

# Ecocare News

Your update on Ecocare in the Auckland region

Issue 2

July 2005

## Celebrate Conservation Week with the ARC August 1 → 7 2005

Each year the Department of Conservation coordinates Conservation Week to generate awareness in the earth's biodiversity, and our role as guardians in helping to restore the balance of our natural environment.

By exploring connections amongst living things we learn what is upsetting the balance of nature and the work we need to do to ensure the ongoing survival of our native species and conservation places.

The Auckland Regional Council joins people and organisations across New Zealand in connecting and protecting our unique natural and human history – part of our vision of making the Auckland region a great place to live.

### **Plant for Freedom at Mutukaroa – Hamlins Hill Regional Park**

Plant trees at Auckland's newest park and help NZ Amnesty International celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July**, 1.30pm, bring your wet-weather gear, a spade, gumboots or strong shoes, main entrance Great South Road [40m north from Sylvia Park Road] Mt Wellington, Contact Kit Howden **09-629-4694**

### **Duder Pest Project Launch – Duder Regional Park**

Check bait stations and protect the nesting dotterel and bush kereru.  
**Wednesday 3rd August**, 9:00am, meet main carpark  
You will need to be of average fitness and have tramping boots or sturdy footwear.  
Contact Mags Ramsey **09-536-7012**

### **Nature's Puzzle: Saving all the Pieces – Auckland Botanic Gardens**

A guided journey through the stunningly landscaped Threatened Native Plant Garden will tell the story of how we are all deeply connected, physically, mentally and spiritually with our unique natural heritage.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> August**, 2:00pm-3:00pm  
With Botanic Garden native plant experts Rachel Henderson and Steve Benham **09-267-1457**



### **Volunteer Tuesday at Shakespear Regional Park**

Help with park projects, meet new people and learn new skills. Give one session a go or stay for the whole day! Individuals and groups welcome.  
**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**, 8:30am – 1:00pm or 1:00pm – 4:30pm  
Meet at the park office at Te Haruhi Bay.  
Contact Kevin Beals or Sue Hill **09-426-1200**

### **Bugs Galore at Arataki Visitor Centre – Waitakere Ranges Regional Park**

Kids! Come on a bug hunt and discover an amazing array of native insects. Meet Brian the 'bugman' and his creepy crawly friends and make your own camouflaged critter.  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August**, 11:30am – 1:00pm. Contact Catherine Boyle **09-366-2000 ext 8238**

### **Following in the Footsteps of Tainui – Duder Regional Park**

Learn the fascinating history of the Maori ancestors and early settlers on the Duder (Whakakaiwhara) peninsula, with ARC archaeologist Ian Lawler.  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August**, 1:00pm – 4:00pm  
Contact Mags Ramsey **09-536-7012**  
Wet weather: walk will be postponed until Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

### **Friends of Whatipu & Karekare Landcare Beach Clean-up – Waitakere Ranges Regional Park**

Each year, tonnes of rubbish finds its way into our coastal waters, polluting the ocean and endangering marine life. Join us to help clean up this iconic beach, home to New Zealand dotterel and maui dolphins.  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August**, 9.30am. Meet Whatipu carpark

## Miranda Shorebird Courses for 2005/2006

**Topic:** Protecting New Zealand Dotterel and other shorebirds

**Date:** 7 September to 9 September 2005

**The specific aims of the workshop are to:**

- Encourage accurate recording and reporting to assist research and help refine management practices.
- Provide a detailed and up-to-date account of our knowledge of the species.
- Provide a list of resources.
- Provide practical guidelines for conservation management of the species, based on 15 years experience.
- Provide a forum for discussion of issues related to dotterel management.

**Topics to be covered include:**

- Basic information about endemic shorebirds numbers
- Distribution
- Ecology and behaviour
- Managing threats during the breeding season
- Controlling predators
- Finding and monitoring nests
- Outlining available resources
- Recording and reporting
- Monitoring dotterels and other shorebirds
- Threat classification
- Resources and contacts
- Watching tides and weather
- Advocacy Protecting habitat
- Information from banded birds
- Reducing disturbance

**Cost:** \$200.00 includes two nights accommodation and food

**Tutor:** John Dowding

**Topic:** Shorebird Identification Workshop

**Date:** Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 November 2005

Over 30 species of shorebirds or waders breed in New Zealand or annually migrate here. This course offers a blend of theory and practical field identification experience for this often problematic group.

**Cost:** \$150.00 includes one night accommodation and food

**Tutors:** Adrian Riegen, Keith Woodley and others.

**Topic:** Residential Field Course

**Date:** 14-19 January 2006

This annual six-day course is a well-established and popular event.

**Topics covered include:**

- Field identification of shorebirds
- Monitoring techniques
- Catching and banding birds
- Conservation of shorebird habitat
- Entomology
- Data recording
- Benthic fauna sampling
- Shorebird migration
- Coastal botany
- Choosing optics

**Cost:** \$ 450.00 includes all accommodation and food

Please note that places on each course are strictly limited.

For further details contact:

**Miranda Shorebird Centre**

**283 East Coast Road**

**RD3 Pokeno**

**09-232-2781**

**shorebird@xtra.co.nz**

## Community Programmes held at Ambury Regional Park



In June, two community programmes were held at Ambury Regional Park for members of the Migrant Support Services Trust. The trust made contact with us to assist with their Environment Education Programme.

In conjunction with Janine Neillson (Ranger Ambury Regional Park) and MSS, we were able to facilitate two pilot programmes for members of their communities to come along to Ambury Regional Park. Members were not only able to experience the park, be up close with the farm animals and learn about the history of the park and the area, but also included was informative topics such as identifying common weeds found in people gardens, recycling, storm water and air quality.

