

# BRAID Seminar 2021

Trustpower

Rakaia Catchment Environmental  
Enhancement Fund

Restoration funding examples in the Selwyn  
District

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# Trustpower

## Rakaia Catchment Environment Enhancement Fund

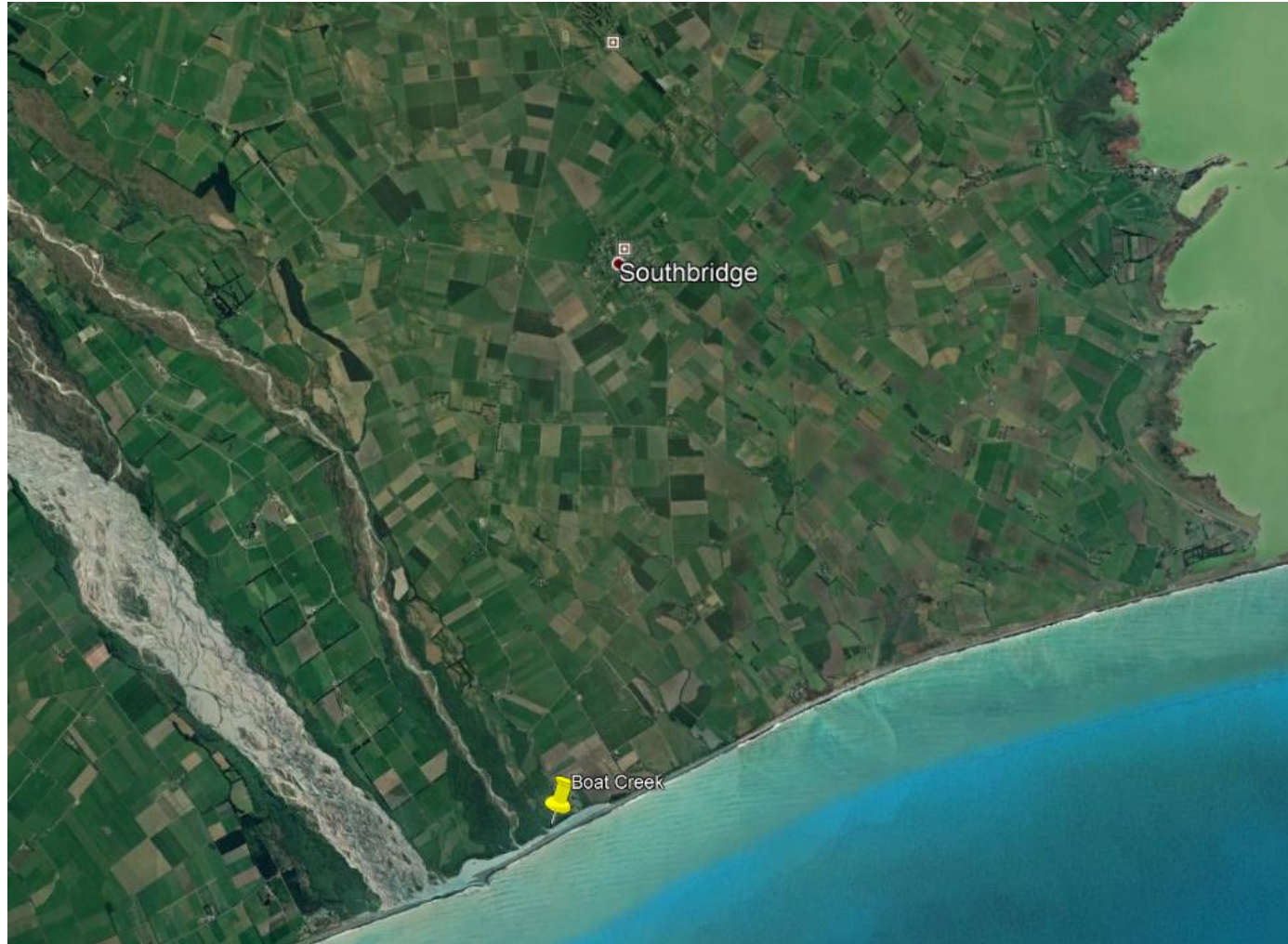
- ▶ In 2010 Trustpower Ltd applied to vary the Rakaia River Water Conservation Order (RWCO) to enable the Lake Coleridge Project. The Project involves storing unused consented irrigation water on behalf of irrigators in Lake Coleridge.
- ▶ The fund was established as part of the Project to contribute funding for projects within the Rakaia River catchment that are designed to enhance the cultural, ecological, and biological health of, and recreational opportunities within, those catchments, and thereby contribute to the first order priorities set out in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
- ▶ The fund is administered by the Committee of Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society.

