



July 1990. Dunedin Kiwi Conservation Club party of 24 doing the first tree planting on the area east of the Leith Valley Road. This is the main planting area today. The site is more exposed than the other sites on the property. As a consequence the growth rates are generally slower.



February 1991. A Kiwi Conservation Club campout in one of the clearings that is kept beside the Water of the Leith. If it wasn't for some motorway noise, Dunedin could be a million kilometres away!

1991

9-10 Feb '91 Dunedin Kiwi Conservation Club overnight campout with KDM. and 22 others. Tramps and exotic removal. 10 Feb saw 60 adults and children assemble at Moores Bush prior to exploring Leith Saddle and Burns Creek. Tony Harris, entomologist, showed the kids an amazing world of insect life.

PLUS 10 more visits including:-

- 19 Feb '91 Checked for Leith Stream flood damage.
- 15 June '91 First light-well plantings of rimu, matai and miro put in under the canopy of the big trees.
- 21 Sept.'91 Forest & Bird inspection and demonstration of electric fishing by the Otago Fish and Game Council.

1992

- 4-5 April '92 Second KCC campout (8 people), tree planting and exotic removal. (KDM).
April 5. Exploring side streams.(13 people)
- 26 May '92 Department of Conservation appointed the F&B the right to control and manage the adjoining part of Leith Valley Scenic Reserve.
- 6 June '92 Met on site with Kerry Harford (surveyor) and flagged the eastern boundary to enable fencing.
- 24 June '92 Used a scrub cutter to clear the eastern boundary for the fencing contractor.

Six other visits during the year.

1993

- 15 May '93 Six turned up for Forest & Bird tree planting. Many tree still to be planted.
- 11 June '93 Sorted out the eastern fenceline with the fencer.
- 30 June '93 Checked final fence prior to settling bill.

Six further visits for planting, releasing and exotic removal.

1994

- 3 Nov. '94 Checked out replacement of western fence with neighbour Jack Thomson. Arranged supply of materials. Jack to clear and fence. Jack to also repair fence along scenic reserve and the troublesome north boundary.

Seven further trips to inspect, plant and release.



February 1997

Dunedin Teen Green members Peter Ryan (14) (left) and Euan McNaughton (14) refilling bait station No.4 with Talon possum baits. The 'Philproof' bait stations are set 20cm off the ground with a stick giving rats free access. The 6ha of Moores Bush and the adjoining Scenic Reserve are serviced by 14 bait stations. In the mere 6 months since poisoning began in December 1996 there has been a marked improvement in forest floor regrowth. Seven photo points have been established to monitor results. Bird numbers appear to be recovering.

Antony Harris of the Otago Museum publishes in Fauna of New Zealand descriptions of new wasps collected at Moores Bush.

1995 TOTAL ANIMAL CONTROL PROJECT.

Ken Mason proposes the creating of a 'mainland island' at Moores Bush. On going possum and rat damage is evident and many native bird species seen frequently 20 years ago are absent or rare. The area is suitable for the new baiting technology now available. The project would could become a reference point for the Dunedin area in the future. The Dunedin Forest & Bird agree.

31 July 1995 Dunedin Forest and Bird write to the DoC Dunedin Field Centre Manager. regarding a possum, rat and predator control programme at Moores Bush and the adjoining F&B administered Scenic Reserve.

"Members of our Society and the Otago University Greens will provide the labour. Our vice chairman and honorary property manager, Mr Ken Mason, will oversee the whole project."

3 Aug '95 DoC replys favorably and expresses an interest in our results. The appropriate 'poisoning' application forms are supplied.

16 Jan 1996 Ken M does site inspection with DoC Field Centre Manager, Chris Stewart. This inspection had been held up because of considerable canopy and track damage caused by the big snow falls of the 1995 winter.

30 Jan 1996 DoC writes to Dunedin F & B giving KDM permission to extend track from Moores Bush and into the Leith Valley Scenic Reserve which the Society already daily administers on behalf of DoC.

23 April '96 KDM plants 6 trees and starts re-clearing tracks.

26 April '96 DoC gives written permission to KDM to poison possums on Scenic Reserve adjoining Moores Bush.

4 May 1996 Ken with Kimberley Parlane, Paul Gasson and five others Otago University Greens, start cutting the new animal control track into the Scenic Reserve.

