



Media Release

Friday 5 September 2014

Bush Restoration Area to be officially opened

Selwyn residents are invited to the official opening of the Tai Tapu bush restoration area and a new footbridge at Rhodes Park in Tai Tapu.

The bush restoration project involved over 5,000 native seedlings being planted in 2012 by volunteers at Rhodes Park.

The land has similar characteristics to Riccarton Bush, one of the most significant native forest remnants in Canterbury. Native seedlings from Riccarton Bush and other local native bush areas were used for the planting.

A wide range of organisations and volunteers from Tai Tapu and Canterbury have been involved in the project, helping to fund, plant and maintain the bush area. The Rhodes Park Reserve Board Committee and Stephen Brailsford have overseen the project. Mr Brailsford has provided ecological advice on the planting. A board walk runs through the planted areas and has been funded by Selwyn District Council and the Rhodes Park Reserve Board Committee.

Tai Tapu School Enviroschools students now use the site as an outdoor class room, and have helped replace dead plants and survey bird life.

The new bridge is designed for pedestrians and cyclists and connects the bush restoration area to the Old Tai Tapu Road. It replaces a narrow older bridge which needed significant maintenance work.

The bridge has been funded by the Council and has been named after Hugh MacLeod who has been a member of the Tai Tapu Community Association for over 25 years, serving first as President and then as Secretary.

The bush restoration area and bridge will be officially opened on Sunday 28 September. Local residents are invited to come along to the opening at 10am and to meet afterwards at 11am at the Rugby Clubrooms at Rhodes Park for a sausage sizzle and light refreshments.

Organisations involved in the bush restoration and maintenance are: Rhodes Park Reserve Committee, Selwyn District Council, Waihora Ellesmere Trust, Tai Tapu School, Tai Tapu Preschool, Te Ara Kākāiriki, Ngai Tahu and Environment Canterbury through Whakaora Te Waihora, the Student Volunteer Army, Brailsford Ltd, Southern Woods Nursery, Rolleston Prison BioCrew.

Ends

Photos attached:

- (1) The Tai Tapu Bush restoration area planted by volunteers and board walk*
- (2) Tai Tapu resident Hugh MacLeod at the new walking and cycling bridge which has been named in his honour.*

For media enquiries please contact:

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