



Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter August 2016 Number 51

Kia Ora/Greetings

An update on the main work undertaken over the past three months:

- Updated the Forum's "Restoring Waikato's Indigenous Biodiversity: Ecological Priorities and Opportunities" publication
- Assisted Waikato Tainui with Funding workshop content
- Liaising with Taranaki Biodiversity Coordinator and Predator Free NZ Manager re connecting people who are doing similar roles across NZ
- Organising and held Forum event in partnership with the Waikato District Council with a SNA focus for landowners.
- Ran activity with Landcare Trust at Waipa Earth Champions EnviroSchools event at Lake Karapiro Centre
- Updating the community group map
- Wrote abstract for Ecological Restoration Australasia Conference in Hamilton in November
- Wrote support letter for NZLCT application to MfE for funding for a Kahikatea project
- Organising next Forum day with Waipa District Council
- Wrote Annual report
- Attended briefing at the Regional Council by MPI on the review of the National Biosecurity Strategy



Predator Free New Zealand Trust has produced a "Beginner's guide to best practice" based on the conversations they have had with a couple of predator control scientists. You can check it out at

<http://predatorfreenz.org/get-started/beginners-guide-best-practice/>

It's important to note that they acknowledge the information on the page is a 'starting point' for adding to later, as people become more familiar with what is needed to do effective predator control. In other words, they are starting here and will strengthen it over time.

Community Waikato

Community Waikato send out a notice every now and again about workshops which are of value to community groups. Email Kim Cable kim@communitywaikato.org.nz to get placed on the email list for up to date information on the workshops.

Ghosts in the Gully

I was lucky to obtain some small plants of *Syzygium maire* or [swamp maire](#) to add to my restoration in the local gully where I live. While not endangered, they are at times difficult to locate in nurseries. Swamp maire are interesting as they develop aerial roots and a buttressed trunk and have white flowers and red berries



As young swamp maire are frost tender, I found places under trees and tree ferns to plant them. The other factor was to choose a place where their roots would never dry out as these plants are drought intolerant. So armed with spade and frost cloth I planted them in the mud in my gully, creating these ghosts! On a cold misty day in winter, these ghosts add another dimension to this off-the-beaten track garden. **Beverley Bell- Gully Owner Whatawahata _**

The Hahei Ratepayers Group

The Hahei Ratepayers Group want to protect and support the native birdlife by reducing the pressures of introduced predators to the area. They have teamed up with Whitianga based DOC rangers to formulate a plan of sustainable control for the region.



DOC Ranger Alaine Holdom has been working with the group on the programme that has already started at Whanganui A Hei reserve (Cathedral Cove), a popular visitor site attracting over 150,000 visitors a year.

The first stage is pre-monitoring. To gather an indication of predator densities prior to any control effort, tracking cards will be set up to monitor rats and stoats, and wax tags set up to monitor possums. The results are due mid-August and will assist in determining pest density and hot spots – watch this space!

DOC will be supplying ten Good Nature Traps for possum control and ten DOC 200 traps for stoats and rats, and will be assisting the group identifying further funding streams with a look to extending the pest control initiative into the wider community. DOC will also be training group members in pest control techniques and current best practices, both operational and health and safety, to develop and nurture the skills they will need to extend the programme to the larger Hahei area to help 'bring back the birds'. To find out more contact Brian Green, Hahei Reserves Group: bm.green43@gmail.com

Len Reynolds Trust

This trust was established in 1966 by farmers Len and Ada Reynolds. In 2014 the Len Reynolds Trust Board decided it was time to formalize the fund distribution process and appointed Community Waikato as Funding Manager. Community Waikato administers an annual allocated portion of the Len Reynolds Trust Fund to the community. One of the areas eligible for funding is conservation and environment. This year's funding round will open in early October, close mid-November and be paid out in December each year. Applications will be made online through the Community Waikato website. For more information, contact Sally Fenwick Ridley sally@communitywaikato.org.nz or 07 282 0744 or go to the website www.communitywaikato.org.nz and click on the Len Reynolds Trust link.

Mangaiti Gully Restoration Trust Hamilton

Rototuna Primary School helped the Mangaiti Gully Restoration Trust plant part of their gully floor. This was an important day for the school as the children made the connection between their part of the gully and



Mangaiti's. The children saw how working as a team could make great change for the people, flora and fauna of the area. Rototuna Primary gifted a range of native saplings to the Trust as a koha for their gully. These saplings had been grown from seed by the school children and had been donated to them from Trees for Survival and Enviroschools. As a result of this day, Rototuna Primary School have been invited to build bat houses some of which will be donated to other gully restoration teams in their area. The words of the children about the experience.

"It inspired me to look at insects more instead of freaking out about them."

"We brought nature to life."

"We all work together as team on planting the flax, harakeke."

"All of us are digging a hole, then putting in the flax, then planting the flax to grow by saying, "Kia Kaha – be strong."

<http://gullyrestoration.blogspot.co.nz> Rex Bushell

Ecological Restoration Conference in Hamilton

A joint conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA) & the New Zealand Ecological Society (NZES) is being held in Hamilton from 19 – 23 November 2016.