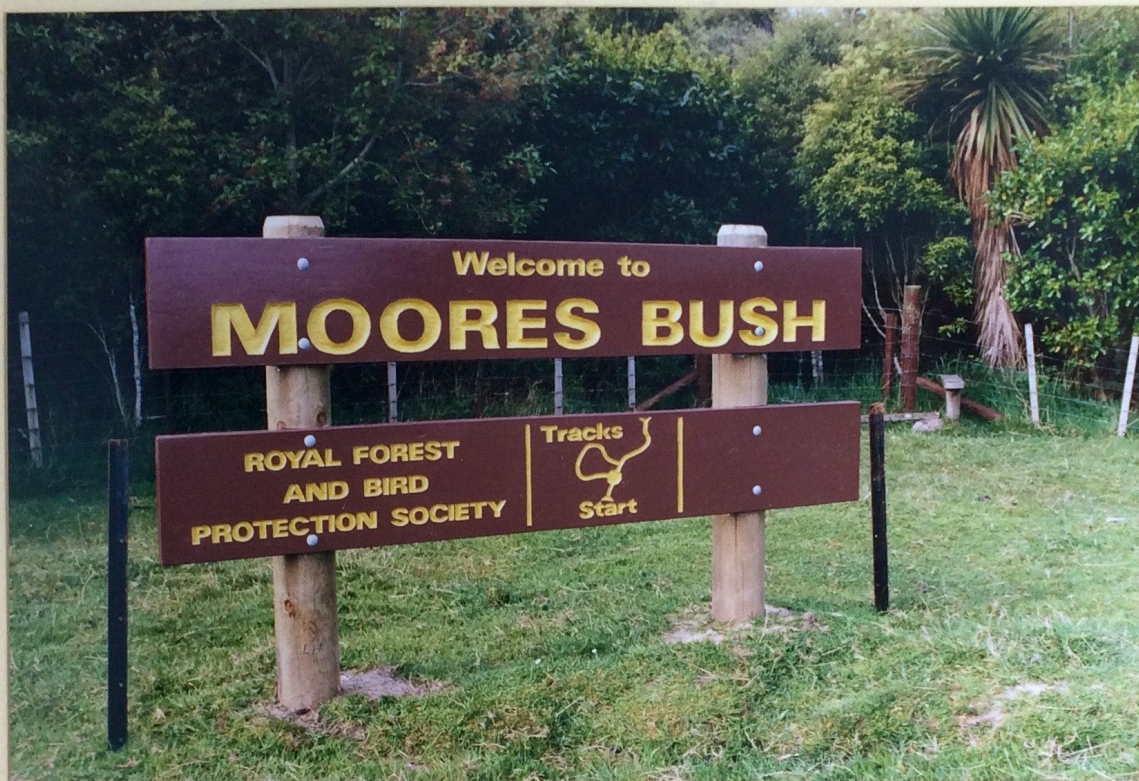
12 July '96 KDM inspects Moores Bush for snow and storm damage. It has been a bad winter and more was to come.

24 Sept '96 Ken M extended the track with helper Michael Bowden.

28 Sept '96 Ken salvaged ferns from track for another local project and put up new track markers.

5 Oct '96 Paul Gasson, Kimberley Parlane and KDM cutting new track.

2 & 3 Dec '96 KDM released plantings, exotic removal, fence repairs and putting in first bait stations. The track is incomplete but just usable. Neighbours notified the poisoning about to begin,



November 1991 The entrance sign hand carved and painted by Ken M. By keeping a low profile with the property most vandalism problems that occur so close to a main centre. This sign, which is not immediately visible from the road, welcomes those interested people who seek out the property.



May 1997 A group from the new Dunedin Teen Greens after planting a grove of local rimu, matai, miro and totara in one of the clearings. From left: Carina Petrie (16), Kirstin Flocton (17), Holly Wernstein(14), Michelle Thomson(14), Alisha Mladenov (14) and Claire McCafferty (17).

- 6 Dec 1996 Michael Bowden, Paul Gasson and KDM put in the remaining bait stations and load them with Talon Possum Baits. Access sticks to the 13 bait stations are put in for rats and warning signs are put up at entrance points. A double Fenn tunnel trap is set for stoats even though initial secondary poisoning should clear out most predators.
- 9 Dec '96 Ken M set up 9 photo points for monitoring bush recovery. Photos are taken.
- 7 Jan 1997 Ken refills the 13 bait stations. Much sign of rat feeding.
- 3 & 22 Feb., 23 March & 12 April Bait stations reloaded. Smell of dead animals in bush. First juvenile tomtit in years seen. Dead hedgehog found.
- 1 April '97 Deliver trees for planting near east boundary by Kiwi Conservation Club..
- 12 April '97 KCC party of 19.(KDM) Tree planting, filling bait stations and track forming/cutting. Several dead possums found.
- 29 April '97 Delivered my home grown podocarps for Dunedin Teen Greens to plant.
- 12 May'97 Bait stations reloaded. Poison take slowing down. Found a dead mouse in one station. Saw an adult male tomtit.
- May Legal transactions regarding the eastern boundary (over the Leith Vally Road) at long last coming to a conclusion after years of hassles and much cost. The problem had been caused by a surveying mistake made in the 1930's when the Northern Motorway was being planned.
- 18 May'97 Seven strong party of my newly formed Dunedin Teen Greens group plant a grove of local rimu, matai, miro and totara. Party also cleared some track and inspected bait stations and forest floor regrowth. Possums also browse the forest floor and rats prevent many species from regenerating by eating seeds.
- The same day a friend saw a South Island robin 300m up the road. This is the first time I have heard of them so far up Leith Valley. Sounds like hope for the future.
- 20 May '97 Cleared exotics, released plantings and planted.

