



canopy 68

Newsletter of the Native Forest Restoration Trust

Summer 2019

NFRT Chairman's Message

Another calendar year has flown by and the Trust has continued to be very busy with potential purchase deliberations and negotiations, together with management and restoration projects on many of our existing reserves.

After some delays with documents, the Taranaki Mahood-Lowe extension block purchase is now proceeding apace (see article). We have also successfully purchased another extremely significant 55 ha block of threatened wetland forest adjacent to the Egmont National Park, together with its associated grazing land. The conditions of purchase require discretion around publicity and management in the immediate future and precluded any fundraising appeal. There is additional valuable wetland forest that is intended for future protection, whilst currently being retained by the same owner. We shall inform supporters of future developments as we are able.

Other projects in Northland and Rotorua are still alive but have not progressed further. However, a rare (possibly unique) restiad peat bog remnant in the Waikato, that we have known about for some 20 years, has recently leaped to prominence. With strong local support from some committed individuals and several biological/ecological and wetland scientists, together with positive indications of assistance from regional and local government, your Trustees are actively pursuing options for purchase and protection, together with public access and education. The timing is right and should we be successful in our discussions with the vendor, this project will entail a complex and multi-stage purchase and subdivision over several years. This introduces a new level of complexity for NFRT, but will still involve restoration and revegetation of wetland forest zones together with sensitive water table management.



Planting at Professor W.R. McGregor Reserve.

native forest
restoration trust

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In this Canopy 68 there are articles about the completion of the pine harvesting on NFRT land in the Waipoua catchment and the initial planting of mānuka and flax on the final grazed paddock in the McGregor Reserve. It is exciting to at last be realising the dream from over 30 years ago of a catchment entirely in native forest. There are however still many years of planting, releasing and weed control to be managed. The predator trapping and animal pest control will be ongoing, together with vigilance and techniques not to further spread kauri dieback disease. You will also read that planting has been continuing, and involving local communities and volunteers where possible, at Ed Hillary Hope Reserve (between Hamilton and Raglan) and in Marie Neverman/Tupare wetland reserve on the SW shore of the Kaipara Harbour. Mangarakau Swamp in NW Nelson also features. I was recently very privileged to visit Mangarakau on a stunning winter day, and was incredibly impressed by both the wetland and the entire southern half of the Whanganui Inlet. Although rather off the beaten track, Mangarakau is well worth a visit, and supporters can book the Lodge and stay overnight (see back page). My half day was grossly inadequate for a visit and I shall definitely return. The Visitor Centre has an amazing display of historic photos with supporting text, there are several walking tracks and the whole area is near perfect for kayak exploration and bird watching.

William Upton Hewett Memorial Reserve, west from Whangarei, had another big patch planting in the burned area this winter. NFRT's legal claim has now been lodged and is being considered by the insurance company and their legal and consultant team. Certainly, by Canopy 70 in about twelve months, we would expect to have resolution on this lengthy saga. Our advice to everyone is to do anything to avert or avoid a fire in restoration land – there are no winners!

One of our amazing volunteers, Judy Hanbury, has recently passed on the baton for Rangitoto Station house bookings to Trustee Rosemary Davison, who is also managing the hunters on the property. Thank you Judy from the whole Trust family for some three decades of dedication in this job. And also from the hundreds of people who have liaised with you over this time. Enjoy some well-earned retirement from continually being at the beck and call of enquirers. The new hunter booking system has bedded in well and retains control and responsibility for safety with NFRT. It has simplified liaison with DOC and WRC for planning and managing area culls of goats, pigs and deer. An unexpected consequence of NFRT

management has been extended interest, from across a much larger area of the North Island, in access to Rangitoto plus the potential for youth training.

Partnering with environmentally minded businesses is key to our continued successes and three diverse examples are featured in this issue. Thank you to all the businesses that have and continue to support the work of NFRT in protecting and restoring native ecosystems.

We can achieve the greatest progress where we have a local support group with a formalised organisation, such as the Friends of Mangarakau Swamp (FOMS) and the Honeymoon Valley Landcare Group (HVLG) in Northland. There are others around the country too and they all provide the local liaison and organisation that progresses the NFRT work and lightens the load on Trustees and reserve managers. They also become a valuable source of local fundraising skills, and knowledge and information for the Trust in its deliberations. As we move towards our 40th anniversary year Trustees want to acknowledge and thank all these groups for the important part they play in the success of NFRT's work.

