



### Styx History Group

The first book, working title "The Styx Story", is nearing publication. It is now at the stage of obtaining permission to use photographs and maps, and where it is not possible to obtain such permission, of drawing new maps or diagrams. This is a slow process, and alternatives are often necessary. Some organisations wish to charge for the use of photographs, which makes life difficult for a community group with limited funding. A Lotteries Grant and a private loan will fund printing of the book and it should appear before the end of the year.

Work on the "reminiscences book" has commenced again after a delay. Interviews on tapes to hand have all been transcribed and are going back to interviewees for any corrections and permission for their use in written form. The group is seeking more people prepared to conduct interviews, as well as suggestions of the names of long-standing residents who may be willing to commit their memories of the Styx area to tape. There are more than a dozen people on our current list of those whom we would like to interview. Some of the stories are fascinating. Less than 60 years ago, the Styx River still flowed through Nunweek Park, where it was fed by springs (reminiscences of Trevor Nunweek).

Dennis Hills Chairperson  
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The Styx History Group is currently concentrating on the task of recording the reminiscences of long-term residents of the Styx catchment, and collecting information on early families in the area. The Styx History Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.



*Definitely not the lone ranger  
Arthur, John & Paul in their workplace*

### At home on the range

The City Council's regional Area Park Rangers have enthusiastically embraced the community's visions for the Styx Project. Rangers John Parry, Paul Tamagushiku, and Arthur Adcock have each been allocated the management of a specific region of the Styx River. Keep a look out for them whenever you are out and about in the catchment.

Arthur is responsible for the area from the Styx mouth to Heyders Rd, Paul from Heyders Rd to Radcliffe Rd, and John from Radcliffe Rd to Nunweek Park.

During the coming year these Rangers will be looking at a number of issues affecting the Styx and trying to achieve several outcomes, such as predator control, weed control, and protecting natural landscapes. It is important to determine

exactly what it is that requires maintaining or protecting, so much of their work will focus on data gathering and establishing some environmental baselines. Examples of issues they will consider include: what weed species are threatening areas and where these areas occur; what is the quality of the water, and related issues?

Park Rangers are an important 'partner' in this project and the result of their achievements will help ensure that the outcomes stated in the Vision Document are realised.

### EDITORIAL CONTACT

This newsletter is compiled, printed and distributed as a service to the community by the Parks and Waterways Unit of the Christchurch City Council.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or enquiries regarding subjects mentioned in the newsletter, please contact

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### Welcome to this edition of the Styx Newsletter.

December 2000 marked the release of the document entitled "Vision 2000 – 2040 The Styx".

This document resulted from many months of working together and community consultation.

It outlined the five visions people wished to see implemented in the Styx area during the coming 40 years, namely

- To achieve a "Viable Spring fed River Ecosystem"
- To create a "Source to Sea Experience"
- To create and maintain a "Living Laboratory" in the area
- To establish "The Styx" as a place to be
- To create and maintain "Partnership relationships"

Stories in this newsletter focus on milestones in the development and implementation of these Visions.

## Imagine



### Signing the Trust Deed

*Trustees left to right:  
Clayton Cosgrove, Sally  
Thompson, Lesley Keast,  
Alistair Malcolm, Colin  
Knight. Seated: John Knox.  
Absent: Diana Shand.*

Imagine, if you can, an area 50 kilometers square? Dissect this area with a river 24 kilometers in length and have it flow through residential, industrial and farming areas. Add several tributary streams, a number of reserves, some wetlands and a tidal lagoon.

Suppose this whole area could be used for study and research, and suppose there was an overall co-ordinated plan for the research and learning programmes. Imagine too, that the results of all this study and research could be made easily accessible to anyone and everyone.

Now give this project a name and allocate the job of making it happen to several prominent people within our community.

All that imaging is now complete and the project known as the Styx Living Laboratory has been birthed.

Several high profile leaders have accepted the voluntary role of Trustees and already they have completed two significant tasks. Firstly they have set up the Styx Living Laboratory as a Charitable Trust and recorded their signatures on the Trust Deed. Secondly they have appointed a Board of Management made up of representatives drawn from the community, and from learning and research groups and have entrusted to these people the task of the practical management of ensuring that this vision is achieved.

There is still much to be done but under the guidance of The Trustees, in co-operation with many different partners, the Vision of the Styx as a Living Laboratory has started to become a reality.



## Guardians of the Styx

It is said that you need a plan to succeed – the ‘Vision for the Styx’ is such a plan and it is great to see that we are all on track in accomplishing the goals set out in that plan to date.

We have had some great guest speakers recently at the general meetings including John Glennie a water engineer from Environment Canterbury and a much appreciated tour of Willowbank Wildlife Reserve. We are hoping to have Guy Salmon, the well known New Zealand environmentalist to speak at our November meeting. At the end of winter we have several planting days happening with a real big planting event at the Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (1 September) and a Clean Up Day (22 September) – both not to be missed.

You can help improve the Styx River catchment by joining the ‘Guardians of the Styx’ and by ensuring your actions do not negatively impact, either directly or indirectly, on waterways. You could do this, for example by using fewer fertilizers and pesticides, collecting rubbish on roads and footpaths and by planting your garden with trees and plants native to our area. Information on which plants are suitable is readily available from the Christchurch City Council Parks and Waterways Unit.

