



# canopy 72

Newsletter of the Native Forest Restoration Trust

Winter 2022

## NFRT Chairman's Message

Welcome to Canopy 72, our winter issue for 2022. Together with all of you supporters, we have had to learn to live with Covid and manage as best we can without back packers and other international volunteer assistance. Our properties with local community support groups have done very well, but it has been more of a struggle for the contract managers in some other regions. Congratulations to all of them for the flexibility and tenacity they have shown to achieve successful outcomes. Trustees met face-to-face in late June for the first time in a year. It was great for everyone to mingle together and catch up.

In almost every Canopy for the past 8 years I have written about the very drawn-out saga following the devastating fire that destroyed 59 ha of the William Upton Hewett Memorial Reserve, a half hour's drive west of Whangarei. I am extremely happy to tell you that the insurance claim was finally resolved at

mediation in March this year. Details are not allowed to be disclosed. Suffice to say that there are no winners in a situation like this and the greatest loser is the ecosystem on the burned land that, was destroyed and may take 80-100 years to return to anything approaching what was there in 2013. New regional council regulations mean that this process cannot now be enhanced through judicious revegetation.

The special Patui project inland from Stratford in Taranaki has been fully purchased and protected. This was completed by utilising funds internally on a temporary basis. You will be aware of the current final appeal where donations are being matched \$ for \$ by funds collected by Air New Zealand's FlyNeutral programme. Please use and support your national airline where possible. They have been an extremely generous partner with NFRT. The local support for managing and



The special Patui project inland from Stratford in Taranaki. Photograph by Rob Tucker.

native forest  
restoration trust

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restoring Patui is significant and has already commenced with pest control and an area of restoration being funded by the Taranaki Regional Council. Sean Gardiner has settled into his role overseeing all our Taranaki and SW Waikato reserves. Trust Manager Sandy Crichton has overseen the public fundraising for land purchases and wider planting very successfully and is now even tapping some international sources that were previously unknown to Trustees. NFRT has also been honoured and privileged to receive several generous bequests and unsolicited donations during the past 6 months. Sometimes these are from well-known old friends of the Trust and at others they come out of the blue, but are always extremely valuable and welcome. Thank you very much to all those families who have helped protect and enhance parts of the New Zealand natural environment.

Although there has been no publicity or public fundraising for it, the Trust recently purchased another key property SE of our existing Waipoua reserves. It is described in more detail in this issue of Canopy and was funded through the sale of Michael Taylor's bequeathed lifestyle Lot at Tupare near Marie Neverman Reserve on the south-west shore of the Kaipara Harbour. Michael was a bird lover and, for many years, Trustee Secretary of NFRT. A half hectare lifestyle Lot has become 128 ha of regenerating bush and rough pasture in a kiwi zone with keen local supporters. The kokako property north of Rotorua is also proceeding, but more slowly. We are also negotiating on a smaller restoration property with wetland potential and buffering the DoC estate in the Waitekauri Valley at the southern end of the Coromandel Range.

Over the past two decades land prices have skyrocketed relative to wages and income. NFRT's mission is being a land-holding Trust that encourages and undertakes native habitat restoration and preservation and this has not changed. Among the Trust's Objectives are: to acquire land of biodiversity value and reduce loss of native habitats, and to protect and enhance biodiversity values on Trust owned land. Despite the amazing generosity of you, our supporters, meeting these objectives is becoming increasingly difficult. Covid has severely disrupted the whole world for two and a half years and has allowed some disturbing financial agendas to develop internationally and be progressed. We Trustees are unsure how we will be affected in NZ, but we need to future proof by preparing for significant financial volatility and changes over the next several years and ensure that we maintain our independence. A sub-committee has developed a proposal to be more proactive in searching out appropriate target purchases and to increase the scale and size of these properties via a suitable funding mechanism. It is now nine years since our major strategy review in 2013 and Trustees have decided that we should hold another strategy session in late September this year. Funding through targeted loans and carefully managed, asymmetric financial risk will be important in this process. Banking and loans may be very different five years from now and we need to prepare. There are significant opportunities available if we develop plans now. We shall report back the outcome of these deliberations to supporters and partners via the website and the summer Canopy.

NFRT's accounts and finances are in very good health, in major part through Treasurer Andrew Tuckey's diligence and

professional expertise. Having an entrepreneurial accountant as a Trustee has been a great benefit to us all. Financial Year 22 accounts have been completed, reviewed by the auditors and submitted to the Charities Commission – the earliest ever for NFRT. Increasingly, the reviews target systems in place to prevent or identify and manage potential fraud.

New Trustee Ed Chignell has relinquished most of his workload at Treescape and has been able to visit and help on some of the NFRT northern reserves. As he comes to grips with the quirks of driving a private charitable organisation, we have more roles lined up for Ed in the coming months to better utilise his newly available time and his practical business skills and wide operations experience.

