

January 2010

TONGARIRO TIMES

IN PREPARATION FOR THE FIFTH ANNUAL LAND ROVER TUSSOCK TRAVERSE:



Beth, Kevin, Gerdy and Linda prepare the tussocks for the event bags.



This is going to be big this year. With 4 days to go till the event we have over 300 entries compared to 205 on the day last year.

These people are going to run or walk 27kms from Tukino Rd, following the Round the Mountain track to Waihohonu and over the Waihohonu saddle to Whakapapa. All for a tussock and a sausage at the finish!

40 of you are volunteering and all we need is some settled weather. Note we were doing the tussock preparation in the DOC garages because of bad weather!!

RETRIEVAL OF MISTLETOE BANDS:

On the weekend of the 9th and 10th of January, four TNHS volunteers, Annette, Yvonne, Kristi and Erin went up to the Mangaehuehu hut on the southern slopes of Mt Ruapehu. Our task was to take off the metal bands wrapped around trees supporting the endangered parasitic plant, mistletoe. The purpose of these bands was to prevent predators, such as possums, from climbing up and eating the mistletoe. However since the bands were put up baiting has begun in the area. Due to this pest control it was deemed safe enough to take the bands off, which are thought could actually be doing some harm to the tree and in turn the mistletoe.

After a three hour tramp, many spectacular views of Mt Ruapehu and three swing bridge crossings, our team reached the hut by mid-day on the 9th. Here we dumped most of our gear and had lunch before walking about an hour further up the track to find the furthest metal band. We discovered that the easiest way to carry the sheets of metal back with us was to roll them up then jump on them, as flattening the rolls prevented them from unraveling. The flattened rolls could also be easily tied to the back of our packs.

On this first day we retrieved 13 metal bands and one length of wire netting. This netting was wrapped around a low shrubby tree up in an open alpine section, where the metal bands are unable to be used effectively. The netting took a lot longer than the bands to get off because the tree had grown branches out through it. But after a fair number of holes cut in the netting, a few nails

pulled out and two pieces of n^o. 8 wire unthreaded we had it off.

On the next day we met up with Roy and Peter, who had come up in the morning to help us on the way back. There were probably twice as many bands to take off than the previous day, but we lost count of the actual number. We also met up with Sarah and Lucy who had brought a small group up part of the way to give a talk about some of the plants along the track as part of the DOC summer program.

Overall the retrieval of the mistletoe bands turned out to be a very successful and fun trip.

Peter removes a band on the Waitonga Falls Track.



Thanks to the team of Annette, Yvonne, Erin, Kristie, Roy and Peter.

FIELD TRIP AT OHAKUNE FEB 26-28TH

WALK A HISTORIC ROUTE TO TUROA (alternate walk that day along Ohakune Old Coach Rd if bad weather or just something people would like to do)

Saturday 27th will be the day of walking.

Explore some of the old routes that were used in the early days to access the ski fields and Ruapehu summits prior to the opening of the Turoa road in 1963.

The walk will start on the Turoa mountain road (Blyth Hut track car park at 11km mark). We will have morning tea at the Historic Mangaiti Hut. There will be several stream crossings and some off-track walking using rough routes only and in some places no route at all. We will eventually meet up with the Horopito track as it approaches the east end of Mangaturuturu valley. Total walking time approx 5 1/2 hours. Grade 5.

Now there is a catch – The Ohakune Mountain Rd may be closed from the bridge, requiring an extra 2km walk up the road and back. There will be a question mark hanging over this right up until the weekend. (It is due to open again on the 29th)

The trip will be led by Terry Burrell who is a member of TNHS and Tongariro Tramping Club (TTC).

Transport: Meet at the Ohakune DOC field centre and carpool to Turoa Mountain Road.

Accommodation: If we get a few people committing to the weekend, we will book Serac Ski Lodge for the weekend.

PLEASE NOTE: TO REGISTER, call Shirley Potter on 04 5643407 or 021 2122777.

There will not be a registration form coming out. This newsletter is your reminder to call Shirley.