



Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter August 2009 Number 24

Kia Ora/Greetings to all Forum Members

A quote to start the newsletter. "When we tug at a single thing in nature, we find it attached to the rest of the world". John Muir

The 0800BIODIV (246348) will operate at least for 6 months.

Calendar of Events and Working Bees pages on Website

If you have events, **working bees** or trips planned over the next few months and would like them advertised outside your group forward them to the Biodiversity Forum coordinator for inclusion on the Forum's website.

<http://www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz/events/>

Biodiversity Contestable Advice and Condition Funds

Anyone proposing to submit an application, prior discussion with Fund staff can be useful for applicants. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of your project or proposed application please feel free to call Stephanie Weller on 0800 86 2020 and go to www.biodiversity.govt.nz/biofunds for information.

It is important to familiarise yourself with the Biodiversity Fund Guides and Exclusions for funding.

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

National Community Biodiversity Fund

This fund has been discontinued by the government.

Funding Advice

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

Tarariki Reserve Paeroa Outcomes from Forum

Representations from the community, DOC, Hauraki District Council and Environment Waikato have met and put forward some contributions for work in the Reserve. DOC has indicated its willingness to undertake a baseline assessment of the reserve for mammalian pests and report on the best options for control, priorities and cost estimates. DOC is also willing to undertake post-op monitoring to assess the residual trap catch (RTC) after control has taken place. Environment Waikato is prepared to assess the weed problem in the reserve and prioritise weed removal alongside the community involvement. Hauraki District Council has placed \$2,000 for 2009/10 and \$2,000 for the 2010/11 budget specifically for Tarariki Reserve. Funding options to carry out other work in the Reserve are being explored.

Hakarimata Restoration Trust

The Hakarimata Restoration Group has completed all monitoring and analysed the results, all bait stations have been placed (about 250) and lines are marked, almost all bait stations are GPS'ed with data entered for final map production and non-toxic pre-feed has been put out in stations and is being consumed heartily, poison warning signs placed on all tracks and toxic possum bait has been laid. After the first bait installment the programme will be:

- **2nd rat bait refill** to be laid **5/6th September**
- **Rodent monitoring** to be done **26/27 September**
- **Bird monitoring** to be done with DOC **September** -for anyone keen to learn.
- Possible **final Rat bait refill** **early-mid October**
- **Final Monitoring** **early-mid November**

Volunteers are needed for the work. Ph John (824 8623 or 027 675 3039) or Phil (829 4577 or 027 277 3047) if you are available to volunteer for this work.

Recommendations for monitoring by forest managers Kerry Borkin

Long-tailed bats are currently considered “data poor” by the Department of Conservation (Hitchmough et al. 2007), and this has contributed to their classification as “nationally vulnerable to extinction”. A better understanding of how long-tailed bats use habitat that results in more targeted monitoring is likely to increase detection rates (Greaves et al. 2006). Targeted monitoring for long-tailed bats within plantations, and the reporting of their presence to the Department of Conservation, who maintain a database of bat distribution, will help provide a better understanding of long-tailed bat distribution throughout New Zealand.

We therefore recommend that when forest managers wish to monitor their forests for the presence of long-tailed bats they place monitoring equipment along roads within stands or along the edges of stands to maximise the likelihood of detection of long-tailed bats. If placing monitoring equipment along edges, and there is the option of placing it along an edge with or without a stream, we recommend monitoring the edge with the stream. We suggest monitoring for bat activity for a minimum of three nights to maximise the likelihood of detection of long-tailed bats in similar stands of plantation forest. We also recommend reporting bat detections to the Department of Conservation to gain a better understanding of long-tailed bat distribution throughout New Zealand.

National Wetland Trust

The National Wetland Trust wetland restoration symposium registrations are now open. Special discount rate for community group volunteers and landowners undertaking wetland restoration work, courtesy a grant from the Biodiversity Advice Fund. The Symposium will be held in Rotorua on March 3rd-5th 2010. The theme is: "Wetland Management and Restoration (Freshwater and Estuarine)". See www.wetlandtrust.org.nz for details

Kainui Lake Silt Trap Planting Day

Kainui Lake is one in a series of peat lakes that are a unique feature in the Waikato region. Peat lakes in general are a dwindling habitat worldwide. Kainui Lake is a Waikato District Council reserve in Horsham Downs that has been looked after by a dedicated group of landowners and volunteers. The management committee is made up of a diverse set of stakeholders, including representatives of the Council, iwi, landowners, farmers, Fish & Game and EW.



The latest in a series of silt traps and wetland buffer zones was recently completed. Over the years strategic points and inflows to the lake have been transformed into nutrient loading buffer zones.