Sadly, Sue Cameron, our loyal and efficient administrator is retiring for some well-earned rest and travel. Sue has been "old school" flexible in her role and hours worked and has been the friendly contact for many of you during the past 7 years. With the increased financial and donations recording, and detail required, together with support for Sandy in his role we have decided to split and broaden the current role between two appointees. Thank you Sue for being so efficient and for being a good friend to us all. Best wishes for a wonderful retirement and there are plenty of reserves requiring volunteers in the unlikely event that you are ever at a loose end. Welcome to Jill Southard, who will be handling the financial side of what has been Sue's role.

The other major personnel change just now is Sharen Graham's move from Auckland to the South Island and a down-sizing of her role. Nearly 20 years ago Sharen was still part-time but was the only Field Officer/Reserves Manager for the whole country until around 2014. Since then, she relinquished Northland, but still oversaw all the management on reserves south from Tupare on the Kaipara. Her professional ecological knowledge and experience, together with the ability to handle diverse contractors, neighbours and volunteers has been of inestimable value to the better management of Native Forest Restoration Trust's 30 plus reserves. Throughout this time, she has been a regular attendee and valued contributor at Trustee meetings and reserve openings. We are very fortunate that Sharen will continue to be the link for Hawkes Bay, Wellington/Wairarapa and the South Island. With all these properties there are very supportive and effective individuals and groups at the local level.

Trustees wish James McLaughlin and Wendy congratulations and best wishes for their most important pending addition to their family. Another bush baby and potential kiwi trainee for the future! James also recently scored a coup with a major grant from MPI for both NFRT and Waipoua Forest Trust towards improved wash down facilities, kauri mapping, kauri dieback testing and training, and trapping/controlling pigs to reduce the spread of kauri dieback disease in the central and far north. Very well done.

With best wishes to you all and hoping that families and friends can continue to gather together over the coming months. I am off to Southland in August to see family for the first time in nearly two years and to touch base with Maurice and see the progress made by the Oreti team.

Tim Oliver, Chairman, NFRT

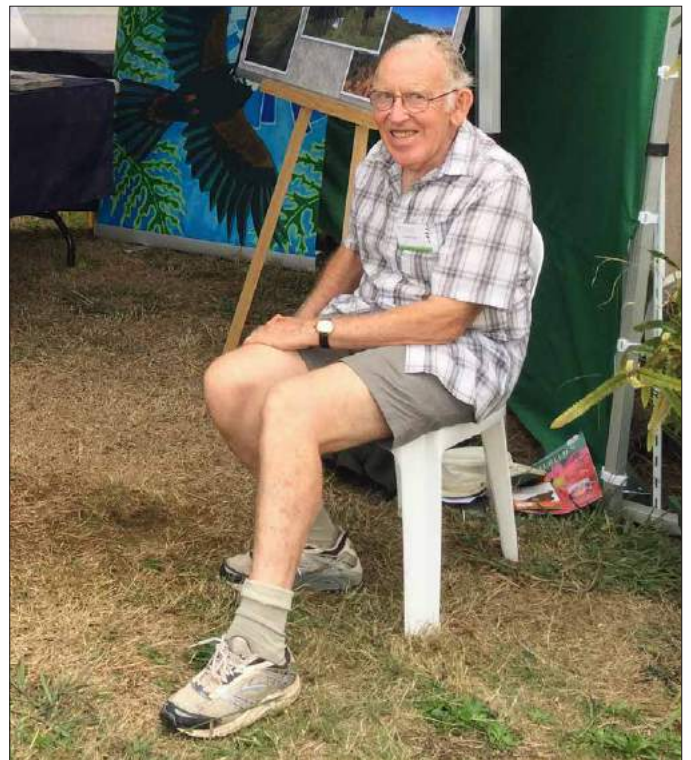
# Dr. Michael Taylor's contributions to nature conservation

Michael Taylor became a Trustee of the Native Forest Restoration Trust in 1996, having been a supporter since the Trust's inception; he served as secretary for six years and compiled our Canopy newsletter. As a Trustee, Michael was actively involved in several property purchases including a wetland property at Tupare on the South Kaipara Peninsula which now forms the Marie Neverman Reserve. Following Miss Marie Neverman's generous bequest in 2007, Michael was particularly active in seeking out a suitable property to honour her memory. A generous gift from another supporter and one from Michael himself allowed us to complete this purchase. Michael passed away in 2015 leaving a sizeable bequest, including a property at Tupare, to NFRT.

With the Trust recently purchasing a 128ha property in Northland next to the Marlborough Forest, Trustees decided to name this new reserve the "Michael Taylor Kiwi Reserve" with the general consensus being that Michael's contribution was owed such a memorial. Funding from the sale of Michael's Tupare property was used to purchase the new reserve. As far as we're aware Michael didn't have a connection to the new reserve, but he did spend many cold nights catching kiwi in Northland in the 1970's on land about to be roller crushed and planted in pines. It is possible he did rescue kiwi in the area having been active east of Dargaville at Tangiteroria.

