

Ecocare News

Your update on care in the Auckland region

Issue 3

October 2005

Ecocare is a project to help the ARC develop, co-ordinate, resource and deliver community funding, support and consultation across the **Air, Land and Water Quality** initiatives.

Kaipatiki Project – October 2005

The Kaipatiki Project is a community based not-for-profit organisation. It was established in 1997 when a group of locals decided to clean up and restore the Witheford Reserve. We continue to restore and maintain the reserve and creek through weed control, eco-sourcing seeds, propagation, planting, pest trapping and water quality monitoring. Education is an integral part of our work. We aim to raise awareness of natural resources and ecological restoration, while providing people in the community with knowledge and tools to live in a sustainable way. We offer high quality, low cost courses for adults and children in a broad range of environmental topics and provide free environmental education services for local schools. Our education centre houses a library of resources free for use to the public.

Achievements:

- Planted over 8000 native plants from 1997-2004.
- 20,000 volunteers have contributed since 1999.
- 8170 people have taken part in our education projects since 2001.
- Winner of the Green Ribbon Award in 2003.

What we do:

- Environmental education programmes taught by a qualified teacher.
- Active restoration programme providing skills training.
- Environmental resources and advice centre available to everybody via phone, fax or email.
- Donations of native plants to the community.
- Off site presentations to businesses, schools and other organisations.

Volunteering:

Thursday 10am-12pm: Work in the on-site nursery, learning and doing plant propagation, seed collection and raising native plants.

Saturday (First Saturday each month): 9am-12pm: Working bee targeting key restoration sites.

Monday – Saturday by arrangement: Any time you have some time free, we're always happy to have you to help out!

Contacts:

Kaipatiki Environmental Centre, 17 Lauderdale Road, Birkdale, North Shore
Phone: 09-482-1172

Email: restoration@kaipatiki.org.nz

Website: <http://www.kaipatiki.org.nz/>



The Friends of Mangemangeroa

Over the past three months, the Friends of Mangemangeroa co-ordinated the planting of over 5000 native plants in the Mangemangeroa Reserve in Howick.

This included public planting days, as well as specific events co-ordinated with Forest & Bird, local Rotary clubs, Somerville Intermediate, and Bucklands Beach Intermediate (BBI).

Somerville Intermediate now has their propagation unit up and growing seedlings for planting out in the Mangemangeroa Reserve. This year saw the first planting contribution from BBI. They are 'growing on', in their Trees Survival (TFS) propagation Unit small plants provided by Graham Falla. We look forward to the continued contribution from our school pupils.



Mangemangeroa Reserve Management

The Friends of Mangemangeroa are working with Manukau City Council to complete the restoration plan for the reserve. This document sets out the order of jobs to be completed. Fencing off of selected areas and having suitable plants under propagation to use to plant here is essential. This reduces weed infestation and encourages natural regeneration. The planting done by the various Friends' groups is undertaken to "speed up" what may have happened naturally over time. The species grown by the Friends are 'eco-sourced' from seeds collected in the reserve or from other reserves within bird flight distance within the Hunua Ecological District.

Bird Monitoring

Bruce Keeley continues with his monitoring of bird life in and around the reserve and estuary. With the flowering of the kowhai, tui activity is more obvious than usual – a real treat for walkers.



Pest Control 'Up the Valley'

Rabbits, possums and goats all feed on native flora while cats and mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels) are by choice, fauna feeders. There is little point in attempting a restoration project without controlling these pests.

We are fortunate that at the present time there is a monitoring programme in place within the reserve for some of these pests. Unfortunately animals do not recognize boundaries but roam in the search for food over a considerable distance. It is believed that cats will cover up to 15 km in a night! For this reason we need to recognize the work in pest reduction that is carried out by private land owners and "neighbours" from up the valley in helping to protect Mangemangeroa Reserve.

Since 1998 over 1000 possums have been shot and trapped and an unknown number poisoned in a pest eradication campaign. Goats too have been a problem. Probably the most significant change seen by the landowners was when the rats (both Norwegian and black) were poisoned and thousands of seedlings erupted from the forest duff. To maintain low rat populations, Linden and Mike from the upper Mangemangeroa Valley have nineteen bait stations and use six traps in strategic locations. These are rebaited every month from approximately September to February when rats and mice are breeding rapidly. Bruce Fraser from the ARC Biosecurity team has been very helpful with providing ongoing advice and assistance.



Two ferrets have been caught in the lower part of the valley and one in the upper part.

Because of the country atmosphere at the top of the valley unwanted animals such as cats, rabbits and poultry are dumped by uncaring owners. Included in this list are two roosters who maintain court on the roadside.

Find out more on our website: <http://www.aerolink.co.nz/mangemangeroa/main.html>



Kokako



Popokotea

Keep fit & do your bit!

Ark in the Park is a Forest and Bird, Waitakere Branch "Auckland Naturally" project in partnership with the Auckland Regional Council. Since January 2003 the community volunteer based project has achieved over 1000 hectares of predator controlled parkland, situated in the Cascades Kauri Park, Waitakere Ranges. The aim is to control pests and predators and restore the area to its former glory, enhancing the current biodiversity and returning lost species. 55 whitehead were returned to the area in August 2004 and 53 North Island robin were released in 2005. There are short and long term plans for a number of species such as hihi/stitchbird, kokako, kaka, mistletoes, Helm's butterfly and kiwi.

