



Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter November 2008 Number 21

Kia Ora/Greetings to all Forum Members

A quote:

"A society is defined not only by what it creates, but by what it refuses to destroy." John Sawhill, former president/CEO of The Nature Conservancy.

Calendar of Events pages on Website



Janice (Biodiversity Advice Waikato) and Moira (Waikato Biodiversity Forum) would like to provide a regional notice board type calendar on the website. The Waikato Biodiversity Forum is a regional service so we'd like to include events from the range of areas across the Forum's boundaries. The Forum's event page <http://www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz/events/> is one of the highest hit pages on the website so people must be interested in finding out about biodiversity related events/trips. So if you have events, working bees or trips planned over the next few months and would like them advertised outside your group they can be forwarded to the Biodiversity Forum coordinator for inclusion on the website. When the date is passed the event is automatically deleted from the event page.

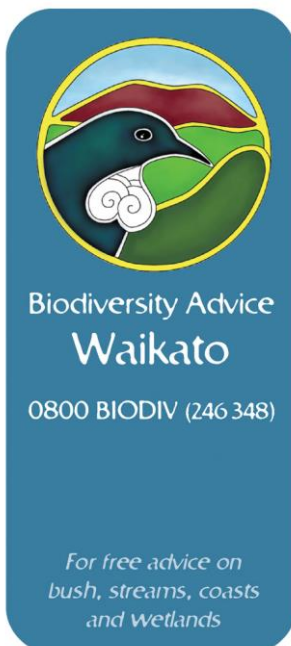
Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET) Funding application round

WCEET funding round closes on 31st January 2009. This funding source covers the Waikato River and Lake Taupo catchment projects which foster, and enhance ecological resources within the catchment. High priority areas are Lake Taupo to Ohakuri and Meremere.

Website www.wceet.org.nz for more information and application form.

Phone 0800246 348 (0800(BIODIV))

Biodiversity Advice Waikato (BAW)



Biodiversity Advice Waikato is provided and supported by the Waikato Biodiversity Forum. Key Contact, Jan Hoverd **Ph.0800BIODIV (0800 246348)**

Service operates Monday to Friday 9am-6pm, and has an after hours phone.

Email: biodiv@bioforum.org.nz

Website: www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz

Pest management is an annual event for community conservation groups and keeping up to date with developments in this field is not easy.

A **Workshop** is planned providing information and training covering topics related to safety in the forest and animal pest management. Workshop leaders will be DOC staff and Mountain Safety personnel.

Topics covered will include:

- Outdoor first aid: What to do when something goes wrong.
- Practical time in the bush-compass and map skills: Moving through the bush: Setting up a rope handline for steep slope work
- Traps/toxins –options available: Handling of animal traps
- Animal pests can be disease carriers.

Venues and dates -Pirongia School Hall, Te Awamutu on 22nd February 2009. The

same workshop will be repeated at DOC Kauaeranga Information Centre, Thames on 18th March 2009. More detail coming in the near future.

Forum Report

Over the past three months the main activities carried out by the **Forum** are:

- Organised Biodiversity Forum day in Paeroa
- Made submissions and gave information on biodiversity protection to Councils for LTCCP
- Completed annual update of community group database
- Gave lecture on biodiversity to College of Education students
- Attended election meetings with candidates and providing links to main political Parties environment and conservation policies to Forum members
- Prepared information on biodiversity for organisations
- Updating the Plant and Animal Species maps –include more species
- Provided Waikato Times with information for biodiversity feature -kaka
- Worked with the Sustainable Business Network to pilot a Community group and Business partnership
- Prepared Forum statistics
- Exploring future funding for the Forum

Conservation Management Strategy

Submissions on the CMS close on 9 January 2009. Here is the link to view the document and the process of consultation.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/waikato-conservation-management-strategy-review/>

Taupo District Council proposed plan change

Taupo District Council is looking to notify its Natural Values plan change to the District Plan on 19 December 2008. The closing date for submissions will be **5.00pm Friday, 27 February 2009**.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the proposed plan change contact Kara Maresca- ph 07 376 0641, email kmaresca@taupo.govt.nz or Rowan Sapsford - ph 07 376 0723, email rsapsford@taupo.govt.nz

DVD Educational resource

Mike O'Donnell has a DVD which has footage of him teaching children about the bush and stream life in the Tarariki Reserve near Paeroa. It would make a very useful teaching resource. Contact Mike 07 8627380 to get more details about the DVD.

Biodiversity Contestable Advice and Condition Funds (Close 10 December 2008)

The next funding round will in May 2009

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

National Community Biodiversity Fund

This fund of \$4million over 2 years, has been established for community initiated restoration projects on publicly owned land, particularly in under represented and threatened ecosystem, such as wetlands, dune land, urban waterways, river / stream banks and forest remnants and projects aligned with the Statement of National Priorities for protecting rare and threatened native biodiversity.

Eligibility: Public land (including DOC, Council, Transit, Rail and LINZ lands)

Who can apply: Community groups, NGOs, Trusts etc who are working on restoration projects on public land.

Further information: www.doc.govt.nz/communityfund

The next round is anticipated to open late March 2009.

Flora of Aotearoa/New Zealand Department of Biological Sciences University of Waikato 6th–20th February 2009

Topics covered in this course

- The origin of New Zealand's unique flora

- Basics of plant taxonomy
- Modern methods of plant classification and identification
- Identifying plants in the field

Contact course co-ordinator Chrissen Gemmill (email: c.gemmill@waikato.ac.nz; phone: 07 838 4053 to enrol

Thames Forest and Bird

The coordinating group for the development of the wetlands forming the floodplain of the lower Kauaeranga River, which forms the Southern boundary of Thames, met on 30 Oct 2008. Representatives from DOC, EW, TCDC, and Forest and Bird attended to discuss action over the coming months. A landscaping plan by EW for the area upstream from the traffic bridge was endorsed. As part of this plan, provision was made for removing weeds from a 3-ha riparian strip to ready it for the planting of low-profile vegetation in the autumn. Approaches would be made to funding agencies for financial assistance.”

Te Whangai Trust

Recently Biodiversity Forum members Adrienne and Gary Dalton won a Sustainable Business Network award in the category of Trailblazer (Not for Profit). They run Te Whangai Charitable Trust from their farm near Miranda which they started last November. The Trust has set up an eco-nursery growing native New Zealand trees, shrubs and other plants and staffed by people who have found it difficult to get into the labour market. Te Whangai Trust offers jobs and skills training to people who have generally been unemployed for some time, disadvantaged in the workforce through circumstances or illness, referred to them by Work and Income. Te Whangai's goal is to support its staff through to finding fulltime jobs in the workforce. Te Whangai sells the plants from its nursery to ratepayer and taxpayer funded environmental projects, mainly through local councils, Environment Waikato, and to industries, farmers, schools and others planting for compliance or conservation on a not-for-profit basis.

Geothermal Site Plant Pest Control

A project to restore the vegetation around the geothermal feature in Crown Park Taupo has been substantially completed. This involved the removal of the wilding pines, broom, cherries and rubbish from the site as well as re contouring the valley floor. This area is used by local people to steam cook their food. We were treated to a meal cooked this way while working there and it was delicious! Kevin Loe Plant Pest Contractor (EW Taupo)



Before and after photos of removal of wilding pine trees and other weeds

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 either Moira or Jan for their details.

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