



canopy 74

Newsletter of the Native Forest Restoration Trust

Autumn 2024

NFRT Chairman's Message

Welcome to 2024 and our 74th issue of Canopy. The 2023 year was another big year for the Trust and some of the stories in this issue of Canopy reflect the hard mahi that was completed by our trustees, rangers, contractors, and our dedicated volunteers and supporters over this period.

We were very pleased to successfully acquire an important piece of land in the Far North, being the Taumatahinau block, which is located at the head waters of the Waiotu River (the water from this catchment finally ends up in the Kaipara Harbour). The new reserve connects directly to the Russell Forest.

We also appointed an operations manager Jake Goonan to help assist Sandy Crichton our C.E.O with the day-to-day management of our reserves. With over 8,000 hectares of land now under our care and future purchases pending it is going to be extremely important that we can coordinate our restoration work wisely and efficiently. Jake has fantastic experience, excellent communication skills and a can-do attitude that is extremely important in a small charitable organisation such as ours.

Pest management is a key role of the Trust, and we are finding like many rural landowners ungulates (mainly deer, goats and pigs) are increasingly becoming a major concern. We are looking at new innovative ways to improve the long-term protection of our reserves from these species. The Taranaki Mounga/Egmont National Park is a great example of a currently deer, pig, and goat free forest. When you compare this forest to

large portions of New Zealand's wilderness that are heavily impacted by ungulates it's a stark reminder of the long-term damage these species are causing to our biodiversity.

We were eagerly anticipating the formal opening of our new Patui reserve, initially scheduled for the end of February, and had hoped many of you would join us to celebrate the opening and help express our gratitude to everyone involved in bringing it to fruition. Unfortunately, despite the tremendous effort invested in acquiring and developing the property, we regretfully made the decision to cancel the event. Following thorough evaluation of the access roads, we determined that the routes to Patui posed a significant safety risk for travel. This is mainly due to logging activities that have exacerbated their condition. Our foremost priority is the safety and well-being of our supporters, and it was with a heavy heart that we decided we could not proceed with the event.

We are actively exploring alternative options, such as creating a short film for our supporters. This film would showcase the reserve and highlight all the remarkable work that has already been accomplished.

Lots of work to be done in 2024 and we value your ongoing support and wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Ed Chignell, Chairman, NFRT



Kahikatea (*Dacrydium dacrydioides*) pictured at Taumatahinau Forest. Photo by Geoff Davidson.



Ed helps with tidying up after Cyclone Gabrielle at Marie Neverman Wetland.

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Introducing Jake Goonan in the new role of Operations Manager

We are delighted to announce that Jake Goonan has recently taken on the role of National Operations Manager. This is a new role, that was recently established, to oversee and optimise the day-to-day operations of NFRT related to reserve management, ensuring the successful execution of our restoration projects at our reserves across New Zealand.

Jake will play a pivotal role in our mission to protect, restore and conserve New Zealand's degraded or destroyed indigenous habitats and plant communities by ensuring the efficient and effective implementation of conservation programs and policies, and by ensuring the smooth running of all operations. He will oversee our growing team of reserve managers, making sure they have the leadership and operational support they need to meet their objectives.

Jake originally joined the Trust in November 2022 as Reserve Manager for our reserves in Taranaki and the Southern King Country, including Taranaki Mahood-Lowe Reserve, Omoana Bush, Patui, Steuart Russell Reserve, Awakau Kiwi, Rauroa Bush and Basil Hewett Reserve. He continues with this role alongside the Operations Manager role, and has also taken on day-to-day management of our South Island reserves.

Jake currently lives in Hawera and has had a long career in the management and implementation of biodiversity protection and restoration, pest control, and wild animal management programmes. The work Jake is doing with the Trust complements his other role where he is responsible for the development of ongoing and future work programmes for QEII in South Taranaki.



Jake has previously held roles as a Biodiversity Senior Ranger and Health & Safety representative for DOC Motueka, as a Trustee on the Wild for Taranaki Board, as Operations Co-ordinator for the Taranaki Kiwi Trust, and as Biodiversity Operations Co-ordinator, Self Help Possum Control Programme Co-ordinator, and Animal Pest Management Officer for many years at the Taranaki Regional Council.

His extensive experience and history in the area means he has built excellent relationships with landowners, Councils, contractors, biodiversity experts, iwi, community groups, and volunteers. Jake is ably assisted with all his work by his wife Rebecca behind the scenes, who is also an ecologist, and together they run their small environmental consultancy business, Tara Environmental Ltd.

