



# Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter February 2014 Number 42

## Kia Ora/Greetings

Forum work over the past three months has included:

- Attending the Youth and Biodiversity Forum planning meetings
- Planning community group workshops for 2014
- Attending the National Policy Statement on Freshwater meeting with MfE to assist with preparing a submission
- Writing the Taupo Forum report
- Attending Green Christmas at Rhodes Street school
- Preparing text and photos for a biodiversity pamphlet for the TCDC
- Negotiating with Nature Space re the Forum community group data hosting
- Organising website update
- Attending WRC Landcare Networking planning meeting
- Undertaking the 2 yearly update of community group data
- Briefing DOC partnerships team on Forum's work
- Organising GIS workshop for Coromandel groups with DOC Geospatial Information Analyst

## Funding Advice

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

## 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.

## Resource person register

The Forum has set up a Resource Person register. The aim of the database is to "link" and share information and best practice amongst us as Forum members through a recorded process rather than relying on the coordinators' knowledge. We are developing a list of those Forum members willing to contribute their knowledge and skill on file. **Please contact me to obtain a brief form which will provide us with details about what type of advice you are able to offer.**

## Moehau Environment Group

We've had a busy January with 500 people participating in our Summer Programme, and many events drawing record crowds.



Events included guided walks, evening talks and Junior Ranger days in local campgrounds. This summer's line-up also included a Geocache treasure hunt & an interactive Kiwi exhibit at Driving Creek Railway.

Four new signs designed by local school children have been installed around the boundaries of our Coromandel Kiwi Project to remind dog-owners that "Dogs and kiwi don't mix". Sadly, three Coromandel kiwi were recently killed by dogs in separate incidents. Dogs are the largest threat to adult kiwi and it takes only seconds for a dog to grab and kill a kiwi. We helped train 45 dogs to avoid kiwi during January. The first national Save Kiwi Week was held in October & Moehau Environment Group together with Coromandel businesses helped raise over \$3000 for kiwi. MEG volunteers held a two-day trap sale outside the Coromandel Post Shop alongside an interactive kiwi display at the Coromandel BNZ. Local businesses got behind the campaign, donating cash and items for auction. Natalie Collicott

## Nature Space website

Check out the Nature Space website [www.naturespace.org.nz](http://www.naturespace.org.nz) and register your group to increase the profile of work being carried out in the Waikato region. There are useful resources on the website to check out too. The Forum is considering an offer by Nature Space to host the Forum's community group data. I'll be in touch to talk with all of you when we decide on a way forward.

## The Karioi – Maunga ki te Moana: Mountain to the Sea

This project is a community led conservation project, run in partnership with A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand, Whaingaroa Environment Centre, Te Whakaoranga O Karioi, local hapu, landowners, the Department of Conservation, Waikato Regional Council and the Whaingaroa Community. Through the project we are raising awareness about conservation, providing educational opportunities and enabling practical action – from the mountain to the sea. The project is supported by a bunch of dedicated volunteers and enthusiastic locals. Since 2009 we have been expanding the project each year - to trap stoats across the mountain – and rats, stoats and possums along the Karioi coastline to protect forest birds and the last remnant population of seabird on Karioi – the Grey Faced Petrel / Oi. Oi come in each year attempting to breed on the mountain but their breeding burrows are vulnerable to predation. Anecdotal evidence suggests there were up to 10 species of seabird breeding on Karioi, including nationally threatened Black's petrel and Cook's petrel. Karioi offers a unique opportunity to restore multiple species of seabirds to one location on the mainland.



Our long term goal is to restore Karioi as a **Seabird Mountain**.

Some highlights over the last year were – our community's involvement in Plastic free July (led by Karioi volunteer Merren Tait – who has committed to a Year without Plastic!) – The campaign highlighted the impact of plastic on our lifestyle and especially the impact of plastic on seabirds like the Oi. Another was the new Karioi KIDS after school program – an 8 week Enviro Hub for kids 9 years and over. Up to 20 kids enjoyed outdoor adventures and exploration - cooking pancakes in the wild, finding native fish, setting pest traps, building a survival hut in the bush, exploring the beach, bush, an old local quarry and rock climbing. Thanks to funding from WEL Energy trust and WWF we will be running Karioi KIDS again for two terms this year. Thank you so much to DOC and WRC for their ongoing support also – enabling us to deploy more predator traps on the mountain in 2014. Our new website is [www.karioimaunga.co.nz](http://www.karioimaunga.co.nz) Kristel van Houte

## Walk around the Mountain for the Mountain!

This years 43 km fundraising walk around the mountain is supporting the **Karioi – Maunga ki te Moana: Mountain to the Sea project**.

