



Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter

November 2009 Number 25

Kia Ora/Greetings to all Forum Members

A long newsletter to end the year. Items just kept flowing in. It has been a full year of successes and challenges. I hope you all have a safe, restful and fun holiday break over the Xmas/New Year in whatever way that is for you. My best wishes to you. Moira

Biodiversity Contestable Advice and Condition Funds

The funding round is now open for applications and will close **3pm Wednesday 3 February 2010**

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. Notification of outcome is anticipated in late May/early June 2010.

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>

Funding Advice

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

Tarariki Reserve Paeroa Outcomes from Forum

A Waikato Community Conservation Fund application for funding for weed control at Tarariki Reserve is being assessed by the Department of Conservation at present. The outcome of the application should be known in early December. Pest control for possums and goats has been carried out by Hauraki District Council.

New Catchment Care program launched in Waikato

Fonterra's newly launched Catchment Care programme is a partnership with non-profit organisation, Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ), to provide support for practical water-catchment care projects across New Zealand. The programme focuses on projects that enhance and protect waterways and wetlands, and involves riparian planting, fencing, removal of invasive species, weeding and rubbish clean-ups.

The Waikato region will be a key focus for the initiative-not surprisingly, given the significance of dairying to the Waikato economy, and its role in shaping the regions landscape. Initially, the program is supporting large scale projects, including the Shallow Lakes here in the Waikato- and by mid-2010, will also be supporting smaller community-focused projects and individual landowners. If you would like to learn more about this program including how you can participate, you can contact Conservation Volunteers New Zealand directly at their Hamilton office on 07 8592402, or go to www.catchmentcare.org.nz or www.conservationvolunteers.co.nz

Conservation Volunteers New Zealand

Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ) is a national not-for-profit, community based organisation that is dedicated to engaging community in practical conservation projects. Two examples of our programs include:

1) The newly launched Catchment Care programme (partnership with Fonterra) provides support for practical water-catchment care projects across New Zealand. The programme focuses on projects that enhance and protect waterways and wetlands, and involves riparian planting, fencing, removal of invasive species, weeding and rubbish clean-ups. The Waikato region will be a key focus for the initiative-not surprisingly, given the significance of dairying to the Waikato economy, and its role in shaping the regions landscape. Initially, the program is supporting large scale projects, including the Shallow Lakes here in the Waikato- and by mid-2010, will also be supporting smaller community-focused projects and individual landowners,

2) The CVNZ signature program, 'Better Earth', involves managed teams of up to ten volunteers working on conservation projects. Led by qualified Team Leaders with projects ranging from one day to one week, over two thousand projects are completed each year throughout urban, regional and remote areas of New Zealand and Australia. Visit www.conservationvolunteers.co.nz

If you would like more information, please contact our Hamilton Office Regional Manager, Yuki Fukuda, on (07 859 2401 or yfukuda@conservationvolunteers.co.nz) or Auckland Office Regional Manager, Steve Bailey (09 623 7283 or sbailey@cva.org.au).

Kauri 2000 is 10 Years Old!

Kauri 2000 (www.kauri2000.co.nz) marked its 10th anniversary of planting this year, with almost 30,000 kauri now planted on more than 30 sites around the Coromandel Peninsula. The project was originally conceived in 1998 to celebrate the new millennium but because of enthusiastic public support it was decided to continue in perpetuity. The 10th birthday was marked with a small celebration at the Department of Conservation's Kauaeranga Valley Visitor Centre. The Trust has always enjoyed willing support and assistance from the Department of Conservation (most of its planting sites are on DoC land) and a Memorandum of Agreement signed with DoC last October has further cemented this valued relationship.

Planting continued throughout the winter with the help of our wonderful volunteers and corporate sponsors, resulting in 3,300 kauri in the ground. A huge "well done" to all, particularly students and staff from St. Peters School who came all the way from Cambridge to help. At our main planting area, the Matarangi Reserve, around 2,514 trees were planted by over 50 volunteers and BNZ staff, bringing the total in this area to 5,850. Tairua School returned for their fourth year to Te Karo Bay, and the McNeil family planted another 100 trees on their QEII covenant at Ferry Landing.

Both the Thames-Coromandel District Council and the Hauraki District Council came on board this year. Thirty kauri were planted at the William Hall Reserve in Thames with the help of Mayor Phillipa Barriball and Deputy Mayor Adrian Catran. The Hauraki District Council is looking at planting kauri with the help of Kauri 2000 on the Hutchinson Reserve in Paeroa.

One shadow on the horizon, however, is the threat of kauri dieback disease. The Phytophthora taxon Agathis (PTA) pathogen is a serious threat to our iconic kauri, from centuries old trees to young seedlings. While it has not yet been identified on the Coromandel Peninsula the Kauri 2000 Trust is very mindful of the risk, and looking to play its part in helping educate volunteers, contractors and the wider public about the disease and how to limit its spread.

Landscape and Natural Values Proposed Plan Change to the Taupo District Plan Update:

The Taupo District Council has just finished 7 days of hearings on its proposed plan change to the Landscape and Natural Values sections of the Taupo District Plan. The Hearings Committee is currently deliberating the plan change, and a decision is due early in the New Year.