A belated welcome to our new Administrator Sara Rogers!

Sara Rogers replaced the Trust's previous Administrator Beth in April 2023. Sara has been a long-time Trust supporter and has previously been the official "minutes-taker" at Trust meetings. Sara is an English-born, Australian-educated, New Zealand trained primary school teacher.

Over a 25-plus year period, Sara worked at a variety of central and west Auckland schools, in a number of positions, ranging from classroom teacher to Deputy Principal, and she also had 18 months as Acting Principal at a large Auckland school, prior to semi-retiring in 2016 when she and her husband moved to Kerikeri.

Sara currently works 12 hours per week for NFRT. She also does some annual work for the University of Auckland, visiting and supporting teacher trainees who are on practicum in their final year of training in the Northland region.

Sara's family have always had a strong interest in the New Zealand native bush, flora and fauna. In 2016, after the death of her mother and step-father, she learnt more about a group they had contributed funds to called the Native Forest Restoration Trust. She decided she'd like to be more involved taking on the voluntary role of minute secretary for the Trust.

Sara helps with annual kiwi monitoring through the Kiwi Coast Northland group and runs a small trap line along the Kerikeri inlet. She is also a member of the local DoC Weed-busters team.

When she's not juggling conservation roles and NFRT administrative work, Sara commonly spends 2-3 hours outdoors every day, working around her 1 acre property, her sister's 5+ acre property, and the Kerikeri inlet, especially in a wetland/mangrove area that borders her property.

Sara is a great asset for the Trust, capably managing the admin@nfirt.org.nz mailbox, and is the first point of contact for any outside queries coming through our website.

Rebecca Martin, Operations team, NFRT



Sara enjoying a well earned coffee.

Welcome to our two new Reserve Managers

Firstly, unfortunately, James McLaughlin resigned from his role as our Northland Reserve Manager in December 2023, and has moved on to another position in Cambridge. We will miss his extensive knowledge and hands-on approach, and would like to thank him for all his excellent work for the Trust over the years!

James was replaced by Kelly Maxwell, who runs her own small environmental consultancy business called Maxwell Ecological Services. Kelly has recently held contract roles working as a Project Coordinator for the Weed Action Native Habitat Restoration Trust in Whangārei Heads, and also ran the weed control work for the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme as a Field Advisor to mitigate against the effects of sedimentation to the Kaipara Harbour. Kelly has over 12 years' experience working in the environmental field and holds a Diploma of Environmental Management and a Bachelor of Science. She was involved in the successful Great White Butterfly eradication in Nelson before moving to Northland with her family.

Some valuable experiences have also come from the various volunteer roles Kelly has previously taken on, such as kokako mist-net capture and release in Rotoehu, Bay of Plenty, reptile surveys on Little Barrier Island, wasp surveys on Mayor Island, wildlife recovery and monitoring following the Rena disaster in Tauranga, countless bird counts and hours spent controlling weeds and pest animals. All the knowledge gained in her previous roles transfers well to her new role with NFRT, and we are excited to see what the future holds for the reserves Kelly manages!

Secondly, Briar Taylor-Smith also stepped down from her role as Reserve Manager in early December, for many of our



reserves across Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay and the South Island. Thanks to Briar for all her work to date!

Briar has been replaced by another member of Titoki Landcare, Mike Paviour, who has a long and detailed experience working in conservation. Mike brings a lot of skills to the Trust's work, and has previously held conservation-based roles at Hamilton City Council, the Ngāti Hauā Mahi Trust, Waikato Regional Council and DOC, among other things. All of his previous roles have involved co-ordinating partnerships and actions related to scientifically-based species enhancement for both short term and long term restoration projects. Mike has particular strengths in both the operational and technical requirements for native forest and wetland habitat restoration. Briar will also continue to support Mike in the background.

Rebecca Martin, Operations team, NFRT

Trustee Malcolm Mackenzie leaves NFRT

It was with regret that we accepted Malcolm Mackenzie's resignation as a Trustee for the Native Forest Restoration Trust last year.

Malcolm was the QEII Rep for the Otorohanga/Waitomo area for 11 years from 2004 to 2015. Arthur Cowan, one of our founding Trustees (and subsequent Patron), persuaded Malcolm that joining NFRT's board of voluntary trustees would complement his role with QEII perfectly. He was elected as a Trustee in 2008. These dual roles and also his practical farm consultation background made Malcolm the ideal person to liaise with landowners and farmers and follow up on the many occasions that required his expert knowledge.

