



Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter May 2013 Number 39

Kia Ora/Greetings to all Forum Members

Forum work over the past three months has included:

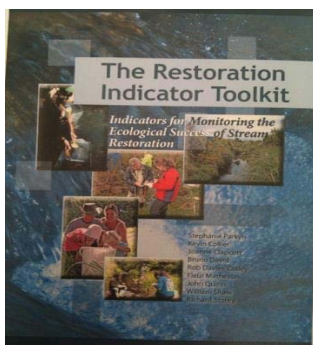
- Prepared a submission on the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy
- Ran a JUNATS session on finding and identifying invertebrates
- Wrote articles on the Dabchick and the NZ Falcon for the South Waikato District Council InTouch newsletter for ratepayers
- Presented at the Flaxroots Community Group Conference in Tauranga
- Discussed Hamilton City Councils (HCC) Strategic Objectives for a Healthy Natural Environment with HCC staff
- Prepared a submission on Hamilton City Council District Plan review
- Ran a session for WILSS school holiday programme on finding and identifying invertebrates
- Provided a display area at the Waikato Show to highlight biodiversity
- Attended Landcare networking day hosted by Friends of Pukemokemoke and Tauhei Marae
- Wrote draft of the Forum's Strategic and Communication Plans
- Wrote submission on Waikato Regional Councils Pest Management Plan
- Ran three workshops on the Coromandel on Kauri dieback disease
- Organised hui in partnership with Waikato Raupatu River Trust
- Ran an activity of children at Waipa Youth Earth Champions Day with EnviroSchools and others
- Liaised with Sustainable Business Network on how the Forum can work with sustainable businesses
- Attended a South Waikato District Council meeting with stakeholders to have input into the draft District Plan provisions for biodiversity protection and riparian set backs
- Developing a system for providing Forum resource people

Funding Advice

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

The Restoration Indicator Toolkit Indicators for Monitoring the Ecological Success of Stream Restoration 2010 NIWA publication

The purpose of this Toolkit is to recommend and describe a range of indicators for monitoring improvement in stream restoration projects. The Toolkit provides guidance on appropriate indicators depending on the goals of the restoration project and when to expect improvements. The Toolkit has been developed primarily for the needs of regional councils with access to laboratories and technical equipment but it should also be useful for community groups and resource users that are undertaking stream restoration without specialist equipment. It is based around the concept of identify the important goals of the restoration and choosing appropriate indicators to measure the success of those goals. Some of the indicators require specialist equipment. However others there are several indicators for each type of goal and when selecting from the



Toolkit a community group may simply avoid specialist indicators and choose others that match their goals and can be measured more easily. Alternatively, it maybe possible for a community group to work with the regional council or research scientists in monitoring a restoration site.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/sites/default/files/import/attachments/Restoration-Indicators-4-WEB.pdf>

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.

The Ripple Effect

This week Waikato Regional Council launched The Ripple Effect, a website aimed at boosting involvement in environmental initiatives and celebrating all those people throughout our region who are helping to protect amazing places, spaces and species. The website www.makearipple.co.nz features interactive mapping tools, environmental information and some great videos. We particularly like the animated video on the homepage! At the heart of The Ripple Effect is the idea that when you take action – at home or in your community – you create a ripple that contributes to something bigger, in this case, a healthy environment.



Planting Guides

Wayne Bennett has recently prepared Planting Guides for the Waikato River jointly funded by Waikato District Council and the Department of Conservation.

The guides are based on both observations of remnant natural areas and artificial plantings. But great care was taken to use only the plant species characteristic of each area. This was done to help ensure that plantings not only survive and grow well but retain the integrity of local flora. In these guides, plants have been aggregated into several groups, loosely reflecting a range of strategies. This has been done to encourage the reconstruction of plant communities, that is, assemblages of plants which have complimentary strategies. This approach aids both the effectiveness of the planting and the maintenance of local distribution patterns.

The guidelines closely follow the natural native vegetation of the area, are designed for the unique conditions adjacent to the river and provide guidance to recreate a natural, authentic and resilient native plant community. There are four planting guides for the following sections of the Waikato River and the Lower Waipa

Waikato River Mouth to Tuakau Bridge

Tuakau Bridge to Ngaruawahia

Ngaruawahia to Tamahere

Whatawhata to Ngaruawahia

The guidelines are available on the link below and more will follow as they are completed.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/volunteer-join-or-start-a-project/grow-native-plants/local-planting-guides/ecological-restoration-in-the-waikato/#planting-lists>

Land for Wildlife Forest and Bird

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary programme that assists willing land-holders to manage part of their land for nature conservation. Land for Wildlife *aims to* integrate nature conservation with other land uses on farms, orchards, and lifestyle blocks. It is free to join and there are no covenants or any other legal obligations. The Land for Wildlife programme offers free advice about improving land for native animals and plants. Landowners receive a free biodiversity management plan which includes:



- A review of the current state of the natural habitat on their property and recommendations for improving it
- Species lists identifying the plants and animals in the natural areas on their property
- Advice on controlling weeds and animal pests
- Advice on management issues such as erosion and riparian protection
- Planting recommendations if required.