NATIVE BIRDS RECORDED.

RECENTLY:-

Grey warbler, bellbird, fantail, yellow -breasted tomtit, wood pigeon

FORMALLY RECORDED BUT STILL IN THE VICINITY:-

Brown creeper, tui, shining cuckoo, pukeko, grey duck and a May 1997 sighting of a South Island robin c.500m further up the valley.

VEGETATION TYPES

The main forest above the flats is dominated by large specimens of rimu, miro, totara , pokaka, broadleaf, and some matai and mountain cedar. Mountain cedar appears to be at its lower limits for the area. . Other common species include tree fuchsia, wineberry, pepper tree, three finger, pate, mahoe,marbleleaf, mapou, tarata, kohuhu, seven species of coprosma, two species of tree fern, supplejack and two tree daisies. Also present are manuka, lancewood, mountain holly cabbage tree, korimiko and dracophyllum. The alluvial flats have groves of ribbonwood.

Except for two specimen kauri, all the plantings are of local genetic source. Only those species originally absent from the property are mentioned. The planted kahikatea are at the upper limit for the valley and are hard to establish. The lowland ribbonwood came from lower down the valley while the pink pine and celery pine came from higher up. The kowhai and kanuka plantings are a little further up the valley than the existing extent while the silver beech come from a stand several km away.

MOORES BUSH HOURS.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>VISITS</u>	<u>KDM HOURS</u> (on site)	<u>OTHERS</u> (supervised)	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1974	2	5	0	
1975	19	42	42	
1976	27	82	101	
1977	15	46	38	
1978	46	178	125	There were many off site
1979	51	195	63	preparation and travelling hours.
1980	47	141	22	
1981	33	107	66	
1982	33	119	150	
1983	? (records missing)	?	?	
1984	..?	79	?	
1985	? (records missing)	?	?	
1986	..?	?	?	
1987	31	86	6	From about this time the 'lawn
1988	21	84	21	mowing"only trips ceased.
1989	14	35	0	
1990	11	23	0	From this point I was spending an
1991	13	47	0	increasing amount of time getting the
1992	10	33	16	Tomahawk Lagoon restoration
1993	7	24	15	project under control plus an
1994	9	16	9	increasing Quarantine Island
1995	? (records missing)	?	?	involvement
1996	10	30	42	
1997 (to May)	7	18 (to May)	25	Increased activity with the total
				animal control project.



December 1983 Felling the big macrocarpa trees for milling.
The south end entrance to Moores Bush.



May 1997 Plantings established on the above site. Two main plantings took place in 1990 and 1993 after waiting two years or so for the ground around the macrocarpa stumps to weather and soften. The use of protective 220L drums enhances the establishment of rimu and matai.



May 1997

A 2.5m high year old Mountain Cedar that was planted near the edge of the forest canopy 16 - 18 years ago. Cutting back of encroaching tree growth to form a lightwell is vital in such locations. Other major species such as matai, kahikatea, miro, totara and rimu have been planted in similar lightwells, some being right under the main canopy. Growth rates are slower than those in more open locations.

Stock Incursions



December 1996.

Twenty year old 2.5m high flax on the north boundary reduced to mud in 3 days by a cattle break-in. A newer second fence (left) and action by a good neighbour saved the day. The cattle forced the fence because rising flood waters had them trapped in a paddock corner.

Other temporary stock incursions have occurred in the past. A big one happened some 10 years ago. A severe snow storm brought down a pine tree on the scenic reserve fence allowing in a dairy herd that was seeking shelter. Again prompt action by our good neighbour saved the day. In recent years our management of the adjoining scenic reserve has seen considerable fencing improvements and less stock concerns.

Photo Points



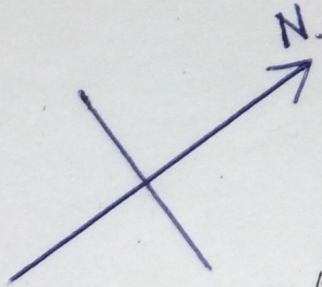
Photo Point 5 A typical example of the nine permanent photo points
09/12/96 set up at Moores Bush and the adjoining scenic reserve
 in December 1996 to monitor the results of the possum
and rat poisoning programme. Every year the photos will be repeated and the
vegetational changes noted.

Moore's Bush c. 1985

- Management Map.

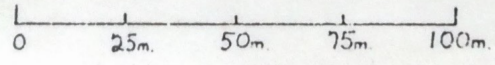
Ken Mason

FARM.



SOUTH END OF MOORES BUSH

SKETCH MAP FROM AIR PHOTO.



	POST + RAIL.		GATE.
	NEW FENCE		STILE.
	OLD FENCE		BRIDGE.
	DERELICT FENCE		CULVET.
	PROPOSED FENCE		
	P - PLANTINGS		
	X - SPECIMAN PLANTINGS.		
	O - EXOTIC TREES.		
	- TRACK.		
	- BUSH EDGE		