

# TRUE COLOURS

JULY 2003

## GOODBYE FROM DEBBIE...

"Looking back now on the past five years I realise how privileged I have been.

As Executive Director of the Project Crimson Trust I have worked with some wonderful people on a variety of exciting projects throughout the country.

As you may be aware Project Crimson's trustees are a very talented and extraordinarily knowledgeable group. They have not only taught me a great deal about the trees we seek to protect and celebrate but also they have taught me so much about the business of conservation. Their drive and leadership, coupled with such a strong partnership in Carter Holt Harvey, Department of Conservation (DOC) and Holden New Zealand, has been an inspiration to me.

I have also continued to be inspired - indeed 'blown away' - by the enthusiasm and commitment that so many of my DOC and community colleagues demonstrate throughout the country. Over five years I have been part of a nationwide community of people who share the Project Crimson dream, people whose great community driven initiatives have assisted this office to achieve so much.

Now, with much regret I am moving on. It's time for someone else to step in and step up the pace. I will continue my association with Project Crimson and those who know me well know they'll

continue to see me out there with shovel in hand whenever the opportunity arises.

I wish you all the very best as you continue with our work - and thank you.

It's been a wonderful experience and we've had so many great times."



Debbie Teale



*As Executive Director, Debbie worked hands-on to protect pohutukawa & rata.*

### NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Bridget Abernethy



Bridget Abernethy took over as Executive Director of Project Crimson in July. Most recently Bridget was with Industry NZ and prior to that she was with Carter Holt Harvey. Bridget has a background in local and central government and has spent time in New Zealand advocacy roles in the USA and Europe.

### ROTORUA MUSEUM'S 'BIG RED' FESTIVAL

November 21, 2003 - February 29, 2004

We're looking forward to Rotorua Museum's pohutukawa celebration which will be a vivid multi-media exhibition of historical and contemporary art, photography, poetry, literature and objects.

The exhibition will also cover historical and cultural aspects of the tree's story and there will be much to discover.

Educational involvement will be reflected in foyer displays and a number of walks and talks being organized in association with the Department of Conservation.

For further information contact Ann Somerville 07 3494350 [ann.somerville@rdc.govt.nz](mailto:ann.somerville@rdc.govt.nz)

[www.projectcrimson.org.nz](http://www.projectcrimson.org.nz)

PROTECTING POHUTUKAWA & RATA

  
PROJECT / CRIMSON

  
CarterHoltHarvey  
with the Department of Conservation

# LOOK WHO'S SEEING RED THIS YEAR...!

One of the most important tasks the Trust undertakes is encouraging local community groups to take the necessary steps to protect their existing stands of pohutukawa and rata trees; or indeed, to plant new ones.

We find the most effective way to do this is to provide knowledge through the experience of our trustees and through the funding we offer the community each year.

We would like to thank all the groups who worked with us on achieving our goals last year.

In 2003 we are supporting a total of 63 projects. Of these 9 are in the South Island and 54 are in the North Island. In terms of the actual dollars being invested, 30% of available funds is going into the South Island. Of the 63 projects, 14 are rata only and the balance are predominantly pohutukawa.



Here are the projects and locations to watch out for:

<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Funding/Trees Allocated to:</b>	<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Funding/Trees Allocated to:</b>
Herekino	Herekino Landcare Group	Whangamata	Residents of Onemana
Hokianga	Plantscape Hokianga	Mt Maunganui	Mt Maunganui College
Kaitaia	Community Business Education Centre	Tauranga	P Crotty
Whangarei	Department of Conservation	Port Ohope Recreation Reserve	Department of Conservation
Whangarei	Forest & Bird Protection Society	Whakatane	D Gosling
Whangarei	Whangarei District Council	Whakatane	Whakatane District Council
Taupo Bay	V Hatton	East Coast/Hawke's Bay	Department of Conservation
Ruakaka	Paradise Shores Residents	Hicks Bay	Ngati Poru Conservation Corps
Baylys Beach	I & A Lupton Family Trust	Ruatoria	Te Whare Wananga O Ngati Porou
Baylys Beach	Kaipara District Council	Ruatoria	Ruataupare Marae
Omamari Beach	Nga Hua Rakau Trust	Aramoana Beach	Central Hawkes Bay District Council
Waimauku	Wayne and Jan Thomas	Wanui Beach - Gisborne	Les & Rose Bell Memorial Covenant
Pakiri	Taumata B Block Environmental Trust	East Coast	Ngati Poru Conservation Corps
Waitakere	J Bull	Wanganui	Hospice Wanganui
Waitakere	Waitakere Ranges Protection Society	Mount Bruce	Department of Conservation
Motuora Island	Motuora Restoration Society	Mana Island	Department of Conservation
Waiuku	G Manning	Porirua	Keep Porirua Beautiful
Waiuku	Matakawau Ratepayers' Association	Wellington	Trellisick Park/Ngaio Gorge Working Group
Whitford	E & B Nixon	Wellington	Friends of Maara Roa
Coromandel Peninsula	Geoffrey & Reihana Robinson	Golden Bay	A Tilling
Coromandel Peninsula	P Whiting-O'Keefe	Golden Bay	D Thomas
Coromandel Peninsula	Forest & Bird Protection Society	Golden Bay	Shirley Hayward
Coromandel Peninsula	Thames Coast Protection Society	Cape Foulwind	Department of Conservation
Coromandel Peninsula	Hikuai - Wharekawa Community Possum Control Scheme	Franz Joseph	Department of Conservation
Coromandel Peninsula	Matarangi Reserve Management Group	Dunedin	T & J McElrea

# OPEN DAY AT AUSTIN'S BLOCK

The Utakura Native Forest (Austin's Block) Open Day held on June 14 was a day for bringing together the community. Organised by the DOC's Bay of Islands Area Office, the day attracted enthusiastic, interested local people of all ages to learn about 'their' forest.

