



Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter

February 2011 Number 30

Kia Ora/Greetings to all Forum Members

A quote to begin this newsletter. Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect. Chief Seattle.

Funding Advice

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

Tane Tree Trust

Tane Tree Trust is organising a Study Tour of European Continuous Cover and ecologically based forestry. This tour will look at new ideas for managing commercial forests based on sustainable and ecological principals. The tour starts on the 21st August and concludes in London on the 15th September. It will visit USA, Germany, Italy and the UK. There are still places left and anyone interested in joining the tour should contact me to get full details. Mark Dean, Naturally Native NZ Plants Ltd, 30 Gamman Mill Road, Oropi RD3, TAURANGA 3173 ++64 7 543 1494, 021 949 339

Project Kahikatea Update

To date we have completed four projects with the DOC Biodiversity funds. In 2007, with DOC, EW and Waikato Farm Forestry, we surveyed 175 properties throughout lowland Waikato between Thames and Te Kuiti. DoC was keen to improve its contacts with farmers and to assess the lowland biodiversity which is almost entirely patches of Kahikatea forest. The data was surveyed on a District basis and has been summarised pending a final write up. The condition of these multi species forests varies throughout the region and biodiversity improves westward. Some 63% were fenced to some degree and unfenced trees on the Hauraki plains have a life of about 100years. The survey has greatly increased our knowledge of this once dominant ecosystem. On completion 50 farmers wanted to plant indigenous species on their farms totalling about 300ha. Waikato Farm Forestry negotiated on their behalf with MAF to include it within the Afforestation Grant Scheme but it would not fit.

Project Kahikatea Fencing

This project in 2009 was designed to increase the number of fenced stands particularly in the Hauraki district where drainage of the plain has greatly modified the forest environment. Three farms were located here and one at Matangi. The Troughton farm on Hauraki road was fenced by Don Armstrong into 8 stands using Don's fence design which was used on all farms. We had a field day at the end of the year and seedling Kahikatea were discovered. Also stand 8, which was partly dead, was fenced off to see if it could be saved. Just down the road is a cairn commemorating Captain James Cook's epic row up the Waihou river. He was greatly impressed with the Kahikatea and "hugged" one with a dbh of 176cm. This and the lack of knowledge of his efforts have lead us to plan a new memorial at the junction of Hauraki and Captain Cook roads. Two of the farms had difficulties with the construction of their fences and the project was not completed until November 2010.

DOC, EW, District Councils and Waikato Farm Forestry are currently discussing ways and means of increasing trees on farms. Gary Blake

Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park

Tui 2000 Inc and Friends of Waiwhakareke are delighted that the Department of Conservation Waikato Community Conservation Fund has made a contribution of \$1000.00 towards the potting up and propagation of enrichment species for the Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park project. Potting up takes place at the Tamahere Gully Nursery in Devine Rd, next to the Tamahere Primary School. If you feel you could help with this work (usually on a Friday morning from 9-12noon) please contact Catherine Smith 07 8558296) or 2smiths@wave.co.nz

Friends of Waiwhakareke receive information re working bee dates etc through the Friends email list. Contact Moira 07 8465066 or email m.cursey@xtra.co.nz to be placed on the email list.

Te Pahu Landcare Group working bee

The Te Pahu Landcare Group will be releasing some plantings from last year, on **Sunday 13th March** and would be grateful for any assistance from people who can spare a couple of hours.

We will be starting at 9am to beat the heat and meeting at the corner of Te Pahu and Grove Roads at the Karamu end of Te Pahu. Bring gloves and/or secateurs if you have them. For further info, please call Nardene Berry on 07 825 9112.

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