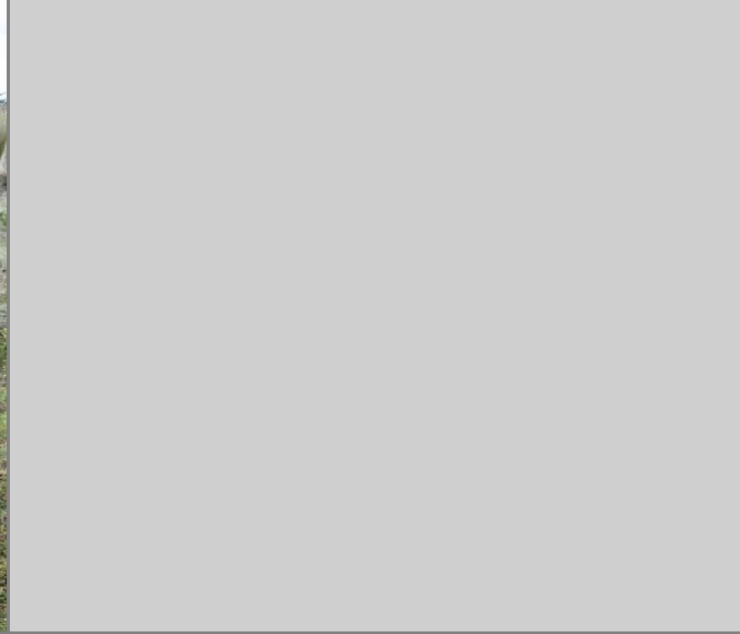


About 120° east of true north



11 February 2013 Photopoint 1 Photo 2 of 5 north to south.

About 140° east of true north



11 February 2013 Photopoint 1 Photo 3 of 5 north to south.

About 165° east of true north.









WELCOME TO THE WAITOHU STREAM & DUNE CARE RESTORATION AREA

This is part of the 'Waitohu Coast and Wetlands Key Native Ecosystem'

This is an area of rich biodiversity which is why it is a 'Key Native Ecosystem'. In an ecosystem all the parts connect and interact, each part necessary for the health and survival of the whole

We ask that you please respect the beach, estuary, dunes and the plants and wildlife living here.

This area is looked after by the *Waitohu Stream and Dune Care Group Inc.* with help from many in the community. The Group was formed in 1999 by local residents as a response to stream pollution and since then it has established a nursery for the growing of native plants from eco-sourced seeds. These plants have been used for both stream and dune planting. The Group also works to keep pest plants and animals under control.



Copper Butterfly

Wiwi

Spinifex

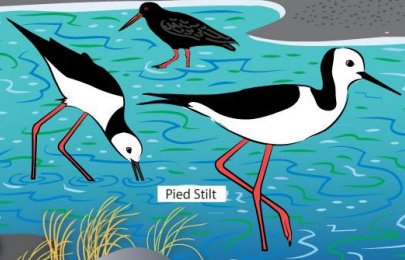
Pingao

Common Skink

Muehlenbeckia



Black backed gull



Pied Stilt



Oystercatcher

DUNE ECOLOGY

Dunes are nature's last line of defence against the sea. They restrict wave intrusion and protect houses from the salt spray and sand. They act as a reservoir for re-supplying sand to the beach during storms. Sand dune systems are naturally dynamic and sand moves constantly between the sea, the beach and the dunes. This process is hardly noticeable most of the time but can be dramatic during storms.

The two most important plants in the Waitohu dunes are spinifex and pingao. Wind-blown sand is trapped amongst the leaves and supplies nutrients to the plants. The plants' stems continue to sprout new shoots as the dune shifts and grows around them. Other important plants are wiwi, muehlenbeckia, sand pimelea and oiwi.

Sand dunes are also home to many specialised animals such as skinks and invertebrates including sandhoppers, scarabs, moths, butterflies and the katipo spider.

WETLAND ECOLOGY

The banks or riparian margins of the stream are important for the health of the stream itself. Overhanging plants shade the water and their roots help prevent bank erosion and excess silt washing into the stream. Plants also filter out chemical residues before they can enter the stream. Leaves and branches fall into the water and provide food for aquatic animals which in turn become food for birds such as kingfishers and shags. Stream life includes long and short finned eels, whitebait species, flounder and trout.

BIRDS OF THE ESTUARY AND DUNES

These comprise a diverse range of coastal, wetland and inland species. Birds you might see include banded dotterels, pied stilts, oystercatchers, black backed gulls and spoonbills.

If you would like more information regarding the Waitohu Stream and Dune Restoration Project please contact: wscg1@gmail.com



You are here

Eel

Whitebait

Dotterel eggs