Sessions were conducted in an inter-active format where members of the communities got to experience the park hands-on and to freely ask questions first hand with staff.

The two pilot programmes succeeded with over **65** representatives from a variety of ethnic communities participating.

## Waitakere RiverCare Planting Day June 2005



**Waitakere RiverCare** are a volunteer group who have been active since 1998, running a native plant nursery of eco-sourced plants (local seed sources) and planting at selected sites along the Waitakere river and its tributaries.

The Waitakere River has the largest catchment in the Waitakere Ranges, starting upstream of the Waitakere Reservoir, and flowing through the largest wetland in the Auckland area. The river is important historically, and this wetland is recognised as the most significant on the Auckland mainland. It is home to rare swamp birds such as the fernbird, bittern, and spotless crane, and native fish such as the banded kokopu.

Waitakere RiverCare work on both public and private land so long as owners are prepared to fence their stream edge from stock (fencing subsidies are available) and get rid of the worst weeds. Already, past efforts are bearing fruit – literally! Seeds and flowers are attracting birds, and the plants are visually improving bare areas.

Waitakere RiverCare have a working bee on the second Sunday of every month – usually planting during the autumn and winter, doing nursery work during spring and summer, and some weeding of planted sites thrown in as well.

Working bees always attract enthusiastic locals, and occasionally special groups from outside the valley as well. Each year the American Field Scholars join in for a planting day, which happened in June this year. About 30 international students planted a range of flax, toetoe, cabbage trees, kahikatea, mahoe etc along the banks of the river, enjoying the attention of the resident fantails! Many of the students had never used a spade before and enjoyed the new experience!

Newcomers are always welcome to the group. Working bees are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month from 10am but volunteers who prefer to work during the week are also welcome. If you want to help care for the Waitakere River, phone the Waitakere Rivercare coordinators Colleen Pilcher **09-810-9540** or Jenny Macdonald **09-810-9928** or Derek March **09-810-9056**.

09 366 2000 [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz)

## Community Planting Day in Papakura



The Pahurehure Inlet Protection Society (PIPS) held their second successful planting day, in partnership with Papakura District Council and Auckland Regional Council, on Saturday 25 June. PIPS received EIF funding from the ARC to contribute to the purchase of native plants that the group and local residents planted on the reserve along the coastal edge of Pahurehure Inlet. Last year's successful planting, also possible because of EIF funding, transformed a weed-infested area on the shore of the inlet and can be seen from the southern motorway.



## Does Your Community Group Need Help?

United Way is looking to build up a list of community groups that are wanting help with any projects so that they can match them up with businesses who are interested in doing volunteer community work. If you know of any groups that need help with a project, please contact Kim Calcott **09-377-2544**



## Ecological Restoration Workshop

Free one-day workshop where you can get hands-on experience in identifying native plants, controlling pests and protecting and restoring native bush. For more information contact Stacey Winslade on **09-366-2000 ext 8066**.

## Riparian Zone Management Workshop

Free one-day training workshop where you can learn more about the practicalities of managing, restoring and protecting riparian areas. For more information contact Julie Pickering on **09-366-2000 ext 8454**. Attendees receive a free copy of the guideline.

## Lizard Tales

As part of the ARC Natural Heritage advocacy and monitoring role, an informal newsletter has been produced which outlines the work being undertaken by the ARC and other parties in lizard, frog and invertebrate management across the region. The newsletter **Lizard Tales** provides a key communication link and information-sharing platform between ARC departments and teams, external agencies, communities and stakeholders. For an electronic or hard copy, contact Graham Ussher **09-366-2000 ext 8561**.

## New Natural Heritage Resources

In response to community and landowner requests, the Natural Heritage Team have recently produced two new fact sheets – "**Life on the Edge – Scrub in the Auckland Region**" and "**Caring for Forest Fragments**". For copies contact the ARC Contact Centre on 09-366-2000.

## Environment Awards

Environment Awards evening announcing winners.

**Date:** Thursday 28 July

**Time:** 6pm – 8pm

**Venue:** ARC Council Chamber

**Venue Address:** 21 Pitt Street, Auckland City.

For any information regarding content of this newsletter you can contact:-

EcoCare Coordinator

Auckland Regional Council

**09-366-2000 ext 8255**

Courtney.Miller@arc.govt.nz



**Manawa** (mangrove) is a website for people and groups working for the environment in the Auckland region. Its aim is to build an online community of environmental care groups to help strengthen and coordinate their work.

Mangroves stand between land and sea and safeguard both. In many ways they symbolise the crucial work of Auckland's conservation groups.

**Manawa** is a 'shared information' website where the users put content on the website for mutual benefit. You can use **Manawa** to:

- Create your own mini-homepage to profile your groups activities
- Post upcoming events (and check your planned event doesn't clash with others)
- Advertise for volunteers
- Publish news and pictures
- Share experiences and information
- Exchange views on issues
- Find out about programmes run by councils and DOC

In short **Manawa** is your website. If your group already has one, link your website to **Manawa**.

Register as a user now and start putting up information and pictures about your group.

**Manawa** is easy to use and get around, but if you have any difficulties contact the **Manawa** administrator: manawa.admin@xtra.co.nz

With your support **manawa** will be the best, most up-to-date community environmental website in New Zealand.

The ARC **Environmental Initiatives Fund** closes on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005. For more information contact Leon Austin **09-366-2000 ext 7120**.