Mita Harris (Community Relations Manager DOC), described the open day as "a chance for the stakeholders in the forest to come together and share ideas about the future conservation of the forest."

The block of land, commonly known as Austin's Block, is a 245 ha block of mostly virgin hardwood podocarps, situated north-west of Lake Omapere, in the Utakura area. It was gifted to Project Crimson, on 17 March 2001 by Carter Holt Harvey.

The land lies between two DOC parcels and the three blocks together are managed by a committee comprising DOC, Project Crimson and Tangata Whenua.

The day culminated in a trip into the forest to enjoy and note the many fine podocarp species of kauri and northern rata. Ray Pomare of the Horeke Development Trust says, "locals take what we see in Austin's Block, like the rata, for granted. It's only when we look at them through the eyes of DOC or Project Crimson that we realise how special they are. And how we have an obligation to look after our forest. Part of that recognition means that active involvement is needed between local people, DOC and Project Crimson."

Mita Harris says, "we can all feel a great sense of pride in this forest. With that pride however comes the need for stewardship to ensure that our mokopuna will be able to come to Utakura Native Forest – Austin's Block – in the future to learn as we have done."

## WRITERS' CORNER

### Pohutukawa in the city

They are specimen trees  
like something grown in a jar.  
Oddly life-sized bonsai,  
the trunk trim and the dark mass of leaves  
self sufficient in the air.  
So lonely: a kid in green uniform  
at a bus stop full of grey shorts and blazers.  
The tips pale, still short of the colour of earth.  
Oh for an outbreak,  
a red bloom spreading through the tides  
running along the shore  
so the edge of the land is raw with it –  
a scarlet fever  
beginning to infect the interior.

- Naomi O'Connor



*Project Crimson trustee Joris de Bres presents the prize awarded by Project Crimson to Naomi O'Connor, winner of Victoria University's International Institute of Modern Letters writing competition themed 'the landscape and pohutukawa.'*

## ON IMPORTANT LITERARY THINGS ...

Project Crimson's South Island trustee and advisor, Philip Simpson continues to progress his new book (working title) 'The Iron Hearted trees : Pohutukawa and Rata'. Philip has been delighted with the response to his requests for stories and pictures. He is still however keen to hear from people who might have examples of the use these timbers have been put to. For example, Philip has heard of rata being used in parquet flooring and photographic evidence of this and other uses for these timbers would be of immense value at this stage.

Philip is also urgently seeking photographs of possums in rata or pohutukawa, preferably with leaves in their mouths.

Contact Philip on (03) 525 6223  
or by email  
[philip@goldenbay.net.nz](mailto:philip@goldenbay.net.nz)

# WE'RE STILL TRAIL BLAZING OUT THERE...

Following on from the success of our first Crimson Trail - Golden Bay's Rata Trail - put together by the dedicated Takaka community, we have been busy identifying and presenting other Crimson Trails in New Zealand.

**Mt Maunganui Crimson Trail** - We launched our second Crimson Trail in November 2002 at Mt Maunganui with Mayor Jan Beange and local community groups. Of course we were very saddened to hear of the large fire on Mauao (the Mount).

**Auckland Crimson Trail** - On a glorious summer day 180 people joined us on Rangitoto Island to celebrate the launch of our 'Auckland City and Sea Crimson Trail'. Project Crimson trustee Ruud Kleinpaste and Trust Chair Devon McLean together with the Minister of Conservation, Chris Carter, officially launched the Trail and cut the ribbon on the special seat gifted by Carter Holt Harvey employees to the people of Auckland to celebrate pohutukawa and rata.

**Wellington Crimson Trail** - On a perfect summer's evening in January Project Crimson, Department of Conservation and Otari-Wilton's Bush representatives were joined for the launch of our Wellington Trail. Trustee Ruud Kleinpaste, Mayor Kerry Prendergast and Carter Holt Harvey board member Kerry McDonald did the honours.

**Otago Southland Crimson Trail** - Crimson Trustee Philip Simpson, in town as a guest presenter at Invercargill's Museum, officially opened the Otago-Southland Trail that covers some of the most spectacular scenery the South Island has to offer.

**West Coast Crimson Trail** - The third South Island Trail, also the final trail in the 'summer series' was launched outside the Otira Gorge art gallery. Guests included representatives from DOC and the local council as well as forestry and honey industry workers.

Go to our website [www.projectcrimson.org.nz](http://www.projectcrimson.org.nz) and download all the current Trails.

Further Crimson Trails are also currently being researched and written for Coromandel and Rotorua Lakes District.



**CRIMSON TRAIL**

**CarterHoltHarvey**  
with the Department of Conservation

## CHANGING COLOURS

Last year we said goodbye to two dedicated team members. Long serving trustee, Alison Henry resigned. Alison was involved with the Trust since 1990 and contributed a wide and varied range of skills and knowledge to the Trust for over a decade.

We also said goodbye to Chairman Chris Liddell. Chris joined the Trust in 1999 when he took on the role of Chief Executive Officer of our sponsor Carter Holt Harvey. He contributed greatly to the

Trust through the high level commitment he demonstrated at board level and to the long-term planning and direction he provided Project Crimson.

Subsequently we have welcomed two new trustees. Director General of Conservation, Hugh Logan has joined the board of trustees as has Dellwyn Stuart, Director - Corporate Communications, for Carter Holt Harvey.

## WE HAVE MOVED!

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