If we want to sustain our environment in an ‘ecologically friendly’ way for future generations to experience and enjoy, I think actions will speak louder than words.

John Knox Chairperson

tel. 379 9904 email j.knox@xtra.co.nz

The objective of the group known as The Guardians of the Styx is “to promote the protection, restoration, and raised awareness of the values of the Styx River and its environs – culture, landscape, recreation, drainage, heritage and ecology”.

This Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Meetings commence at 7.30 pm. The venue is usually the Papanui Service Centre but it would be advisable to check before attending. Attendance is free and anyone interested is most welcome at meetings.

## Never been to a Planting Day?

*Come along and see what happens.*

Styx Mill Conservation Reserve  
(Styx Mill Entrance)

1 September 2002

1 to 3pm

Wet or fine

Bring your spade, gumboots  
and friends

Refreshments to follow

Planting days are an opportunity for the community to be involved in helping to restore the health of the waterways and wetlands within the Styx area.

*“What should we plant?”  
Steve Bush (Trees for Canterbury) and  
Park Rangers Paul, John and Arthur  
debating what species to plant*



**TREES FOR CANTERBURY**

this event is organised in partnership  
with trees for canterbury

## Victory for Perseverance

As the Styx has its ‘guardians’, the Cam River near Kaiapoi also has its advocates – two sets in fact. The Cam River Working Party is a combination of interested and involved locals and the District and Regional Councils. The District Council upset some members of the Working Party with proposals to continue discharging sewerage effluent from Rangiora into the South Brook, a tributary of the Cam. Dissatisfaction with the outcome of hearings to which they had been submitters, and facing more than a two year wait to get to the Environment Court, they formed themselves into a new organisation – the Cam River Consent Group Inc. In their new guise they sought an Enforcement Order in the Environment Court to bring things to a head.

The Consent Group wanted an end to the effluent discharges that were of very poor quality and contained so much ammonia that the fauna was being progressively exterminated. The Cam was sick. Ecan responded to the Enforcement Order by issuing an Abatement Notice, and soon we were all before the Environment Court who set up mediation proceedings. The result was a consent order,

but what was set out in the Order was judged by many to be impractical, a non-solution, and a prohibitively costly one.

Last year’s local body election saw huge changes in the Waimakariri District Council, and eventually just as radical a re-think of the district’s overwhelming sewerage problems. The original costly proposals were put on hold while the district engaged in a dramatic re-examination of the problem.

Now, about ten months later much has been achieved. Shortly work will be underway on a major upgrade of the Rangiora oxidation ponds. The effluent quality will be much improved, so the streams can begin a recovery process. All sewerage effluent from the eastern part of the district (Kaiapoi, Rangiora, Woodend, Tuahiwi and probably Waikuku) is to be discharged into the sea via an ocean outfall located between Pines and Woodend Beaches. Tenders have been called for the marine investigations that are needed for resource consents.

The current plan is for all sewerage effluent discharges to be out of the Cam and Waimakariri River systems by 2006 at the latest, but the Waimakariri Council hopes to commission the ocean outfall in 2005. The concerned parties, community groups and councils are currently putting their heads together in the Cam River Working Party on a plan to effectively restore the aquatic habitats of the Cam River system. The aim is to regain a much valued amenity.

Concerted action by residents can achieve results, but it takes dedication and persistence.

Contributed by Walter C Clark  
Secretary Cam River Consent Group Inc

**Annual General Meeting**  
**10 October 2002**  
**7.30pm**  
**Papanui Service Centre**

# What’s going on at No 303?



**Two generations of macrocarpa**  
**Two generations of Dave Boyd**

*As he plants one of its seedlings,  
Dave Boyd is overlooked by the mature  
macrocarpa planted many years ago by  
his father, also known as Dave.*

This process has now been completed allowing plans for the retained land to be implemented. These plans include highlighting the early dairying and horticultural activities that took place in this locality. Part of the current orchard will be retained and maintained and existing farm sheds will serve a multitude of purposes including an open-air classroom. The cottage, now approximately 100 years old, will be restored to provide future generations with an idea of how our early settlers lived.

Flashing orange lights warned traffic of obstacles ahead. Earth moving and tree felling equipment was yet again being unloaded and taken onto site at Radcliffe Road. This has caused many passing motorists to wonder what exactly is going on at number 303? Not that you would hear the locals call it number 303. They would probably refer to it as “Boyd’s Place”, because for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was home to the Boyd family.

In a complicated land deal in late 2000 the Christchurch City Council approved the purchase of the 13.2 hectare property at number 303 on the understanding that it would be subdivided into three allotments. The section along the Styx River was to be retained, one section sold, and the other area was to be swapped for land downstream adjacent to the Styx River.

## USED RED BRICKS

The proposed development at Radcliffe Road includes a large area of used red brick paving.

If you have any bricks that you no longer need or know where there may be some available please contact

the Groynes Rangers  
Tel: 941 7440 or Fax:  
941 7449