As I approach my fifth Christmas and summer season as Chair of this special organisation, I want to thank everybody for their ongoing support. There have been times of personal loss and injury among key personnel this past year and I thank them for their continuing dedication. Thank you to Sandy, our Trust Manager, who has taken an incredible load off Trustees and to Sue in admin who ensures that nothing falls through the cracks. As we become a larger organisation in terms of property ownership, and with increased geographical and ecological diversity, there comes a greater dependence on Treasurer Andrew Tuckey's accounting skills and on a management structure devolved through our reserve manager contractors. Thank you all for your efforts and contributions during the past year and I hope that you have felt buoyed by your very considerable successes. There is now a relatively small group of Trustees, who are working and achieving results out of proportion to their number. We shall address this situation in 2020.

Merry Xmas and wishing you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends. Relax and let the trees grow. To all our supporters, be you volunteers, donors, honorary rangers, or all of the above; a sincere thank you and best wishes for a truly great summer and a bouncing 2020.

Tim Oliver, Chairman, NFRT



Mist and flax at Mangarakau Swamp. (Image courtesy of FoMS)



Mangarakau Swamp Visitor Centre. (Image courtesy of FoMS)

Planting Well Supported at Professor W.R. McGregor Reserve

This year has seen the planting on our Waipoua Reserves kick into action following a quiet few years.

It's great to start the final push to plant the Okawawa Catchment of the Waipoua River. The upper Okawawa catchment was once all farmland but now only a small amount of grass remains.

The long term vision for the Waipoua River, shared by NFRT, Te Roroa (Tangata Whenua) and the Waipoua Forest Trust, is to have the entire catchment restored to native forest from the mountains (large hills) to the sea. Te Roroa (Tangata Whenua) and the Waipoua Forest Trust are also undertaking massive restoration projects.

The Waipoua Forest Trust are seeking funding to restart their planting next year, while Te Roroa have implemented a restoration project called Te Toa Whenua which includes retiring the lower sections of the Waipoua River which are currently in pines, undertaking weed control and replanting with native trees.

This year NFRT planted 5000 mānuka and 500 flaxes within the last remaining big paddock on Professor W.R. McGregor Reserve (Planting Areas A and B on the map below). The mānuka will act as a nursery species for the trees that will be planted between the rows next year. The



James McLaughlin (NFRT) and Snow Tane (Te Roroa).

Native Forest Restoration Trust Proposed Planting Areas

Waipoua Reserves Northland



Planting Areas A and B at Professor W.R. McGregor Reserve.

establishment of these trees will be partially funded by 2 Cheap Cars through our 'Dedicate A Tree' programme, through which they are donating one tree for every car sold in October.

In the past the Trust had ploughed the farmland then spread mānuka seed over the open ground instead of planting individual trees. You can see the rows of mānuka established like this to the right of Planting Area A. This method worked well on some parts of the reserve but we can't do this now because of the risk of spreading Kauri Die Back Disease by moving the soil.

This year's plants were planted by international and local volunteers during a planting day organised by Reconnecting Northland and NFRT. Te Roroa and the Waipoua Forest Trust also helped and we are very grateful for their support. We had a great day with good food and laughter. A big thanks to Snow Tane (Te Roroa) and his team, Jessie McVeagh (RCN), Kylie Land (local volunteer) and Jordyn Paniroa (WFT) all representing the different local groups.

James McLaughlin, Reserve Manager
Waipoua and William Upton Hewett Reserves, NFRT



Alana McLeod (NFRT) spreading native seed collected from the Reserve.

Pine Harvesting at Professor W.R. McGregor Reserve

A large stand of pines in the Professor W.R. McGregor Reserve (the trees still being the property of the previous owners) have been the subject of a recent harvesting operation.

Over the past two summers the owners of the trees and the NFRT have been working together to harvest the logs with as little impact on the land as possible.

Weeds were controlled prior to harvesting, and continue to be controlled as they attempt to reinvade. The waterways were protected by establishing silt traps, and machinery was restricted from entering any creeks.