Current Trustee and Deputy Chair, Rosemary Davison, noted that her father (Arthur Cowan), greatly appreciated Malcolm's steady support and help.

Malcolm's specialty areas are farm forestry coupled with an excellent understanding of carbon credits and the ETS system. His farm forestry knowledge in particular brought a different perspective to the Trust which has been highly valuable, and will be missed. We wish Malcolm well in his retirement.

Sara Rogers, Administrator, NFRT



Patui Reserve – update and thank you!

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in collaborating on protecting and restoring this property, and turning it into such a beautiful reserve!

There have been numerous people involved in this work, including the current lessee Clint Bellamy and his family, our pest control contractors the Taranaki Kiwi Trust and Sean Gardiner, Dean Caskey and Kevin Cash at the Taranaki Regional Council, the Makahu school and community, several researchers, our NFRT staff, and all those involved in contributing towards the purchase of this beautiful property – thank you all very much!

Biodiversity restoration and protection work continues at the site, and some interesting new species records for the site were recently spotted flowering, including the following:

- Kohurangi/Kirk's daisy (*Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii*), Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable.
- Tāwhiri karo (*Pittosporum cornifolium*), sundew (*Drosera auriculata*) and *Clematis foetida*, not currently threatened but not all that common either.

We are also gearing for next winter's reforestation planting project, where we will be planting approximately 45,000 mānuka across 40.55ha at the back of the property, which has been grazed up until recently. 31.55ha of this has been generously sponsored by Flight Centre (in collaboration with Reforest) through their Planting for the Planet program, with the remaining 9ha qualifying for a TRC South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS) grant.

Goat culling will continue regularly before, during, and after this project to ensure ungulate numbers remain low and our new plants thrive. 12ha has already been planted with 14,000 mānuka as an initial cover canopy crop on another part of the reserve. This was managed with great assistance from the TRC Land Management team with very welcome co-funding from a TRC Afforestation Grant.

This planting project will only use locally eco-sourced native species and has ecological restoration/reforestation objectives as its primary focus.

The project will also result in numerous additional measurable benefits, including:

- improving and enhancing biodiversity, habitat values and forest cover for native species across the catchment and wider district;
- increasing the amenity and recreation values of the Patui site;
- improving water quality and erosion control for this rolling to steep hill country;
- creating additional local employment and training opportunities in the nursery and/or forest management sectors.



Area for reforestation planting in winter 2024.
Photo courtesy of FN Real Estate.

Reforest-ing Plans at Patui

Since purchasing the Patui forest reserve, NFRT has partnered with Reforest to be part of Flight Centre's Planting for the Planet program.

Flight Centre, a leading travel retailer, wanted to provide their customers convenience and peace of mind by providing the right products, assurances, and travel cover with their exclusive 'Captain's Pack'. As part of each pack, they also wanted to plant trees in projects near their global customer base in their Planting for the Planet initiative.

Ultimately, Flight Centre's vision is to plant one million trees with the help of their customers. As part of the partnership, Reforest connected Flight Centre and their customers to four unique and diverse preservation and regeneration projects in Australia, Morocco, and Canada, as well as NFRT's Patui reserve in New Zealand, to help achieve their goal.

Through Reforest's platform, Flight Centre will be able to track the environmental impact of this program, including the trees planted, CO2 removal and land restoration, and the community benefits it generates.

In 2024, this partnership will plant 35,000 trees at Patui in addition to the 12 hectares already replanted with over 14,000 mānuka in 2022.

Establishing canopy cover with native mānuka will help foster conditions that will allow other species to flourish and create habitat for some incredibly rare wildlife, including long-tailed bats and a diverse range of birds, including kiwi. Tūi, fantail (pīwakawaka), and morepork (ruru) thrive in the forest, while rarer species such as the New Zealand falcon (kārearea), North Island robin (toutouwai), whitehead (pōpokotea), grey duck (pāraera), and dabchick (wewēia) have all been observed in recent times.

