

3.15-3.45

Interval

Refreshments at the Studio Cafeteria



3.45– 4.15

Nut Point Native Plant tour .

Small scale native planting projects began at Nut Point in 2007 through funding from the SDC and NZ Landcare trust.



Over the last few years, further plantings have been made to gradually cover about a third of the property. In 2016 a new experimental planting was established with assistance from Plant & Food Research. This was aimed at testing whether a specific mix of plants can support insects known to benefit agriculture.

The tour will be conducted by

Dr Brad Howlett

Brad is a senior pollination scientist at Plant & Food Research with a particular interest in better utilising our native insects to enhance crop yields. He believes it is very important to understand the lifecycles of these different pollinating species so that their populations can be supported on farms. Many of these different pollinators benefit from the pollen and nectar supplied from native plants. Moreover, the undisturbed ground beneath native plants can support the nests of our native bees.



Nut Point Centre

www.nutpoint.org

West Melton Native Plants Projects

2019 Meeting

Saturday 16
March 2 p.m.



Programme

2 - 2.15

Meet and greet

2.15-2.45

Dr Melanie Davidson

Scientist at The New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Ltd

-Pest and beneficial insects in native plants project



Mel Davidson is a Senior Applied Entomologist at Plant & Food Research and is based at Lincoln. Her research interest is in maximising ecosystem services and biodiversity in New Zealand agroecosystems while minimising the impacts of harmful organisms, within our agroecosystems. Her passion is for re-introducing New Zealand native flora onto farmland in a way that maximises the benefits to farmers and the wider community, as well as the fauna that will colonise the native floral habitats.



September 2016 March 2019
Nut Point section 2

2.45-3.15

Andrew Spanton

Biodiversity Coordinator
Selwyn District Council

- Native biodiversity protection and management in the District.
- Biodiversity loss in Selwyn.
- Native planting sites and associated funding options and advice.



Andrew has been working at Council since October 2016 as the Biodiversity Coordinator.

“I really enjoy the role and find it meaningful (as it aligns well with my core beliefs). I am passionate about protecting and managing our natural environment and living sustainably.” Andrew says

The key priority for his role is the protection of existing biodiversity – mostly native plants.

Andrew works closely with SDC staff with colleagues from DoC, ECan and Taumutu Runanga and partner organizations such as Enviroschools, Te Ara Kakariki and Waihora Ellesmere Trust to achieve improved and joined up biodiversity outcomes,

Andrew has a farming and land management background and enjoys getting out into the field and meeting with landowners and managers to discuss how SDC can assist them with protecting and managing the biodiversity on their land.