Stands of native trees and large individual native trees were left standing and small trees were also left where possible. As a result of this mitigation work the area is flourishing with

regenerating native vegetation to the point where we do not expect the need for a replanting programme.

The harvesting operation saw the creation of a track used to extract the logs which is now a great service track onto the reserve. Initially we planned to rip all logging tracks but by keeping the main track open we now have an access route into the reserve which avoids Kauri Die Back areas, helping against its spread. The remaining logging tracks have been ripped and seeded with patē (patatē/seven finger). Although the tracks are still visible, they will soon be obscured by the native regeneration that is quickly establishing.

James McLaughlin, Reserve Manager
Waipoua and William Upton Hewett Reserves, NFRT



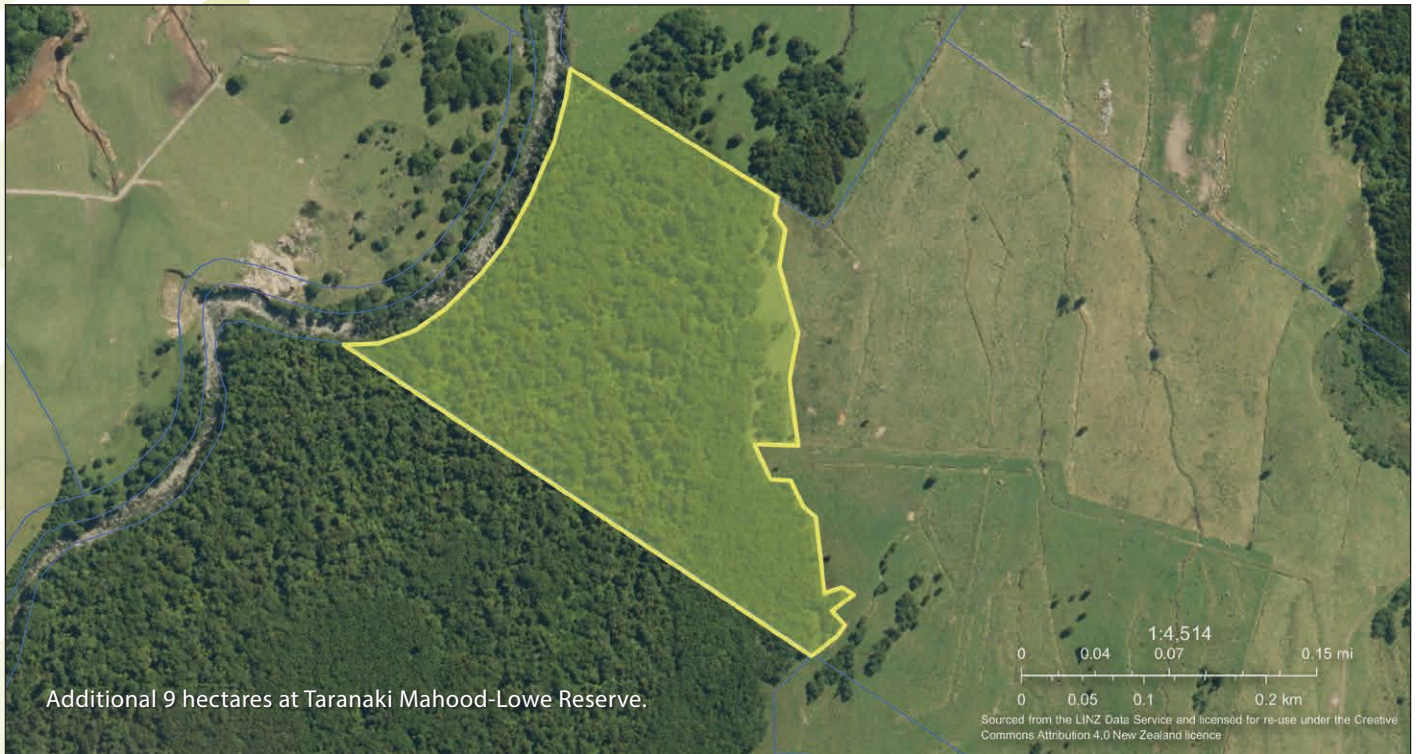
Regenerating native vegetation following pine harvesting.