Michael, who hailed from Yorkshire in northern England, came to New Zealand in 1966 with a position at Auckland University as a lecturer, advancing to associate-professor in chemistry, while maintaining a strong commitment to nature conservation as a parallel activity to his professional career.

Putting down roots in New Zealand, he joined the Ornithological Society and the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society. During the 1970s he served on its Central Auckland committee and led this branch during the turbulent period of protest against native forest logging and the 'Save the Kokako' campaign. He chaired the Auckland Conservation Week Committee in 1978 when the theme was 'Endangered Species'. With another noted conservationist, John Staniland, he took steps to preserve the Te Henga wetland in the Waitakere Valley which has grown into the present Matuku Reserve with links to Ark in the Park. Through Forest & Bird, Michael was instrumental with others in securing new reserves on Waiheke Island.



During that period Michael was an elected member of Auckland Museum Council and a partner in amateur field work of the Museum's associate ornithologist, Sylvia Reed whom he succeeded as OSNZ Regional Representative from 1982 to 1991. The final years of his university career were highly productive in research which extended beyond formal retirement through visits to Sweden in 1996, 1997 & 1998. Travel during sabbaticals added lessons from nature conservation in the UK and Canada to his New Zealand experience as a councillor of Miranda Naturalists' Trust and as an active supporter of Auckland Region parks and reserves. He was also a supporter of Tiritiri Matangi, Hauturu, Ark in the Park and Motuihe Trust; member of Motuora Restoration Society, Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society, Shakespear Open Sanctuary Society, Tamaki Estuary Protection Society and other conservation groups.

## Introduction to Michael Taylor Kiwi Reserve

At the request of interested parties (neighbours and community conservation groups) the Trust recently purchased a 128ha property in Northland next to the Marlborough Forest. The interested parties were concerned that this important property could be developed or purchased by less conservation-minded people and sought help from the Trust.

The property now named the "Michael Taylor Kiwi Reserve" is regarded by the local community as important as it adjoins directly to the Marlborough Forest and links up several other community conservation projects directly with the Marlborough Forest. The reserve is also one of the last remaining pieces of the puzzle in the Marlborough Corridor. The Marlborough

Corridor is a stoat control network to protect establishing and migrating kiwi moving between Trounson Kauri Park and the Marlborough Forest.

The Marlborough Forest is one of the best examples of northern upland plateau west coast forest in Northland. It is situated between the large forest tract of Waipoua/Mataraua/Waima to the north-west and Kaihu Forest directly to the south and supports threatened and regionally significant species.

There is a good population of kiwi on the new reserve and within the surrounding private and public lands. Fortunately, these kiwis are protected through a large scale trapping programme on and around the reserve. Looking to the future

this population of kiwi will likely be a Northland stronghold as dogs which are the main killer of adult kiwi in Northland are not present due to the sites isolated location and the low number of residential properties nearby with pet dogs.

The reserve is predominantly regenerating native forest with approximately 15ha of retired pasture. Restoration of the property will consist of possum and stoat control over the entire block and planting within retired pasture. Already we have sourced 7,000 plants which will be planted this winter. The possum control network will be implemented in the summer.

What is so good about this site is the involvement from our neighbours Octavian and Dawson. Both are willing to be

