

KAITIAKITANGA CHARITABLE TRUST

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Our Work Team is Growing

Layton Gardner, our first full time employee, has completed a year of employment with us. Nevi Maniapoto has completed 6 months of part-time work. Both have added certified qualifications to their list of achievements.

In late January Te-Ota Tai joined us. He was part of our team when we did our first big planting with Tawera Nikau at Te Kawhata in 2018. In early February Jericho Witika had his start for a four day week.



“The team before a day of Privet Control”

New 4 Wheel Utility Vehicle and Parking at Huttons

After covid lockdowns we suffered a marked difficulty in securing funds for another 4X4. We were declined our application due to no funds being available. We hope we fare better in 2024 as the work we have lined up should support four men all year. The boss currently uses his motorbike!

The owner of the Huttons factory Frankton allows us to keep our truck secure overnight. This saves time each morning as our team lives in Melville, Nawton and the city(West). Secure storage is being organised there so Mrs Grant can now enjoy her home without it being Kaitiakitanga Trust Central Station each morning and evening.

Malvern Properties Limited and Waikato River Authority

After all the 5,000 native plants were planted at Papesch Rd Pirongia, we continued the huge task of killing the crack willow, privet, pampas, gorse and hawthorn. Once it has dried out further we plan to cut down the smaller trees to allow further natives to be planted. This gully system runs into the Waipa River a few hundred yards from where the Puniu River joins it. Replanting the cleared areas and further clearance is pending further WRA support or other funding for the farmer.

Okete Raglan Ecological Rehabilitation

We finished planting 2,000 natives in riparian areas on two Okete farms. LIC - legal, led by their General Counsel Marise Winthrop, did a combined planting and weeding day before enjoying the rest with a fish and chip meal on the harbour front. We suspect the part day at the beach with takeaways is a big draw card!

Layton and Nevi were able to answer the questions the legal eagles asked. The enthusiasm and laughs are infectious. (not covid)



“The Legal Eagles from LIC mixing it with our lads”

New Projects in the Raglan Area

Following on from the Trust's Okete Raglan Ecological rehabilitation work we have secured more work in the area doing weed control including willow, gorse, pampas, hawthorn, convolvulus and privet at several private farms. They will add to the ecological enhancement of this picturesque area. Smaller estuary front properties are also in consultation with us too. The Regional Council is also in discussions concerning this work. We hope for a collaborative approach.

Years ago, we were upset at the criticism faced by farmers regarding their land and water care. We chose to work with them believing 98% of them care about their land and water. We see it is true every week.

Tauwhare Container & Traplines in the Northern Pureoras

Our workshop container programme is a continued success. We have completed further DOC 200 and have started producing DOC 250 traps. Thank you to Taku Wairua for their continued support, and work from the kids. The next tranche of youth are due to start our program on 21 February 2024.

We have placed more traps at Chindie which borders Rua Oki Station which is also bordered by Owawenga Station. It is a very steep farm which requires concentration getting around by quad bike. It is really valuable being able to trap four large contiguous farms all bordering the Pureora Forest.

While placing the first of many traps at Rua Oki Station with Te Kuiti Predator Control we were thrilled to have multiple sightings of a male whio. It felt good knowing we are increasing the chances for them to breed safely in the future. We are working towards enough predator control to allow the import of a female whio to allow breeding. That will require extensive trapping and monitoring plus co-operation with DOC and ongoing owner support.

Thank you to Trust Waikato, Transpower, Waikato Regional Council via EIFF and SCIF for their contributions towards purchasing materials to complete the DOC traps and continue with trapping the Northern Pureora farms. Thank you also to the farmers Duncan and Rhonda Oliver plus Richard and Evette Hall.



“Robert John Muraahi and son placing traps”

Trapping Results

The traps continue to be cleared and maintained monthly with great results. To date: Rats 934, Stoats 99, Hedgehogs 364 and Cats 23. These results come from Rangitoto Lands and Owawenga Station as we do not have all traps out at Chindie and Rua Oki Station yet.

Our trapper at Rangitoto Lands and Owawenga Station reports more sightings of pheasant, quail and karearea. We are working steadily towards having resources to do scientific monitoring so anecdotal evidence can be verified.



“Nevi Maniapoto rebaiting a trap in bush around our whio sightings”

Opportunities for Further Support from Waikato River Authority

Neil and Mike Pratt, Jim and Margaret Tarrant are descendants of multi-generational families in the King Country. Both families have grandfathers who felled Kahikatea trees up Lees Block Road, Hangatiki to be used to ship our butter to the United Kingdom. Now plans are underway to retire dairy farm flats and gullies for native revegetation. This is a wonderful project that will be ongoing mahi for us and many more generations of the Pratt family. A nearby stand of old forest will supply Eco sourced Kahikatea, Pukatea, Tawa, Kowhai, Matai and Rimu. The Mangapu river will benefit greatly along with the region's biodiversity. It is a high priority area for Waikato River Authority. This is another very exciting project which will help train our young how important it is to look after nature. Thank you Neil, Mike, Rene, Jim and Margaret.

Staff Development

Possum course – the Trust organised a course with Karioi Predator Control. An experienced trapper, Dave Ratcliffe, author and raconteur, spent a day outlining trapping methods and skills. This culminated in possums being skinned and tacked for sale under his expert eye. It was a really informative day. Thanks to Kristel van Houte and her team. Dave is due to teach us more once the good skins are ready for trapping.

Nevi and Te-Ota attended a spray certificate course in January held by Grow-Safe. This training is essential for our ongoing mahi. Thank you MSD for assisting with funding.

Lifting the Vibe and Podcast

Murray was nominated by Taku Wairua and received the "Lifting the Vibe" prize from Raglan Food Company. Both groups receive a year's supply of yoghurt and the Trust received \$2,500.

Murray also had his debut on the podcast network.



<https://open.spotify.com/episode/2s5SU35pGiaO38aGoRAIXC?si=mj2l5TIJToeg5pecklEZVg>

A big thank you to you all for your support.

KAITIAKITANGA CHARITABLE TRUST

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