Taranaki Mahood-Lowe Reserve Continues to Grow

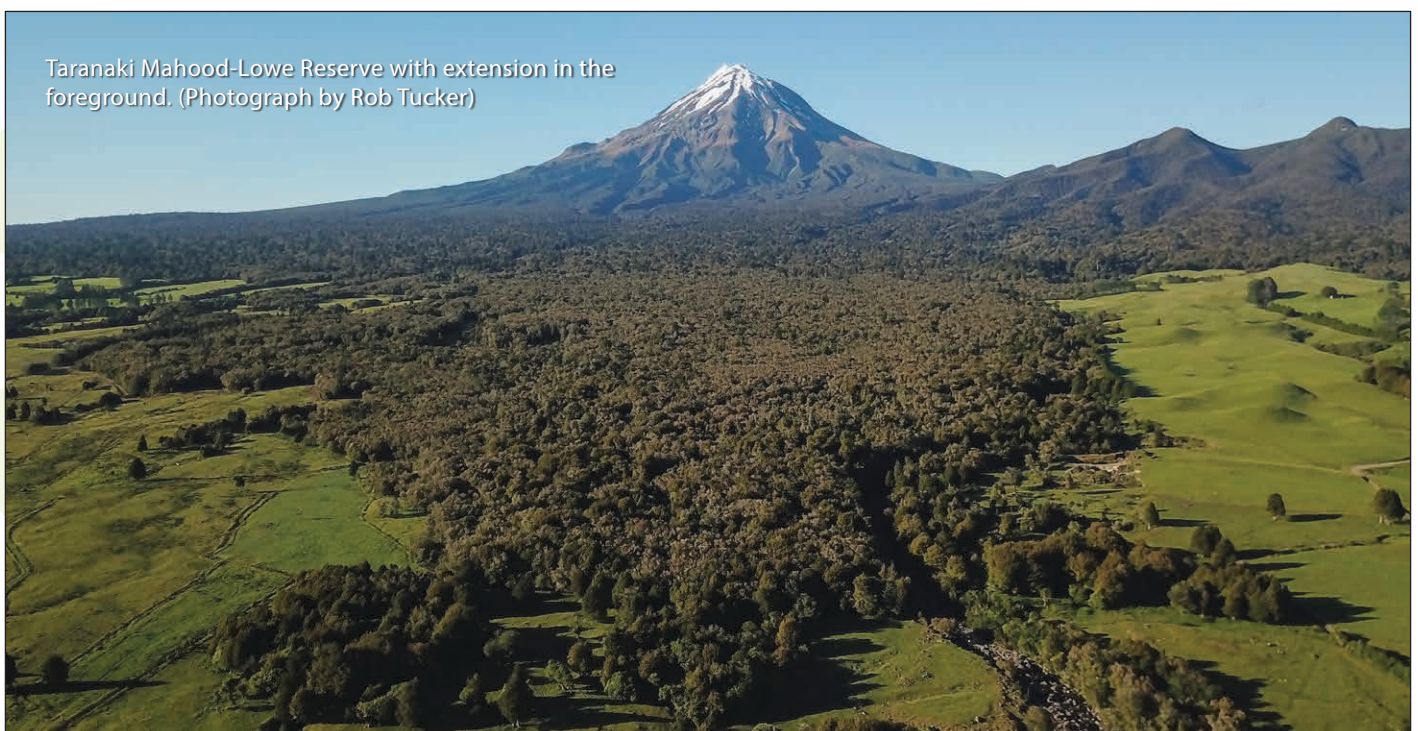
You may remember the report of our joy at having been able to complete the purchase of the Taranaki Mahood-Lowe Reserve in last summer's edition of Canopy. In the article, we mentioned the possibility of purchasing an additional nine hectares adjacent to the reserve. We're delighted to let you know that this purchase has been agreed and we're now working with the surveyor on the sub-division of the land from the neighbouring farm.