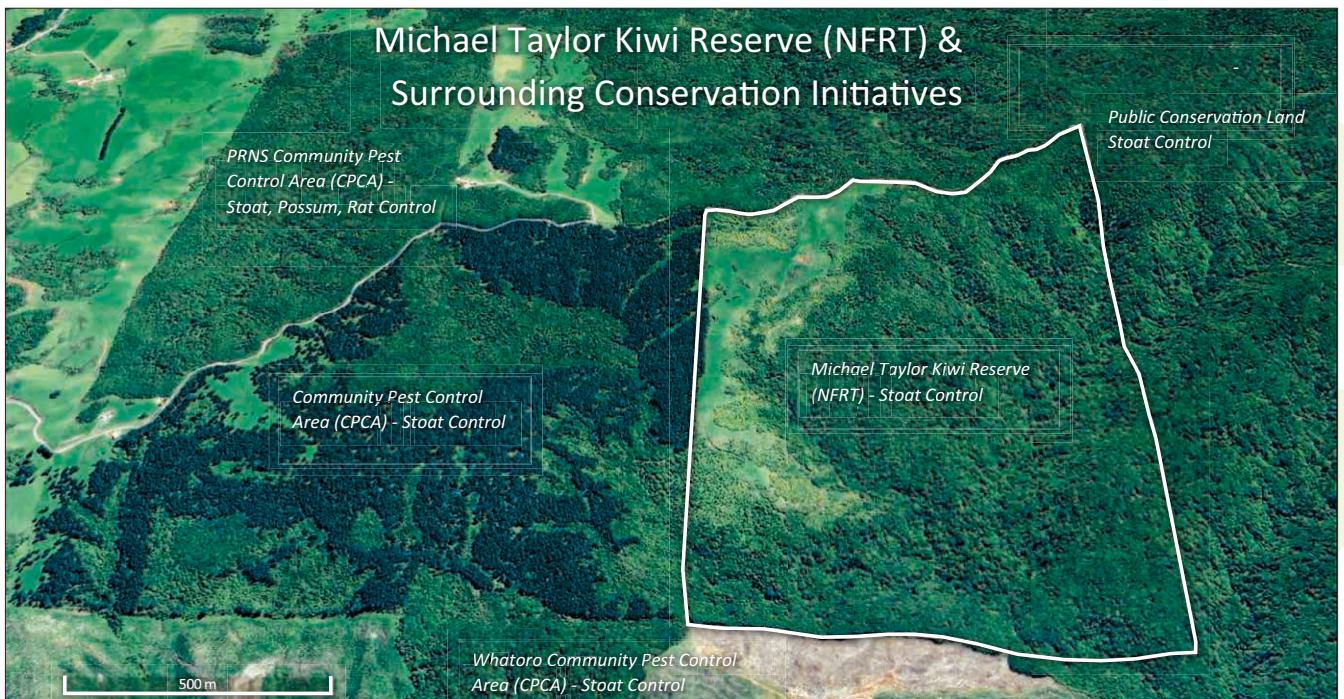
Honorary Rangers and will be undertaking most of the summer management within the reserve. Both have worked together for years undertaking successful rat, possum and stoat control. As a result they now have more than six pairs of kiwi within their small core area plus kiwi all around in the neighbouring forests, including our new reserve.

We're delighted that we were able to protect such a significant population of kiwi with this purchase and have been able to use Michael Taylor's bequest in such an important way.

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



All photographs by First National Roper & Jones (Dargaville).





## The new Michael Taylor Kiwi Reserve; a neighbour's perspective

As seen from Jones Road, it all started in 2010 with a 100ha block of regenerating native bush. This private nature reserve (PRNS) has been modelled after the well-established (DOC-managed) Trounson Kauri Park. It took some years to build the 75m by 75m grid pattern, to install all the bait stations, and all the traps required. After just a couple of years, one neighbour – a former DOC ranger – added his 50ha of bush to this newly created mainland island.

In 2018, with help from Northland Regional Council and Native Forest Restoration Trust (NFRT) extraordinaire James McLaughlin, four other neighbours joined in and the newly created Community Protection Conservation Area (CPCA) swelled to almost 1000ha.

An accidental look at a trap.nz map revealed that this newly protected area joined with an even larger CPCA (Whatoro). Even better still, all the different pieces of land under protection were bordering Trounson Kauri Park on one side and the Marlborough Forest on the other.

Only one piece of the puzzle was missing to complete a corridor: a 128ha sized one that had just come up for sale!

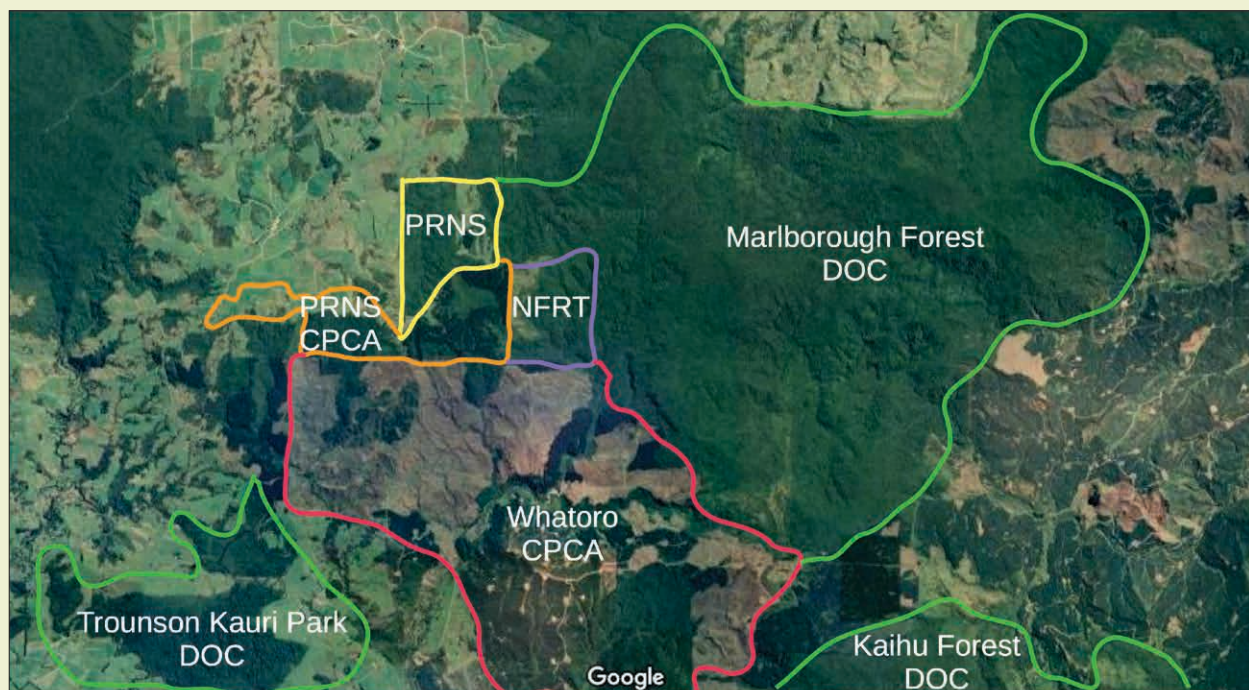
Trounson Kauri Park teems with kiwi, there are kiwi in the Marlborough, and there are kiwi elsewhere in between. We could not have any obstruction in their path!

