



Piroa-Brynderwyns Landcare (PBL) Newsletter

As spring approaches, it becomes a busy time for our volunteers so if you have any time free just let us know and we will steer you in the direction of a group or event that interests you.

Spring is a crucial time for us to remove both animal and plant pests before the warm weather and nesting season arrives. Our efforts support the improvements needed for a flourishing and resilient biodiversity in the local area, ensuring we do not lose more of our precious native species.

Later in this newsletter you will find variety of working bees and workshops that are all provided free of charge and welcome anyone interested. Just use the links to register you interest or turn up per instructions per invent.

With the number of projects and great news stories we have increased the regularity of our newsletter from quarterly to every 8 weeks. This should mean you are more regularly informed of the great work being done, the scheduled working bees and workshops, and prevent a mammoth read like the last few newsletters!

Recent Highlights

TOTY Awards

Anticipation was running high at the annual awards dinner held recently by Piroa Brynderwyns Landcare. The awards were the culmination of another highly successful year of community-led conservation work in the Piroa Brynderwyns High Value Area (HVA), bounded by Waipu, Brynderwyn, Bream Tail and Mangawhai. Northland Regional Council provides annual funding to the local steering group to assist with pest animal and plant work.

At 23,500 hectares this block is now the second largest HVA in Northland: over 20 volunteer groups are involved in trapping, 10 groups are involved in creating healthy plant habitats, and local schools are

running education programmes. Winners were announced in the categories of trapping and weed action, and trophies were presented by Northland Regional Councillor, Rick Stolwerk.

The growing number of people involved, and traps deployed are seeing exciting results as many landowners report increases in native birds such as tui, bellbirds and kereru in their gardens. Reports of regular kiwi calls and presence are now being confirmed at Bream Tail, above Langs Beach and towards Waipu West.

This year's award winners were:

Trapper of the Year (TOTY): Kathryn Clark



Last year's Rookie Trapper of the Year, Kathryn Clark, took out the supreme award this year, with her dedication to trapping at Wairahi /Langs Beach Reserve. Kathryn has amassed an impressive catch record of 298 pest animals including 208 rats, 62 possums, 5 stoats and 3 weasels over this 35 hectare reserve. One of the highlights of her trapping year was observing a ruru nest in a ponga trunk within the reserve. Two chicks fledged in spite of a possum that visited the nest but was subsequently caught. After accepting her award, Kathryn recounted the trapping demonstration she did for the surf club rookies at Waipu last year, where she pulled out a possum from the freezer - to the shrieks of her audience!



Rookie Trapper of the Year (ROTY): Ian Burke



Ian Burke has earned his rookie trapper stripes as he strode out in all weathers with Trapping Coordinator Graeme Giles into challenging terrain in the Bream Tail area assisting in the deployment of hundreds of traps and bait stations on private and public land. Ian's contribution has been outstanding and will play a big part in accelerating our efforts in the ranges.

Weed Warriors of the Year (WOTY): Wairahi Trackies



And to our Weed Warriors: congratulations again to the Wairahi Trackies for receiving the Highly Commended prize at the Northland Regional Council Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards, on the 27th of June. Keep up the great work in the Langs Beach Scenic Reserve and surrounding area.

Congratulations and thanks to all award winners and volunteers.

Waipu Cycleway community native tree planting

A huge shout out to the locals and the cycleway committee who turned out for the cycleway planting at Tahamoana. There were 20 volunteers in total: the youngest - a keen two-year-old who enthusiastically handed out fertiliser tabs for the whole morning.



Deb and Dave hosted a welcome cuppa and fresh baking afterwards, and Ang Stolwerk gave an update on building the final 3km of the trail.





The result is another 600 native plants in the ground which increases the density of the plantings to smother more of the weeds, especially that gnarly kikuyu. We have also extended the pohutukawa corridor at each end so there will be a crimson corridor through the summer. The goal is to provide flight corridors to bring in more birds and seeds to continue the regeneration of bush on this land. It's going to be a beautiful shaded and sheltered section of trail on which to cycle. The previous plantings from the last two years are growing well. Dave shared a 1983 photo of Tahamoana: how bare the area was when it was all farmland!