The amazing generosity of NFRT supporters made this possible when we exceeded our fundraising target for the

original reserve. The additional piece of land contains the northern tip of the forest growing within the original borders of the Taranaki Mahood-Lowe Reserve. Being able to purchase it allows us to offer continuous protection to the forest's inhabitants, and have a clearer boundary for predator control purposes. Every hectare that is protected gives native plants and animals a safe habitat in which to thrive so thank you once again, to each and every one of you, for your support of our native forests.



Additional 9 hectares at Taranaki Mahood-Lowe Reserve.



Taranaki Mahood-Lowe Reserve with extension in the foreground. (Photograph by Rob Tucker)

Planting Day at Ed Hillary Hope Reserve

Not for the first time, the weather forecast was decidedly unpromising for the 2019 planting day at Ed Hillary Hope Reserve in Waikato. Squally showers, strong gusty winds with the possibility of both thunderstorms and hail seemed likely to discourage even the most committed conservationist, but this proved not to be the case.

Not only did 20 people find their way to the Reserve, many for their first visit, but the weather was unexpectedly kind to us – and to our young trees. While we planters might have preferred warm sunshine, moist ground and subsequent rainfall is what young trees mostly need. The heavy rain of previous days meant a good coating of mud for all of us and our tools, but there were no complaints as the heavy showers on the day held off until all the trees were in the ground.

The 455 trees were eco-sourced, the majority having been grown from seed collected within the existing forest on this reserve. The seed was collected and the healthy plants raised by volunteers at the Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust's nursery at Mystery Creek just south of Hamilton.

It was disappointing that the heavy showers discouraged many of the volunteers from using our mega sized new picnic table for a lunch break and from walking further into the reserve to see the magnificence of the mature forest which still covers the higher parts of this 460 ha reserve. The reserve adjoins the Four Brothers Reserve and extends from SH23 to Old Mountain Road in Waikato District. Previously farmed flatter parts of the reserve immediately adjacent to the public entrance in Old Mountain Road are being actively revegetated



One of two known Libocedrus on the reserve.
(All photographs on this page by Dell Hood)



Top: WERT nursery co-ordinator and volunteer planter Jan Simmons.
Above: Volunteer planters Sue Cameron (NFRT) and Katherine Hay.

but the natural regeneration adjacent to and within the remaining forest is nothing short of spectacular.

The Trustees are most grateful to Forest and Bird's Waikato Branch who scheduled our planting day as their regular trip, and also to the Waikato Junior Naturalists who brought a sizeable contingent of young conservationists. It was also a pleasure to welcome a number of other volunteers who had heard about the planting day in different ways.

The Native Forest Restoration Trust welcomes visitors to Ed Hillary Hope Reserve, which is about 40 minutes' drive from Hamilton, and are gradually upgrading visitor facilities as funding permits. As well as the unique macrocarpa slab picnic table there is also a toilet, and track markers and signs are progressively being installed. Improved signage of the reserve entrance and carpark will shortly be installed.

Dell Hood, Trustee, NFRT



Installation of the new picnic table.
(Photographs by Sharen Graham)

Supporting the Natural Environment is Good for Business

Whether they are running a specific campaign, or as part of a long-term corporate social responsibility policy, we're often approached by businesses who are interested in supporting New Zealand's native forests. We're delighted to feature just a handful

of the brilliant businesses who are supporting NRFT. If you're thinking about getting involved with your business, Sue would love to hear from you at admin@nfrt.org.nz

Campaign-led support

2CheapCars, New Zealand's largest second-hand car dealer, were looking for a socially conscious campaign that they could run for the month of October. With a growing focus on environmental awareness and responsibility, 2CheapCars approached NFRT. "We wanted to do something unique and interesting," said Dan Buckley, CEO of 2CheapCars, "something commercially driven to help inspire sales, using our marketing budget – but attempting to use the money in a way that has a long term positive effect - socially." They decided to pledge to Dedicate a Tree for each car sold during the month, giving them the potential to raise around \$25,000. The money raised will be used to plant trees at the McGregor Reserves in Northland, something that Dan is excited about. "We love the idea of planting trees," he explained. "It's something that aligns with our long-term goal to give back, and helps our natural environment and uses our marketing spend in a beautiful way. We're hoping that some of our staff and customers will be able to go up to Northland to help plant some of the trees, which I'm sure will be a great experience."



