



Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter November 2015 Number 48

Kia Ora/Greetings and a Happy Christmas and New Year

Some of the work the Forum has undertaken over the past three months:

- Attended the Healthy Rivers Environmental Stakeholders meeting and helped the Environmental sector reps with the Environmental sector Healthy Rivers Wai Ora meeting
- Updated the Forum brochure
- Prepared the “Champions” Forum member list.
- Updated and transferred community group data to Nature Space
- Attended a Waikato Weedbusters Squad weeding at Lake Ngaroto
- Ran invertebrate activity for the Hamilton Zoo Education Day
- Prepared a funding application for Kapowai Kiwi Care as they transition to a new funding committee member
- Held the Forum event in partnership with the Mokaihaha Kokako Recovery Project at Papa o Te Aroha Marae Tokoroa
- Prepared discussion paper of the “points of difference” the Forum can provide to the Councils who financially contribute to the Forum
- Assisted Waikato District Council with SNA landowner meetings
- Assisted National Wetland Trust with self guided activities for Lake Rotopiko complex
- Planning Health and Safety workshops
- Planning Plant and Animal pest management workshop for Central Waikato
- Met with Maniapoto Maori Trust Board Environmental manager re funding for the new Puniu Rivercare Group
- Provided Waikato District Council with report on the financial contribution of community groups to the environmental projects in their district
- Met with CEO of Thames District Council to discuss the Forum’s work
- Preparing Opinion Piece for the Hamilton Press
- Briefed Waikato Regional Council Site Restoration Advisor and Beachcare Coordinator on the Forum and transfer of Beachcare groups to Nature Space
- Attended Lake Rotopiko celebration with the National Wetland Trust.

Nature Space Transfer



Nature Space is now hosting the Forum's data on community groups. This gives each group a page of its own on Nature Space and a profile nationally. Nature Space have embedded the Waikato regional maps on the Forum's website and when we click on a group's red marker on the map it takes us to the Nature Space site. The transfer is nearly completed and is giving the Waikato a strong conservation profile across New Zealand. Here is the link to the map on the Forum's website.

http://www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz/community_group_restoration_proj/

Fish and Game Lake Mangakaware

In March 2014, due to the establishment of The National Wetland Trust, shooters were relocated from Lake Rotopiko/Serpentine (south of Ohaupo alongside S H 3) to Lake Mangakaware at Te Rore - (between Ngahinapouri and Pirongia). This lake is administered by the Waipa District Council and no hunting was previously allowed. Seven hunting stands were allocated by the Hamilton Fish & Game Association Incorporated at Mangakaware. Permits to hunt are essential. Cooperation between the owners of the lake (Waipa District Council) and the duck hunter users has provided a unique set of skills, enthusiasm and manpower which has allowed rapid progress to be made towards lake restoration efforts with the potential to benefit both native and gamebird wildlife.

The Mangakaware Reserve was already fenced, and the lake-edge willow margin sprayed. The Waipa District Council and Hamilton Fish & Game led variously by Paula Reeves (Waipa), Murray Davies and Dave Malcolm (H/F& G) have facilitated much further development



Two huge state-of-the-art silt traps were established by Waipa District Council – these traps form a wetland in their own right – and they were planted immediately upon installation. A track 1200mm wide (including bridges), around the perimeter of the Lake, has been set out by Murray Davies. The shooters are each committed to 4 x 5 hour working bees (20 hours minimum) annually. Both pest and weed control are up and running; however much remains to be done, including further planting and the construction of modern, safe, and well- designed shooting stands of DOC/Fish & Game standard. Ken Parker, Publicity Officer, Hamilton Fish & Game Association Incorporated

Karioi Mountain to Sea Project

The dream to restore seabirds to Karioi Maunga came one step closer with the first deployment of new stoat traps on the maunga completed. The current expansion will increase the project's trap network from 100 to 400 double-set DOC200 stoat traps, spread across 2000 hectares of coastal forest that traverses conservation, private and hapu land. The project also targets rats, feral cats and possums along the coastline.

More than 80 local volunteers, including delegates from around the country that attended the recent annual A Rocha hui, have added their enthusiasm and hard work to this project expansion, with deployment of the new traps continuing

through to early 2016. *Karioi: Maunga ki te Moana* project manager and A Rocha co-director Kristel van Houte said: "It was exciting after all the hard work of fund-raising and the cutting of 30km of new tracks to see the new traps being carried up the mountain on the backs of willing volunteers. The increase in traps should have a significant impact on predator numbers on the mountain – especially stoats – thereby providing Oi/Grey-faced petrels and other forest and seabirds with a safer environment for breeding."



With a further 200 new traps still to be deployed and ongoing checking of trap-lines there are lots of opportunities for volunteers to be involved in this exciting community-conservation project. Chris Naylor, the Executive Director of A Rocha International, attended the annual A Rocha hui in Whaingaroa/Raglan and said: "The Karioi: Mountain to Sea Project is a fantastic and inspiring example of a community-conservation project and it was great to be involved and see all the hard work that has led to this momentous expansion."

To find out more about the project visit www.karioimaunga.co.nz or our Karioi Maunga ki te Moana facebook page. To donate to the project or become a project sponsor contact Kristel.vanhoute@arocha.org or, if you are keen to volunteer, please contact Bexi Towle – wordsbybexie@gmail.com.

