

Report from Waikato Biodiversity Forum held in Te Aroha on Friday 29 June 2007

The latest Waikato Biodiversity Forum event was held in Te Aroha with a focus on the restoration of the edge of Mt Te Aroha. The following are notes taken from some of the presentations.

Steve Fabish introduced the day with information about the Te Aroha Reserve including:

- Most high profile reserve in the District
- Management Plan completed
- Tourist spa town in 1880's
- Infestation of privet –how to convert back to indigenous forest?
- Experiences of bush-2 main walking tracks are to be upgraded
- Possum control an issue-feed on oak trees in Reserve and pohutukawas- bait stations
- Strong community group Earthwatch
- Conversion of aviary to fernery
- Domain 20ha revegetation 350mx100m
- Puriri and kohekohe trees to attract kereru

Mary Hansen Earthwatch

- History of the area
- History with the MPDC to get Reserve improved
- Fernery

Pat Willaims Planting Team Leader Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust
See full coverage of Pats presentation as Word documents.

DoC Officer Wayne Geraughty

- Pine trees logged in 1990's
- Honey suckle a problem in the reserve–spray in late summer
- One year had 80 kaka living in the pine trees for 3 months
- Woolly nightshade, ginger, Mexican daisy all potentially problematic

Plant Pest Management – Chris Hale EW (see power point)

- National Pest Plant Accord –DOC, RCs and nurseries negotiated list of weeds
- Invasion of weeds mainly around edges of bush Top of mountain generally weed free
- Restoring natural plant communities for equilibrium and it will manage itself or biodiversity

DOC Katrina Spencer and MfE Amanda Smith Introducing the Statement on National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened native Biodiversity on Private Land

- Reconcile threatened environments priorities with key ecological sites and significant natural area surveys

- SNA reports ; -need to check each site against SNP criteria –gives it extra ranking
- Biodiversity Strategy 2000 plus Biodiversity private land package
- TFBIS fund \$200,000 in Waikato area
- In 2006 governmentt decided to pursue non-statutory guidance instead of NPS
- Faster dissemination gains and greater flexibility
- NZBS goal Halt decline of indigenous biodiversity by 2020. What are the indicators?
- Public conservation land 30% not representative mostly high country
- Needs ground truthing. Good to have this information but what you do with it is important

Wayne Bennett Forest Flora presented a Planting Plan to the MPDC (see power point)