



A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

WAKATIPU WILDING CONIFER CONTROL GROUP INC (WCG)



Those distant golden brown hills have the same rich biodiversity as the native alpine shrub and tussocklands seen in the foreground.

This is our unique heritage!

Keeping our native fauna and flora free from wilding pine pests - a gift to future generations.



Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Inc (WCG)

WCG was formed in 2009 as a non profit charity in response to local body and community concerns about the rampant spread and serious adverse effects of wilding pines in the Wakatipu.

With the support and participation of the community and QLDC, WCG is led by a highly skilled and passionate volunteer executive who contribute their time and expertise to safeguard our environment from this threat to our landscape and unique biodiversity. As a community led volunteer group, WCG coordinate the wilding conifer control efforts and obligations of agencies, land owners/managers and engage with the Wakatipu community.

All are welcome at the WCG monthly meetings and annual 'Reporting to the Community' evenings.

AT A NATIONAL LEVEL:



WCG represent Wakatipu in the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme by preparing and submitting operational plans to the programme and lobbying for funding. This National Programme is aided by research including best practice methods for safe wilding conifer control.



Why does WCG control wilding pines?

- To protect the unique and remarkable Wakatipu landscape from this fast growing, introduced tree pest.
- To safeguard the rich biodiversity of our native flora and fauna so that native wildlife, some unique to this area, will continue to have food sources.
- To protect the loss of farmland and traditional high country pastoral land.
- To prevent pines acidifying the soil that supports our natural ecosystems.
- To conserve our waterways. Wilding pines lower the water yield into our soils and rivers.
- Wilding pines threaten to smother community recreational facilities, including popular biking/walking/skiing trails and historic areas, some of which have been heavily invested in.
- A monoculture of pines creates shading and loss of sunlight, negatively impacting facilities and communities.
- The risk of dangerous wildfires is increased. With unplanned pine forests it is much harder to control a fire.
- While faster growing pines may sequester more carbon initially, our native plant species are the long-term sequesters of carbon.



PHOTO: RON ENZLER

How does WCG carry out its work?

Prevent the spread

Eradicate: All seeding trees where possible

Contain: Non-removable wilding areas and planted forests



GROUND CONTROL:

- Wilding pines are GPS marked before removal.
- Drill and fill techniques are used amongst natives



LANCING:

This is carried out in hard to access/unsafe sites or remote areas.

OVERSEE, COORDINATE AND MONITOR HELICOPTER BOOM WORK:

As a last resort in dense and inaccessible wilding stands, boom spraying is used only in ideal conditions to ensure the operation is precise and well away from waterways.

Over time the dead trees will decompose into the soil, with beech forest and golden tussock grasslands prevailing.



Ben Lomond native beech forest and alpine grasslands protected from encroaching wilding pines.

WCG Community Initiatives

Adopt a Plot:

You or your business can sign up to care for an alpine garden plot on Ben Lomond, to ensure that its Beech Forests (which are hundreds of years old) and its native tussocklands continue to thrive with biodiversity. Take a flask and make a day of it. It's a great initiative for team building.

If lost, the natural diversity that currently exists will never be recreated.

We welcome your contact, sign up for updates at www.wakatipuwilding.co.nz

Volunteer Days

Make a difference by tackling wilding pines in sensitive and iconic areas, providing the chance for our native plants to regenerate. Our volunteer days are a great way to meet new people, get some exercise and see what we're all about.

@wakatipuWCG



Beech seeding research project

In partnership with the Wakatipu Reforestation Trust and with technical support from Scion Crown Research Institute and University of Otago.

Tips: Removing wilding pines

Loppers and handsaws can be borrowed for wilding pine control from DOC centre, Stanley Street.

- Pull seedling, shake soil loose and lay exposed roots on the ground.
- Cut stump close to ground. Remove **ALL** green needles so it can't grow back.



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Working for the community to preserve our unique biodiversity and landscape by controlling wilding pines.



