

Parks

Kia ora koutu,



Happy Volunteers: the team from FIS Global after a busy afternoon releasing plants from long grass at Latters Spur

The United Nations has designated 2026 as the International Volunteer Year (IVY 2026). The Park Ranger Team appreciates all the mahi of the many volunteers who give up their time to plant and care for the young plants. Over the years, restoration planting areas in the Port Hills have benefitted from many hours of work provided by volunteers. Planting days are always well attended. It is a testament of how valued tree planting is to the Christchurch community when so many people turn out during the colder months. Spring and autumn plant care is the often-overlooked work that is vital to the survival of the young plants. Many volunteers come back time and time again to cut back the grass from around the plants and remove cages when they are no longer needed. All volunteers bring energy and enthusiasm to the work that makes the time spent working with every one of them a joy and a privilege. Their work is noticed and commented upon by many and is appreciated by all who work and play throughout the reserves around the Port Hills.

The autumn was damp and chilly at times. However, the weather on the maintenance days behaved as we tackled the abundance of grass which continued to grow very well through the season. The new plants had a good start to life on the hills with the frequent rain that fell throughout the year. The following photos show a selection of hardworking volunteers at work.

Volunteers at work Autumn 2026



Belinda enjoyed a morning searching for buried plants at Mahoe Nui, Evans Pass



A perfect autumn day at Dry Bush



The group from MacPac enjoying time away from the office while tending plants they planted last winter at Greenwood



A group of enthusiastic friends: back at Huntsbury track after removing a load of old cages from Dry Bush



Two tramping clubs at Greenwood: Bishopdale and Over 40's working hard to restore the bush around remnant trees



Deirdre and Andy checking the young plants at Eastside Bush

Volunteer Spotlight: FIS Global

A team from FIS Global has been providing plant care to one site on the hills for several years. Their reason for volunteering is:

*“As a group, we volunteer for plant maintenance on the Port Hills because it allows us to **give back to our local community** and enhance the plantings and wildlife in this beautiful area. This opportunity not only helps our community but also provides a fun and rewarding experience for all involved. By gathering together, we can contribute to a mission that benefits both our environment and our fellow Cantabrians, making it a fulfilling half-day of toil that we all enjoy.”*



Map showing areas of restoration planting

Keen to plant native trees?

Volunteer planting days run from 1pm to 3pm.

- Saturday 6th June Barnett Park
- Saturday 13th June Dry Bush
- Saturday 20th June Eastside Bush (Victoria Park) – Followed by BBQ

Barnett Park: Meet in the dog walking paddock accessed from the gate at the end of Bay View Road, Redcliffs. Look for the park ranger truck on the opposite side of the paddock. On-street parking. Please keep access ways clear for residents.

Dry Bush: Park at the top of Huntsbury Avenue and walk up Huntsbury 4WD track to site (1.3km approx. 25 minutes), or park on the Summit Road and walk down Huntsbury Track to Dry Bush (0.8km approx. 10 minutes). Look for the park ranger truck near the cattle stop at the fenced bush. There is no parking on Huntsbury Track.

Eastside Bush: Meet in the car park behind the Victoria Park Visitor Centre, next to Park Ranger HQ.

Come prepared for all weather and wear sturdy footwear for hill work. Spades and gloves will be provided by the rangers, but feel free to bring your own.

For more information, please visit ccc.govt.nz/port-hills-reserves-volunteer-days or contact Fiona Fenton on 027 506 1425 or fiona.fenton@ccc.govt.nz



Dry Bush: blue tipped stakes marking this winter's planting spots

Thank you

Thanks to all volunteers – your contribution is much appreciated!

Fiona, Di and the Port Hills Ranger Team