School Programmes

In the coming term the students at both the Mangawhai Beach School and Mangawhai Nature School will continue their work rat trapping including taking home rat trap boxes built by the Waipu MenzShed to extend trapping into their own backyards.



Massive thanks to the Mangawhai Heads 4Square team for sponsoring lures, tongs and gloves for the students' new kits - the backyard trapping programme is starting soon! NRC and the Waipu MenzShed have provided the rat trap boxes so the Enviro Unit students at Mangawhai Beach School and the students at Mangawhai Nature School can do their part for Predator Free 2050.



Hiking adventure for the Mangawhai Nature School.

On June 30th about twenty-five students hit the Tanekaha walking track to enjoy the beautiful Brynderwyn ranges and learn more about the bush.

Big thanks to Greg Stump from Mangawhai Trackies and Waipu Kiwis who kindly guided the botanical walk with the students.

It is great to see our local schools embracing environmental education for their students, and business supporting the programmes being offered.

The recent Tanekaha track adventure for the students was to continue their learning from the seed collection and propagation workshop recently run by Ricky from Mangawhai Natives.



Greg Stump demonstrating a DOC200

The students have been learning animal pest control including managing traps on the school grounds and recording their catch data, seed collection and propagation. The Tanekaha track walk acquainted the students with new experiences ranging from boot washing to help reduce the spread of Kauri dieback, observing eels in streams, stoat trapping, identifying native plants that have healing properties, and discussing track building and what the volunteers do.

Teacher Maree Stewart said, "They all had a wonderful time and were full of all sorts of questions and discussions when we returned."



Greg knows the track better than most having been one of the volunteer track builders for the Mangawhai Trackies who built the track. "What a wonderful group of young people ... so well behaved and smart. I was impressed by their demeanour and felt lucky to have spent the day with them."



Student Poppy could not get the smile off her face throughout the day; her great passion is for the outdoors and animals.

Mangawhai Beach School

Very proud Enviro Unit students at Mangawhai Beach School servicing their rat traps on the school grounds!





Our Winter New Trappers' Workshop

Thanks to Graeme Giles, Peter Hunt and Steve McKee for running the recent New Trappers Workshop. Great to see about 15 keen new trappers turn up and learn the ropes from the masters. It was a pretty horrid day but the team learnt the techniques for DOC200s, live capture traps, Steve Allen's, Timms traps and more.



If you are keen to join the next workshop the dates are advertised later in the newsletter.

Catchment Groups.

Waipu Waters is encouraging landowners to form Catchment groups where neighbours connected by waterways help each other to improve and maintain the quality of their streams. There are over 300 catchment groups throughout New Zealand but only a couple in Northland.



A catchment kick-off meeting is planned for Thursday 17th of November. Waipu Waters are on

the lookout for catchment co-ordinators to support these groups so let us know if you are interested.

Waipu Nursery Progress

As you will have read in the last newsletter Waipu Waters and Weed Action have been working together to set up of a community nursery on Cove Road. Working sessions continue to run on the second Sunday of each month with a dual focus of nursery construction and working with eco-sourced plants.



Liz Grace with the tray of seedlings

It's been great to see about 20 volunteers turn up. Generous donations of materials have been received from Waipu businesses - a special thanks to Bream Bay Diggers who delivered and laid metal on the nursery driveway, and ITM who provided all the framing materials for a large potting shed.

The next working session will be Sunday, September 11 from 9 to 12, 566 Cove Rd.



Do you know keen farmers?