A few tough months ensued in which various suitors came to see the land for sale: they ranged from those seeking respite from the world, to passionate hunters, to developers that wanted to build multiple houses. Things did not seem to go in the right direction: it was time to take some action and to contact James McLaughlin from NFRT.

Somehow, magic happened and anyone can see from the picture below how this NFRT purchase has placed the last piece of the puzzle on the conservation map.

Now, all the different groups that look after the pieces making up this corridor can continue their activities with the knowledge that everyone works towards a common goal: there will be no stray dogs, no rogue hunting, nor any other obstacle in the path of those kiwi that want to roam free.

Octavian Grigoriu, PRNS



# The Experience Behind the Trust – our longer-standing volunteer Trustees

Over the last 6 years you will have met a number of our newer Trustees, reserve managers and staff in the pages of earlier Canopy editions. With so many new supporters joining us over that time, we thought it was appropriate to re-introduce some of our longer serving Trustees.

## Geoff Davidson – Founder Trustee

The NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust grew out of the Native Forests Action Council and the tree-sitting protests in Pureora Forest. It was established in 1980, and Geoff was a trustee right from its inception.

From his passion for growing and understanding native plants, Oratia Native Plant Nursery was born. The nursery was awarded the NZ Plant Protection Society's 'Weedwise Nursery Award', and Geoff, in 2007 was personally awarded the NZ Plant Conservation Network's 'Lifetime Achievement Award'.

July 2009 saw Geoff awarded life membership of the Auckland Botanical Society.

Geoff has a particular passion for wetlands and was the lead negotiator for the Mangarakau and Opoutama purchases for the Trust. He was also the driving force behind the government's 2005 purchase of Motu Kaikoura, an island in Port Fitzroy Harbour, Aotea (Great Barrier Island); the island is now an open sanctuary. More recently, Geoff was also involved in the Matuku Link purchase for the Matuku Reserve Trust.

Geoff is the go-to for advice when sticky questions arise, and with his long history in the conservation sector his networks are immense and hugely helpful. He keeps our Trustees on their toes with his constant search for new properties!



Geoff Davidson (on left) at Purple Peak Reserve in 2016

## Warwick Brown – Deputy Chairperson

Warwick Brown and his late wife Kitty collected contemporary NZ art from 1970 to 1990 amassing a collection of hundreds of works. Warwick has authored a number of books on art and in 2013 he became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the arts.

Warwick trained as a lawyer and practised in Auckland from 1960-1989. He joined the Trust as a Trustee in 2011, following an approach from Geoff Davidson who Warwick met in the 1970s through his work as a conservation lawyer and activist, notably with the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society.

His legal knowledge and tenacity is invaluable to the Trust as it works through the myriad legal challenges involved in purchasing and protecting the Trust's stable of reserves.



## Helen Lindsay

A native of Dublin Ireland, Helen came to New Zealand with her family in 1980 and has spent much of her time since then working in conservation both in a paid and voluntary capacity.

Helen spent many years working with the Department of Conservation and community groups in a variety of roles on the Hauraki Gulf Islands. She has been a volunteer committee member for 22 years with the Motuora Restoration Society, where she plays a major role in the restoration of Motuora Island.

Helen started volunteering for NFRT in 1997, initially organising other volunteers to do tree planting at the Waipoua reserves and Rangitoto Station; she then became a trustee in 1998. As well as organising volunteers she helped set up the administrative systems as the Trust's work expanded and evolved from a purely volunteer organisation to having paid staff.

Since moving to the Nelson Region in 2010, she has joined the committee of the Friends of Mangarakau who manage NFRT's Mangarakau Swamp reserve, and is a trustee of the Otuwhero Trust, a community group carrying out restoration work in the Otuwhero wetland near Marahau.

