



Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter May 2010 Number 27

Kia Ora/Greetings to all Forum Members

As I write this it has begun to rain. As you read this I hope it is still raining! The land and plants desperately need it as do the animals that depend upon it (both farm and native species).

The quote below is from Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General on the 2003 International Day of Biological Diversity. This quote seems to sum up the collective energy of the Waikato Biodiversity Forum.

“The preservation of biodiversity is not just a job for governments. International and non-governmental organisations, the private sector and each and every individual have a role to play in changing entrenched outlooks and ending destructive patterns of behaviour”.

Calendar of Events and Working Bees pages on Website

If you have events, **working bees** or trips planned for 2010 and would like them advertised outside your group forward them to me for inclusion on the Forum's website. <http://www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz/events/>

Biodiversity Contestable Advice and Condition Funds

The funding round is now closed. It is anticipated that the Funds will be open in **September 2010** for applications and www.biodiversity.govt.nz/biofunds

Anyone proposing to submit an application, prior discussion with Fund staff is recommended. So if you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of your project or proposed application please feel free to call Katrina or Susie on 0800 86 2020.

How to apply You need to familiarise yourself with the Biodiversity Fund Guides and Exclusions for funding. <http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/conditionapps.html>

ONLINE APPLICATIONS: As with previous funding rounds you are encouraged to submit applications online using the appropriate form for the Advice Fund or Condition Fund. www.biodiversity.govt.nz/apply Refer to the online application guide for helpful notes and hints

http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/Guide_4_Electronic_Online_Applications.pdf

MANUAL APPLICATIONS: If you are submitting an application manually applicants must use the appropriate and revised application forms for this round.

<http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/conditionapps.html>

I encourage as many private landowners as possible to apply to this fund as there is no guarantee that it will continue after the present money is used up.

Funding Advice

The Forum's website has a comprehensive list of funders. Moira is available for funding advice.

National photo competition

“New Zealand biodiversity: captured” national photo competition will be launched on 22 May. Information will be available on the DOC website beginning 22 May. The competition is sponsored by DOC, UNESCO, Forest & Bird and NIWA. The competition runs from 22 May to 30 July. Winners to be announced in September (date to be confirmed) at a special event in Wellington. The direct web link to the event will be

www.doc.govt.nz/biodiversitycaptured

Expansion of the Karioi Maunga restoration project

Last year a partnership between Te Whakaoranga o Karioi (TWOK) and A Rocha Aotearoa NZ (ARANZ) initiated a community pest eradication programme on a small segment of Karioi Maunga, in Whaingaroa – Raglan. Since then the discovery of a breeding colony of Grey Faced Petrel nearby has added an exciting new dimension to this

project. The Karioi restoration project started in the Upper Wainui Reserve, on the lower slopes of Karioi Maunga early in 2009. As well as on-going pest control, monitoring of native flora and fauna has also been undertaken in the reserve by enthusiastic local residents, volunteers and experts. Together they have provided the necessary skills and time to collect baseline information about the native forest vegetation, birds, invertebrates, stream invertebrates and fish. With the help of a student from the University of Waikato last year; rodent populations were also monitored using special tracking tunnels.

Although the reserve is small (10 ha.) the group deployed 70 rat traps and 10 stoat traps throughout the area. Traps have been set in specially-designed tunnels, to avoid capturing anything other than the target species. Trapping has been successful – more than 100 rats and mice and two stoats were captured in the first season, and monitoring indicated that rat and mice abundance decreased to an undetectable rate by the end of November 2009. This year the group will expand the treatment area to include Bryant Reserve (17 ha.) adjacent to the Upper Wainui reserve. This means that the project will manage a continuous area of coastal forest from the shoreline and up onto the slopes of Karioi Maunga.

Grey-Faced Petrel/*Oi* breeding burrows have been found on the coastal cliffs in the Bryant Scenic Reserve. *Oi* are a native species of burrowing seabird that were once widespread on mainland New Zealand. Today there are few remaining mainland populations and those that remain are probably in decline. *Oi* are under threat from introduced pests such as rats, stoats and feral cats. The groups project aims to control these pest populations by continuing trapping in the Upper Wainui and Bryant Scenic Reserve to protect *Oi* and other vulnerable wildlife. They will also monitor and survey these populations to document their breeding success in relation to predator control. The occurrence of a breeding population so close to human habitation provides a unique opportunity for community involvement in the management of a *taonga* species and provides a chance for us to work together in the forest to improve the overall indigenous biodiversity of the area. The group aims to increase the area receiving on-the-ground pest control around the Maunga each year with help from local residents and the Whaingaroa community. Kristel van Houte-Howes

Waiwhakareke : A major millennium project.....

Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park is spread over 60 hectares on a working farm on the north west outskirts of Hamilton, bounded by Baverstock, Rotokauri and Brymer Roads. The vision for the park is to create a self-sustaining habitat sanctuary that represents the original ecosystem diversity of the Hamilton Basin. This involves a reconstruction from farmland of native lowland and wetland ecosystems once widespread but now rare in the Waikato.