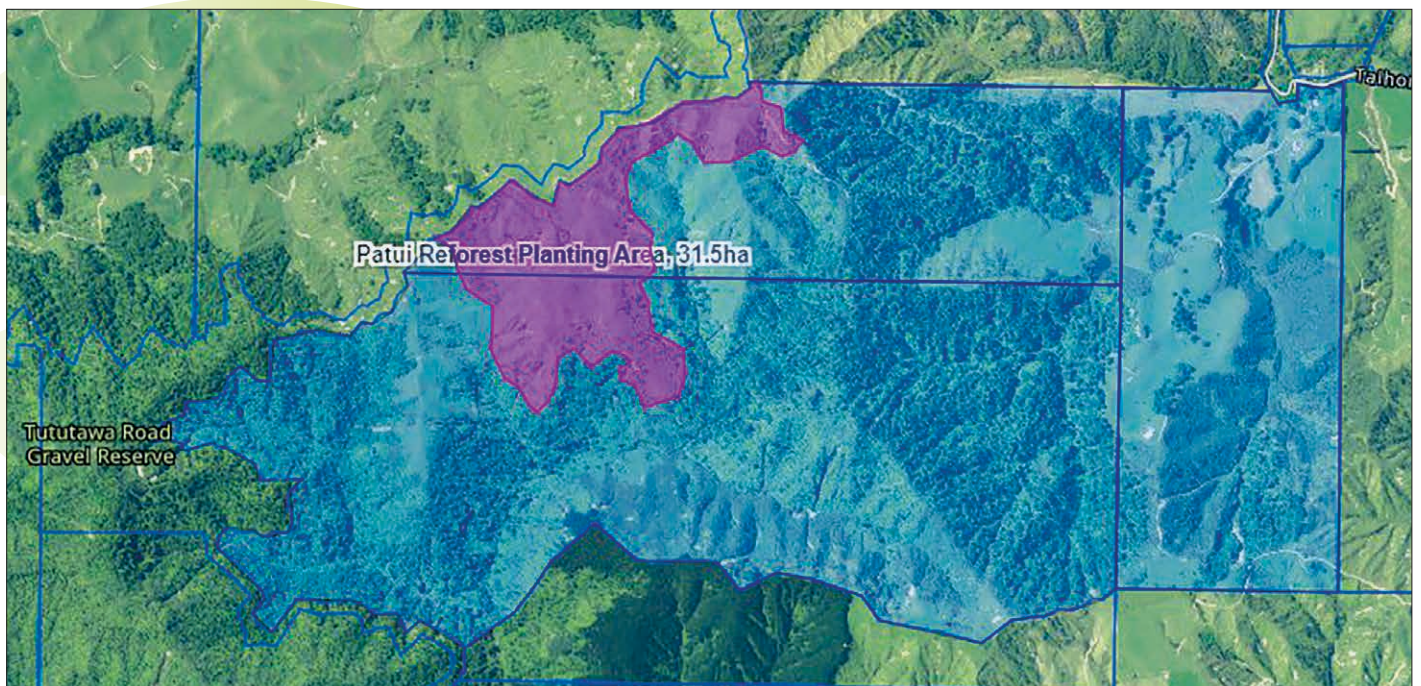
We're excited to see what 2024 holds for this partnership and the future of the Patui Reserve!



Reforest Founder Daniel Walsh.



Regenerating gully leading to 2024 planting site.



Taumatahinau Forest joins the Trust's Northland reserves

For a number of years I have been receiving notice of forestry sales from Colliers real estate agents.

Typically they are offering for sale blocks of radiata pine, usually of several hundred hectares with perhaps 10% being native bush that had been left in an inaccessible gully. Although the merits of converting such forests to native species seems obvious, the costs of doing so almost always rule it out as being impractical.

In November 2022 they sent advice of a 483 hectare Northland forest property, 10km due north of Hukerenui, and I imagined it would be dominantly pines. Imagine my surprise and delight to find the ratios reversed and the pines were approximately 40 hectares and the balance was advertised as "established native bush". Of course experience suggests such a phrase could mean anything from a mix of gorse reverting to broadleaf scrub, manuka covered hillsides, mixed growth natives in a wide variety of conditions, or more mature kauri forest. I expressed interest and requested more information.

The information memorandum arrived and this was the first image. Not the solid wall of pines I was expecting, but a mixture showing logging roads in the foreground linking scattered blocks on steep hillsides, with dense native regeneration in between. And in the background, ridge after ridge of native forest looking decidedly dense and quite mature. My pulse quickened.

It looked ideal - the locality was superb. About 340 degrees of the surrounding forest is owned by DoC, and the balance, being equally good native forest is Maori Land. The DoC land is the southern portion of the Russell State Forest and this property appeared to be the vital piece of a jigsaw puzzle. Before Europeans the jigsaw was much bigger and early colonists noted the forest, referred to as Puhipuhi, was the best example of quality kauri forest with the densest stands of even-grade trunks. The Government purchased the 7,000

hectares south of the existing Russell Forest and appointed a ranger to manage it. But foresters, gum-diggers, and prospectors, looking for gold, silver and mercury, all wanted to make use of the area. Conflicting ideas regarding land use resulted in most of the forest being destroyed by fire and the Government selling the now worthless Puhipuhi forest. The northern-most portion of Puhipuhi is known as Taumatahinau, and was the exact piece being offered for sale.