In 2019 Helen won the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network individual award for involvement in plant



conservation and in 2022 was elected president of the Nelson Botanical Society.

Now semi-retired, Helen is currently restoration supervisor for Project Janszoon, a private trust carrying out restoration in Abel Tasman National Park.

Helen's botanical knowledge, particularly her knowledge of 'plants in the wrong place' (weeds) is greatly valued by the Trust and our supporter communities.

### Rosemary Davison

Rosemary Davison grew up on a King Country sheep farm. Being the youngest daughter of Arthur and Pat Cowan, (deceased) past NFRT Patrons, it was inevitable that strong conservation values were developed at a young age.



Rosemary studied horticulture, working in various nurseries along the way, developing good plant skills and landscaping experience. These days, she is a dairy farmer just out of Otorohanga. In 2013 Rosemary and her husband entered the Balance Farm Awards winning the WRA Catchment Improvement category.

An interest in sustainable farming, water quality and revegetation led Rosemary to instigate the Waipa Rereoa Restoration Project which so far has seen 14k of riparian planting established on the banks of the Waipa River with more to come. Currently she is also working as the landscape consultant for the Otorohanga District Council and the Otorohanga Kiwi House. Being a member of the Waipa Catchment Committee for the Waikato Regional Council also fits in well with these interests.

Rosemary has been a trustee for NFRT since 2010 and has oversight of Rangitoto Station Reserve activities. She is also well known in the farming community which leads to many approaches regarding prospective purchases.



Trustee Malcolm Mackenzie, photograph by Andrea Fox.

### Malcolm Mackenzie

Malcolm joined NFRT as a trustee after he too was approached by Arthur Cowan.

Malcolm studied for a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Massey and became a MAF farm advisor. He and his wife own an Otorohanga farm and he is a member of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association, Otorohanga Branch.

Malcolm encourages farmers to plant marginal land with trees, and brings another farmer-centric view to the Trust's activities, ensuring productive farmland is not converted back to forest.

Sue Cameron, Administrator, NFRT

To meet the our other Trustees you can go to our website <https://www.nfirt.org.nz/> and read their bios in the Canopy newsletters listed below:

Tim Oliver – Chairperson	Canopy 61	Summer 2015
Andrew Tuckey – Treasurer	Canopy 63	Autumn 2017
Dell Hood	Canopy 63	Autumn 2017
Ed Chignell	Canopy 71	Summer 2021

# Patui Appeal Update

Last year we launched an appeal to buy and restore Patui: 361 hectares east of Stratford in East Taranaki, including 260 hectares of important forest remnants in urgent need of protection and restoration. Thanks to the incredible generosity of Trust supporters we were able to progress with the purchase and save a large part of this very special place. However, it was always going to be a very ambitious campaign with a purchase price of \$1.7 million, and we are still some way short of being able to save all of Patui.

As you know, over the years the price of land has skyrocketed and although NFRT supporter numbers are growing, unfortunately it is not at the same rate as rising land prices. As a charity we rely on our supporters to raise most of the funds we need to purchase and restore our native forests. So now we need to get more creative in order to raise all the funds we need to keep buying and restoring these precious parcels of land.

Patui is such an important area to protect that we knew we couldn't settle for a smaller reserve. As a result we have launched a second phase of this campaign to ensure we create the biggest reserve possible. Our friends at Air New Zealand have also agreed to help out by matching any funds donated to the next phase of our appeal with funds collected by the FlyNeutral programme – this will effectively double the value of anything donated between now and 31st August.

You'll see from (Taranaki Reserve Manager) Sean Gardiner's report elsewhere in this newsletter just how special Patui is. In fact, now that we have spent more time at Patui we are finding that it is even more important than we had hoped.

If you are able to help out by donating to the next phase of our Patui campaign please visit our website – <https://www.nfirt.org.nz/help-us-purchase-patui/>.

Thank you for your continued support.



Photographs by Rob Tucker.





# Round-up from Taranaki

The wetter winter months have done little to slow management to protect, maintain and restore biodiversity values in the Taranaki reserves.

On the pest control front, ungulate control has been undertaken at Omoana (91 goats, 6 deer) and Steuart Russell Reserve (awaiting results). Ungulate control is also planned for upcoming planting sites at the Trust's new Patui reserve. Possum control was undertaken at Frank Messenger's property to meet the Taranaki Regional Council Self-Help Possum Control Programme. A total of 49 possums were removed using leghold traps and a detection dog. Under the Taranaki Regional Council Key Native Ecosystem programme, Biodiversity Plans have been created for Omoana and Mahood-Lowe Reserves with predator control established to protect Western brown kiwi and whio. At Omoana the traps are checked on a monthly basis by the Taranaki Kiwi Trust and at Mahood-Lowe by a contractor with all results entered into Trap NZ. A release of more than 40 kiwi from Rotokare Sanctuary is planned for Omoana in 2023. Taranaki Regional Council is also preparing a Biodiversity Plan for Patui.