For more details go to

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/projects/kaimai-mamaku-campaign/land-wildlife>

Mangaiti Gully Restoration i

Bryce McQuillan is a macro photographer (see photo below) and loves Mangaiti Gully because of the variety and size of invertebrates present. He said it is clearly evident that the rats and possums are under control. This makes it one of the best sites in Hamilton for macro photography. He usually goes down at night when all the night bugs are out although Rex did catch up with him in day light hour one Wednesday afternoon. Bryce is doing the photography for a book about NZ native spiders and said that a large number of those photographs will be from Mangaiti Gully. He has also expressed interest in taking small night tours through Mangaiti Gully and requested that the Trust assist with a talk on the gully restoration project that is being under taken. This is what restoration is all about were the native eco system is reasserting it's self and a whole new biodiversity balance is occurring in the absence of rats and possums. Rex Bushell



Moehau Environment Group

The past couple of months have seen us engaging several school groups from outside the area. Children from Ngatea Primary visited us in May. Over two days they toured our projects, built stoat traps & listened for kiwi. Meanwhile, pupils from Point View Primary school in Howick have been hard at work sawing, nailing and gluing more than 250 rat boxes to house our rat traps.



The MEG volunteers have begun their annual kiwi listening surveys at sites within our Kiwi Sanctuary and Coromandel Kiwi Project. The data collected gives us a picture of how our local kiwi populations are faring.

Recent five minute bird-counts in the Waikawau Bay Wetland show that native and exotic birds have increased exponentially since we began predator control. This is the first year that Pateke have been counted (a flock of around 60 birds was found feeding in the estuary) and we had the highest ever fernbird count. Natalie Collicott

Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society

The last few months have had some thrills for society members. A second cohort of North Island robins (Pitoitoi) was released onto Mt Pirongia in April, bringing the total number of translocated birds to 60. Over 40 volunteers had spent the previous day at Mangatutu in Northern Pureora Forest capturing the birds, and since release at least one unbanded robin has been sighted. This provides physical evidence that the robins released last year have bred successfully – not achievable for over 100 years. Funding from Waikato Regional Council has made this milestone possible.

The next major translocation project which the society would like to undertake is kokako. With this in mind, the guest speaker for the society's AGM on Thursday July 11 at Pirongia School Activity Centre commencing at 7-30pm is to be kokako specialist Ollie Overdyck. Members of the public are most welcome to attend. Please contact Clare St Pierre (07 8719133 or clare.stpierre@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer for planting, bait station filling or monitoring opportunities. Clare St Pierre

Small Scale Community Initiatives Fund

This Waikato Regional Council fund is open for applications. The principle purpose of this fund is to support volunteer community based groups to undertake animal and plant pest control. Preference will be given to those seeking funding for materials such as traps, bait, herbicides etc over contracted labour or wages.

Applicants must provide a completed, signed copy of the application form and all supporting information by July 19th, 2013. Application forms can be obtained from Moira Cursey m.cursey@xtra.co.nz or David Byers, David Byers Biodiversity Officer Phone wk: 07 859 0767 Mobile: 021 733 850

Kauri 2000 Inc and the National Kauri Dieback Programme

Kauri 2000 Inc and the National Kauri Dieback Programme ran a series of workshops on the



Coromandel in May to inform people on the Coromandel about kauri dieback disease and to obtain views from the Coromandel community on how to prevent kauri dieback disease spreading to kauri trees on the Coromandel

The Kauri Dieback Programme is a coordinated response to the disease involving Maori, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Conservation, Auckland Council and Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regional Councils. The programme is researching the detection and spread of the disease, seeking tools to control it, and promoting public awareness. Efforts are focussed on limiting the spread of the disease and protecting uninfected forests.

Hori Parata from the National Tangata Whenua Roopu group who act as advisers to the Kauri Dieback Programme and Ian Mitchell Relationship Manager for the Kauri Dieback Programme gave the participants an overview of the programme. This overview included details of what the disease looks like and where it has spread to and what is taking place to try and contain the spread.

Participants then formed into workshops to formulate actions that could be taken personally, agency and community wise to prevent the spread of the disease to the Coromandel.

Please familiarise yourself with what you can do to help prevent the spread of this disease. Information on the disease can be located at www.kauridieback.co.nz



The Committee has initiated more stream clearing work on farms between Te Awamutu and Pirongia. Thanks go to the Waikato River Authority, Waikato Regional Council, Grassroots Trust [Fonterra] RD1 and the Streamcare Group Committee plus the co-operation from six farmers on the stream. Approximately 3.9km of the stream is being cleared and fenced. Planting of 4500 plants will then take place over winter in two large areas on opposing farms. Future planting may occur as banks are stabilised and weeds maintained. Some of the clearing work was to clear blockages in the stream. All of the above areas must be fenced to a high standard as part of the contract. This leaves approximately 10km of stream [either side] to be cleared of a total of 41km. This project was started in 2006 and an improvement in water quality, bird life, stream life and less flooding on farms has been seen as result of the work so far. Thousands of native plants have been planted on existing farms and some willow poles where necessary to hold banks. Betsy Bryant

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