



Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter February 2013 Number 38

Kia Ora/Greetings to all Forum Members

Forum work over the past three months has included:

- Wrote Waipa Forum report
- Wrote Strategic Plan for Forum
- Set up Facebook page
- Prepared a biodiversity pamphlet for SWDC
- Organised workshop with group in Upper Coromandel for next April
- Wrote article on Ruapuke Beachcare and biodiversity
- Wrote comments for the proposed TCDC District Plan review from the Forum
- Attending WRC Landcare planning meeting
- Invited and briefed 2 new people to join the Focus Group who will provide a youth voice
- Assisted with activities at Lake Serpentine for World Wetlands Day
- Assisted with planning Kauri Die back workshops on the Coromandel in May
- Prepared SWDC proposed District Plan submission
- Met with Karen Denyer and Jan Simmons re formation of Friends of Lake Serpentine/Rotopiko
- Met with WRC Communication Team re Ripples website
- Liaised with Flaxroot Conference staff re preparation of the Conference
- Attended and assisted with BioBlitz at Miranda
- Attended Green Drinks through the Sustainable Business Network

Funding Advice

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

Moehau Environment Group

This summer hundreds of visitors to the Coromandel got to experience nature firsthand during our annual Summer Programme. Events included a series of guided walks, evening talks and Junior Ranger



days in local campgrounds. We had a great response from the public this year, with lots of interest and high attendance throughout the programme.

Our Summer Programme aims to connect participants with the environment by highlighting the natural treasures in our area. It has been going for over ten years and is run by volunteers. All funds raised go towards the protection of Kiwi Habitat in the Northern Coromandel.

We also came together with DOC and other Coromandel community groups during the busy visitor season to remind folk with dogs to be aware of the danger they pose to kiwis. Dogs are the biggest threat to our kiwi population

now that stoats have been trapped to low numbers. Free Kiwi Avoidance training for dogs was offered at several spots along the Coromandel, particularly targeting holiday makers and their dogs.

The annual Pateke census in the Northern Coromandel has begun, with several of our members taking part. Each year locals and DOC staff take count of the number of Pateke (NZ Brown teal) seen at known flock sites. Before 2002 only about 20 Pateke were thought to be living on the peninsula. But several translocations later and thanks to intensive predator control efforts, these little ducks are now thriving with several flocks of over 100 birds regularly seen.

The end of summer spells bad news for local possums, with possum and rodent control being undertaken in our Northern Collar Possum Project. This operation covers over 1200ha of private land near Port Charles, helping to protect the unique coastal biodiversity in this area. Natalie Collicott

Lower Mangapiko Streamcare Group Inc

The Montefiore – Fonterra Walkway is getting well used and thanks to WCEET funding weeds are kept a minimum making this project all the more worth while. Approximately 10,800 plants have been planted along this stretch of the stream since clearing. Free mulch appears and a team of PD workers spread



the mulch as fast as it arrives giving the plants an excellent start and also suppressing the weeds. There is still more planting at the Fonterra end so the children in the community will be able to look back in years to come and say they help grow and plant all those natives. Wood pigeon have been seen as well as tui. They now have a good source of food. Thanks to the local Waipa Council due to a submission from the committee a car park has been put in Montefiore Reserve. The reserve is well used by walkers as an extension to the Pioneer Walk which takes in all Te Awamutu parks and reserves. It is well marked and maps can be obtained from the Information

Centre. This project is continuing with children at St Pats growing more plants.

Group has been successful in getting funding from River Authority so more clearing, fencing and planting work to happen on some farms so that is good! Betsy Bryant

Bat Monitors Available

The Waikato Tree Trust has gifted 8 automatic bat monitors to the Department of Conservation. These will be added to the monitors already held by them and are available for people in the community to borrow. An external loans agreement form will be emailed out to the person wanting to loan them, then the bat monitors can be picked up from the Te Rapa office.

Hopefully this will encourage people to become more engaged in their local environment; they will be able to spread the word about any resident bats for protection and enhancement.

The person to contact is Shay Dean on 850 8478 or Sdean@doc.govt.nz.

