



# Waikato Biodiversity Forum Report

## Wednesday, 5 November 2008

### Paeroa and Tarariki Reserve

#### Purpose

The purpose of this Forum was to examine the issues and develop solutions for improving the ecological integrity of the Tarariki Reserve (Hauraki District Council) and surrounding area at the end of Old Reservoir Road, Paeroa.

The Forum was also an opportunity to:

- establish ongoing partnerships for biodiversity restoration
- highlight the projects of community groups in the area
- have fun and learn from others who undertake biodiversity related work
- visit the Tarariki Reserve and examine the management issues of the site

#### Introduction to the Forum day

The Forum began at 9.30am after 62 attendees had been greeted with morning tea. Tewi Nicholls, kaumatua from Ngati Tamatera welcomed everyone and gave a karakia to set the scene for the day. The karakia was followed by an update on the activities being carried out by Jan Hoverd, key contact for Biodiversity Advice Waikato and Moira Cursey, coordinator of the Waikato Biodiversity Forum. Forum attendees were given the opportunity to notify members of activities, such as the consultation phase of the draft Conservation Management Strategy released by the Department of Conservation. The key speakers then set the scene further for the day.

Mike O'Donnell was the first speaker. He detailed how Tarariki Stream provides an ecological corridor between Kaimai/Mamakus and Coromandel Forests and is predominantly regenerating forest. Kereru, kaka, koromako and shining cuckoo are in the area. Kokako, stag beetles, Archey's frog and Hochstetter's frog were once present but no survey has been carried out to assess their population recently. Tarariki Stream is the last potable supply of water in the area. The community has worked over the past nine years planting 14,000 - 15,000 trees along the Tarariki Stream. Silver Fern Farms Limited operates a meat works near the stream and has provided funding for the planting as part of resource consents. Mike works with school children to protect the mauri of the water in Tarariki Stream.

Steve Clark from Hauraki District Council spoke about the Reserve in relation to Council management. There are 2 dams in the area and 200 cubic m / day is taken from the stream to feed rural properties in the area. The Council currently employs people for possum control with 300 possums killed in the last operation. A spray programme is in place for gorse on tracks.

John Gaukrodger (Area Manager DOC Thames/Hauraki) gave the attendees some of his thoughts on management for biodiversity. Any project requires a vision, goals, objectives, an operational plan and action plan. He emphasized the importance of collecting baseline information and then monitoring outputs and outcomes along the way. John posed questions such as, What should you protect? Ecosystem-



habitat-species -landscape value. Why are you protecting it? Representativeness, intactness, connectivity and versatility. How will you protect it? Selecting the right tools for the job. Not just the tools with handles but the will, commitment, belief and tenacity. Who? It is the responsibility of everyone. When? Now, tomorrow is too late.

Tewi Nicholls spoke about the history of the area telling stories about what the area was like when he was young growing up in Paeroa. He also lamented the loss of the birds and other species from the area and the importance of retaining the quality of the water.

#### Field Trip

All attendees took part in a field trip to the Tarariki Reserve in four groups with a leader. They were asked to observe what was taking place in the Reserve in relation to management issues which would influence the integrity of the area.

## Key Outcomes/Recommendations

The overall outcome was that this area is valuable and work is needed to maintain the mana of Tarariki and maintain and improve stream health and ecology.

### Animal and Plant Pest control

- Carry out animal pest control to increase the bird life. Initially the animal pest control has to be large operation to get a big reduction followed up by intense trapping to get a low residual trap catch (RTC).
- Carry out weed control especially the *Elaeagnus* (*Elaeagnus x reflexa*) located next to the carpark. It is a small area but could spread easily. Japanese honeysuckle was also present along the track. At this point these weeds are quite manageable but work needs to be carried out immediately.
- Remove the wilding pines.
- Provide training for local people who are keen to be involved in working in the Reserve e.g. Growsafe certification for weed management.
- The Biodiversity Forum could consider organising a working bee at the Reserve to carry out work e.g. removal of weeds.