Bev and I headed north to meet the real estate agent on site. Arriving at the industrial style locked gate we found the logging road was in good condition, and crossing the ford on the Mokotuna Stream we were astonished to see a DoC sign announcing the "Lloyd Mandeno Memorial Protected Area".

As we viewed the land from the logging tracks it soon became obvious that the bulk of the reserve was hidden behind the steep hillsides planted in pines. Some pines are more mature, but most are relatively new plantings with regrowth native species emerging, along with the anticipated pampas weeds. Clearly the Mandeno Family had treasured the distant native forest and the pines had been an investment. Without seeing the native forest up close I assumed it had to be similar to the adjacent DoC forest which was clearly visible across the Waiotu Stream. That looked superb with clusters of kauri rickers running along the ridgelines and broadleaf species in the valleys.

I concluded that from the Trust's perspective the land would rank highly for the reasons:

1. Being the location embedded within the Russell Forest Park is a prime factor.
2. Being a kauri forest with good regeneration already well advanced over most of the property.
3. Being the 'headwaters' of a catchment that extends all the way south-west to the Kaipara Harbour.



A particularly large kauri adjacent to newer regrowth areas. Photo by Bev Davidson.

Having been impressed by what we saw, I felt the Trust had to acquire it, and happily not only were the trustees in agreement, but we had sufficient funding. On Christmas eve 2022 we made an offer and it was an anxious holiday period until we heard from the agent that the vendor had accepted it. Settlement was completed and in March 2023 the property was ours.

The full explanation for the DoC sign and the name of the reserve was provided after we contacted the vendor, Mary Bent, and received the following extract from her email:

My father John Mandeno purchased the property in 1982 with a bequest after the death of his father Lloyd. Both Lloyd and John had a love of NZ bush and Dad was also looking for some land to invest in pine forestry as an income offset, as was all the rage in the 80's. The 40 ha of pines was mostly planted and Dad got a couple of partial harvests from it, replanting after each.

Another of his passions was sailing, so on retirement he taught himself how to work with wood and built a 36 ft yacht using the timber from one kauri and one tanekaha, harvested from Taumatahinau. Dad sailed the yacht right around NZ multiple times and also did a voyage to Tonga before he died in 2002. 'Rererangi' is still owned by the family.

The Conservation covenant was signed in 2001 and you will understand why he included the clause about timber extraction, in case there was another yacht to be built! However this clause has not been activated.

