



# Waikato Biodiversity Forum Newsletter August 2011 Number 32

## Kia Ora/Greetings to all Forum Members

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

-John Muir

## Funding Advice

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

## Te Pahu Landcare Group

The Te Pahu Landcare Group and Department of Conservation celebrate ten years of planting alongside the Kaniwhaniwha stream this year and will be holding it's annual planting day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Celebrations will continue on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September with barbeque and entertainment.

For more details please visit our website:

<http://www.tepahu.co.nz/Community/Te-Pahu-Landcare.aspx>

## Opito Bay Environment Group

We have completed the planting for this year on retired farmland between 860 and 896 Black Jack Rd. This year we planed 350 kauri, 8 Tawapou, 2 kawakawa 20 kohekohe, 5 puriri, 7 towai, 10 kowhai, 20



taraire, 20 pohutukawa, slash ( seed bearing branches of manuka) to 30 m of slips. We have noted self seeded karo and mapou coming through strongly. Also we sprayed 40 pampas, grubbed, stump swabbed 100 cotoneaster and woolly nightshade. The storm in July has taken out about 20m of the dunes we planted last year (of the 110m planted). We will see how they settle before replanting. Tracks put in by TCDC have kept people off the dunes so natural spreading of the grasses has proceeded well. Regular setting of traps by ourselves and Brian

Thompson in the Bay has meant regular destruction of possums, stoats, rats and wild cats. Still a long way to go!! We are applying for a grant for traps and baits from the Small Scale Community Initiative Fund as currently we have being paying for these ourselves for the last 5 years. Chris Severne

[chris@obsidiancommunications.co.nz](mailto:chris@obsidiancommunications.co.nz)

## Northern Coromandel/ Port Charles Wanted Toetoe Seed

I am looking for toetoe grass seeds to grow our own toetoe supplies for replanting areas and open spaces where otherwise pampas would spread. Pampas has reached the northern Coromandel and it is really devastating to see the speed with which it is spreading. So our plan is to get the toetoe to fill the space first before the pampas reached them. **WANTED TOETOE** (if possible donated seeds) or for a koha. Katharina (PH 07 8666 626)

## Waikato Community Conservation Fund

The 2011 funding round of the Waikato Community Conservation Fund is now open for applications from community groups seeking support for conservation projects within the boundaries of the Waikato Conservancy of the Department of Conservation. Applications close on 3 October 2011.

The application form and guidelines are attached and are also available from the DOC website at [www.doc.govt.nz/waikatocommunityconservationfund](http://www.doc.govt.nz/waikatocommunityconservationfund)

## National Wetland Trust AGM and Dinner 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011

This year's AGM will be followed by a fund-raising dinner.

**AGM 5-6.30pm Dinner and entertainment 7pm onwards**

Don Rowlands Centre

Gate 2, Mighty River Domain

Maungatautari Road (10 mins south of Cambridge).

Individual tickets: \$75

NWT members: \$55

Enjoy a wetland-themed gourmet meal from nature's larder at a world class venue beside Lake Karapiro. MC Ruud Kleinpaste. Post dinner entertainment from Rod Morris, internationally renowned wilderness photographer, filmmaker and intrepid adventurer. Who will speak about komodo dragons. Bookings essential. RSVP by 1 Sept to: [karen.denyer@wetlandtrust.org.nz](mailto:karen.denyer@wetlandtrust.org.nz)

## The Lower Mangapiko Streamcare Group Inc

The Lower Mangapiko Streamcare Group Inc one again organised their annual planting day and as you



can see the rain came as per usual! Honda Tree Trust provided the plants which have been planted on the Racecourse Road Reserve opposite Montefiore Reserve. This reserve was first planting three years ago and it is now looking great and good sized trees. Normally the schools get involved but due to the rain we had a planting day a few weeks later when St Pats planted out over 300 native plants that they had grown in their school. The next aim for the group is to see a walking track along the river at the back of the College that the Group has had cleared and planted and will be open for all the public to use - it will be an extension to Pioneer Walk in the town. Betsy Bryant.