### Types of projects that are eligible for funding:

- ▶ Restoration and protection of existing native species or habitat,
- ▶ Enhanced cultural values;
- ▶ Improved water quality; Erosion prevention;
- ▶ Enhanced recreation values; Restoration planting;
- ▶ Animal and pest plant control; Resource investigation and scientific study;
- ▶ Improved access to reserve areas; Improved biological health;
- ▶ Environmental education.

# Boat Creek restoration project

## Rakaia River mouth





# Boat Creek Restoration Project

- ▶ Native Restoration Project launched November 2018
- ▶ The project site is of significant cultural, historical, and spiritual importance to Te Taumutu Runanga. There is a Wāhi Tapu over the site.
- ▶ High level of community involvement. 50+ volunteers have given 1,400 hours of labour (valued at \$35,000).
- ▶ Total donated labour, equipment and materials = \$41,500.
- ▶ The Rakaia Huts Community Advisory Committee granted \$3,500 to undertake initial planting.
- ▶ Formal Service Agreements with DoC & LINZ.
- ▶ Formal endorsement and support of the project from Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee and partnership with Water & Wildlife Habitat Trust.
- ▶ To date - planted 4,000 eco-sourced native seedlings, and have covered about 50% of the area funded by RCEEF. A contractor is planting and maintaining the site.
- ▶ The community is also responsible for clearing the site of invasive weeds, ground preparation, planting, all ongoing control, predator control (The RCEEF funding covers some of our equipment and material costs for this).
- ▶ **Applied to RCEEF in January 2020 and received funding of \$97,588.**

# 1st Planting Progress - April 2021



# 2nd Planting Progress - April 2021



# Planted Area June 2021



# Main Planting June 2021



# Dobbins Road planting site



# Dobbins Road planting site



# Dobbins Road

- ▶ **Annual plantings of native flora** - on Rakaia Island from 2000-2021 ( aprox. 15,000 plants)
- ▶ **Annual plantings of native flora** by the Southbridge School 2008-2021 on the Dobbins Rd site
- ▶ 2008 Funding from Ministry of Environment- 200 native plants
- ▶ 2009 Funding from Ecan -200 native plants
- ▶ 2010 -2015 Funding from Selwyn District Council -200 native plants per year
- ▶ 2017 Local volunteers provided 120 native plants
- ▶ 2018-2019 Funding by RCEEF = 2,400 plants
- ▶ 2021 Funding by RCEEF =1,000 plants
- ▶ **RCEEF provided \$48,682** in 2017 for plantings over the years 2018 - 2022. Due to Covid-19 that program was disrupted and had to be modified.
- ▶ Last month planting was completed bringing the total number of native plants established by the School to **4,920**.
- ▶ Another application to RCEEF is being prepared to fund the establishment of 800 native plants per year, over the next five years (2022-2026).

