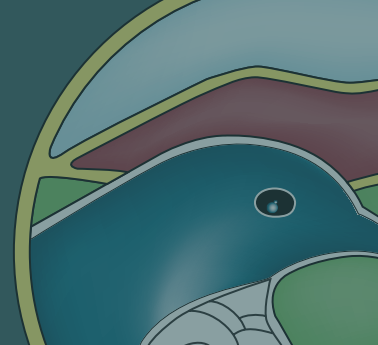




Report from the **Waikato Biodiversity Forum** held on Friday 21 March 2014 at Pukemokemo Bush Reserve



Purpose of the Youth Biodiversity Forum event

The purpose of the day was to:

- Inspire students learning and understanding around life processes and ecology
- Provide an experiential link from the classroom learning to ecology and life processes
- Provide an opportunity for students to experience young scientists and environmentalists who put their science learning into action through their jobs
- Inspire youth to volunteer
- Workshop where we want to be in 10 years time.



The activity stations

Recently the Pukemokemo Bush Reserve became an Outdoor Classroom for 60 year 12/13 students and first year University of Waikato students. The event was organised by a talented group of young environmentalists with support from the Forum coordinator. The students moved around a circuit of six presenters and took part in a range of interesting and inspiring activities. These included the use of telemetry kiwi location finding equipment and learning about the work of kiwi conservation at Rainbow Springs in Rotorua. The use of palm oil in foods and products such as cosmetics was “unmasked”. This raised awareness of the destruction of rain forest and resulting loss of habitat for species such as orangutuns for the growing of the palm oil trees. Students were introduced to invertebrate research which included viewing bumble bee trackers and transmitters and undertaking an activity to highlight the importance of pollinators and decomposers in the food chain. Controlling the threats from rats, stoats and possums was informative with a suite of traps on show for students to examine (unset!). Two arborists showed how their skills can combine with native plant research on epiphytes. The students got to view Frodo the morepork who lives at Wingspan in Rotorua. He proved to be the big star of the day. Finally students learnt the medieval method of repairing the broken feathers of birds of prey, such as the New Zealand Falcon. The organising committee did an awesome job and the day was a great success. Students were really grateful for the opportunity to meet young people who are out there working in the conservation field.



Briefing the students on the day

A selection of feedback from the students

Are you inspired? Why? And what about?

I am inspired as I always have been by NZ flora and fauna I think it is very worth protecting

Yes I am inspired as the stations today enlightened me on the vast opportunities that are available in the field of conservation I also came to realise the great impact which I could have on the environment

Yes I am inspired, I learnt more about conservation and all the different areas and how they link together

I have been inspired to take action

No it hasn't because I have done lots of research into it and so expected what it entailed but it was great to hear real life stories in person with real examples right there

Yes love nature really awesome to see efforts involved in preserving it

Definitely inspired but more interaction would be good so that I can get a feel for the jobs most interactive things were metaphors

I will now go and see what I could do to help our environment

Yes I feel like this day helped to show that there are lots of different opportunities and so many different fields to volunteer in

Yes I'm inspired because today made me realise how many different opportunities there are for volunteering which is something I'd love to do

Yes learning about volunteering and how much it can make a difference

Yes inspired to volunteer and start projects no matter what your age

Inspired yes learning and hearing things that others have done things I would like to do about volunteering

Yes I was inspired to spread the knowledge of biodiversity and its importance

Yes we can make a change and help the conservation of NZ environment and wildlife 100% inspired Opened my eyes to all of the different opportunities and field I can go into

Yes today was such an informative day and each station was very inspiring. It was interesting to see the variety of conservation and environmentalism around Waikato and NZ

It was inspiring to see the wide range of biodiversity volunteer options which shows there is something for everyone

Yes about working with birds (kiwi and morepork) contributing being a help to the environment conservation

To learn about other job opportunities there are too

Inspired to get to know about different careers in conservation

I'm feeling inspired

Today has confirmed in my mind that I definitely want to help with conservation volunteer and eventually get a career related to animals and/or nature

I have been inspired to work in maintaining biodiversity Starting from the bottom working towards the top (of the tree)