Te Kauae o Maui Nature Reserve

We are 11 landowners who share a 97ha regenerating native bush block just outside of Colville on the western side of the upper northern Coromandel Peninsula. We have been consistently trapping animal pests on a small scale for nearly 20 years now, starting with mainly possums in the early days to then include mustelids and later on rats, mice, magpies, cats and pigs. A couple of years ago we decided to do more conservation work on our piece of land and we started to apply for funding. Initially we weren't as successful with our funding applications as we hoped, but recently we have secured funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund and the Waikato Community Conservation Fund. Needless to say we were very happy about this and are working very hard to move closer to our vision of a 'nature reserve that is abundant with native flora and fauna.'

The money from the Waikato Community Conservation Fund went towards the purchase and set up of a boundary line of 34 PossumMaster kill traps, which we supplemented with 15 refurbished Timms traps to bring it up to 49 traps, which gives us quite a good even coverage. Those traps are being checked voluntarily on a weekly basis for 8 months of the year and once a month in winter. The money from the Biodiversity Condition Fund will be spent over a three year period. The first instalment has been mainly used to buy KaMate rat traps for the first 12ha intensive rat control area. Possums will be targeted with leg-holds and Timms.

Once we got into it, we found that we had a much bigger weed problem on the fringes to neighbouring properties than we thought and we have initiated a monthly weed working bee, which has already made quite a difference. This winter we will hopefully plant some pohutakawa and kowhai.

We are just starting to seriously consider tapping into volunteers, because there is just so much work to be done! If you want to have a closer look at us, feel free to visit our webpage. Nathan McCauley

<http://www.tekauaeomauinaturereserve.org.nz>

Forum's Facebook page

The Forum has a facebook page. I encourage you to use it to communicate with each other and post biodiversity related comments, and events on the page and also LIKE us so our profile is spread.

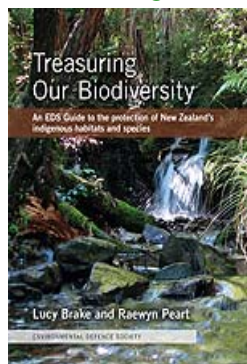
Landcare Networking Field Day 11 April (with overnight option)

Waikato Regional Council is organising a "Landcare Networking Field Day", in conjunction with the Landcare Trust and Pukemokemoke Reserve Trust, at the Pukemokemoke Reserve (Tauhei Marae) on Thursday, the 11th April at 9.15 am (with an option of overnight stay in the Marae and visit to the reserve to look at the glow worms and use bat locators.) Friday morning will involve using GPS for monitoring.

For further information, please contact Bala Tikkisetty at WRC on 0800 800 401 Or Nardene Berry, NZ Landcare Trust on 07-859 3725

Please RSVP by 5 April 2013 to Bala Tikkisetty bala.tikkisetty@waikatoregion.govt.nz or Michelle Kingi michelle.kingi@waikatoregion.govt.nz or phone on 0800 800 401.

Treasuring Our Biodiversity



The Environmental Defence Society has published a guide to protection of NZ's indigenous habitats and species "Treasuring Our Biodiversity". Check it out. It's a wonderful resource. You can obtain a copy from www.eds.org.nz/shop/publication/trebio.htm

NZ Landcare Trust Publication 'Community-owned Rural Catchment Management: A Guide for Partners'

The document is now available in pdf format from NZ Landcare Trust website. The publication offers a realistic account of the opportunities and challenges that exist when engaging communities in catchment level projects. Initially aimed at resource management professionals, the wider release of this digital version marks the final stage in the phased delivery of the resource.

www.landcare.org.nz/News-Features/News/Digital-Community-Catchment-Guide

FREE workshop for Landowners and Community Groups

Topics: Weed management, animal pest management, water quality and soil conservation

Presenters: Local community groups, Moehau Environment Group, Waikato Regional Council and Department of Conservation

Field trip: Te Kauae o Maui and Tukituki properties

Morning tea and lunch provided.

Petrol vouchers provided to Community Groups by Trust Waikato through the Waikato Environment Centre

For details and RSVP by Wednesday 3 April 2013, contact Moira Cursey 0800 246348 or m.cursey@xtra.co.nz.

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