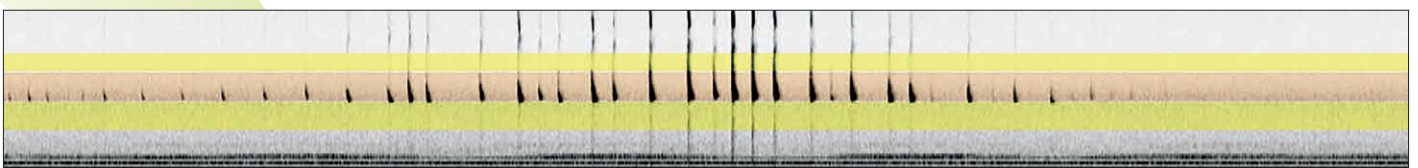
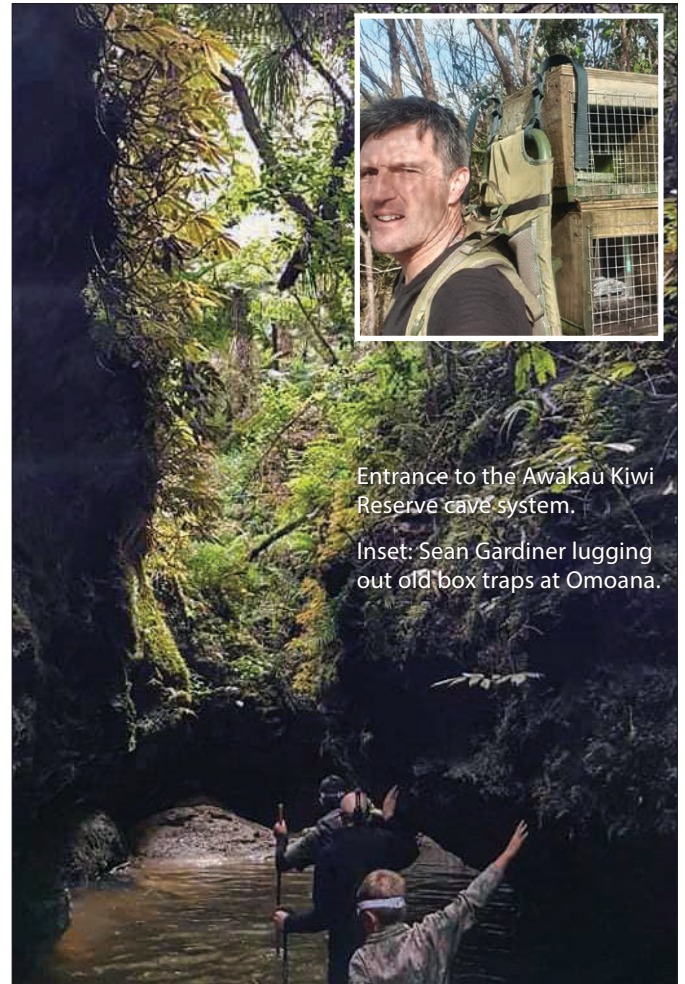
Monitoring of Nationally threatened and At Risk species is ongoing. Bat detectors were setup in Patui in March. At Site one 56 long-tailed bat passes were recorded over 14 nights and at Site two 396 long-tailed bat passes were recorded over 17 nights. In January a New Zealand falcon (karearea) nest was located at Patui reserve in a rimu tree. I witnessed the adults coaxing the juveniles out to fly. There was a lot of calling and the swapping of prey on the wing, amazing! This karearea nest is one of only four nest sites recorded in the Taranaki Region. I will be setting up kiwi acoustic recorders at Patui in July, loaned by the Taranaki Kiwi Trust. Pygmy tree orchids (*Bulbophyllum pygmaeum*) were also observed at Patui.



In August, 12ha of manuka will be planted at Patui. Innovative reforestation specialists, DroneSeed, will prepare a 1 ha area for manuka seed vessel trials. This will involve transect spray lines using a knapsack sprayer. Seed for the trials was collected from the reserve. Track maintenance is ongoing across all reserves and includes clearing up following storms, re-cutting, re-marking and upgrades.

In January my family and I visited Awakau Kiwi Reserve. This site has an amazing cave network which we enjoyed exploring. I also recently visited Steuart Russell Reserve for the first time to meet with Grant Lowry the landowner of Mount Duthie Farms and undertake a recce of the site. Fencing maintenance will be undertaken this year.

Sean Gardiner, Reserve Manager – Taranaki Mahood-Lowe Reserve, Omoana Bush, Messenger property, Patui, Steuart Russell and Awakau Kiwi, NFRT



One of the long-tailed bat passes recorded at Patui Reserve

# Painting the Rangitoto Station house

With DoC supplying the paint through their sponsorship with Dulux, the Mangatutu kokako volunteers painted the house at Rangitoto Station in February, colours of 'Cambridge Cream' contrasting smartly with 'Redwood'.