2CheapCars

www.2cheapcars.co.nz



NU LEGAL

www.nulegal.co.nz

New growth

When barrister and solicitor Megan Price set up Nu Legal, she knew that she wanted to give back and make her practice environmentally responsible. Megan settled on launching #10thousandtrees, a pledge to Dedicate a Grove through NFRT for every property sale, purchase or refinance managed by the firm. "It's a cause very close to my heart," said Megan. "I used to live on Waiheke Island which is a very environmentally-conscious community, and when I moved I wanted to make sure I did something to continue to support our natural environment." Not only is #lawyersnativetreesproject a fantastic initiative for native forests, it's also something that Megan's clients have been very positive about, which is great news for a new, growing business. "I send the certificate we get from NFRT for each dedication through to our clients," explained Megan. "They really like it."

Small is beautiful

Victoria and Carl Menary design and sell beautiful, handcrafted wooden lightshades to order through their company Minnow. Sustainability is at the core of what they do, with materials and components carefully selected from New Zealand suppliers. “We try to be sensitive to the environment in everything we do,” explained Victoria. “That includes the way that we make our products and the way we run the business. We wanted to use the company to make a difference.” Victoria and Carl have been working with NFRT since 2017, donating \$25 to Dedicate a Tree for every lightshade sold. “Supporting NFRT made sense as our products are all made from wood so it was a good brand fit,” said Victoria. “It has also been well received by our clients, who have given us positive feedback about our support of NFRT.” Producing high-end products to order means that Minnow deal in relatively small volumes, but their support of NFRT still makes a big difference.



MINNOW

www.minnow.co.nz

Friends of Mangarakau Swamp Bid Farewell to Jo-Anne Vaughan

On Saturday 26th October Friends of Mangarakau Swamp held a ceremonial tree planting and afternoon tea to farewell Jo-Anne Vaughan. A group of very appreciative people gathered at Mangarakau Swamp to celebrate her involvement through the local Forest and Bird Branch in their various conservation projects.

Jo-Anne worked with the Native Forest Restoration Trust back in 2002 to buy the reserve at Mangarakau and corralled together a group of local people to form Friends of Mangarakau Swamp (FOMS) in 2004. She then worked as secretary and treasurer to move FOMS ahead to work on the restoration and pest control of the swamp, keeping a close eye on progress, and often hands on, supporting wherever she was needed.

Jo-Anne's husband Alan died recently and she is moving from the district to live with her daughter and family.

Robyn Jones, Chair of Friends of Mangarakau Swamp

The Native Forest Restoration Trust are very appreciative of the help that local support groups provide for the management of our more remote reserves.

We thank Jo-Anne for her immense contribution to conservation in the Golden Bay area and wish her well for the future.

Jo-Anne Vaughan photograph by John Barraclough



Dabchick Distraction at Marie Neverman Reserve Planting Day

As the Trust's Administrator I usually sit tapping at a keyboard, but I really enjoy contributing in the field so decided to try and make it to any planting/work days planned near my home this planting season. The first planting day was close to Hamilton, so my husband and I drove down to stay with friends and I joined in on a very wet planting at Ed Hillary Hope Reserve.

The next planting day offered was closer...only an hour away. I arrived at the Marie Neverman Wetland Reserve to join Reserve Manager Sharen, members of the South Kaipara Landcare Group, previous neighbours of Marie Neverman, Auckland Council staff and NFRT supporters. Our task was to continue the lake stop bank restoration that was started last year.

Around 360 māhoe, mānuka and karamu were planted into the top and sides of the stop bank, leaving a track for the pest and weed control contractors to access the area. It was great to see last year's plantings looking mostly healthy, and according to those more familiar with the reserve, the demise of invasive weed species is impressive. The Trust has worked hard to control woolly nightshade, blackberry, pampas, mothplant and other invasive weed species.

