

Northern Pureora Predator Control Project

This project in the Waimahora/Tauraroa was started in 2019 with the support of Duncan and Rhonda Oliver of Rangitoto Lands and the Waikato Regional Council. We continue to improve the trapping coverage with more DOC 200's and some DOC 250's being added this year. Our total pest count includes, rats, stoats, hedgehogs, feral cats and a large weasel. Our most recent farm to trap is Rua Oki Station which sits between Chindie and Owawenga Station in the Waimahora Valley. We now have 5,500 ha trapped with consideration of where extra traps may be placed underway.

Gerry Kessel, ecologist of Te Pahu kindly lent us some bat monitors which we placed around two ponds on Rangitoto Lands in late January. We look forward to finding out if the microphones picked up calls from Short and long tailed native bats. We already have extensive traps around these ponds but if we find that there are rare bats there our satisfaction will increase.



Jericho and Layton cleaning up at Rua Oki Station following a day's trapping

Okete Estuary and Wetland Restoration

The initial nursery plantings have had larger native trees added at appropriate times. They include kauri, rimu, matai, puriri, pohutukawa, tanekaha, rewarewa, karaka, ngaio, titoki, miro, kohekohe, kahikatea, kowhai, cabbage tree, pukatea, nikau and totara. Sometimes we can plant them at the initial stages but the frost sensitive and shade loving ones require a canopy first. There is significant natural native regeneration under our nursery plants. We have lots of harakeke, pittosporum, coprosma, mapou and mahoe growing from bird dispersal.

In 2024 Waikato District Council funded planting oioi in the estuary to slow down the erosion of the harbour edges. Initially the estuary was protected by sedges and grasses which took the energy out of the waves and stabilised the banks. Many years of farming left a lot of the edges cleared of plants like oioi and muehlenbeckia killed off. We are working on replacing them. This winter we will plant 12 pohutukawa along the Council esplanade where we have removed dying manuka. This tree is great at hanging onto edges by the sea by developing a wonderful root system. See where they grow in the Coromandel peninsula and on the Raglan waterfront.



Mike Beere with the Pohutakawa planted for his son Thomas

Our Camp at Rangitoto Lands with Taku Wairua

In November 2024 we had our latest camp in the upper Waipa River valley with some awesome youth attending from the Taku Wairua programme. We gave them lessons/experience in; camp site assessment, tent assembly, collecting firewood, starting outside fire for ambiance and cooking, fishing, catching cooking and eating brown trout, native tree identification, pest plant identification, how to climb and traverse hills covered with native bush by following game trails, ridges and natural contours. At their graduation ceremony several of the boys stated their camp was a major highlight of the program. We plan to keep these annual to bi-annual camps going as long as we can.



A keen young trapper Legacy resetting a DOC 200



Leaders, Fabian and Adam doing their best to look busy

Ngamatea Station, Napier – Taihape Road Deer Cull February 2025

Craig Johnson, a key sponsor, has again been super generous by funding our second Ngamatea Station deer cull. For the animal lovers I note that the deer numbers in this area are very high. So much so that the native vegetation is struggling to cope. In addition, the deer take a huge toll on the farming operation. Each year large numbers must be removed from the land to try and keep numbers more manageable. If culling did not take place the deer would also suffer through lack of food.

We teamed up with a Hawkes Bay Charity, “Between Two Rivers”. We met the fees for the guide and hunting and provided the team who did the shooting and carcass transport for preparation to go to the butcher. Local farmers Ainsley Harte, Gary Holden and Neil Fontaine provided hands on deck, processing, a chiller and transport to help us deliver 242kgs of mince to the Salvation Army. That added to the 200kg delivered to them in June 2024. Since we started we have supplied over two ton of meat to the needy.

Plans are underway to increase this valuable environmental and social work in a larger scale. Again, supported by Craig Johnson of Construction Development Lp. Watch out for the August newsletter which will hopefully report on this plan.



242 kgs of mince – Parkvale Butchery in Hastings destined for the Salvation Army.

Waikato River Authority, Hidden Valley, and Tunaেকে Farms.

This summer we received confirmation we had funds to complete releasing at Malvern Farms, Pirongia from Waikato River Authority. Like other examples of last year's planting the drought has proven tough on those plants situated on the edge of the wetlands. Those that did not dry out have done very well.

Tesh and Dave Hearth of Values Trust have continued consistent support. They had us remove gorse, blackberry and plant natives at Hidden Valley, Te Uku. We love the work and look forward to participation in their long-term plans improving the environment. A trapping operation under our guidance has started there via Thibaut and Cindy Holl.

Tunaেকে Farms, Whatawhata, engaged us for the second time clearing privet, crack willow, blackberry and gorse in a continuation of their ongoing environmental enhancement. Thanks to Taupiri Holdings Limited and the Peacock family for that valuable work.



Layton Gardener with a large pile of gorse at Hidden Valley

Jim Wade

It is with much sadness that we record the passing of our wonderful supporter and friend Jim “Squirrel Hunter” Wade. Jim was a very popular supervisor at our Container Workshop. The kids all looked up to Jim and appreciated his quiet but firm explanations on how best to improve their trap making skills. For the last couple of years Jim was suffering from cancer but he kept coming along to help the youth who needed his guidance and expertise. Thank you very much our great friend Jim Wade.

We also lost our very efficient and hard-working administrator, Allison Grant, who resigned after a great contribution at key times from the start of this work. Many thanks and all the best Alli. 😊



Jim and Layton together at our Tauwhare container Workshop in Jim's name

Tauwhare Container Workshop

We suffered another blow at the Container workshop when we found we had been broken into and had \$15,000 of our plant and tools stolen. The thieves had cut through sturdy locks and taken some pretty heavy equipment away while hidden by the maize crop. We have decided to sell the container as we do not have an alternative site to operate from. This is not a complete disaster as a key supporter, Craig Johnson of Construction Development LP, has designed traps which are cut by CNC machines, put into flat packs able to be delivered to us to be assembled by our youth wherever communities wish to involve their Tamariki in this mahi. Thanks Craig and your brother who supplies the CNC machining.



Flat Pack Trap

Trade Zone

During our privet and crack willow weed control contracts we found our workshop drills did not double up for the arduous requirements of this work. Matthew the manager of Trade Zone Frankton helped us out by providing more powerful drills which handle the tasks. We got these at cost price. Many thanks to Matthew and Trade Zone.



Matthew handing over new more Powerful tools to Layton

VALUED SPONSORS

STACE HAMMOND

frank.TM
risk management



D.V.BRYANT TRUST

Enhancing Human Welfare in the Waikato



CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT LP



Jim Wright
NISSAN

