



NATIONAL WILDING CONIFER
CONTROL PROGRAMME

WILDING PINES CONFERENCE 2026

**Collective Action, Future Impact:
Partnering for resilient, wilding-free landscapes**

Registration rate

Community, Iwi and individuals - **\$100**

Government and businesses - **\$150**

Conference Dinner - \$100

Field Trips

Takitimu Bus Tour & West Dome 4wd - **\$65**

Mid Dome heli flight & West Dome 4wd - **\$140**

Registration rates reflect the costs of delivering the conference and the many components that go into making it a valuable experience for everyone. Our goal is simply to cover our costs while keeping registration as affordable and accessible as possible

In 2026, we're offering a discounted rate for attendees registering as individuals or representing a community Trust (including Iwi/hapū or Rūnanga).

Thanks to support from sponsors we also have some funding available for community groups and individuals who may otherwise find it difficult to attend. Please contact Jo if you need help jo@wildingpinenetwork.org.nz

Keep an eye on the website as the Programme is updated with our confirmed speakers and presentations.

Last updated: 11 May 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME 2026

Collective Action, Future Impact:
Partnering for resilient, wilding-free landscapes



TUESDAY 11 AUGUST – ASCOT PARK HOTEL, INVERCARGILL

Time	Session	Speaker
Welcome to Murihiku/Waihōpai, Invercargill		
7:15	Registration. Please arrive promptly and be seated by 8am	
	Welcome from Wilding Pine Network (WPN) & essential housekeeping and safety briefing	Ket Bradshaw & Jo Ritchie, WPN
	Ngāi Tahu Mana Whenua welcome Stories of Māori travel and significant sites	Michael Skerrett, Waihōpai
	Address/keynote	Minister for Biosecurity, Hon Andrew Hoggard
Local wilding context		
	A range of perspectives from the Southland and national situation from senior leaders and local experts	
Morning tea		
Forestry		
	Perspectives from many sides of forestry, including science, policy and Southland experiences	
Contractors Panel		
	Contractor perspectives - highlights, challenges, innovations from the past year.	
Lunch		
The Community Voice		
	Community groups will present on their highlights, learnings and challenges they face in their patches of New Zealand.	
Afternoon tea		
Farming		
	Perspectives from Federated Farmers, a variety of farms and their experiences, science and an update on the trial of grazing on conservation land	
4:40	Day one ends	
6:00	Mid Dome Trust celebration	



WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST – MURIHIKU, SOUTHLAND

We thank the Programme Partners in Murihiku Southland for their input and support for the fieldtrips. As always at conference, the aim is to showcase the challenges of wilding management in our regions and show what is being done on all fronts.

For those not taking part in a field trip, we recommend taking in some sights around Invercargill, including Motupōhue Bluff Hill where wilding work has been done in the past. Consider supporting local business and enjoy what the local area has to offer.

Est. 8:00am Assemble outside Ascot Park Hotel and collect packed lunch
Est. 8:30am departure, 4:00pm return

Please note:

1. **All field trip participants** will be required to complete a Matariki online HSE form prior to the conference starting. No form completed means you cannot participate.
2. 4WD's will be limited to those organised by WPN.
3. Lunch will be provided
4. There will be convenience stops along the way.
5. Detailed run sheet and specific wardrobe and a safety requirements will be provided.

Field Trip 1: Takitimu & West Dome

\$65 per person

A stunningly scenic bus ride that takes in three unique Southland landscapes being impacted by Douglas fir. Hear about the joint community, farming and forestry efforts to slow the invasion: Te Waiau Mahika Kai Trust restoration project, visit the Wilderness Reserve - a pine bog community saved by removal of shelterbelts but still under threat.

Includes West Dome visit.

Field Trip 2: West & Mid Dome

\$140 per person

Take a short helicopter ride over Northern Southland. See and hear how after 20-years' work by the Mid Dome Wilding Tree Charitable Trust and farmers, their victory against Contorta is being stolen by Douglas fir.

Includes West Dome visit.

West Dome: Both trips will include a visit by 4WD via Matariki Forest to West Dome, a forestry plantation adjoining a conservation reserve where the legacy Contorta battle has been won, and yet where this ultramafic reserve is impacted by Douglas fir wildings – hear how the neighbouring foresters are working hard to reduce spread and the challenges they and the Department of Conservation face.

6:30pm – 10:00pm

Conference Dinner at Ascot Park Hotel



THURSDAY 13 AUGUST – ASCOT PARK HOTEL, INVERCARGILL

Time	Session	Speaker
8:00	Arrive	
	<i>Field trip question time</i>	Jo Ritchie
	National Programme and planning for the future	
	Updates from the National Programme team, DOC, WPN and others on national strategic directions and intelligence for forward planning	
	Control challenges, options and solutions	
	Drones, drones, drones and Douglas fir amongst Beech forest	
	Morning tea	
	Research	
	The latest progress around possibilities of biocontrol, managing risk around fire and other research updates	
	Fundraising	
	Community experience and WPN national fundraising strategy	
	Restoration	
	Hear about restoration projects, nurse experts and farmers converting shelterbelts to natives	
	Closing	
	Sponsors' spot	
	Karakia kai, prizegiving & closing	
1:30	Lunch – Conference end	

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

