



23 July 2009

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

EMBARGOED UNTIL 7.15PM

**Kew Bush restoration work takes out top honours at the
heritage awards**

The Invercargill South Lions Club's restoration work of Kew Bush was recognised at the Invercargill City Council's 2009 Heritage Function held this evening.

Invercargill City Council Environmental and Planning Services Committee Chairman Darren Ludlow said he was delighted to present the Environmental Award to the Club for its work to restore the Kew Bush reserve through maintenance of the tracks, planting native species, along with weed and animal pest control.

"Club members are to be congratulated for their long term commitment to preserving one of the few remaining stands of native bush within the Invercargill City," Cr Ludlow said.

Cr Ludlow said the Club began the first of many working bees in 1997 to develop the Kew Track and restore the area.

"Sterling work has continued on the Kew Bush restoration project over several years without fanfare and it has now become a great asset to South Invercargill, providing a native bush walk for people to enjoy in an urban area."

Cr Ludlow said the Environment Award was presented for extraordinary examples of sustainable management and was granted only on rare occasions.

Two members in particular, Alan McPherson and John Tate had spent thousands of voluntary hours carrying out plantings, controlling holly and

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blackberry, and more recently undertaking possum and rat control which was to be commended, he said.

The heritage function also featured a fascinating talk given by Neville Peat an active conservationist and who has written over 30 books, spanning 25 years of writing, which capture the essence of New Zealand's nature and geography.

Cr Ludlow said the heritage awards enabled Council to express its appreciation for work well done in preserving both the built and the natural environment.

"Those who received awards tonight are all worthy recipients for their efforts in the improvements they have made to their premises and the environment," Cr Ludlow said.

The 2009 Heritage Awards are as follows:

Two Civic Plaques were awarded to:

- 89 Deveron Street - Fuji Xerox Centre
- 19 The Crescent – Bonisch Consultants Building

Three Environment Citations are being awarded to:

- Bluff Hill/Motupohue Environment Trust
- Russell And May Evans – Native Bird Rehabilitation
- Bluff Community Trust - Stirling Point Chain Link Sculpture
- Bluff Community School – School Remodel And Upgrade
- Myross Bush Landcare Group – Kerrs Bush Restoration Project
- Buster Crabb Restaurant, 326 Dee Street, Invercargill

One Environment Award is being awarded to:

- Invercargill South Lions Club - Kew Bush Restoration Project

ENDS.

Enquiries, Invercargill City Council Councillor Darren Ludlow 021 217 2848.

Background Information

CIVIC PLAQUES (TWO)

Civic Plaques are presented in recognition of quality development and redevelopment in the City Centre.

89 DEVERON STREET - FUJI XEROX CENTRE

The Invercargill City Council recognises the recent additions and rejuvenation carried out by the owners of 89 Deveron Street, Invercargill. The redevelopment of a former retail and repair building into a Xerox Centre, including a new exterior colour scheme, provides an attractive changeover of use of this building.

19 THE CRESCENT – BONISCH CONSULTANTS BUILDING

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The Invercargill City Council recognises the recent renovation carried out by the owners of 19 The Crescent, Invercargill. The exterior and interior renovations of this building have been carefully handled and successfully achieve the transformation of an early 20th century building into the 21st century without destroying its initial strong structure. The renovation has markedly improved the streetscape of the only crescent of its type in the world.

ENVIRONMENT CITATIONS (SIX)

Environment Citations are presented for projects which are located within the Invercargill District but are outside the City Centre. Six Environment Citations are to be awarded.

BLUFF HILL/MOTUPOHUE ENVIRONMENT TRUST

The Bluff Hill/Motupohue Environment Trust have a long term vision to provide a safe haven for native wildlife by the control of pests, restoring the dawn chorus to the area. Nearly a hundred stoat traps have been set, many of which have been individually sponsored, and over the next few months the Trust will set its sights on the eradication of rats and possums. Assistance has been provided from many quarters, including the Te Rau Aroha Marae, Environment Southland, the Department of Conservation and several Bluff businesses. There a strong focus on school children learning about conservation and the environment.

RUSSELL AND MAY EVANS – NATIVE BIRD REHABILITATION

Russell and May Evans have a passion for caring for injured native birds. They give up enormous amounts of time in a voluntary capacity to bring injured birds back to full health, and then release them back into the environment. This care includes hand feeding, often for many months, creating aviaries and paying for food and in some cases vet fees. Russell and May are currently in the process of setting up a charitable trust for this important work.

BLUFF COMMUNITY TRUST - STIRLING POINT CHAIN LINK SCULPTURE

The Stirling Point chain link sculpture is a project co-ordinated by the Bluff Community Charitable Trust. It signifies the linking of Bluff, Stewart Island and the sea, inspired from the Maori legend 'Maui God of the Sea' and illustrates the mythological link between Te Waka a Maui (the canoe of Maui) and its anchor stone, Te Punga o te Waka a Maui. Sculpted by Russell Beck, the sculpture catches the attention of tourists from all corners of the world.

BLUFF COMMUNITY SCHOOL – SCHOOL REMODEL AND UPGRADE

Bluff Community School has recently undergone an upgrade, which has included the remodelling of a largely open area which is not closed in to create a large indoor space. Outdoor surroundings have been enhanced by the planting of native trees, and other outdoor features.

MYROSS BUSH LANDCARE GROUP – KERRS BUSH RESTORATION PROJECT

The newly formed Myross Bush Landcare Group is ridding an important kahikatea remnant at Kerrs Bush of invasive species, particularly sycamore trees. Mature sycamores were taking over part of the private reserve, invading the forest understory. Working with the local school and with the help of a local tree surgeon, the landcare group has removed a large number pest plants and replaced them with native species in the cleared areas.

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BUSTER CRABB RESTAURANT, 326 DEE STREET, INVERCARGILL

Feldwick House is an important early landmark in Invercargill and has now been turned into a modern, working restaurant. The owner is to be commended for incorporating significant features of the former dwelling, resulting in a good example of adaptive re-use of a heritage building which was previously in derelict condition.

ENVIRONMENT AWARD (ONE)

Environment Awards are presented for projects which are outstanding examples of good practice and contribute significantly to the Invercargill environment. One Environment Award is to be awarded tonight.

INVERCARGILL SOUTH LIONS CLUB - KEW BUSH RESTORATION PROJECT

In 1997 the Invercargill South Lions Club held the first of its working bees at Kew Bush to lay gravel on the Kew track. This was the start of a major, long-term project – to restore the Kew Bush reserve through maintenance of the tracks, planting native species, and weed and animal pest control. Two members in particular – Allan McPherson and John Tate – have spent thousands of voluntary hours, carrying out plantings, controlling holly and blackberry, and more recently undertaking possum and rat control. They propagate plants at the Southland Community Nursery for planting at Kew Bush. Over the years the track project has evolved, and the QEII National Trust has provided great support and encouragement. Patients and staff at the adjacent hospital also make use of the bush walk.