### Water quality and Freshwater Ecology

- This Reserve is a water catchment reserve as well as an important area of ecological value.
- There is a need to find out who owns the dam, it's historical value, how necessary it is and what the future uses are for the dam as it is detrimental to the stream health and acts as barrier for fish passage.
- If the dam is needed fish ladders need to be placed at the dam site for fish passage.
- If the dam is not needed the bottom of the dam could be removed which would retain the stream flow.
- Find out if a smaller water take could be removed from the stream without the dam.
- Examine the effects of water abstraction on downstream ecology including the effects on life above and below the dam especially fish passage.



### Surveys/Plans

- Survey to gather baseline data on what exists in the Reserve/catchment now (ecological survey) e.g. threatened species of flora and fauna.
- Survey to include cultural values.
- Carry out follow up monitoring after survey and future work.
- Develop a management restoration plan which defines what a healthy functioning ecosystem is for the area, contains vision and goals and prioritises activities to be undertaken.

### Planting

- Re-vegetate the slip/scar next to the dam.

### Community/Leadership

- Consult with the community group which has been planting the Tarariki Stream.
- Try and get more people from the community involved in the existing group.
- Improve public knowledge of the ecological value of the Reserve through education in schools.
- Identify other groups/people for example, PD workers, who maybe able to help with activities in the Reserve such as weeding.
- Build on the community support already present e.g. Tarariki Stream fencing and planting that the community group/hapu has already carried out.
- Maintain and develop leadership for a future project in the Reserve

### Education

- Develop co-creative education through structuring ecological education into school programmes to educate children about their own back yard. This helps children understand and identify with the land and ecology of where they grow up.
- Develop local school links to the Enviroschools programme. School Board member/s could be found to drive this link.
- Build on the work Mike O'Donnell has done in local schools e.g. getting young people involved in grow plants, planting and leading them on field trips into the Reserve.
- Involve Hauraki District Council Youth Forum in any Reserve activities which would help them learn about the value of the area.
- Raise local people's awareness of the value of the Reserve and the work of the community group.

### Status of the land/area

- Find out the history and status of the land in the Reserve- LINZ Hamilton, Department of Conservation, Hauraki District Council, Hauraki Maori Trust Board, local historians/ museums
- Find out the status of the area as an ecological corridor.



## Agencies

- Meet with the Hauraki District Council to talk about the recommendations.
- Explore assistance from Hauraki District Council, EW and DOC for work in the Reserve.

## Funding

- Examine funding sources to undertake an ecological survey of the area.
- Examine funding options e.g. National Community Conservation Fund for additional animal and weed pest control.
- Explore obtaining Hauraki District Council funding through LTCCP process for biodiversity work in the Reserve.
- Obtain funding from private Business.

## Stakeholders

- Define who the key stakeholders are of the area and who the key drivers could be of future project/s.
- Define the roles and responsibilities of these stakeholders/ partners in any future project/s in the Reserve.
- Develop a technical advisory group if a large project is to be carried out in the Reserve.

## Submissions

- Get DOC input into any future projects. A submission could be made to the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) if appropriate.
- Lobby for work in the Reserve through the District Plan and the Long Term Community Council Plan (develop partnerships with Council).

Initial Actions	Who
Consult with the Biodiversity Forum Focus group on actions the Forum can take to advance achievable recommendations	Moirā Cursey and Biodiversity Focus Group
Obtain status of Reserve and surrounding land	Moirā Cursey
Talk with local community representatives such as Mike O'Donnell and others about the outcomes of the Forum day	Moirā and local community representatives
Talk to Council staff about the outcomes/recommendations of the Forum day	Moirā Cursey, Forum representatives and community representatives to liaise with the Hauraki District Council.
Keep Forum members and attendees posted on the outcomes of the talks with the community and Council	Moirā Cursey
Make submission through CMS for work in the area (if appropriate)	Moirā Cursey
Make submission through Hauraki District Council LTCCP for more animal and plant pest control in the Reserve	Moirā Cursey

## Copy of a detailed report

For a copy of all the detail of the days discussion points email Moira m.cursey@xtra.co.nz or phone 0800BIODIV (246348)

For those of you who didn't attend the Forum day aspects of the above recommendations and outcomes will be relevant to other sites that you maybe interested in improving.

Moirā Cursey

Waikato Biodiversity Forum