See what I can help out with-places I can volunteer at Yes it seems easier to get into now. I know that there are many different opportunities

I have been inspired to take action to try and reduce the number of products I buy that contain palm oil and inform others about these choices

Imping was a super interesting concept- a great way of doing it

Inspired to get more involved with volunteering in the community to help preserve our unique biodiversity

Really informative day-cemented my interest in this area of science

Presenters were really enthusiastic about their jobs and explained everything well

Arborists were really interesting

Frodo was my fav

Tracker bees were really cool, Awesome idea Improved my thoughts on insects

Today I was inspired to become more active within the wider biodiversity community especially through volunteering

I learnt what possible job opportunities are out there

I will recommend they come to this next year

I will be contacting some of the businesses/programmes in relation to volunteering especially in connection to the work placements (BSC Tech) from Waikato Uni

I'm now inspired about birds of prey because they are really cool

I am inspired about insects especially and conservation across the board I really liked the Wingspan workshop

I was inspired by the idea/concept presented by Wingspan of trying to adapt predatory birds to an urban environment in order to preserve them

I particularly enjoyed the wide range of fields presented today



Tree climbing at the epiphyte station

Things you will share with others

I will share with others what I learnt about tracking kiwi

Conservation is important and without it native species will not survive

Palm oil bronze silver and gold

Lots of passionate young people out there

Falcon and owl feathers can be mended

Frodo the morepork

Arborists and jobs working with climbing trees and I will publicise the kiwi more

Protecting biodiversity both near and far

Working with both plants and animal

I'll mention to others how wing feathers are replaced

I will share all of the different ways people can get involved in conservation

That they can make a difference

I will share about the different types of volunteer organisation one can get involved in



Tracking kiwi using telemetry equipment

New facts you learnt

Ladybug larvae look like the mealy bug that they predate on

The NZ Falcon is rarer than a kiwi

Perching tree lilies (epiphytes) provide nutrients for the tree and other plants

What a bumble bee nest looks like

Ben needs finance for his unmasking palm oil campaign

Bananas don't require pollination

There is a career where you can climb tree for a living (arborists) and today I met a morepork who thought he was a human

There's an insect that hunts spiders

I learnt about predation and the many jobs that make up a research project

Kawakawa has an anaesthetic effect

That there is a reserve founded by David Johnstone called Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve

I learnt heaps about insects and their importance in the survival of other species and populations

All the epiphyte information

That rats are the worst pest

Other birds such as morepork are rare and kiwi conservation is awesome and a way to make a difference

Learn as much as possible

I found the station on birds and the one on insects interesting

Palm oil is 10x more productive than other oil and very cheap which is why it becomes a problem

Honey bees are not the best pollinators-bumble bees are better and have nest that look like a bag of marbles



Bee display at the insect station

Has your thinking changed around conservation

I would like to find out more about research jobs like the man at station 1

Get more involved with conservation and help restore native predators to NZ

Volunteer next year

Take action by volunteering

Arboriculture would be an amazing job

I'll look up and learn more about palm oil

I will take some volunteering pamphlets and seriously consider volunteering. My new view on conservation is that there is so much you can do about it

People should volunteer

Volunteer and go research and apply for volunteer work

Try and start an enviroschool programme at my school

I was made aware of volunteer opportunities that are available that can lead to jobs and support your interests plus the impact that volunteers have on companies

Start volunteering

It solidified what I already thought about conservation
Volunteer- do what you can where you can

Definitely want to get into volunteering at some stage

People can still contribute to the development of conservation even if they're an accountant or lawyer =can work for environmental sectors

Now I will get involved in volunteering work Sounds like an amazing opportunity

I'm going to research more about volunteering and biodiversity movements

Definitely will think about my possible job pathways and how they could potentially relate to conservation

I will find a conservation group to volunteer with

I would be interested in a career in conservation

I'm really passionate about this area and this day was really interesting and inspiring

I will try volunteering at places

I'm going to go home and think about how/where I could volunteer and also think about future career possibilities in the area of conservation



Animal pest control station



Frodo the star of the day

