

Friend of Ernle Clark Reserve Planting Day August 2016

Saturday 28 August, 2 to 4 pm.

Volunteers come along during this time to plant a tree. They are then asked to water that tree over summer..

Location

Ashgrove terrace. Meet on the boardwalk.

Key Organisers

	phone		role
			Initial contact
			Initial contact
			Introduction
			Supervision
			Supervision

Saturday Timetable.

time	task	responsibility
8am	put up photopoints and signs	
12 pm	wheelbarrow plants into reserve	
12 pm	sites plants	
1.30 pm	on sign-in table	
1.45 pm	Organiser briefing	
2 pm on sign-in, meet and greet gives planting demo organisers take volunteers to areas Boardwalk riverside = New Seat to kahikatea = Kahikatea to Barrington = Woodland =	
2-4 pm take photos On river-safety duty re working near river and filling water buckets in charge of stakes and mallets And roving/First-aid/Thank volunteers, Naturewatch card	
4 pm	Organisers enjoy planting trees down by woodland	
5 pm	Collect containers, clean-up site	
5.30 pm	Debrief over soup and toast at	

To Bring.

Item	who to bring	comments
First Aid kit		Includes anti-histamines
Name stickers, first-aid badges, pens		
Table		
Biodegradable flagging tape		
Water		For hand-washing before eating
Red and Green bins		
Spare garden gloves		Only in large size
Buckets		For watering plants
Hand saws, herbicide gel		For sycamore removal

Camera		Photos for publicity
Reserve handout, Naturewatch cards		
Mallets for stakes		
Cell phone		For emergency phone calls
Hi Vis vests		To identify organisers
Paper towels		Dry hands
Rubbish bags		
Spare clothes and towels, biscuits, thermos, cup		For wet or cold kids
Saws secateurs		Limb up woodland

Health and safety briefing

1. stands at table and collects names and emails of volunteers and planters
2. and first-aiders, first-aid kit on table
3. has cell-phone to call for an ambulance in an emergency
4. Beware of dog-poo – wear gloves
5. has supply of water in van. Wash hands with water after contact with river water
6. Toilets over at South Christchurch library – plan ahead
7. Check reserve and remove giant hogweed - photosensitive rashes on touch- and hemlock.

Safety Action Plan.

Activity	What might go wrong - with people - in the environment - with equipment	What can I do to avoid this happening?	Emergency Plans
People near pond	Aggressive swam attack	Sign up to warn to stay away from swan	First-aid, cell phone
People hiding in dense vegetation	Volunteers frightened by or molested by a stranger	Brief group that this is a park open to anyone, work in groups	Call 111 if an incident is suspected
Weeding and planting	Children wander off	All people must sign in and sign out with	
Weeding and planting	Volunteers falls over or bangs foot with spade or is cut by blackberry and receives minor injury	First aid kit on table, Alice and Helen wear first-aid badges; cellphone on table	First Aid kit; carry cell phone to call for ambulance
weeding and planting	BNZ staff receives major injury	First aid kit and cellphone on table	First Aid kit; carry cell phone to call for ambulance
weeding and planting	Student or a dult suffers medical emergency	First aid kit and cellphone on table	First Aid kit; carry cell phone to call for ambulance
weeding and planting	Student or a dult has allergic reaction to a plant	First aid kit under table Check reserve for giant hogweed in morning	First Aid kit; carry cell phone to call for ambulance; Christchurch South Medical centre at 163 Colombo St, ph 332-0108,
weeding and planting	Child or adult eats poisonous plant	Wash hands before eating, brief everyone what yew and hemlock look like; weed out hemlock in morning	First Aid kit; carry cell phone to call for ambulance; Poisons centre phone number 0800 764 766
BNZ staff carry out weeding and planting	Rain or cold wind chillsbrings down extra clothes, garden gloves	Go home
weeding and planting	Hands immersed in water that may be contaminated	Reminder at health and safety briefing to wash hands after contact	Water for washing hands provide

Ernle Clark

Floodplain Reserve



This is one of the few remaining sites along the Opawaho Heathcote river that naturally flood. The wet soils are ideal for kahikatea, pokaka, and native ferns. In a hundred years' time this will be the Riccarton bush of the south.

Three reserves in one

The suburb is called Thorrington after the name of the homestead built on 16 hectares purchased by Charles Clark 1862 between the Heathcote River, Colombo Street and Cashmere Road. After three generations the land was sold in 1979 to Rex Laing.

The original Thorrington reserve was created in 1949. When the old Wairoa homestead in Majestic was Lane sub-divided in 1994 a new reserve was called "Ernle Clark" after Charles Clark's grandson. Ernle was a celebrated airman, flying solo from England to New Zealand in 1936, only the second person after Jean Batten to achieve this, and the fifth to fly solo across the Tasman. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1941 for his role during World War II. A plan to build 4 houses in the woodland created community outrage that resulted in a petition to the Council to buy the woodland. In 2009 half a hectare was purchased allowing public access to the woodland and pond. The public land is now managed as one reserve.

The Tall Trees

The Clark's planted a woodland and a "native walk" around the pond. Some of the woodland trees are over one hundred years old, including a Spanish chestnut, English ash, and an oak. The cabbage trees, broadleaf, five-finger, mahoe, lancewood, and lemonwood trees around the pond are estimated to be 60 years old. Three kahikatea's tower over the track to the west could be up to 80 years old.

A transition from English woodland to NZ forest

The English trees are halfway through their natural life and a slow transition to NZ natives is underway with the original Clark native trees seeding throughout the reserve. School students have planted native trees to honour the 1999 NZ sesquicentennial and the Year 2000 and less common shrubs and ferns have been planted recently.

Friends of Ernle Clark Reserve

In 2006 the Friends of Ernle Clark was formed by local ecologist Colin Meurk to look after these trees and what was then a neglected reserve over-run with weeds. After an initial planting shrubs and ferns we decided that the birds were doing a great job of "planting" trees so we now spend our time removing the weeds to enable all the seedlings to thrive.

On the last Saturday of every month we hold an informal working bee for an hour. All willing weeders are welcome to join in.

Summer hours: 4-5 pm Winter hours: 3-4 pm

To receive an email reminder contact [**Alice@caverock.net.nz**](mailto:Alice@caverock.net.nz)

Meet at the Studholme Street bridge. Wear old clothes, sturdy shoes and gardening gloves. Bring a spade and secateurs.