## Lake Harihari

Lake Harihari is an 18.5ha dune lake located approximately 10km south of Kawhia Harbour on the west



coast of the Waikato region. The lake bed is owned by the Taharoa Lakes Trust and the land around the lake is privately owned by 3 separate properties. Regional Council monitoring data indicates that the water quality in the lake is excellent with very low nutrients and the lake has a rich assemblage of native aquatic plants which is uncommon in the Waikato Region. We know of only one other shallow lake in the region that is comparable in terms of water quality. Until recently the lake was

not fenced and was regularly accessed by cattle. Regional council staff have been working with the largest land holder to fence a protective margin of land along the southern, south-western and south eastern boundaries of the lake. The fence takes in large areas of wetland and coastal forest remnants and provides a buffer that is an average width of 37m and extends up to 80m from the lake in some places. Approximately 3000 plants have been planted on the margins including species selected to



withstand the harsh coastal winds and dry summers. Due to the significance of this site, fencing and planting was funded partly by the landowner and partly by the Regional Council's West Coast zone and Significant Natural Area programme. Over the coming years, regional council staff will work with the other two landowners to fence the lake margin and continue the planting programme. Lake Harihari (and the Marokopa dune planting) is an example of how Waikato Regional Council's Significant Natural Areas programme can help landowners and communities protect high value ecological areas. Kevin Collins (Waikato Regional Council)

## Marokopa Spit Restoration

The Marokopa Beachcare group recently received support from the Waikato Regional Council to help erect fencing around four 50m x 50m areas on the Marokopa Spit which will be planted with native



species to act as "biodiversity islands".

Over the last two decades, the original native dune vegetation cover on the spit had been heavily degraded as a result of motorbike and pedestrian use. The loss of the native vegetation led to serious wind erosion which lowered the height of the dunes increasing the threat of flooding to the Marokopa Township. As a result of this threat, Marokopa Beachcare was formed, and after six years of dune planting by local community members, the spit now has dunes up to 30m high with a dense cover of the native dune species spinifex and pingao. The group is now shifting its focus

on increasing the biodiversity and natural character of the area by planting a variety of native coastal tree and shrub species such as wiwi, tauhinu, karo, ngaio, akeake and pohutukawa to reinstate the natural dune vegetation sequence that had been previously lost. Fencing will help protect the new plantings from threats such as motorbikes, pedestrians and stray cattle and will give the group specific areas to focus on with their planting and pest control work over the coming years. The group also has aspirations to bring back the native bird life that will in turn help spread native plant seed around the area naturally. Sam Stephens (Waikato Regional Council)

## Whakaupoko Landcare Group \_Benefit of Chew Cards

The Whakaupoko Landcare Group has been using chew cards to determine the success of their pest control work around the Baldhill area of Franklin.



This picture shows Peter Schreuder a year 11 student who along with Andrew Sinclair placed over 100 chew cards in the area.

Check out the info about the chew cards on [www.patumahoe.org.nz](http://www.patumahoe.org.nz). The website contains draft protocols for use of chew cards for Landcare Groups to monitor possums and rats and simple guidelines for use of chew cards with a survey. On the Whakaupoko Landcare news section of the website there is an article explaining how people can pick up chew cards from the local hardware store and do their own monitoring.

There is also a power point presentation showing a great range of bite marks to help with pest ID. Andrew believes that it is important to have low cost and low time tools for the likes of monitoring and justifying achievements to others, such as funding agencies.

## Lake Cameron Care Group Planting Day 11 September 2011

Lake Cameron is a shallow peat lake of approx. 3ha with approx. 3ha lake margins as public reserve. It is situated opposite Rukuhia School, Rukuhia Rd. Lake Cameron Care Group was formed in 1997 by a small group of local people with support from agencies such as Waipa District Council and the Regional Council. The group has achieved a huge amount in the last 12 years with most of the willows being removed, fencing altered to exclude stock, walking tracks constructed and the majority of the reserve planted with native plants suited to wetland planting. In July Lake Cameron Care Group was awarded runner-up in the 2011 Regional TrustPower Volunteer Awards, Environment and Heritage Category. This year Honda Tree Trust have enabled the group to purchase approx. 350 native plants which we plan to plant on

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 10am-noon** followed by lunch provided by Waipa D.C. Anyone is welcome to attend, please wear gumboots and bring wet weather gear, spade, hammer and cutter (for stakes and twine), wheelbarrow or bucket to carry your tools.

Contact Bev Bradley (L.C.C.G. Chairperson) for more details @ [muzbev@xtra.co.nz](mailto:muzbev@xtra.co.nz) or 07 8433 765 and confirm attendance before 9<sup>th</sup> September for catering purposes.

## South Waikato Forest and Bird Celebrating the Restoration of Trees and Birds of Barnett Reserve

The South Waikato Forest and Bird would like to invite you to a celebration at Jim Barnett Reserve to be held at the Reserve in Waotu South Road Te Waotu, Putaruru, on October 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 3pm.



