

Media Release

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Removing Old Man's Beard and Banana Passion Vine on Takaka Hill

Driving up the Takaka Hill on State Highway 60 you can't help but notice the vines of Old Man's Beard and Banana Passion fruit that cover the trees.

Both major plant pests, they slowly smother and kill all plants including the tallest trees, prevent the establishment of native plant seedlings, and Banana Passionfruit Vine (BPV) fruit encourages pest animals such as possums and rats. Because of the height of the vines, seeds can be picked up by strong winds and blown into the Abel Tasman National Park, where seedlings have already been found.

In recent years Project De-Vine Trust has received frequent complaints about the vines on the hill and the lack of control work undertaken.

Project De-Vine is committed to removing the pest vines and other plants from the area known as the Halo, which surrounds the Abel Tasman National Park. State Highway 60 makes a convenient edge to the Halo. Project De-Vine along SH60, will carry out this work from below the Riwaka Resurgence turn off to the Ravensdown Lime quarry, commencing mid-February. The work will take approximately three weeks, unless there are delays due to weather.

Travelling to the Abel Tasman National Park without seeing large curtains of these vines will enhance the view, as well as the perception of how we are managing this special part of the Tasman region.

If you require more information, you can view our website www.projectmohua.org.nz

Or phone Charmaine Petereit Project De-Vine Trust Operations manager Mobile: 027 679 4040

Further Information

- Removing pest vines in the Riwaka to Marahau area will create a "halo" of control around Abel Tasman National Park to stop invasive vine seed spread