The Karioi project is a community led conservation project that aims to restore forest and seabird populations on the mountain.

**Please join us – participate or volunteer!**

When - 5th April 2014 – depart at 6.30 am

Where – Raglan Golf Club

Entry - \$15

Who – team or individuals

- All sponsorship and donations acknowledged in advertising
- Contact – on facebook – raglan realestate or phone Dave 07 825 8669

Check out our new website! [www.karioimaunga.co.nz/2014/03/05/walk-around-the-mountain-for-the-mountain](http://www.karioimaunga.co.nz/2014/03/05/walk-around-the-mountain-for-the-mountain)

## Mangaiti Gully Restoration Trust Group



**WETMAK photo point video filmed at Mangaiti Gully**

Mangaiti Gully was the "on location" site for the filming of the WETMAK photo point video (here's the link: [http://youtube/Qner\\_B-s1p0](http://youtube/Qner_B-s1p0)) which is one of a number of WETMAK monitoring kits available from the Landcare Trust website. WETMAK is a resource designed by Landcare Trust aimed at community groups working on wetland restoration projects in New Zealand. These wetland monitoring and assessment kits are available on line at: <http://www.landcare.org.nz/wetmak>. Although the focus is on wetlands it would be easy to adapt these modules to any natural restoration project.

## Thames Coast Kiwi Care

Thames Coast Kiwi Care are hosting the Hamilton County Bluegrass Band at Rapaura Gardens on the Tapu Road. The concert starts at 4pm on Saturday 29 March and is a fundraiser for Thames Coast Kiwi Care. Details at [thamescoastkiwicare@yolasite.com](mailto:thamescoastkiwicare@yolasite.com) or phone Richard Moyle 07 868 4561.

## Pukawa Wildlife Management Trust

Bird song in the bush, and the rare native white mistletoe growing on their host trees are signs that biodiversity is flourishing in Pukawa, at the southern end of Lake Taupo.



Photo: DOC ranger Anna McKnight and Pukawa Wildlife Trust member Jean Stanley standing proudly with the new signs.

New, bright and colourful interpretation signs tell the locals and visitors to Pukawa how the biodiversity is being protected by local community volunteers the Pukawa Wildlife Trust.

Signs at the entrances to the local walk ways show photos of the flora and fauna you may see on your walk, of their threats, and of the defence and monitoring systems you will also see along the way eg. DOC 200's, and tracking tunnels.

The story of the rare white mistletoe is also told on a large sign down by the lake where the mistletoe grows. It explains that mistletoe grows here due to the local's trapping efforts and lots of interesting facts about the plant! Anna McKnight

## Omori-Kuratau Pest Management Group-The AGM that awards killers



Awarding killers at an AGM would be a rare and shocking event outside the Mafia or a conservation community group. The tallies were in and Omori-Kuratau Pest Management Group members waited to pat their top killers on the back.

Best Line went to Dennis Yiannoutsos with 67 rats along the Kuratau River in Whio Whio Reserve. Best trap went to Peter Cook who caught 13 rats in Trap 47 along an escarpment. It was close for the top possum trapper with Paddy Doyle taking out the prize by one, having caught a grand total of 20. The group have been having success with high body counts below their new A12's.

The group were also awarded by the larger community for their killing prowess, taking out the TrustPower

Community 'Powering Volunteers' award for 'Heritage and Environment' in the 2013 Taupo District. But perhaps the best award for the group is enjoying recent influx of kereru back to the community. Anna McKnight

## Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society

Our committee were over the moon when the final results of our rat monitoring came in following our pest control work last spring in our 1,000ha bait station grid on Mt Pirongia. We achieved a zero index, down from 44% pre-operation, and this is only the second time we have got it down that low in seven years of pest control. It is an outstanding result as anything lower than 5% is considered successful in terms of preventing bird predation.

Clearing the bait stations took place in January, and around 30 people were helping us to empty the bait stations of any unused baits. Good numbers of birds were seen and heard, especially rifleman and robins. Further monitoring of robins is planned in our control area at the beginning of March, and we are continuing preparatory work to seek approval to reintroduce Kokako to Mt Pirongia.