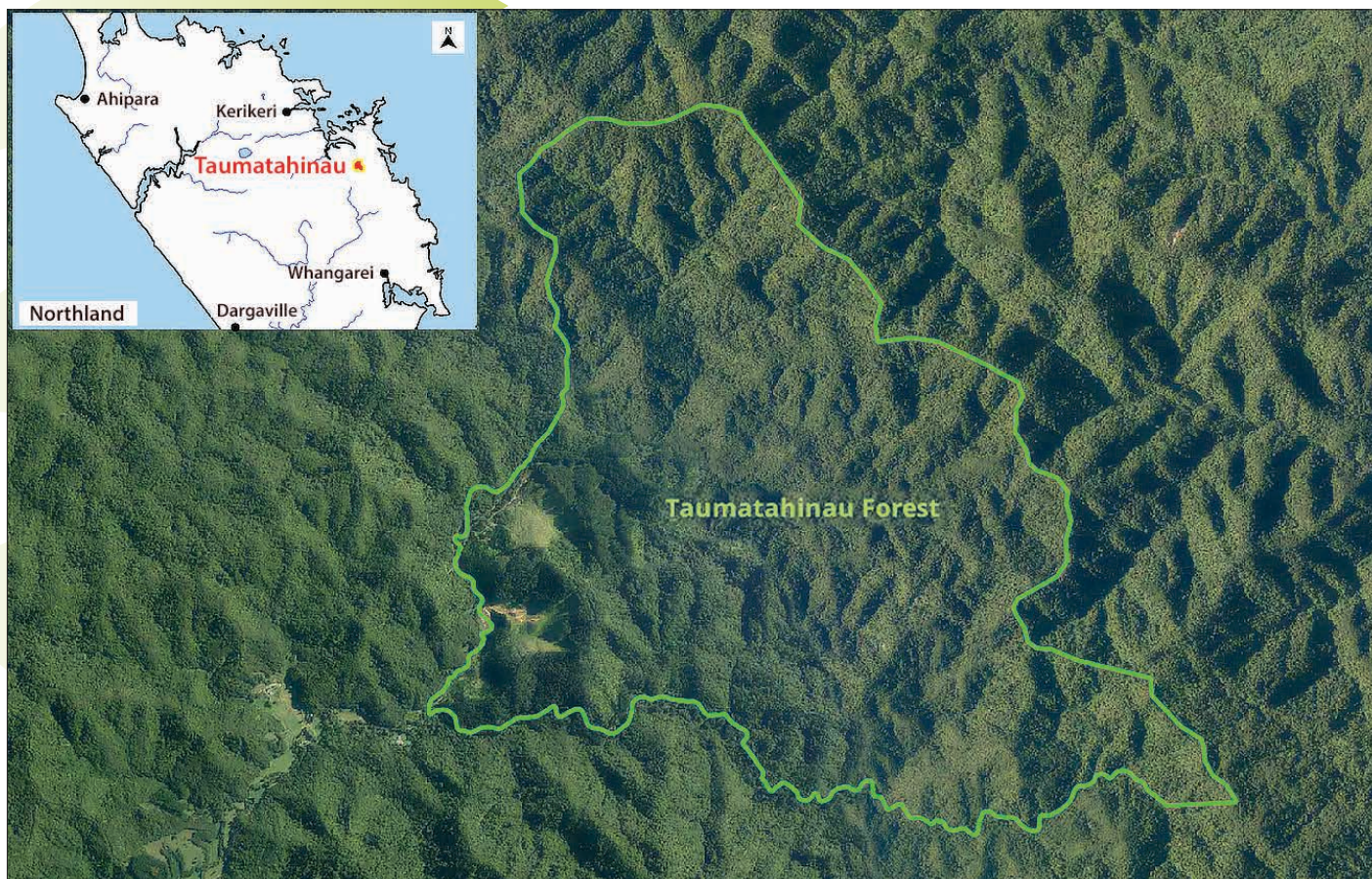
I am one of 5 siblings and shared the trustee role with my brother after the death of my mother in 2013.



DoC sign for the Lloyd Mandeno Memorial Protected Area.

My biggest fear was that it would go to overseas ownership or to a buyer wanting to use it recreationally. When your offer came through I was so delighted I cried..... I had no idea of the significance of the property and am truly delighted that the NFRT will be the permanent kaitiaki of Taumatahinau.

What Mary did not explain, but research reveals, is the role her grandfather, Lloyd Mandeno, played in establishing electricity in New Zealand. He was instrumental in building the first fully electric house, inventing a hot water heating system, establishing an underwater cable to link electricity from near Rawhiti to Zane Grey's camp on Urupukapuka



Island, designed and built several hydro dams including the Lloyd Mandeno Dam near Tauranga, and played a significant role in establishing Northland's electric power grid. In 1965, at the age of 77, Lloyd was awarded the royal honour OBE for his services to the electric power industry.

As we want to start the revegetation process immediately, we are faced with the prospect of removing 40 hectares of pines. This will be a daunting challenge, but we believe it can be done and every effort will be made to protect the natural regeneration that is already well advanced. The year has sped by, and the seemingly continual rain has prevented progress, but we are optimistic that will soon change.

One of the Trust's concerns was that over the years wilding pines might have established beyond the 40 ha area into the regenerating native forest. In December I had the opportunity to divert a friend's helicopter charter and spend 20 minutes circling over the property. Despite the low cloud and intermittent rain, we could clearly see the quality of the vegetation. No pines and virtually the whole 443 ha was mature kauri/podocarp/broadleaf forest with small areas of kanuka looking as if they had been dusted with snow and clearly in flower. The rugged nature of the land had ridges going in all directions which will make hard work navigating across it. But the northern boundary is a continuous ridgeline between two high points: Te Rangi (407m) and Taumatahinau (403m) with an existing track clearly visible for half its length.

We are looking forward to exploring it further. Future editions of *Canopy* will no doubt reveal what we find under the canopy of Taumatahinau Forest.

Geoff Davidson, Founding Trustee, NFRT



Northern Rata in flower. Photo by Bev Davidson.