Silt traps catch nutrient rich runoff from the surrounding grazing fields and filter out the solids as well as remove nutrients using wetland plant species. The aim is to try and reduce the amount of nutrient entering the lake itself. Sedges and wetland plants were used to plant up the actual silt trap, with shrubs and trees along the edges of the trap and waterways to help soak up nutrients. The plants were all eco-sourced from local seed to best match the native flora

of the region. A few larger specimen trees have also been planted to add to the native lakeland bush. The project is a good demonstration of local communities and landowners working with the statutory bodies to make practical and positive improvements to their local environment.

Ben Wolf Waikato District Council

Waterways Ecology Team (WET)-Landcare Group

The aim of the group is to enhance riparian zones. The team work with local farmers and landowners, to produce the corridors of native plantings down the waterways leading from Maungatautari. To date they are working on 4

farms. They have also organised three seminars in the targeted area, doing publicity and fundraising before these events.

The seminars are free information sharing days for local farmers and landowners. They have proved popular, with speakers from Waipa District Council, Landcare Trust, Waikato Biodiversity Forum, Forest Flora, NIWA and Environment Waikato taking part. Through education and facilitation, the right decisions are achievable. Better management of riparian zones includes fencing and planting of waterways. Streamside trees provide shelter and shade for animals. They also provide nesting sites and habitat for native birds, so linking the small forest remnants throughout the Waikato. Better water quality and reduction of water temperatures are direct results of good riparian management. Planting trees and shrubs along waterways protects stream banks preventing soil erosion and water contamination.

Pat Williams Team Leader

Kaimai Mamaku Campaign – Google Map

Forest and Bird is wishing to contact groups / organisations involved in restoration work, e.g. pest control, fencing, riparian management, planting, coastal care within the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park and Waihou and Tauranga Harbour Catchment Areas. They would like to discuss whether the groups would like to be part of a Google map which would identify their group / activities. Groups would be identified by a “flag” on a map of the area. When the computer cursor is laid over the flag some basic information would come up, e.g. name of the group, what the group does, request for volunteers (if required), contact details. Whether groups would like to be part of this map and what information would be associated with their flag is entirely up to the group concerned. The benefits of this map would be that members of the public could:

- easily access information re community restoration work happening within this area, who is doing it and how they can participate.
- visually see how much restoration work is occurring in this area

To view the current map and restoration groups.

<http://maps.google.co.nz/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=104926355642452237597.0004687e036096461b06b&ll=-40.313043,-179.780273&spn=22.408943,39.331055&z=5>

Contact Al Fleming on 07 575 8478, 021 988 295 or a.fleming@forestandbird.org.nz

Kaimai Mamaku Campaign – Memories

Forest & Bird is seeking memories of the rich and colourful history of the Kaimai Mamaku Forest. We want to bring together people’s stories of Kaimai Mamaku so that we can build a wider knowledge of the many aspects of the area’s history, and share those stories with the community.



Any material gathered will help Forest & Bird’s Kaimai Mamaku Campaign. This campaign seeks to raise awareness about the importance of the Kaimai Mamaku forest to the community, and the need to restore health to the forest and its native wildlife.

Contributions could include:

- Stories about Kaimai Mamaku’s past
 - Photographs, drawings and paintings of historic Kaimai Mamaku
 - Artifacts relating to Kaimai Mamaku history, e.g. old mining or logging equipment
 - Official records or newspaper articles about the forests
 - Letters, diaries or other personal writing about the Kaimai Mamakus
- Anything else that helps tell the story of Kaimai Mamaku’s rich and varied past.

Anyone who think they might have something to contribute is encouraged to contact Al Fleming on 07 575 8478, 021 988 295, a.fleming@forestandbird.org.nz, or send to 558 Maunganui Rd, Mt Maunganui 3116.

Kaimai Mamaku Campaign audience database

For persons wishing to receive periodical updates on how the campaign is progressing please send your name, organisation name, email, and contact details to Chris Hector and hector@actrix.co.nz

Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust – New Website Launched

The Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust has recently launched its new website at www.wceet.org.nz. The website will provide regular updates and photos of projects throughout the Waikato Catchment, information on upcoming funding rounds, background, feedback and an interactive map showing the location and description of projects the Trust has supported. If you have any questions please contact Michelle Caird at enquiries@wceet.org.nz

Te Whangai Trust-Plants for Sale

Te Whangai Trust, Miranda has thousands of plants for sale. If you would like to purchase plants ph Adrienne or Gary Dalton 09 2327725 or email g.adalton@xtra.co.nz

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 Moira

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