PHOTO: RON ENZLER

We must act now for the future of our Wakatipu environment!

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Background

Non native pines have been planted in New Zealand over many years, for a variety of purposes. Wildings have spread from these plantings creating serious adverse effects and environmental risks.

Conifers left to spread become a pest - seeds blow many kilometres infesting native ecosystems, farmland and water catchments.

Pines can be used as a resource where possible i.e. firewood, logs, chipping but untended, fast spreading wildings have little value and are usually hard to access.

Over the last few years 100,000 wilding pine trees have been removed from the Remarkables Range. In just one year 8,000 pine trees were removed from Cecil Peak. If nothing had been done those initial trees would now be great grandparents, spreading their seeds far and wide.

If we, this generation, don't continue to act now and up the pace, then the future for our birds, plants, recreational opportunities, biodiversity and scenery is indeed bleak in a very short time - here in our homeland.

QLDC have, with great foresight, made the commitment to remove the Douglas Fir Coronet forest. To protect the Wakatipu environment, QLDC now have rules in place for planting wilding species. Otago Regional Council have "good neighbour rules" and landowner responsibilities outlined in the new Pest Management Plan.

The cost of tree removal multiplies exponentially as wilding trees grow larger and spread further. There is no better time than now to get rid of New Zealand's number one plant pest, wilding conifers.

Which pine species are a problem in the Wakatipu?

Not all pines are a problem. WCG target conifers whose growth gets out of control in our unique climate and soil conditions.

Wakatipu's most offending conifer species:

DOUGLAS FIR

(Pseudotsuga menziesii)

SCOTS PINE

(Pinus sylvestris L)

CONTORTA PINE

(Pinus contorta)

EUROPEAN LARCH

(Larix decidua)

CORSICAN PINE

(Pinus nigra)

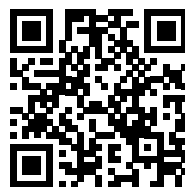


Download your wilding conifer identification guide

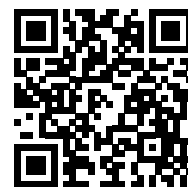


Get the science and facts about wilding pines at:

NZ Wilding Conifer Group



Ministry of Primary Industries



How can you help?

The removal of just one single wilding, seeding pine now, reduces the future cost of elimination. Every contribution counts!

- Spread awareness – let others know of the rapidly escalating threat to our native plants, birdlife, views and landscapes, along with the fire risk and water conservation issues.
- Work with WCG to keep your land free of wilding pines. Instead, plant native and low spread-risk trees
- Work with your neighbours to control wilding conifers that have spread across property boundaries.
- Pull out wilding seedlings while wandering our trails.
- Gift a donation or sponsor the non-profit WCG and invest in our future landscape and natural ecosystems.



PHOTO: RON ENZLER

Donating their time, expertise and passion to protecting biodiversity and the remarkable landscape of the Wakatipu:

WCG Patrons: Sir Eion and Jan Lady Edgar

Chair: Grant Hensman

Executive: Dick Hubbard, Bryan Hutchins, Peter Willsman, Jon White, Tom McPhail, Grant McLennan, Graeme Watson, Grant McMaster

Partners in wilding conifer control & funding sources:

- NZ Wilding Conifer Trust
- Skyline Queenstown
- Land Information NZ
- Skycity Community Trust
- Central Lakes Trust
- ORC Ecofund
- Department of Conservation
- Land owners
- NZ Govt - Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI)
- Scion Crown Research Institute
- Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Otago Regional Council
- Lotteries Environment & Heritage
- Community and local business donations

We are very grateful for all support

WCG is endorsed by:

- Wakatipu Wildlife Trust
- Queenstown Trails Trust
- QEII National Trust
- Southland Fish & Game
- Wakatipu Reforestation Trust
- Routeburn Dart Wildlife Trust
- Arrowtown Wilding Group/Arrowtown Choppers

The work of WCG is interlinked to these groups. We must win the battle. Published 2020