The theme of the conference is **"Restoring resilience across all environments"**. The conference headline signifies our aspirational goal to restore resilience to all environments (land and sea, urban and rural), upscaling our efforts from local to regional and national scales. The event will bring together over 500 delegates who represent all levels of government, universities, students, researchers, contractors, suppliers, volunteers and consultants. A unique feature of ERA2016 is a day (Sunday 20 November) of presentations targeted at restoration practitioners and community volunteers. Check out <http://era2016.com/> for all the details. Early bird registration by 30 September 2016.

Recent Action at Whewell's Bush

Whewell's Bush Scientific Reserve managed by the Department of Conservation is an 11.49 ha stand of



kahikatea/tawa/pukatea/titoki forest in the Hamilton Ecological District, on Swallow Lane near Hamilton Airport. It lies on flat land at the head of a tributary of the Mangaharakeke Stream surrounded by land that has been drained, cleared and developed for pastoral agriculture. It is a significant fragment of a once more widespread vegetation type.

With financial assistance from Tui 2000 planting has been undertaken in some of the few bare areas. Weed control/eradication (Tradescantia, Privet and Arum Lily) is ongoing.

If anyone would like to help with the weeding work,

please contact Warren Smith at wps20@yahoo.com.

Mangapiko Streamcare Group Te Awamutu

There was a great turnout at the annual planting day held this year at the Montefiore Reserve in Te Awamutu. Riparian planting was undertaken along the banks of the Mangapiko Stream with participation



from local members of the farming community and Fonterra site staff. A total of 300 native trees, that were grown by the children of St Patrick's Catholic School were planted along the Fonterra-Montefiore riparian link. It was a great day with an incredible and enthusiastic bunch of people keen to make a difference – come rain or shine!

All this has been possible because of the vision and commitment of the Lower Mangapiko Stream Care Group over the years to form the Montefiore and Fonterra

Riparian Link Project that planting days such as these have helped improve the water quality and aesthetic appeal of the Mangapiko Stream. It's been a great achievement for the group since 2008, when the first plantings took place on Montefiore Reserve in Te Awamutu!

Lake Puketirini ecological enhancement programme

Waikato District Council has developed an ecological enhancement programme for Puketirini, Huntly.



Puketirini is a 104 hectare reserve comprising a 54 ha, 64 metre deep lake, extensive revegetation plantings, groves of exotic trees and grassed areas. The lake is fed by one main tributary stream which supports good populations of banded kokopu, as well as other native fish including longfin eel, shortfin eel and giant kokopu. Most of the vegetation in the reserve has developed in the last 10 to 15 years and includes wetland, open lawn, indigenous revegetation plantings, and stands of exotic trees.

Twenty-nine bird species have been recorded at Puketirini. Of these, 20 species were native, including one Nationally Endangered species, three Nationally Vulnerable species, two Naturally Uncommon

species, and a Relict species.

Thanks to the EIF (Environmental Initiatives Fund – Waikato Regional Council) grant of \$14,000, over 3,000 native plants including over 1,000 climax tree species such as kahikatea, matai, totara, rimu and titoki have been able to be installed this winter. Ben Wolf

The Opito Bay Environment Group



Our great volunteers planting along the Stewart Stream bank

The Opito Bay Environment Group held a planting day on Saturday 20th August over a 200 metre strip of land beside Stewart Stream on Matapaua Bay Road. Over 100 kahikatea, puriri, flax, kowhai and cabbage trees were planted to enhance the roadside beside the stream. This strip of land was unsightly and the addition of these trees will ensure Opito Bay residents have another feature to be proud of in their Bay. A big thank you to Scott Farrell of TCDC for all his help in clearing the thick cover of Kikuyu grass and helping us source the plants. Also another 200 native trees were planted on retired farmland in the Bay over this winter. Chris Severne

Friends of Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve

Protecting our iconic Kauri trees from infection is a top priority that has seeded some changes at Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve.



Recently established is a new footwear brush station at the Mangatea bridge entrance. A sign will request all visitors to use this facility upon entering and leaving the reserve.

Preliminary work has begun on an ambitious boardwalk construction that will cover 360 metres. The main thrust being along the Kauri track.

Our dedicated 'friends' are on hand, but more helpers are essential to assist with: cutting timber, carrying, and assembling the boardwalk. We aim to complete this project by the end of September.

Can you give-a-day? Do you know groups, neighbours or friends who can help? Many hands will make this goal achievable and your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Julane via email: julane.sutton@gmail.com for details and/or to record your interest.

Mahakirau Forest Estate



Mahakirau Forest Estate is a community managed ecological restoration at the heart of the Coromandel Range. Mahakirau Forest Estate consists of almost 600 hectares of significantly 'high conservation value' forest divided between 24 private properties, all proudly protected in perpetuity with QEII National Trust. Mahakirau forest land ownership has more to do with legacy than personal possession. If this appeals - please note that a couple of Lots are currently seeking new guardians! This magical piece of paradise is, since 2001, vigilantly controlled for invasive introduced pressures and provides a sanctuary for vulnerable native species, a pure lung for the planet and

a beacon of hope for future generations to inherit. Sara Smeardon www.mahakirau.co.nz

Moira Cursey Waikato Biodiversity Forum Coordinator