For more information about the hearing or the proposed plan change, please contact Kara Maresca – Senior Environmental Policy Planner, on ph (07) 376 0641, or email: kmaresca@taupo.govt.nz or visit Council's website at: www.taupodc.govt.nz

Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust

On 14th October the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET) celebrated its five year anniversary of funding ecological projects in the Waikato Catchment. Tainui's Gannin Ormsby and Trust Chair

Gwyneth Verkerk welcomed guests from throughout the Catchment to the five year anniversary event. Guests included local Iwi, District and Regional Councils, conservation and wetland enthusiasts, representatives from the organisations who have received funding and founding organisations. Gwyneth provided an outline of the Trust's vision and objectives, success's to date and hopes for the Trust's future.

Special Guest speaker, renowned ecologist Bruce Clarkson outlined his life's work involving natural forest chronosequence and how principles of studying environmental change can be applied to improve species biodiversity in the Waikato Region. To date the Trust has funded / committed funding to a total of 89 projects within the Waikato Catchment amounting to an estimated \$2 million. The 2010 funding round for is now open with applications closing on the 31st January 2010. Contact 0800BIODIV for information about the fund and funding applications can be accessed at www.wceet.org.nz. Please send all complete applications to WCEET, PO Box 445, Hamilton or email ian.wallace@mightyriver.co.nz with any questions.

Tongariro River Advocates

Tongariro River advocates have had a busy winter and spring planting of 1000 native plants at the river end of



Taupahi Reserve in 1.5 hours by an enthusiastic team of 40. The environmental aim of the Advocates is to restore the riparian strip to indigenous vegetation. We have been slowly working from the Major Jones swing bridge toward State Highway 1 bridge on the true left. Any one who walks the track will notice the change.

Already work is progressing on clearing blackberry, cotoneaster, buddleia and other introduced species from the area of Taupahi reserve and Te Aho reserve. The clearance from both areas has drawn praise from locals and visitors alike. The groups owes thanks to the Corrections Department for their part in doing the hard

work of clearing the unwanted plants and for their assistance with planting today alongside the community group. Thanks also goes to the Department of Conservation for their guidance and for felling the exotic trees. The community has been able to remove the wood as firewood and has helped in reducing the amount of material needing to go to the vegetation dump. A big thankyou to Mathew Truebridge for his contribution with his no name machine that cleared the land once the trees were felled and left a workable site for the planting today.

The group now has the task to ensure the survival of the plants through the hot summer and keep weed growth checked to allow the plants to grow. The project at this point has been a great example of community co-operation. Eric Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer.



Friends of Sanatorium Hill

Friends of Sanatorium Hill report that there have been tui enmass seen in the Maungakawa Reserve/Sanatorium Hill area. A count was done a few weeks ago when the Puddums were flowering and 48-50 tui were observed feeding off the nectar from the flowers. This is an increase in numbers from 30-35 observed in previous years. Rat control has been carried out again this year during October/November to give the eggs and chicks a much higher chance of survival. Vanessa Moore

Te Kowhai's Going for Gold



This area was named by Maori due to its strong association with the kowhai tree. Settlement and development decimated the natural reservoir of this iconic flowering tree. Now, a hundred years later, the 'Going for Gold' project seeks to re-establish the masses of kowhai from which this district was named.

'Going for Gold' is a community project established in 2007 in Te Kowhai. It has recently planted its 1000th kowhai in the area and has been funded entirely by local efforts. Trees are being raised from seed gathered from several local pre-European kowhai including one massive tree with a 2.4 metre circumference.

Te Kowhai is popular with tui due to its plentiful local food sources and the closeness to the Hakarimata Reserve. It is hoped that the bell bird numbers will increase as well. The group are also working to develop the Te Otamanui Walkway along the Te Otamanui lagoon

west of the village.

Fish and Game

In October representatives from Fish and Game, DoC and Kanae Kakariki Trust to planted 4000 native wetland shrubs and trees around Penewaka lagoon, as part of WCEET funded project. The initial phases of the project



included restoring a desirable hydrological regime and fencing to exclude stock which has allowed many previously suppressed wetland plant species to begin a process of natural regeneration. This has also led to an influx of indigenous bird species which were previously rare or absent, making it an area with outstanding wildlife values. The plantings recently are designed to supplement this and help create a seed source which will facilitate to further increase biodiversity in years to come. David Klee

Department of Conservation training Courses

DOC is offering training courses to the public to encourage community participation in conservation. The department is sharing its skills and expertise to ensure consistent and high standards of conservation are maintained across New Zealand. The courses include online courses and field based courses. Online courses include Introduction to Natural Heritage, Animal Ecology, Bird Identification and Field skills. Field courses include plant identification, bird counts, animal pest control and forest monitoring. The field courses are for anyone that works or wants to work or volunteer in conservation. This includes volunteers or members of community groups, Trusts, funding recipients, Regional Council and Territorial Authority staff. See this website for details.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/in-your-community/training/>

Field Courses to be run 2010 in Thames

Five Minute Bird Counts

20 x 20 and RECCE description (monitor forest structure and composition)

Plant Identification

Animal Pest Control

5 – 6 May 2010 Thames

18 - 20 May 2010 Thames

27 - 28 May 2010 Thames

15 - 18 June 2010 Thames

Flora of Aotearoa/New Zealand course (Biol226C-10) 5 - 9 February 2010 at the University of Waikato

This course provides an introduction to field identification, philosophy and techniques of plant systematics focusing on endemic New Zealand plants. Contact Chrissen Gemmill gemmill@waikato.ac.nz for further information.

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/>

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