The house is an essential base for our kokako project so it is one way of our volunteers saying thanks to the Native Forest Restoration Trust for their support.

Colleen Grayling, Coordinator, Mangatutu Kokako Project



# The war against Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana* and *Cortaderia jubata*)

Despite a regular spraying campaign since we purchased the Marie Neverman Reserve in 2008, areas of the reserve still have extensive, dense concentrations of Pampas Grass. Some years the worst areas have been inaccessible due to high water levels and swampy conditions.

To ensure our spraying initiative was not impeded this year we decided on an attack by helicopter. We had the budget and organised a quote only to find a number of hurdles needed to be surmounted. We could work around Covid restrictions and weather fluctuations, but then we encountered other issues best described as 'political'. As a consequence we decided to postpone the aerial attack and called on the volunteer troops for a manual approach. Armed with sickle shaped saws and extendible chain saws, we out-flanked the pampas and took it by surprise.

Over two days in April we had about 50 volunteers who turned up to assist the 'de-flowering' of the Pampas. For the most part it was good timing but some early flowering plants meant we were spreading viable seed, but fortunately not much and it is now concentrated in heaps.

We arrived at the Tupare communal hall to a welcome from Kathy and Helen, two of the residents who volunteered to do catering for us. The volunteers were largely from two groups – Tupare residents and supporters of the Matuku Link project. After intro's, tea & bikkies, health and safety, etc. we split into three groups to try to cover the area both sides of the moat from the lake outlet to the floodgates. It is much the densest area of pampas and fortunately easily accessible this year. Two teams worked rapidly through the area north of the moat,



before crossing the moat to join up with the southern team. While the pampas was smaller, it was just as extensive and we did not finish it all by lunch time, so headed back to the hall for BBQ sausages. A fortnight later we returned to extend the assault along the bund between the moat and the harbours edge. Good progress was made and we had dealt to the thickest infestations, when around noon a wasp nest was encountered and we decided to return for more of the BBQ sausages.

Now some of the local residents are getting out in their own time to cut the random plants across the wetland. The cutting of the flowers and seed heads is only a holding effort and does not kill the plant. But it does reduce the seed bank where every flower head can produce between 100,000 and 1 million seeds. The biggest clumps had 50 to 60 flower spikes which is potentially 50 million seeds per plant. So it is easy to see the escalating scale of the problem. We are now trialling a new technique using granulated Glyphosate herbicide. It looks promising and we will review the situation next year.

Geoff Davidson, Founding Trustee, NFRT



Pampas removal in action.  
Left: Before and after removal of flowers by Daniel Beetham.

# Honeymoon Valley Community Engagement

Led by the Honeymoon Valley Landcare Group, the “Kiwi Corridor” Jobs for Nature project in the Far North is establishing and intensifying predator control across approximately 7,000ha of mixed public and private conservation land. The project area is all within an hour of Kaitiaki and runs from Mangamuka at its south-western point through to Otangaroa in the north-east.

The project aims to protect the remaining Northland Brown Kiwi population, with the primary focus on controlling mustelids and feral cats, and a secondary focus on possum control for overall biodiversity gains. The Kiwi Corridor currently has 700 mustelid traps, mainly double DOC 200s, and 742 Steve Alan cat and possum traps deployed.

Without the support and trust of the local communities the project would struggle. To keep the locals engaged the Honeymoon Valley Landcare Group hands out regular panui (updates), has an active Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/413546408810747>, and run community open days and working bees.

A recent working bee at NFRT’s Puhoi Far North Reserve was attended by 22 locals, who worked hard clearing the pest

control track, clearing gorse and other weeds from around the ‘campsite’ area, and driveway maintenance. The support of the NFRT towards the wider project is greatly appreciated by the Honeymoon Valley residents, not least the delicious working bee lunch.

The “Peria Landcare Pop Up Day” was another successful event held in May at the Bush Fairy Dairy, a local shop and community space. The Pop Up attracted over 30 people to come along and learn and share about living with and helping our local taonga o te ngahere / treasures of the forest. There were displays and practical demonstrations of a range of traps and weed action options, kiwi care, and Lesley Baigent’s “Know your Dog” workshop.

In the current covid climate building community relationships through real world social interactions cannot be under-estimated. The Landcare Group will continue to organise these types of events going forward.

Bernard Coogan, Reserve Manager Puhoi Far North, NFRT



Left: Demonstration of a range of pest traps at Peria Landcare Pop Up Day.

Above: Lesley Baigent’s “Know your Dog” workshop.

Below: Working bee at Native Forest Restoration Trust’s Puhoi Far North Reserve.



# 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.nfrrt.org.nz/forestguardian](http://www.nfrrt.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](mailto:mangarakauswamp@gmail.com)  
[www.mangarakauswamp.com](http://www.mangarakauswamp.com)



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