



Volunteer Programme - 2020

Over the past 21 years hundreds of volunteers have planted over 98300 trees and shrubs on Quail Island over an area of 25 hectares.

Volunteer work parties usually go to the island on the first and third Sundays of each month, except during August when planting will start on Saturday 1st August and continue on every weekend day until Sunday 23rd September. At other times of the year the work is weeding around the trees and shrubs, (we call this releasing), and removing exotic weed species like thistles, gorse, and broom.

To keep you safe, we will need your contact details and the name and number of someone we can contact in an emergency. You can provide this by filling in the on line volunteer form, or letting us know on the wharf. We will keep this information confidential and not pass it onto anyone else.

Bookings are essential. Our workday organizer is Ian McLennan. You can book with him by phone on 384 5338, 0273 928047, or by e mail to volunteers@quailisland.org.nz. If you are on our volunteer database you will receive an e mail invitation to join us during the week before the trip.

The ferry leaves from the Black Cat wharf in Lyttelton. Park in Lyttelton and walk over the bridge at the bottom of Oxford St. We meet at the picnic table under the shade sail behind the Black Cat office. The ferry leaves promptly at 9:10am, so please be there by 9am. The ferry departs from Quail Island at 3:30pm. There are no other ferry sailings, so you must be prepared to stay all day. The transport is generously sponsored by Black Cat Cruises so there is no charge for the ferry

The road tunnel is the most direct route into Lyttelton from Christchurch. Turn left out of the tunnel and the bridge is 500m along on the right. By bus, the 28 Casebrook / Lyttelton service goes all the way to the ferry wharf.

A reasonable level of fitness is required, as the island is steep and we often work away from formed tracks. Please check the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Boots, warm clothes and a waterproof jacket are essential equipment at any time of the year. Long trousers and tramping gaiters are also useful to avoid being scratched by thistles and thorns. Most tools are provided, but please bring your own gardening gloves. Bring your own lunch. The island water supply is the same as Christchurch and is safe to drink, and a water bottle is useful in case we are a long way from a tap.

Volunteer trips are generally not suitable for children under the age of 12 years, due to the physical nature of a six hour working day on steep terrain, and the necessary use of weed killers and poisons. Accompanied children are welcome on some trips during the planting season, so please contact us for more information.

Trips may be cancelled if there is a severe weather forecast, or if the ferry company consider that they are unable to make the journey safely. If the weather is against us, an e mail or text will be circulated before 7am advising of the cancellation, so please check before you leave home.

Trips are meant to be social and fun. We normally finish work an hour after lunch, allowing you enough time to enjoy the island at your own pace before the ferry arrives.