

Ecological Society Conference Field Trips

You can book either trip as part of your online registration.

Option 1) Quail Island excursion (Lead by Mike Bowie)

This is a half-day tour explores the natural and cultural history of Quail Island located near Lyttelton. The Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust and the Department of Conservation have successfully eradicated most mammal pest animals and are now targeting mice. They have also begun to re-vegetate the island with over 80,000 native plantings.

On the Island there is an informative Interpretation Centre that details the historical use of the Island as a leprosy colony and also a quarantine site where dogs and ponies were trained for Scott and Shackleton's Antarctic expeditions.

You can find more information about Quail Island on the following DoC website:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/canterbury/christchurch-and-banks-peninsula/otamahua-quail-island-recreation-reserve/>

Departs at 08:00 and returns to Lincoln University at 14:00 – packed lunch provided and involves a short boat trip.

Option 2) Tour of Christchurch Natural Areas (led by Colin Meurk)

This full-day tour includes visiting natural and restoration sites from the sand dunes into the city and plains including stops at New Brighton dune restoration, Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Travis Wetland Nature Heritage Park, Avon “red zone” prospects for an eco-sanctuary, a 23 year old Heathcote floodplain restoration project, Riccarton Bush (a 600 year old floodplain forest), a dryland reserve at edge of the Southern Motorway extension, and Prebbleton quarry restoration project.

Christchurch is a biodiversity hotspot and has as many native plants growing wild as in our national parks; and Canterbury often wins the annual OSNZ 24 hour birdathon because of the diversity of accessible habitats – e.g. the 115 ha Travis Wetland with at least 55 bird species recorded (31 of those being native); the Estuary is one of the major NZ feeding grounds for the migratory bar-tailed godwit; and the Christchurch could claim to be bellbird city. Restoration challenges are being taken up in partnerships between the community, DOC and Local Govt; e.g. the recent release of 90 Canterbury mudfish into Travis Wetland with the intention of establishing a self-sustaining population and many other initiatives that we will see.

You can find more information on Travis Wetlands on the following website:

<http://traviswetland.org.nz/>

Departs at 08:00 and returns to Lincoln at 18:00 – packed lunch provided and dinner at Lincoln University can be pre-booked as part of your online registration.