



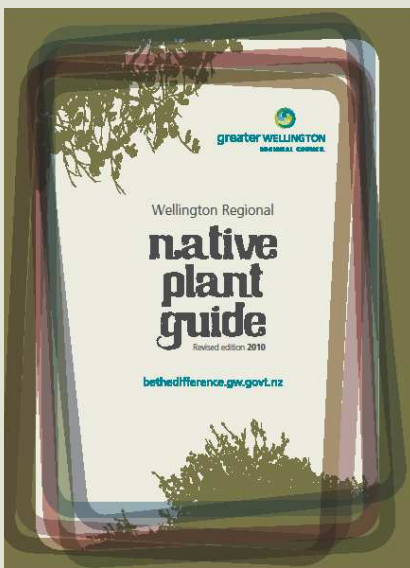
Streams Alive News

January 2011

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Streams Alive newsletter. In this issue: eco-sourcing and why it's so important, weed control, recycling tree protectors, new phone number for SA coordinator and the possibility of more plants for you! Also, 50 FREE copies of the new Native Plant Guide to give away!

50 FREE Copies of the new Native Plant Guide!

The second (revised version) of the Native Plant Guide has now been released. It is available in book stores and garden centres around the region (and retails for \$10). If you would like a free copy, email Anna (see contact details below). You can preview it online at: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Be-the-Difference/Biodiversity/Wellington-regional-native-plant-guide-web-version1.pdf>



Recycling tree protectors

If you have any tree (hare) protectors from your SA plantings sitting around at home – I'm happy to come and pick them up when I'm passing by. Many thanks to those of you who have already done this! We reuse these on future planting sites.

Eco-sourcing ... what is it and why is it important?

Eco-sourced plants are grown from seeds collected from natural native bush areas in the same locality as where you intend to plant them.

By planting eco-sourced natives you will:

- Help preserve the unique local characteristics of the native plants in your area.
- Protect the local character of our natural plant communities from being swamped by plants from other areas.
- Obtain plants that have a greater chance of growing successfully because they are adapted to the local conditions.

By using eco-sourced plants we ensure that restored vegetation is as natural as it can be, we help preserve our region's distinctiveness and provide habitat for locally occurring animals.



Weeping or Small-leaved Kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*) is one of the species of Kowhai found in the Wellington Region.

Are you looking for more native trees?

I'm currently putting together the planting list for the 2011 planting season, and, after several enquiries from SA landowners I have been wondering about the possibility of buying extra native eco-sourced plants to pass onto landowners at cost price (for landscaping/shelterbelts etc.)

In an attempt to reduce my administration costs there would be a minimum order size and you would need to pick them up from the Upper Hutt depot.

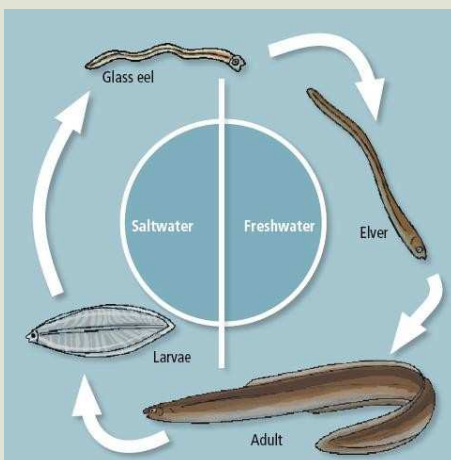
If you think you might be interested drop me an email and I'll let you know how the plan progresses.

Change of contact details

GW has recently invested in new phones – as a result my direct dial landline has changed and is now 04 830 4423. However, email or cell phone is often the best way to contact me.

Did you know?

The longfin eel is one of the biggest eels in the world. Some individuals have been recorded at weights up to 40kg. They breed only once at the end of their lifetime and their spawning ground is over 5000km from the NZ coast near Tonga. Longfin eels are considered at risk and are declining due to loss of habitat, pollution and over fishing.



Lifecycle of a longfin eel.

Weed control

Spring and summer is the time to keep an eye out for invading weeds and to start controlling them. You can do your bit by learning about the important weeds in the Wellington Region. Most of our weeds are garden escapees so replace invasive plants in your garden with non invasive alternatives, or even better with eco-sourced natives! Always remember to dispose of weed waste wisely!



Tradescantia, also known as Wandering Jew or Wandering Willie forms a dense ground cover preventing the germination of native seedlings. Can be controlled with Round Up.

Learn to identify environmental weeds now and start removing them from your garden!

Can you identify these common weeds?

- Tradescantia (Wandering Willie or Wandering Jew)
- Bindweed (Convolvulus)
- Japanese Honeysuckle

Did you know that weeds and pest animals in NZ are considered the greatest threat to the future of our native biodiversity!

Other useful weed resources:

The Auckland Regional Council website (has an excellent weed search engine) <http://www.arc.govt.nz/albany/index.cfm?F1E93A5A-14C2-3D2D-B9B9-4D973F3A53AD>

Weedbusters is a fantastic weeds awareness and education programme with lots of useful information <http://www.weedbusters.co.nz>

For more information, contact Greater Wellington:

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