**Forest & Bird**  
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

The celebration is to mark the end of twenty years restoration work in the Reserve, planting over 10,000 trees making tracks, weed control, landscaping, pest control, installing tables, seats and toilets, making it the beautiful Reserve it is today. North Island Robins were released in the Reserve in 2004. The Reserve is a fine example of what can be achieve by a group of dedicated hardworking volunteers lead by Gordon Stephenson and Jack Groos. We acknowledge the wonderful foresight and vision that Gordon Stephenson QSM had for this block of bush which is utilized by local schools and Te Wananga O Aotearoa as a teaching tool for Conservation and Rongoa Maori. This use fulfills the wish of Jim Barnett to use the reserve as an educational and recreational area. Anne Groos

Contact for further details Anne Groos South Waikato Forest and Bird, 07 8867456  
[jack.anne@clear.net.nz](mailto:jack.anne@clear.net.nz)

## Huihuitaha Wetland project

The Huihuitaha Wetland project at Lake Karapiro continues to make progress. Through early winter native trees have been planted in the area. These look like they have taken well. These will be released



for the first time this coming spring. The wetland is crossed by a 500 metre boardwalk. There is evidence that the local possum population is using the boardwalk as a thorough fare. To eliminate these pests 2 Good Nature automatic possum traps have been installed in the wetland. Our local Putaruru Lions club kindly donated these traps. We look forward to seeing a reduction in the possum population soon. The autumn drilling and poisoning of a number of willows in the wetland appears to have had a positive result. These trees are looking particularly unwell. Thanks to Waikato Regional Council for coordinating this work. The wetland is

visited by large numbers of people. A user counter has been installed recently near the wetland. The counter is telling us that the wetland is being visited by large numbers of people. The count from July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 19<sup>th</sup> was 410 visitors. This is a great result for winter. Please become one of our visitors. The Huihuitaha Wetland can be easily accessed from Little Waipa reserve off Hora Hora road or from Arapuni Village. Glyn Wooler (Waikato River Trails Trust)

## The Karioi Biodiversity Restoration

The Karioi Biodiversity Restoration project is a community led project, run in partnership with Te Whakaoranga O Karioi, A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and the Whaingaroa Community. Trapping was initially started in 2009 on the lower slopes of the mountain and the project now has a team of committed volunteers maintaining a network of around 150 rat, possum and stoat traps in 28 hectares of bush. Building on local enthusiasm and momentum the expansion of the project to the higher slopes of the mountain is a challenging next step. The project aims to determine the feasibility of establishing stoat control over the entire mountain, with the potential of eventually reintroducing stoat



vulnerable native species i.e.: kiwi and kaka. "Feedback about the project has been positive" says project coordinator Kristel van Houte. The project provides a great opportunity for participants to gain knowledge of ecosystems and practical experience in conservation work. As well as the involvement of locals, there has also been regular student involvement and field trips to Karioi from the University of Waikato, The Waikato Polytechnic and the Raglan Area School, with students carrying out surveys and monitoring in the surrounding stream and forest.

If you would like to be involved in the deployment of 52 stoat traps across the mountain on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September then send an email [new.zealand@arocha.org](mailto:new.zealand@arocha.org) or phone 027 4276242 Kristel van Houte

## Epiphytes in Forest Restoration

Recent Masters Graduates, Catherine Bryan and Fiona Clarkson, are working to promote the inclusion of epiphytes in restoration projects in the Waikato. Epiphytes are plants that perch on other plants and New Zealand has a very diverse range of native epiphyte species. Epiphytic species are important because they contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as food, habitat and nesting materials for native fauna. Catherine and Fiona's research highlighted some scarcity of epiphytes in Waikato forests. For example, they found that the forest fragments of Hamilton City have only 60 % of the species that should be present. Their results indicate that this absence is



due to the reduced humidity in the open canopies of urban bush patches. Furthermore, it appears that some species are becoming less common in the larger forests of the Waikato. When hunting for the shrub epiphyte Tawhiri Karo (*Pittosporum cornifolium*) the researchers found a total of 12 individuals in the forests of Maungatautari, Pirongia, Hakarimata and Maungakawa. This species was historically abundant and widespread throughout the region. Along with other results from their research, these key findings have motivated the two graduates to investigate how epiphytes could be included in the many restoration projects that are occurring across the region. They are planning a reintroduction trial to establish some best practise methods for planting epiphytes into forests. They endeavour to share their reintroduction findings with anyone who is interested and are keen to hear from people who have tips or experience with epiphyte establishment. If you would like to discuss epiphyte reintroductions or the results of their research please contact Catherine ([c.bryan@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:c.bryan@waikato.ac.nz)) or Fiona ([f.clarkson@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:f.clarkson@waikato.ac.nz)).

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. Cheers Moira