



## Waikato Biodiversity Forum Landscape Scale Biodiversity Restoration Wānanga, Held at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, November 8<sup>th</sup> 2023.

### Purpose of the day

- To give the restoration community an opportunity to share ideas, experiences, challenges and opportunities presented by undertaking landscape scale restoration projects
- Provide a space for groups and individuals interested in Landscape Scale Restoration to network together

The Waikato Biodiversity Forum Landscape Scale Biodiversity Restoration Wānanga took place at Maungatautari Sanctuary Mountain Education Centre on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. The day was extremely popular, with registration numbers suddenly outstripping exceptions, meaning we had to scramble to find extra funding for catering and even turndown some late registrations, which was unfortunate but necessary as there were counts of over 100 people in the room on the day!

The number of people in attendance and the spread of those people involved in projects, from literally all over the rohe, was amazing to see and reflective of the growing desire to collaborate and increase the scale of our restoration efforts. The attractiveness of the venue was undoubtedly also a draw card. Maungatautari Mountain is always stunning, but we were lucky to be able to enjoy it on a sunny day, as well as being able to utilise the new education centre which proved to be a fantastic space.

The day began with Bodie Taylor, MSM Sancturay Manager and Tangata Whenua, giving us mihi whakatau full of wairua and aroha. This really made us feel welcome and set us up to have the successful day which followed. The day featured six speakers, Toni Cornes - [Nature in the City](#), Bexie Towle - [Taiea Te Taiao](#), Karen Barlow - [Bush to Burbs](#), Dan Howie - [Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari](#), Jude Hoosen - [Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel](#) and Ian Boothroyd - Boffa Miskel, [Connectivity for Biodiversity](#). Each speaker discussed the opportunities and challenges of taking on restoration at a landscape scale in a very raw and honest way. Multiple speakers commented on the scale of these projects offering up both a great opportunity and challenge simultaneously. Working at landscape scales requires a huge range of individuals and groups with diverse interests, all buying into the same vision and taking action. This journey is not an overnighter, nor a simple one. But all these projects are already making differences and gaining momentum. The longest standing project to present was the host, Sanctuary Maungatautari Mountain, who concluded the speaking part of the day. Dan Howie spoke about many of the learnings and pitfalls they have encountered, some of which nearly ended the project completely. But through a great deal of resilience they have continued to progress and now are so successful they are having to translocate species outside the sanctuary, to the tune of 300 kiwi per year! To see all the talks from the day follow these links - [Landscape Scale Biodiversity Restoration – Part 1](#)





[Landscape Scale Biodiversity Restoration -Part2](#) . The feedback from attendees of the day have been very positive. The opportunity to share information is crucial to help us to scale up restoration, because it is such a large and sometimes complex task. We need not start from scratch, and by accessing the knowledge and resources already out there, especially from those already walking the path, we can maximise what we do, with what we have and continue to grow together. The next Waikato Biodiversity Forum wānanga will be in April/May 2024, the date and kaupapa will be announced via the forum network early next year. Hope to see you there! Sam Mcelwee, WBF Coordinator. Photos MKMT