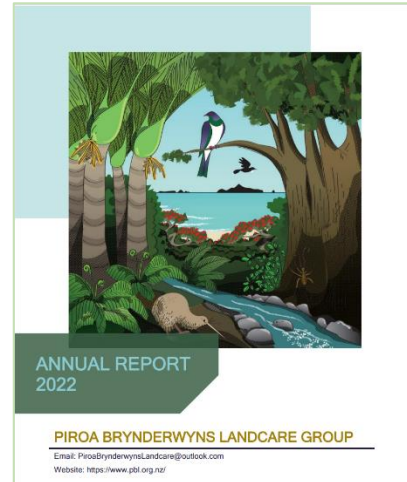
Working with Farmers

To help realise the benefits of the nursery, the nursery team is looking for farms that need plants in their waterways. The areas need to be either fenced or due to be fenced. The trapping team can also help advise on any necessary pest control needed in the new planting areas. If you know of any interested farmers who need a bit of extra support with their waterways please contact Peter on pg@ecoprojects.nz

Our Annual Report

We're chuffed with the results of the last 12 months across the PBL High Value Area in getting more intensive trapping areas, getting weedy reserves under control, and doubling down on bait station numbers to improve the speedy removal of stoats and possums, both of which are responsible for a considerable loss of native birds, insects and plants. These results against a backdrop of Covid-19 are remarkable testament to the volunteers and landowners who are working so hard to make a difference. A big thank you to you all, and to all our donors, business sponsors, schools and supporters.

As part of the reporting back to Northland Regional Council for their rate funded contribution, PBL has prepared an annual report which includes a dashboard of results and the highlights of the year's work. The current year is the final year of our 5 year funding from NRC, so we are keen to continue with our efforts and build a strong case for future support.



There will be an opportunity to submit in support of future rate funding for biodiversity work in Council's next Long Term Plan, due in 2023. You can download a copy of our annual report from: [HERE](#)

Piroa Conservation Trust (PCT Update)

Since our last newsletter the PCT is in its final establishment stages:

- The trustees have been appointed. We have 5 trustees, Simon Couper, Peter Hunt, David Mather, Jonathan Pringle and Gill Webb.
- The Trust Deed has been agreed by all parties, and is ready to send to the Charities Commission for approval.
- The Mana Enhancement Agreement with Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board and Te Uri O Hau Settlement Trust is ready for signing.
- The first task for the PCT is to expand on the strategic plan developed by PBL, and to set out the road map for the next 10 years in consultation with all parties.



Breve Street Progress



Big call out to the Mangawhai Trackies who have been engaged to repair the track on the Breve Street Reserve. For the past 2 years Alan has been volunteering with weeding in the area but the walking track has suffered major damage over the heavy rains. We have engaged KDC and have achieved a win win for making progress quickly.

Looking Forward



Breve Street Planting Bee

With the track now repaired we are holding a 3-hour working bee to plant the Breve Street Reserve in Mangawhai Heads.

When: Sunday 4th September

Time: 9am

Where: Breve Street Reserve Mangawhai Heads

Bring: gardening gloves & a spade.

Provided: Morning tea.



Marunui Pultenaea Working Bee

Pretty flowers but Pultenaea is a weed in Northland and at Marunui.

We are hoping to get at least 10 people on each of two days to help with a morning in the bush, finding and controlling this weedy pest.

When: Saturday 10 and/or Sunday 11 September.

Time: 9 am

Where: Meet at the Tanekaha Tracks carpark, 300 King Road.

Provided: Lunch provided at 1pm

Bring: It is steep terrain so bring sturdy footwear, gloves, water bottle, sunscreen and hat, secateurs, pruning saw and small hand fork (if you have them).

Book: with John on 027 262 7904



Classics @ the Cove Weed Workshop & Working Bee

Many will be familiar with the natural sound amphitheatre at Dave Brown's farm, Tahamoana from attending musical events such as the Classics at the Cove. Weed Action is calling for you to support this beautiful venue, as well as learning about managing pest plants at the same time.

As part of the working bee we will be running a free weed workshop at the venue where you will learn about pest plants endangering our environment and get some hands-on experience in how to manage pest plants that may well be in your own back garden. The workshop will be led by Weed Action Coordinator, Ron.

When: Sunday 25th September

Time: 9 am till noon

Where: Tahamoana Farm, 586 Cove Rd, Waipu Cove

Provided: lunch.