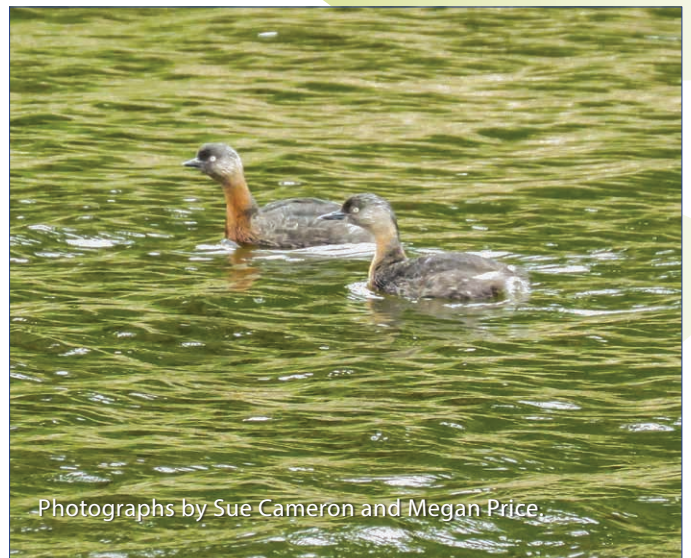
With only a minor distraction caused by the inquisitive dabchicks who came to check out what we were up to, there was ample time to plant the trees, chat with other planters, catch up with seldom seen friends and learn more about the history of the lake and wetland reserve. Okay, so maybe not so minor when I look back at all the dabchick photos taken...not many of the planting effort, but many taken of these cute aquatic diving birds.

Once all the plants were in the ground it was back to the cars for more chatter and banter, fuelled by delicious home baking and barbecued sausages supplied by the South Kaipara Landcare folk.

The weather was fine and warm, the planting team was enthusiastic and welcoming, and it was great to learn more about this wonderful 136 hectare wetland reserve.

A lovely day in the West for this volunteer from the East.

Sue Cameron, Administrator
Native Forest Restoration Trust



Photographs by Sue Cameron and Megan Price.

Unitec Conservation Week Bake-Off

In honour of the 50th anniversary of conservation week, Unitec staff and students competed in a conservation themed bake-off, to raise funds for conservation.

A large crowd gathered to appreciate the amazing creations before they were judged and sold. Between entry fees and sales of the scrummy treats, over \$300 was raised for the Native Forest Restoration Trust.

First place went to Environmental and Animal Sciences student Ceri for her amazing bee biscuits. “I wanted to help support the conservation programmes, because I care about the future of the flora and fauna of New Zealand,” Ceri said.

Second place was a stunning gecko on a chocolate log, while third place was shared by Chatham Island black robin and Kakapo cupcakes. Students and staff also entered wetapuna, lichen, and beach scene creations.

Organisers gave special thanks to Fullers, Auckland Zoo, and Bevan Smith for donating fantastic prizes for the winners. They also thank the Native Forest Restoration Trust for their amazing work, and hope that the funds raised can go a small way to helping the restoration of our amazing ecosystems.

Rebecca Connor, Lecturer,
Environment and Animal Sciences,
Unitec Institute of Technology



BECOME A FOREST GUARDIAN

Join us as a Forest Guardian with a monthly donation and help keep our native forests safe forever.

Your generous gift will help with the ongoing maintenance of our reserves, ensuring they're protected from invasive weeds, pests and predators. Thanks to you, native plants and animals will have a safe habitat where they can thrive.

For more information and to sign up, please visit www.nfvt.org.nz/forestguardian

Our Landscape Our Legacy – Protecting, Inspiring, Managing, Restoring

Come and stay at Mangarakau Wetland Field Centre, North-west of Nelson

Attractive 10 bed lodge situated amid wonderful scenery with walking tracks around the swamp. Close to outstanding natural wilderness areas with access to Kahurangi National Park, Farewell Spit and Te Tai Tapu Marine Reserve. Bring own bedding and food.

For more information and Lodge Bookings:
Ph: Robyn Jones (03) 524 8266 mangarakauswamp@gmail.com
www.mangarakauswamp.com



Come and stay at Rangitoto Station Reserve, The King Country

Modern 3-bedroomed house, 34km from Otorohanga, King Country. Well-equipped and ideal for small to medium groups but sleeping space depends on how many workers are there at the time. Camping permitted near the woolshed. Hours of walking tracks through bush or open country with superb views. Many native bird species including kokako, kaka and falcon.

Relax and enjoy the peace and quietness.

House Bookings: Ph. Rosemary (07) 873 7354 rkmgdavison@xtra.co.nz