# Planting Day 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 - over 1400 plants installed.



Plant growth has been very good, with some plants established in 2018 almost tripling their height e.g (ribbonwoods) Plant survival to date about 95%

Photographed Nov 2019 at 2018 Planted Site



Cleared site prior to planting in June 2018



Photographed Jan 2021 at 2018 Planted Site



Above site photographed in June 2021



# Hei Hei stream SNA restoration & Lee Stream planting project



# Hei Hei stream SNA



# Hei Hei stream restoration & Lee Stream planting project

- ▶ Weed control on Hei Hei stream - assessed as a Significant Natural Area (SNA) in May 2018 - riparian flaxlands and large stand of cabbage trees (C Jensen, 2018).
- ▶ Removing the weed species will help the existing native plants to survive and thrive, and will provide habitat for instream fauna.
- ▶ Riparian planting along the banks of the Lee Stream (since May 2016) and other natural springs which feed into the two waterways.
- ▶ Planting to help stabilise the banks, reduce run-off, and provide instream shade/shelter, and inhibit weed growth.
- ▶ SDC SNEF funding \$5,000 in 2018.
- ▶ **RCEEF funding \$20,000 in 2019** = enabled significant project progress.

September 2020. Woody weeds removed, and the area has been under planted with natives.



Cabbage tree and Pittosporum sp. thriving now the competition from the Elderberry and Hawthorn has been removed.

# Lee Stream planting project



Oct 2019



Oct 2020 – Carex are already bigger than surrounding plants.