Poroporo (*Solanum laciniatum*)

Marie Neverman weeding day with AUTC

A kind and very welcome offer of volunteer help from Auckland University Tramping Club (AUTC) Environmental Officer Janelle, resulted in a group of students joining NFRT Trustees Ed and Geoff and Reserve Manager Briar for a day of weed control in April 2023. The aim was to locate pest plants, especially tobacco weed (*Solanum mauritianum*) and eradicate them.

The Marie Neverman Reserve at South Kaipara Head, Auckland, has a 14-hectare (man-made) lake which was one of the main reasons the Trust bought the property. The Ornithological Society does annual bird counts on most of the South Kaipara Lakes, and Marie Neverman ranks highly in the number of birds, and range of species.

There are 115 hectares of flat marshland with 'Gallery Forests'. These are a rare ecological type where 1 metre higher ground (ancient shell banks) have a forest of kowhai, ngaio, and cabbage trees. It's about a 3 hour walk right around the property.

Cyclone Gabrielle had resulted in some damage to the Reserve, so some work was also carried out to rectify this.

The Tramping Club members, who do lots of tramping and volunteering, and many of whom were new arrivals from various countries, including Australia and China, wanted to learn more about the native plants and animals of the reserve.



Trustee Geoff Davidson showed everyone around and entertained them with interesting stories and facts. They spotted green mistletoe on mingimingi (*Coprosma propinqua*) and a fernbird (mātātā) among the rushes.

They successfully dealt with woolly nightshade (also known as tobacco weed) and various other pests, and identified some weed issues that required further attention. Everyone had a great time with Geoff and then spent the night camping on the grassy knoll. They've even offered to come back and help again!

Sara Rogers, Administrator, NFRT



Deputy Chair Rosemary Davison turns sleuth to track down black maire seed

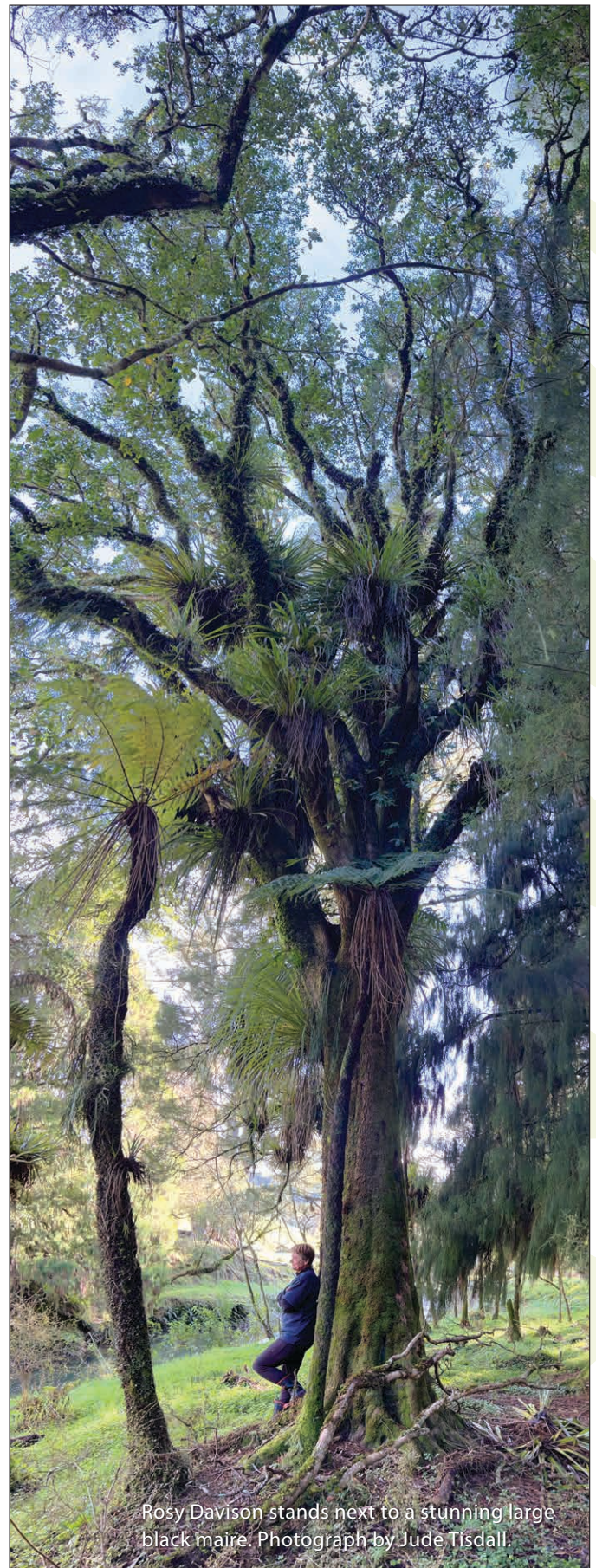
Trust supporter Jude Tisdall spent a couple of days in June 2023 with NFRT Deputy Chair Rosy Davison on a quest to find seed of the magnificent black maire (*Nestegis cunninghamii*). This native evergreen tree, belonging to the family Oleaceae (also known as the olive family), holds the distinction of being one of the longest-lived angiosperms in New Zealand with some specimens estimated to be up to 700 years old.