Please contact Clare St Pierre (07 8719133 or [clare.stpierre@gmail.com](mailto:clare.stpierre@gmail.com)) if you would like to help us. More information is on the Society's website: [www.mtpirongia.org.nz](http://www.mtpirongia.org.nz) and our Facebook page. Clare St Pierre

## Te Whangai Trust

The Trust has launched an Agricultural training platform on a dairy farm that runs alongside the Nursery Training Platform. We will have our first graduates finishing the course on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Graduates cover all aspects of farming, horticulture, computer skills, team work, life and work skills. The farm course is a residential one so trainees are familiar with farming routines and work requirements. This platform allows us to enskill future farmers in landcare and environmental sustainability. It also serves as an educational resource for those who wish to utilize it. We have now trademarked SEEC which allows Organisations and Businesses to measure their Social, Environmental, Economic and Cultural contributions to the community in which they operate. This is measured in terms other than financial and can be reported as a quadruple bottom line on their annual accounts. We have just donated \$40,000 of native trees that were surplus to our requirements to Tainui for Waikato River restoration. We can work on joint projects with landcare groups and biodiversity members with planting plans, ecosourcing plants and contract growing and planting. We now have gift certificates so you can gift plants from Te Whangai for your nearest and dearest, or for Corporate gifts. Adrienne Dalton, **Te Whangai Trust**

*Work & Life Skills Self Assessment & Development Centre*

*Native Plant Nursery Life skills Platform*

*Charitable Trust*

Phone. 09 232 7725

Facsimile. 09 232 7764

[www.tewhangai.com](http://www.tewhangai.com)

## New Zealand Landcare Trust

Community members attended a WETMAK training day held after the recent National Wetland Restoration Symposium in



Auckland. The training day was an opportunity to get to grips with how to measure the success of wetland restoration projects. While the modules are based on nationally recognised methods, some have been simplified to make them more user-friendly to community groups. Short, fun and informative videos support modules on Photopoints and setting up a Vegetation Plot and can be viewed at:

<http://www.landcare.org.nz/wetmak/hub>

Participant feedback from the training day: "Exceeded my expectations by quite a bit and provided good sources for practice and additional information", "What a great mix of talking and interactive sessions. Thank you!" If you would like to learn more about joining a WETMAK training day, please contact Nardene or Melinda at the NZ Landcare Trust, email: [wetmak@landcare.org.nz](mailto:wetmak@landcare.org.nz) or phone 0800 526 322 (option 1)

NZ Landcare Trust along with Nature Space is currently developing an on-line national database of community wetland restoration projects and practitioners. This latest initiative is called WETlink.

## Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari

The Hauraki Gulf: 1.2 million hectares of marine space stretching from Pakiri to Whiritoa, where people and environment combine.



A place for ecology, enjoyment, recreation, kaimoana harvest, industry, and for many entwined into their livelihood and way of life. Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari is a partnership between councils, central government and mana whenua to make a marine spatial plan so that the Hauraki Gulf is healthy and productive for years to come. Interests and issues are wide and varied, so we will complete this project in collaboration. Collaboration led by stakeholders, mana whenua and key

interest groups. To learn more and stay connected visit [www.seachange.org.nz](http://www.seachange.org.nz) and sign up to stay involved. Emily O'Donnell

## DOC Field based Courses

DOC are providing some field based courses. Here are some dates.

Thames 12-15 August      Animal pest control methods

Hamilton 29-30 April      5 minute bird counts

Hamilton 13-15 May      Weed management and monitoring

Go to <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/get-trained/field-based-courses/calendar/>

and click on [Check the course dates and enrol on the NMIT website \(external site\)](#) for more information. Please note some of the courses require pre-requisites such as Field Skills and Introduction to Natural Heritage Modules 1 – 3 which can be obtained by studying online courses.

## MAIN Trust

This Trust was set up in Taranaki as an Educational Resource: Research, Analysis and Information Network which aims to provide open source software solutions to community groups who want to use Geographic Information Systems to analyse their data and display the maps on the web. <http://www.terrain.net.nz/main-trust-group/main-trust.html> Check it out and see if it is of use to you.

## Trust Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards evening



This event is being held on Tuesday 8th April 2014 at the Don Rowlands Centre, Karapiro

Tickets are \$70 per person and can be purchased

online at [www.nzfetrust.org.nz](http://www.nzfetrust.org.nz), or by contacting Tracy Brown on 027 291 1716, or by emailing [waikato@bfea.org.nz](mailto:waikato@bfea.org.nz)

The newsletters are all placed on [www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz](http://www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz) for easy access. Cheers Moira