

Trees That Count

Dr Antony Shadbolt, Christchurch City Council Landscape Architect/Ecologist

We're here today on a reserve on Kaputahi Creek, and behind us we have about 30 staff from Opus International Consultants and they're planting 1,500 trees and they've been donated very kindly by Trees That Count and Z Energy.

Joris de Bres, Trees That Count Ambassador

Trees That Count is actually a project that involves potentially everybody in New Zealand. It's to plant native trees to combat climate change.

Dr Antony Shadbolt

Trees That Count have an aspiration of planting 4.7 million trees this year, so one tree for every person.

Joris de Bres

By September we had exceeded that number and people have planted over 8 million trees.

Dr Antony Shadbolt

One project the council has on at the moment is writing the city's tree and urban forest plan. So one of the key drivers of this plan is to try to mitigate climate change. So planting trees is very, very important for ripping the carbon out of the atmosphere and the idea is that these trees will assimilate more carbon than pinus radiata will.

The main tree we are planting today is the kahikatea tree. Although they are small trees today, they are going to be here for over 1,000 years. So that's 32 generations of people that will be able to experience these trees.

We are planting native forest patches right across the city to try and bring back bush birds to the city that have become locally extinct over the past 150 years. So we're very lucky to have good support from across the whole section of the community.

Opus International have been planting here at Styx River and Kaputahi Creek for probably the last five to six years.

David McKenzie, Opus volunteer

Tree planting is of particular personal interest to me as a landscape architect.

Rebecca Sunderland, Opus volunteer

Planting trees – it's just nice to be doing something that you know is going to outgrow you, something physical.

Jack Earl, Opus volunteer

Being around something that will become something of huge value to the community and to future generations.

Joris de Bres

We're asked why people should get involved in the kind of project? Well, to me, the answer is incredibly obvious, we ALL have to do something about climate change.

Jack Earl

Climate change is important to me because as a landscape architect I spend eight hours a day scheduling trees on paper to go into the ground and out here doing it now is a really beneficial way to go about it.

Joris de Bres

Planting native trees is a very simple way in which every individual can do something about it.

Rebecca Sunderland

It's a great team bonding exercise and it's a great way to get out of the office and do something different.

David McKenzie

It's something my colleagues can do with relative ease and wind up with a barbecue.

Jack Earl

It's a worthwhile thing to do and I'd encourage most people to jump on board this long term vision.

Joris de Bres

It's something that people across the community can see is necessary and what we try to do is use innovation and enthusiasm and passion to make a real difference to climate change.