Oct 2019



Oct 2020

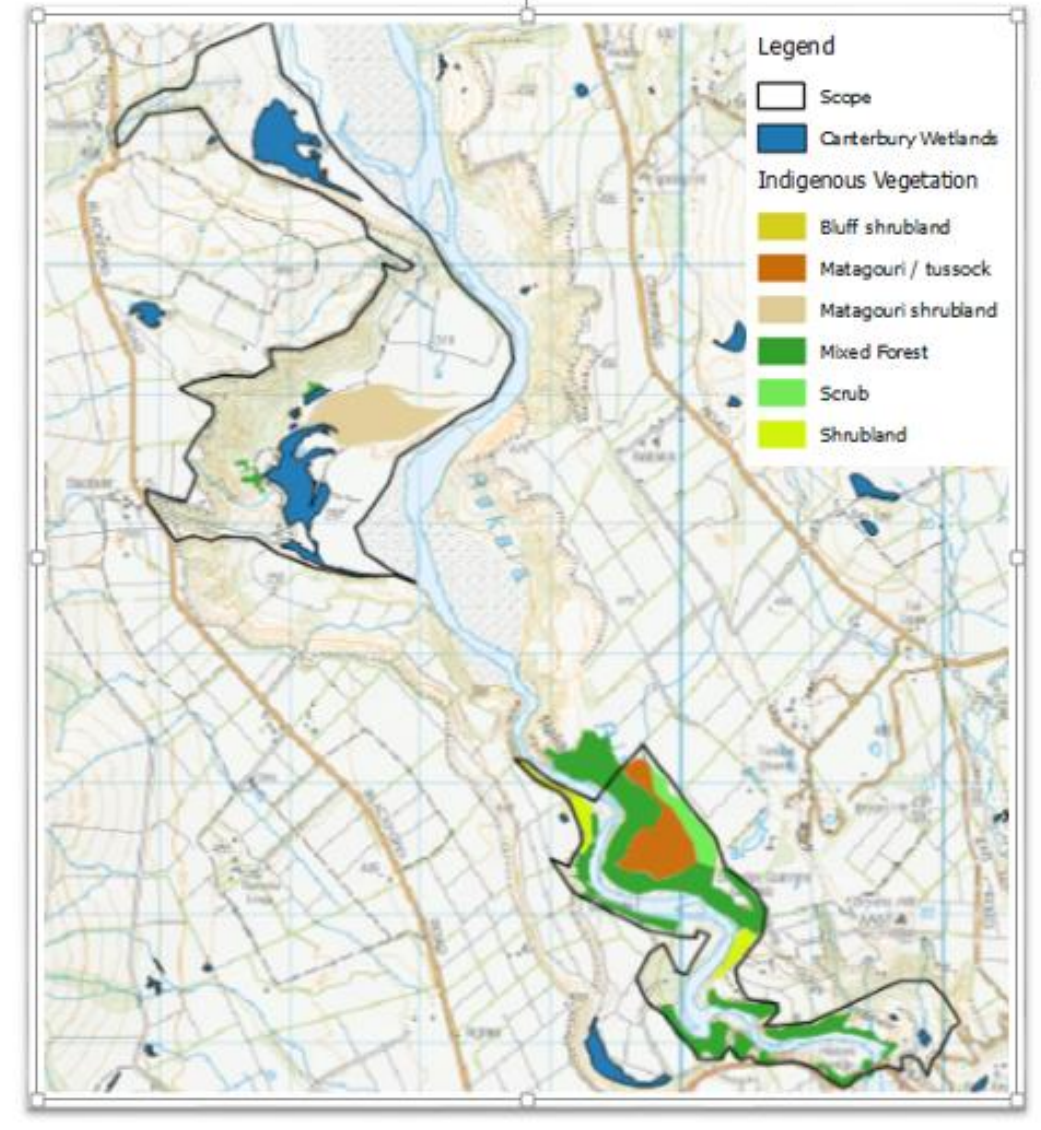


This photo is of Carex secta planted in the same area 4 years ago, showing the suppression of weeds on the banks of the stream, and the clarity of the water flowing past. With time we hope the remainder of the Lee Stream will look like this also.