As Jude explained: “Our podocarps are renowned for their long-life expectancy, but I had no idea any of our broad-leaved trees could live so long.”

The black maire is a slow-growing, hardy tree that can reach impressive heights of up to 25 metres. Its glossy, dark green leaves are leathery and elliptical, creating a distinctive and attractive appearance. The bark of mature black maire trees is often rough and dark, contributing to its name. The tree’s small, inconspicuous flowers give way to fleshy, orange-red to purplish-black fruits.

Jude continued, “The black maire I’m assured used to be very common in our lowland flood plain forests but is now all but absent. I understand it was premium firewood so that may be one reason why we have lost it. I think drainage and land use changes also contributed.”

The black maire holds cultural importance for Māori, who have long recognised its value. Traditionally, the wood of the black maire was used for carving and crafting essential tools, including weapons and containers. The tree’s presence in the forest landscape is deeply woven into Māori traditions, symbolising strength, endurance, and the interconnectedness of nature.



Rosy Davison stands next to a stunning large black maire. Photograph by Jude Tisdall.



It plays a crucial role in New Zealand's ecosystems, providing habitat and sustenance for various native birds, insects, and fungi. The tree's berries are particularly important as a food source for native birds like kererū (New Zealand pigeon) and tūi. Additionally, the black maire's dense canopy offers shade and shelter for smaller plants within the forest.

"After helping me solve the problem of sourcing seed from the northern rata a couple of years ago I gave Rosy a new and potentially much harder challenge of finding some black maire seed within the Waikato catchment so that we can propagate it for forest restoration projects.

Her sleuthing resulted in two possible sites in the northern King Country. She hit the jackpot on one site seed wise and although the other site had no fruit bearing trees it did have some beautiful big trees the likes of which we had never seen...

By the way the sickly-looking small tree was the one loaded with seed." [in the photo to the left]

Unfortunately, black maire faces challenges, particularly from introduced pests and habitat loss. Invasive species, such as possums and rats, pose a threat to the tree's regeneration by consuming seeds and seedlings. It stands as a symbol of resilience and adaptability. As efforts continue to protect and preserve New Zealand's unique biodiversity, the black maire remains a living testament to New Zealand's rich natural heritage.

Omoana Kiwi Release

In May 2023 new trustee Sarah Ongley was delighted to be invited along to the first kiwi translocation for Taranaki Kiwi Trust's Omoana Project which NFRT (and our Omoana Bush Reserve) is proud to be a part of. 11 kiwi in total were released into the area from Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare, a partnership between Taranaki Kiwi Trust (TKT) and Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust.

A big event was held at the Toko Hall where sponsors, stakeholders and the local community gathered to welcome the birds to the area. After this, a few people headed out to release the birds into their new home. Sarah, accompanied by her son and kiwi handler Jenny Oakley were given the honour of releasing Koa, a name which Sarah's son's classroom had chosen meaning 'glad' or 'joyful' in Māori.

Since release, TKT has been monitoring these new kiwi to track their movements, survival rates, and breeding success. Most of them have remained close to where they were released. There will be more releases to Omoana over the next three years, as the permit allows for the release of 80 birds enabling TKT to further boost population numbers in the area and supplement the genetics. The birds will be monitored for one year, after this the transmitters will be removed unless it is deemed necessary to continue monitoring them.

Latest news from Taranaki Kiwi Trust: "For the most part the monitored birds at Omoana have been doing great. We've had two males incubate this season, and one successful hatch so far. After moving around quite a bit at the start, the birds seem to have mostly settled own which has made monitoring them nice and easy.

Unfortunately, we have had our first mortality. Whakaahurangi went missing for a while and was eventually found about 4km from her release site. We think she had a bit of misfortune and fell off a cliff. Despite our best efforts to keep them safe, misadventures like this do happen!"



Trustee Sarah Ongley with her son James, his friend Marlin and kiwi handler, Jenny Oakley.

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