Kauri 2000 Trust



Sadly, our founder Cliff Heraud passed away on 4th November, after a short illness. He requested a private funeral but his family, friends and Kauri 2000 celebrated Cliff's life on 11 November at the Kuaotunu Reserve, the site of the 20,000th kauri planting.

Our long-term trust administrator Barb Ritchie has retired after eight years with the Kauri 2000 Trust. Barb has done a wonderful job and has developed outstanding relationships with Trustees, volunteers, contractors, supporters and sponsors. She has overseen the planting of no less than 20,000 kauri trees. Barb is leaving the Trust with our best wishes. The Trust welcomes Janet Munns as the new



administrator. Janet comes with a wealth of experience in agriculture, tourism, transport and management and the trustees are looking forward to working with her in the future. Pictured are Barb (left) and Janet in the Kauri 2000 office in Whitianga.

Te Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society and Dactylanthus

In September we gained funding to start a new protection project for Kokako at Okahukura, Northern Pureora Forest which could see remnant populations there interlink and become one of the strongest populations in New Zealand.



Funding has come predominantly from DOC's Community Fund, with Waikato Regional Council and Forest & Bird's Valder Fund also contributing. A 1,000ha bait station grid targeting rats and possums will be set up over the coming months and we are looking for volunteers to help us. It is a chance to see amazing species still present in this wonderful forest while helping with a nationally significant project. For more details please email clare.stpierre@gmail.com.

We also are enjoying strong interest in our pest control work on Mt Pirongia where we run a 1,000ha bait

station grid using community volunteers as well as our group for *dactylanthus taylorii*, a fascinating parasitic plant. Please get in touch if you'd like to be involved with any of these.

Coastal Dune Ecosystem Reference Database

If you're interested in dune restoration, this site gives you access to reliable information on coastal dune ecosystems to support restoration management and implementation by management agencies, research institutes and community members. It also provides better connectivity between the community of interest associated with coastal dune ecosystems locally, nationally and internationally. And ensures better linkages, and a level of integration, between the biological, physical and social aspects of coastal dune ecosystem management and restoration.

<http://ref.dunestrust.org.nz/about/>



National Wetland Restoration Symposium 2016

10-12 February, Nelson

“Wetlands for Life”

Keynote speakers include: Ruud Kleinpaste, the “Bug Man”

The 2016 National Wetland Symposium theme, Wetlands for Life, highlights the vital role of wetlands in providing life-supporting ecosystem services, and opportunities to engage our young people in a lifetime relationship with one of our most valuable, yet depleted ecosystem types. Go to this link for details and registration.

http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/Site/Wetland_Events/Restoration_Symposia.ashx

NATURE Services

NZ Nature Services provides a regionally, environmentally and purpose appropriate plant selection for habitat restoration, shelter, landscaping, mitigation, wildlife, cultural uses and other ‘ecological services’. It compiles the site- and purpose-specific plant lists by filtering the plant selection according to the location pointed to by the user. Only plants that naturally occur in the **Ecological Region**, where the planting project is being undertaken, are listed. The most common soils (**Soil Orders**) at the site are also used as a filter for rural areas in particular. Check it out for more information at <http://natureservices.landcareresearch.co.nz/app/>

Walk Tairua Society

The Pepe Loop walkway and follow up planting which will circumnavigate the edges of the Pepe Estuary in Tairua is in full swing with the election of a committee and engineering plans to be drafted for a 20m bridge. The walkway consists



of a 4km earth track for walkers and cyclists around the edges of Pepe Estuary, and includes one 20m bridge which will be designed by Frame Group, with Natural Solutions to prepare resource consent applications. The costs will be drawn from this financial year's Thames Coromandel District grant of \$37,254 with a further \$50,000 allocated in the 2016/17 budget.

The inaugural Tairua Trail and Tide Fun Run have kindly donated \$2500 towards the project from the money raised from the event. "We have been working on this project for some years now, with numerous up and downs. Right now we are definitely facing upwards with a very good Walk Tairua team who are taking responsibility for different aspects of the project," said Walk Tairua Society Chairperson Cherry Ladd.

University of Waikato CEREL Biodiversity Seminar

Here are the links to the presentations from the University of Waikato Biodiversity Seminar held in September .

http://www.waikato.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/268813/Brown-Biodiversity-CEREL-Seminar-Sept-2015.pdf

http://www.waikato.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/268812/Wallace-Biodiversity-CEREL-Seminar-Sept-2015.pdf

Opito Bay Environment Group

This year has been reasonably active in Opito Bay with regard to environmental activity. We have a major problem with 'wilding pines' along the Blackjack Road between Kuaotunu and Opito Bay. In February we organised a clean up of the roadside from Opito through to the top of the Blackjack Hill a distance of about 5km. A group of dedicated but very dusty

volunteers (it was February and we were on a dry metal road) managed to clear all the wilding pines under 2 metres from the roadside. We are planning a further final clearance in the New Year down to Kuaotunu village. It must be noted also that a generous benefactor is financing the removal of all pines on the Blackjack Hill. After years of pine tree growth the magnificent features of the Blackjack Hill can now be viewed. In June with the generous help of TCDC we planted 500 native trees and grasses beside the Stewart Stream. Thanks to our great group of volunteers (see photo) who made the day a success and turned an eyesore (blackberry and weeds) into a pleasant streamside reserve. Our



great team of volunteers at the Stewart Stream planting in June. Chris Severne.

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