Bring: gardening gloves, secateurs, a gardening trowel, gardening shoes/boots. Extra gardening equipment will be available. Add in a raincoat and hat if the weather looks doubtful and come along and join in the fun. This event is suitable for all levels of fitness.



New Trapper Training

Come join us at our free trapping workshop. We will be covering all the basics about trapping both in your backyard or being part of a trapping group in your local area.

We will demonstrate a variety of trap types, talk about lures, tips, tricks and more.

If you are keen to join please register via the link below.

Cost: free

When: Sunday 30th October.

Time: 1 until 4pm

Where: Waipu Cove

Register: [HERE](#)

If the date isn't possible for you then please feel free to log your interest in future workshops [HERE](#)



Know Your Dog Workshops

Get inside the mind the mind of your canine companion & understand what is behind some of their quirky traits and antics.

Cost: free

Time: 10am until noon

Waipu: Sunday 27th November

Mangawhai: Sunday 26th February

Register [HERE](#)

Learn more: [Understanding the Awesome Animal at the End of a Lead \(kiwicoast.org.nz\)](#)

Other Stuff

Predator Free New Zealand Trust Research

The trust recently undertook some research to “Better understand the health of the Predator Free movement”. The research measures New Zealanders’ awareness and understanding of Predator Free 2050 as well as exploring people’s connection to nature, their concern around the loss of native biodiversity and their willingness to participate in predator free activities.



The results are interesting and there are plenty of insights that can be used to better engage New Zealanders with the predator free vision and its outcomes; we hope the wider sector will benefit from and use the report. The research was intended to create a benchmark and has been designed in a way that enables it to be repeated in future to measure change in New Zealanders’ awareness and understanding of [Predator Free 2050](#).

Read more [here](#)

Or visit the story on their website [here](#)

Planting Guide for native birds

If you are keen to look for a variety of plants that attract natives birds DOC has created a great guide showing a month by month grid of what plans., flowers, seeds and provides nectar when.

Month by month calendar of plants for native birds		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alakata	<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>		▲	▲	▲	▲	▲						
Astelia	<i>Astelia nervosa</i>	▲	⊗	⊗	⊗								
Cabbage tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	⊗	⊗	⊗									▲
Fivefinger*	<i>Pseudopanax arborcus</i>		⊗	⊗	⊗								
Fivefinger*	<i>Pseudopanax laetus</i>		⊗	⊗	⊗								
Flax (mountain)	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>	▲										▲	▲
Flax (lowland)	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	▲										▲	▲
Hinau	<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗								⊗
Kahikatea	<i>Dacrydium dactyloides</i>		⊗	⊗	⊗								
Kaikomako*	<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	⊗	⊗	⊗									
Kakabeak	<i>Clianthus purpureus</i>											▲	▲
Kanono*	<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>		⊗	⊗	⊗								
Karaka*	<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>		⊗	⊗	⊗								
Karamu*	<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	⊗	⊗	⊗									
Karamu*	<i>Coprosma rhinoides</i>		⊗	⊗	⊗								
Karamu*	<i>Coprosma rhyacina</i>		⊗	⊗	⊗								

View the full guide [here](#)



Sponsors

A huge shout out to the sponsors who have made our work possible: NRC, ITM Waipu, Northpine, Menzshed Waipu, Hammer Hardware Waipu, Wyatts Mangawhai. If you'd like to contribute as a sponsor of our conservation work, please contact Graeme on 021 118 4816.

Join us to grow our impact

We're always on the lookout for new people to help us deliver our work. Newcomers are especially welcome; it's a great way to make new friends and contacts in the community - we'd love to find a role for you.

There's plenty of variety in the work- some work is outdoors in the hills doing trapping and bait lines, some is chipping away at pest plants in local reserves or using your keyboard skills and experience for the quintessential comms.

We are especially looking for teachers for our programmes in schools, writers, social media, creative marketing and grant funding talents, event organisers and project delivery coordinators.

If you would like to volunteer, please fill in a simple form indicating what you would like to be involved in and the right team member will be in contact with you.

<https://forms.office.com/r/Ms8h312KhB>

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