

Charlesworth Wetland Reserve



30 minute

Self-guided Trail Quiz



◀ This photo displays the start of the trail; turn left to cross the bridge and you are on your way.

The carpark is on the right off Charlesworth Street (off Ferry Road).

You will find a trail map on the following page.

IN THIS BOOKLET

The map displays the trail clearly with a yellow line to follow.

Lists 20 questions to answer, find the bright numbered markers along the trail that link to the questions.

Provides you with the answers to the questions allowing you to check your knowledge.

PAGE 2

PAGE 3

PAGE 4



The quiz trail will take you around the loop track in approximately 30 minutes.

Have Fun!

Earn your free Estuary Field guide

When you have completed the trail quiz email info@estuary.org.nz
State your name, postal address and phone number and rate the enjoyment level of the quiz with a number between 1 (no fun at all) and 10 (very enjoyable to do) and we will post you a free Estuary Field Guide.

**Avon-Heathcote
Estuary Ihutai Trust**



Charlesworth Wetland Reserve self-guided trail quiz map.

Charlesworth Wetland Reserve

Trail Quiz Questions



- 1 As you walk along the track you will see many flax bushes on your left. Do you know what Māori used flax for?
- 2 Continue along the track until you come out onto the shingled carpark. On your right you will see bamboo stakes in the ground. You will notice many of these stakes when you walk around the reserve; what do you think their purpose is?
- 3 Keep going down the path and you will come alongside a group of cabbage trees (Kōuka). Look closely at the leaves you will see that some have notches along the sides.


Do you know what makes these notches?
- 4 Walk along the path until the intersection and turn left. Looking right you will see a group of Tōtara trees. How old do you think these trees might be?
- 5 Look around the corner and you will see a much larger Tōtara tree. How old do you think this tree is?
- 6 Carry on along this path and you will see a Kahikatea tree how old do you think this tree is? Where in the city are you likely to see Kahikatea that are 600 years old?
- 7 Continue around the lake to a large Kōwhai tree. Is it in flower? What is the colour of the Kōwhai flower?
- 8 Carry on along the path, turning right to the next quiz stop. You will see many examples of this tree around the reserve do you know its name?
- 9 Continue until you have a clear view of the pond. How many different birds can you see on the pond? Turn around and look at Linwood canal; how many birds can you see in the canal? Can you name any of them?
- 10 Next you will come to a T intersection. Turn right and continue along this track until you get to this marker, do you know what it represents?

- 11 Continue along this track until you come to a seat. Look out into the wetlands. Is it low or high tide? What birds can you see?
- 12 Continue walking and you will come to a second seat. You may see more birds when looking into the wetland. Do you know what they eat?
- 13 Now look out for the Saltmarsh Ribbonwood on your right. If you are walking around in late September and October you will smell a lovely sweet smell.
- 14 Stop at the next seat; turn to look at the Port Hills can you see the rocky outcrop. What is it called, do you know what activity this outcrop was famous for?
- 15 Shortly you will reach the sports ground. Just before the corner you will cross a small creek. Where does this water come from?
- 16 Can you guess how many plants have been planted in the reserve since 2005?
- 17 Next you will walk under the wires of the large pylons. Look towards the Port Hills, can you see where they are going?
- 18 Stop on the bridge that takes you back to the carpark you will see marker # 18. Do you know the name of this grass?
- 19 Stop at the Charlesworth Reserve information sign. Can you see this symbol? Why do you think dogs are not allowed in the wetland and must be on a lead around the reserve?

- 20 Can you guess the name of this native shrub?

Well Done!

Be sure to email us to receive your free Estuary Field Guide. See front page for details.

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Trail Quiz Answers



- 1 Māori used the flax /Harakeke as a raw material for clothing, rope (hunting & fishing), baskets and its medicinal qualities.
- 2 When tree seedlings are planted, bamboo stakes are used to mark the place so they can be found easily when the grass grows tall.
- 3 The notches on the cabbage tree (ti kōuka) are made by the caterpillar of the cabbage tree moth. This moth spends the daytime on the dead leaves where they are perfectly camouflaged. 
- 4 Planted in 2013. Tōtara can grow up 40 m tall and are known to live up to 900 years old. Tōtara would have been wide spread in the lowland podocarp forests of the Canterbury plains.
- 5 These Tōtara were planted at the same time as the much smaller trees you have already seen. They have grown much quicker because they are sheltered and the ground stays moist.
- 6 The Kahikatea was planted in 1997. They thrive in moist sites including swamps. It is our tallest native tree growing to an impressive 60 meters or more and can live well over 600 years. Riccarton Bush is a remnant Kahikatea forest which was gifted to the people of Canterbury by the Deans family in 1914.
- 7 Yellow
- 8 Ngaio is a salt tolerant species found mostly in coastal forests throughout the country. The flowers of the Ngaio are white with purple spots and develop mid spring to mid-summer. During late summer and autumn the berries ripen to a red-purple colour.
- 9 Birds that can be seen include the Paradise Shelduck (Pūtakitaki), Grey Teal (Tētē Moroiti), Mallard Duck (Rakiraki), New Zealand Scaup (Pūpango) New Zealand Shoveler (Kuruwhengi), Pukeko and the Little Cormorant (Kawaupaka)
- 10 The sign marks the 360 Trail. Approximately 135 km circling Christchurch it showcases the wonderful natural, historical, architectural and cultural aspects of the city: www.christchurch360trail.org.nz.
- 11 The wetlands of the Charlesworth Wetland Reserve are tidal. The islands have been created for birds to roost and nest. Black backed, red billed and black billed gulls along with the Pied Stilt (Tūturiwhatu) and White-faced Heron (Matuku Moana) are usually seen here.
- 12 Birds diets include small crabs, insects, shrimp, worms and small fish including young flounder.
- 13 The pollen, nectar and fruit of the Saltmarsh ribbonwood (mākaka) are important food for lizards, insects and birds.
- 14 On the Southern skyline is Castle Rock (Te Tihi o Kahukura). Prior to the earthquakes which severely damaged the rock it was very popular with rock climbers.
- 15 The water comes from deep in the ground as a fresh water spring. Note that in summer it often dries up.
- 16 Since 2005 volunteers together with Christchurch City Council Park Rangers have planted over 110,000 tree seedlings in the reserve.
- 17 The pylons carry power cables to the Port Hills and across to Prebbleton.
- 18 *Carex secta* (makura) is a sedge that likes to grow in wet areas. It can be long lived often forming a thick trunk like base 1 metre tall. In winter the plants turn a beautiful golden-red colour.
- 19 Dog are not allowed in the wetland areas of Charlesworth Reserve because of the danger and disturbance they can cause to the bird life especially during the nesting season. Close to the wetland dogs must be kept on a lead so they are under control at all times.
- 20 Pittosporum (Kōhūhū) In spring, tiny purple flowers smell beautifully, but only at night.