

## KAITIAKITANGA CHARITABLE TRUST NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

### NATIVE PLANT NURSERY INITIATIVE

Our traplines at Rangitoto Lands allow us to observe the seasonal changes of trees on the boundary of the Northern Pureora Forest and the Oliver's farm. There was a very big fruiting for our local Tawa and Miro trees this year. The Bulled Family, who manage Owawenga Station, have two enterprising future botanists. Lulu (8) and Riley (6) Bulled were asked to help two nurseries by supplying fruit for propagation. We offered to contribute up to ½ the price of a top-quality sleeping mat for camping (they do a lot of that and hunting). When we came to get the fruit we were gobsmacked to see they had collected 22 kilograms of Tawa fruit. The price they received is commercially sensitive but we can share that they got the mats and some money towards their education.



Discussions were had with Otewa Primary School, Otorohonga to enlist more children to learn when natives fruit and how to propagate that fruit. They already grow natives at their nursery but this initiative takes the lessons further. They will learn to identify native plants, learn their fruiting characteristics and how to plant them in seed trays. If the fruit is viable they will see Tawa germinating within a couple of months but learn that Miro take several years. This should grow the potential botanist pool significantly.

## RANGITOTO LANDS PREDATOR CONTROL

100 of our traps have been operating for several months having added 30 more to the original 70 placed. We have 100 more onsite waiting for a three-day opportunity to place them.



Our manufacturing process has changed to have a more supervised approach. This requires less youth and a more detailed approach. Due to their inexperience (and our supervisor's with youth) we found that our quality control had to improve. After trying a few different methods we have got a lot better all round.

The proof of product is that we are having consistent success catching stoats, rats and hedgehogs in high numbers in each trapping run. We frequently get asked why we target "cute" hedgehogs. It is not widely known how devastating they are on our ground dwelling native fauna. A perusal of the Department of Conservation's website under "Hedgehogs" explains that they pose a threat to many of our native species. They eat weta, skinks, eggs and chicks of ground dwelling birds. We find their numbers are high on the boundaries of our Northern Pureora trap area. The upper Waipa section has given us a catch rate of 7 hedgehogs to a few rats to date. More traps along this riverbed will help curb their devastation.

Our September newsletter indicated us possibly trapping Department of Conservation land. However we believe our efforts are best concentrated on farms which border the boundaries of known Kokako breeding areas in the Northern Pureora. Accordingly, we are applying for funds to complete the last 150 traps for Rangitoto Lands and then make 150 to operate on Owawenga Station next door.

We have been fortunate to have the Bullied Family and Regan Hosking agreeing to undertake the three weekly trapping rounds. They have always supported us with gifts of wild game along with the Hetet and Oliver Families' supplies of meat.

We have got to the stage where we have a "smallgoods" day at Rangitoto Lands approximately three times a year. The mince and sausage parcels are received with big smiles and thanks from a mixture of needy families and hard-working volunteers.

## **TAUWHARE WETLAND RESTORATION**

We are scheduled to do a day releasing and some in planting this winter. We hope to have further discussions with the owner toward establishing a raised waterway boardwalk through the area planted. It would be a great opportunity to give youth further lessons with tools and construction.

Thanks Jilly and Alan for allowing our container workshop to operate on site.

## **TAMAHERE EVENTIDE HOME TRUST (TEHT)**

We approached Louis Fick, CEO of TEHT to see if their residents would be interested in working with fiscally disadvantaged youth and rehabilitating prisoners. We are pleased to say arrangements are underway to have these groups join at TEHT workshop to commence further trap manufacturing. The goal is to allow an opportunity for our elders to pass on valuable skills and life lessons while contributing to improving the biodiversity of New Zealand through predator control. Production should commence once we have the results of recent funding applications for materials to make the traps.

We may also have an opportunity to work with them in their nursery.

## **CAMPING IN THE UPPER WAIPA WITH "THE WATERBOY"**

Go to this link to watch a brief video taken during a recent camping trip on Rangitoto Lands. It was successful enough to have us plan a second trip. The ongoing support and kindness of the Oliver Family makes this possible. Many thanks to Rhonda, Duncan and family.

<https://www.stacehammond.co.nz/community>

## **OKETE ESTUARY RESTORATION**

Our third year of planting wetlands, streams, springs and the estuary of Sean and Jo Wallis's farm at Okete was met with earlier annual moisture and timely rain while planting. Our volunteers stepped up again and helped get 1,700 plants in and most of them staked. Stace Hammond had their second year with an organised planting day. The Waikato District Council kindly supported us with providing bamboo stakes plus we bought some ourselves. Without the plants being staked we run the risk of them being lost to smothering by aggressive grass and weed growth. With stakes we can cut down the time it takes to find and release them so they get light.

The Waikato Regional Council has worked with us and the Wallis Family. We were invited to submit an expression of interest in joining another operator (commercial) to plant a large lot further down the harbour. Unfortunately it was too big a leap for our current capacity. We really needed another member to our team who could be available to organise, transport and assist volunteers. That wasn't possible so we passed on the opportunity taking some pleasure in at least being considered.

However, others are aware of our mahi and a couple of happenstance meetings at Te Uku Roast Office led to an inspection of another Okete Farm. It has several years of planting potential which is being planned with the Waikato Regional Council and the farmer. Like the Wallis Farm our mahi will result in long term benefit to our water into Whaiangaroa (Raglan) Harbour. The stream running through this low-lying dairy land joins the Okete Stream before it travels a few more kilometres to the Harbour. It already has significant riparian planting carried out by the owner. The area is a duck paradise which we are keen to make even better.

## **CONTACTS**

### Prison Care Ministries:

A recent contact from Prison Care Ministries has led to a lot of plants planted and looked after this June. Thanks Graham.

### Waikato Regional Council:

Ongoing Support for our trapping, planting and releasing.



Waikato District Council:

Ongoing support for our trapping, planting and releasing.

Byron McGowan:

Missed at our last camp but eagerly looked forward to in October.

Native Forest Restoration Trust

Mutual sharing of information and us gifting rare pittosporum obcordatum.

**SPONSORS**

Stace Hammond:

Thanks so much for all your administrative, office and IT support.

Frank Risk:

Thank you to Frank Risk who keep us insured despite it costing them.

Ebbetts:

We hope we can renew our working together once your big developments give you time to settle.

Brown Pennell:

Always there and most appreciated.

Rangitoto Lands:

You are key to our success. Thank you.

River Kitchen:

Thank you for your delicious treats.

Trek N Travel

Your discounts and advice are appreciated.

Waikato Hunting and Fishing

Thanks for your generous support.

Grant Family:

Feeding and keeping the Founder going. Thanks Alli.

**GENEROUS FUNDERS – WE STRIVE TO MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR SUPPORT**

**STACE HAMMOND**

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