The four partners in the project are University of Waikato, Hamilton City Council, Tui 2000 and Waikato Polytechnic. Planting started in 2004 and by the end of this planting season we hope to have nearly a third completed.

They have secured generous funding from Environment Waikato, Hamilton City and the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust but further finances will be needed. <http://www.waiwhakareke.co.nz>

The group will be holding an open day for farmers on 23rd June. To join the Friends of Waiwhakareke email newsletter list and get regular updates contact Catherine Smith at 2smiths@wave.co.nz. They work on site on the last Saturday of the month from 9am – noon

Franklin District Council

Andrew Moor and Kelly Deihl are working with a class of children at Pukekohe North School doing stream restoration work over the next couple of months. FDC will be donating plants and they will be working with the class to replant the riparian margins of the Whangapouri Stream which runs through their school. Kelly Deihl

Te Whangai Trust Nursery

Te Whangai has superb natives for current autumn plant outs. Metre trees for PB3 prices. All profits go back to the community to accelerate conservation work and assist those at a disadvantage in our community.

Our people are our environment, we nurture them and they nurture the environment. Check out our website www.tewhangai.com and contact us for price lists and availability. Eco sourced Waikato, Auckland, Thames Coromandel. Adrienne Dalton

Whapaupoko West Franklin Landcare Group (Originally Baldhill Landcare)

The original defined area of the Landcare Group was 2,500 hectares but pest control has now spread beyond this to approximately 6,000 ha. On top of Baldhill used to be the dominant Pa for the whole Peninsula for the Ngati Te Ata with two other large sites close by. According to George Flavell, Baldhill was often known as Whakaupoko which is interpreted as 'The Head / Summit'. With the dominance of Tairāre the area is a key breeding area for the kereru, (wood pigeon), from as early as May through to at least October. There are several areas of bush known to have bats. There are several recent volcanoes within the area. There is a diverse range of contour and soil types that supports a diverse range of native vegetation. Although most of the land is not now in native vegetation there are still significant areas totalling close to 10% of which most is fenced off from livestock. This includes three sites totalling 43ha identified by Environment Waikato as Key Environmental Sites. Importantly there are now over 100 households in the area and a significant number of people who are keen to be actively involved in a landcare group.

The vision of the group includes enhancing the native wildlife and flora with the focus on kereru and bats, general landcare, developing an understanding of the local history and developing a greater sense of community. The group has specific plans to increase the woodpigeon population five fold in the next five years, maintain and ideally enhance the local native bat population, see kaka well established permanently in the area by the year 2015, achieve low possum numbers and put in place strategies that will permanently maintain low numbers and accurately monitor progress of our possum and rat control programme.

Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve (near Tauhei)

The group have started planting along the Mangatea Stream, cutting the privet and clearing the weeds around last years plants. The trees planted last year look good, some having grown nearly a metre since last year. The alluvial flats are a fertile area for revegetating with natives. Grants for the trees have been received from Trust Waikato and the DOC Biodiversity Fund. Over the last few months the group have also improved the Mangatea Track (thanks to HCC Envirofund), and cleared windfall trees from the 'stop-over' pa (with financial assistance from Waikato District Council). Josh Ormsby of ATS has assisted the group with his skills as an arborist. The next working bees are scheduled for June 12, July 10, August 14, Sept 11, Oct 9 and Nov 13th. The group plan to have a special BBQ in the Log Hauler Site in December or January to celebrate all the achievements. Alan Leadley

Te Kaakano Community Nursery

Te Kaakano Community Nursery is an entry level employment initiative that seeks to achieve our goals of caring for the people and caring for the land. The group is keen to provide native plants for Landcare Groups around the Waikato, with a shared focus of increasing biodiversity within our area/benefiting our local community. The group are currently partnering with A Rocha and Landcare groups such as Pokemokemoke and Cameron Lake care group. Te Kaakano are able to supply a good range of eco-sourced native plants perfect for revegetation projects, PB3 size at a cost of \$4 wholesale, as well as plants suitable for increasing



urban biodiversity. If you know of any conservation groups requiring more plants or interested in purchasing from the group in the future, or even interest in planting partnerships contact the group. Jillian Boyce, Te Kaakano Nursery Co-ordinator, Ph 07 855 2728, Mb 021 122 1261, Email te_kaakano@hotmail.com
www.tekaakano.co.nz

Land with High Biodiversity Value For Sale

Mahakirau Forest Estate Society Inc who are members of the Waikato Biodiversity Forum have blocks of land for sale. The Mahakirau Estate on the 309 Road, Coromandel has 4 bush blocks 10ha-15ha subject to detailed bush covenants pursuant to the provisions of QEII National Trust Act for sale. The subdivision is situated in an area of extensive regenerating native bush and would be of interest to purchases who are motivated to look after forest, native bird life and protect the other conservation values of the area. Contact Vendor 021 529625

If you want to contact people whose details are not in the newsletter you can go through the Contact Us page on the Forum website and send an email to me. I'll put you in touch with them.

The newsletters are all placed on www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz for easy access.

Cheers Moira