# Rakaia Gorge weed control project



# Rakaia Gorge



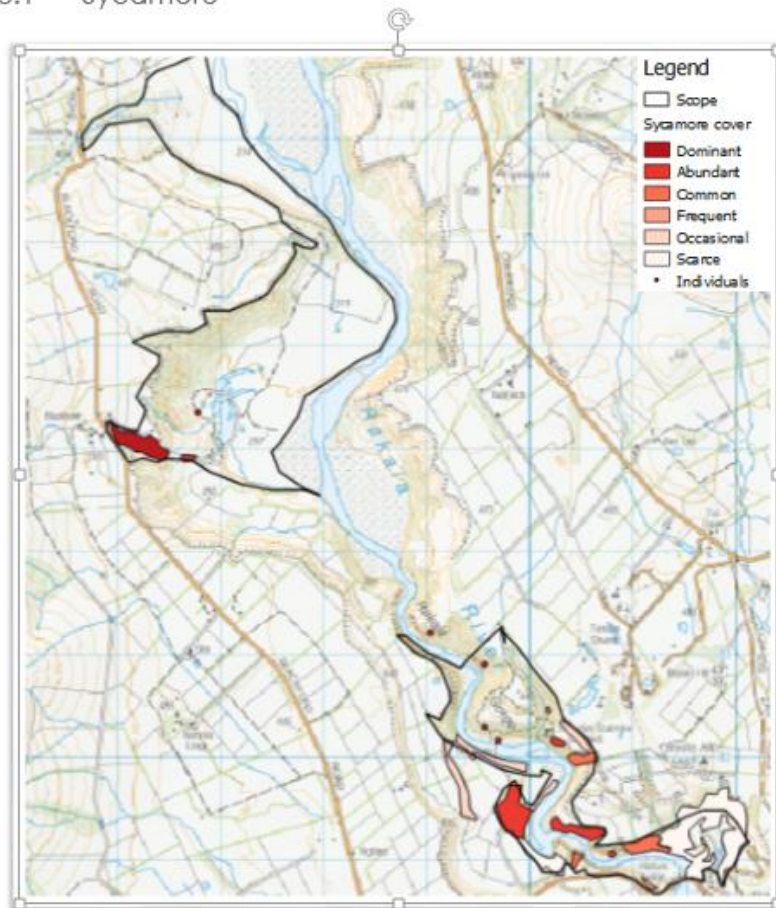
# Rakaia Gorge weed control project

- ▶ The Rakaia Gorge is a significant repository of indigenous biodiversity - steep banks / rock walls = no cultivation, little grazing or fire (?). **But an increasing weed threat.**
- ▶ Historic ongoing weed control by gorge landowners but increased funding required.
- ▶ Rakaia Gorge Weed Survey carried out in 2019 by ecologist Di Robertson. Project cost \$16,776-**Rceef funding \$7,000**, Ecan \$7,000, SDC (in kind) \$2,766.
- ▶ The weed survey report confirmed presence of wilding pines, sycamores, cherries, holly, buddleia, Chilean flame creeper, willows, cotoneaster ...
- ▶ Weed Control Project - partners landowners, ECan, LINZ, ADC & SDC.
- ▶ Application to **RCEEF 2020 = \$120,000 over 4 years**. LINZ have matched that funding (\$120,000). Plus Landowner, ECan (IMS and Wilding Conifer Control) and SDC funding. **Its likely further funding will be required.**
- ▶ Wilding conifer control carried out in summer 2020.
- ▶ Terrace Downs removing golf course cherries, June 2021.
- ▶ Primarily cherry and sycamore control from early summer 2021.
- ▶ Botanical survey to be undertaken in next few years.

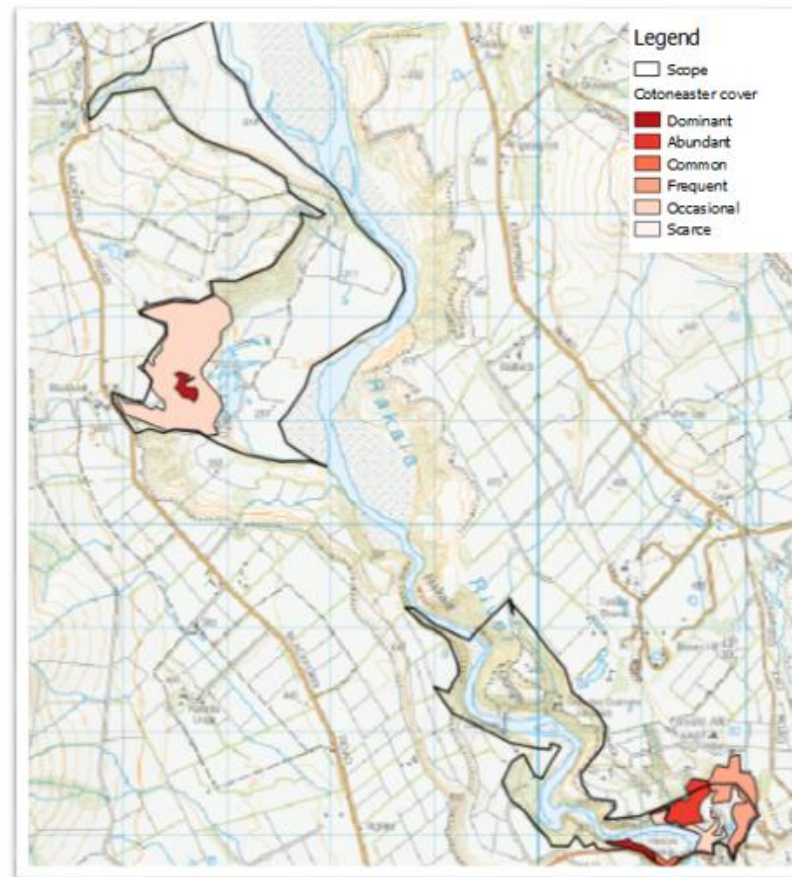
# Wilding conifer control - summer 2020.



### 3.1 Sycamore



### 3.3 Cotoneaster



### 3.4 Wilding conifers

