



Kia ora koutou,

Across the country, this has been the busiest wilding control season yet - it's awesome to hear about the progress. For the NZ Wilding Conifer Group, we took advantage of the break in our events calendar to plan our upcoming 2021 year - read on to find out about our plans for updating the 2009 Wilding Control Guidelines and facilitating community meetings (looking for location suggestions!). We're also restarting our Wildings Webinar series with the first webinar on 24 March.

Hope you all stay well and warm as we move into some cooler weather!

Ngā mihi,

The NZ Wilding Conifer Group



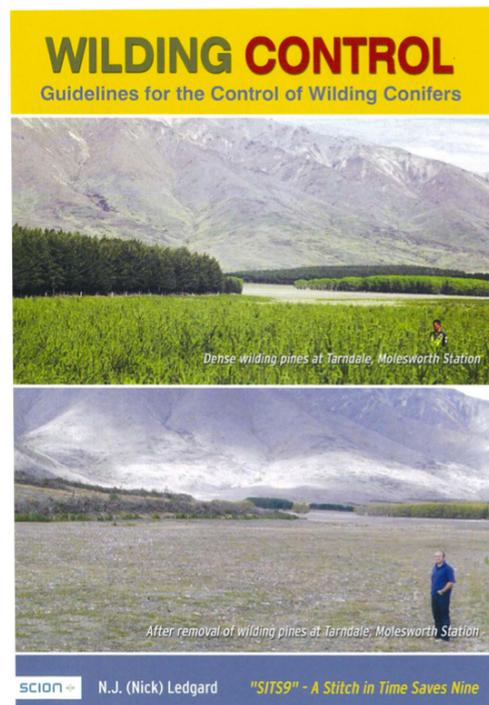
Photo credit to Ian Dickie

The Return of our Wildings Webinar series

What's the big deal with mycorrhizal fungi and wilding pines? They aren't just curious-looking mushrooms - mycorrhizas assist pines establish and grow, but what does that mean for pine invasions? Find out more at our first webinar of 2021 on **24 March at 11am!** Prof Ian Dickie will be talking with us about mycorrhizal fungi - what are they and what is their role in wilding pine invasions. [Register here.](#)

Climate Change Commission's advice on reducing emissions by 2050

The Management Committee of the NZ Wilding Conifer Group has been working on a submission to the Climate Change Commission's advice on meeting NZ's emissions targets by 2050. While we broadly support their recommendations, we want to make sure that future plantings of pines will be planted in the right place. If you would like to read our submission letter, please let me know and I'll send it to you.



Control Guidelines

We are working on updating the Wilding Control Guidelines written in 2009 by Nick Ledgard. These guidelines are for landowners and community groups at the beginning of their control journey - the guidelines will explain how to choose a control method and how to approach a site. If you'd like to learn more or provide feedback on our draft update, please let me know!

Community Meetings about wilding pines

We have a goal of organising and facilitating three community meetings this year. The purpose of these meetings is to raise awareness of wildings in a local area and provide support to those keen to be involved. We are working on our plans and timeframes for these meetings, and please let me know if you have suggestions for where we should hold them!



Photo credit to Bernard Spragg

New potential biocontrol agent could prevent wilding pines from re-invading

Preliminary research has found that the native fungus *Armillaria novae-zelandiae* has potential to act as a biocontrol agent for pines. In particular, this fungus could be used at sites after they have been controlled to speed up the decay of controlled trees and prevent wilding pine seedlings from re-establishing there. Watch a five-minute presentation of the study and results [here](#).

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