

Conservation Project: Gorse Control.

For the third year in a row four NZDA members travelled to Stewart Island in November 2013. The plan was to attack the gorse which is taking over some of the open areas on Cavalier Block at Mason Bay. We have been concentrating our efforts on the area between Leask and Cavalier Creek. In 2012 Branch members put in a big effort with spray on the



smaller gorse bushes and cutting and applying Vigilant paste to the bigger plants. The evidence of the dead gorse was really good to see. Also impressive was the lack of seedlings in the areas that had been treated in previous years. Grasses were coming away in these areas and this will help reduce reestablishment of gorse in the future.

For the first few days the weather was quite "inclement" and unsuitable for any control work and a bit of hut time was endured between hunting forays. This year the team consisted of two men with 15 litre backpack sprayers with the other two men carting water from the nearby Leask Creek in buckets to refill the sprayers. By doing this the team was able to keep up a steady spraying regime. When bigger gorse bushes were encountered the whole team could all continue to cut and paste. The whole area was given a good going over but there will be bits we missed. There is still an area of large gorse trees in the north corner of Leask Creek which will be targeted in November 2014.

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