How can you help?

The project relies on volunteers to help achieve its goals. Join them at 9am every 1st and 3rd Saturday morning of each month and lend a hand – keep fit and do your bit! (there are plenty of tasks for those less keen or able to get out into the bush).

Donations or a regular automatic payment can be set up through our Help a Hectare scheme. Details are on our website.

www.forestandbird.org.nz/ark

To volunteer or find out further information, simply contact:
Karen Colgan 09 837 0443 mcolgan@netaccess.co.nz
Or John Sumich 09 818 5267 cjnk@extra.co.nz

Or contact:

Sandra Jack, Manager

Ark in the Park

PO Box 60228, Titirangi

Phone 09-817-9379 (Thursdays and Fridays)

arkinthePark@paradise.co.nz



Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF)

For the 2005 EIF round we sent out over 500 application packs and received 173 applications, a record for an EIF round, up from the previous highest of 62 applications from the February 2004 round. Applicants have requested \$893,648 with total maximum funding available to distribute this round of \$655,000.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome by early November & we look forward to updating everyone with news of some of the great environmental projects that the EIF has helped initiate.

For further information about the fund, contact Leon Austin on 09-366-2000 ext 7120 or at leon.austin@arc.govt.nz

09 366 2000 www.arc.govt.nz

Workshop on Tools and Techniques from Integrated Catchment Management Research

8-9 November 2005

The FRST-funded Motueka Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) research programme is a partnership between Tasman District Council, Landcare Research and the Cawthron Institute. The goal of the programme is to conduct multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder research to provide information and knowledge that will improve the management of land, freshwater, and near-coastal environments in catchments with multiple, interacting, and potentially conflicting land uses. The Motueka Catchment is being used as a case study to develop tools and techniques for ICM that can be applied elsewhere in New Zealand.

This two-day workshop aims to disseminate the knowledge gained so far in the research programme and gain feedback on how the approach can be taken elsewhere in New Zealand. The workshop is being held in addition to the South Pacific HELP (Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy) symposium but has been specifically designed for resource managers from New Zealand.

Who should attend?

The workshop is being run specifically to showcase results from the ICM programme and provoke discussion on future ICM directions. Applies to anyone involved in sustainable land and/or water management from district council staff to Landcare Group members.

Programme

The two days are split between a workshop and a field trip into the Motueka catchment.

For more details please refer to

http://icm.landcareresearch.co.nz/library/Presentations/agm2005/agm2005_workshop.htm

Or contact

Andrew Fenemor

Landcare Research

Private Bag 6

Nelson

Phone: 03-545-7710

Email: Fenemora@LandcareResearch.co.nz



Riparian Zone Management Workshop

Next Riparian Zone Management Workshop to be held on November 3rd at Long Bay, if you are interested in attending a **free** one day training workshop on Riparian Management then contact **Julie Pickering** on phone **09-366-2000 ext 8454**. Attendees receive a free copy of the Riparian guideline.

Short Course for City Tree Lovers

Have you ever wondered at the beauty of trees in an urban setting, and wanted to know more about how they work and how to maintain their health? Have you also been disturbed at the destruction of trees within the Auckland region and wondered how the protection system works? If so, *The Tree Council's* Community Tree Care Short Course may be for you.

This unique short course begins in early March 2006. It runs at the UNITEC campus in Mt Albert, Auckland City, on a Wednesday evening and Saturday morning every week for 8 weeks. The course utilises the abilities of various UNITEC and expert guest lecturers to give participants a practical and theoretical foundation in urban tree management.

Topics include the importance of trees and public attitudes to them, how trees function, their identification, heritage and cultural values, planting and maintenance, and tree protection legislation. Some mediation and facilitation skills are also taught.

The cost is \$312 (incl.GST). Discretionary subsidies are available from *The Tree Council* and some City Councils where the participant is committed to taking on an active community tree liaison role. This involves being able and willing to act as advocates and advisors as part of a regional network of Community Tree Advisors working with *The Tree Council* and local bodies. Advisors currently work in Auckland City, North Shore City, Manukau City and Rodney District.

Deadline for course enrolment is December 19th 2005.

Please contact the course organiser, Daphne Mitten, daphnemitten@paradise.net.nz Phone 09-372-9272, for an application form as soon as possible, and/or for further information.

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

09 366 2000 www.arc.govt.nz

FREE

Ecological Restoration Workshop

Friday 2nd December 2005, at Wenderholm Regional Park

Learn re-vegetation techniques, how to identify native plants, and control weeds and animal pests.

This workshop is for you if...

- You want to learn more about identifying native plants or controlling weeds and animal pests
- You are a volunteer or part of a community group caring for a natural area and need to know what to do
- You have forest or bush on your land and want to look after it

The workshops include...

- Basic introduction to the ecology of natural bush areas
- Identification of some common native plants
- Practical demonstration in planting and maintaining native trees
- Identification and non-chemical control of weeds
- Trapping methods for possums and rats using Timms traps and Snap-e rat traps
- Safety issues to be considered whilst working in natural bush areas

You will need to bring...

- A spade and gloves
- Sturdy footwear and clothing
- Don't forget sun block and a hat
- Morning tea and lunch provided

For more information contact Peter Mundel, Phone 09-415-9336 or email at conservol@clear.net.nz

Funded by the NZ Conservation Volunteers



www.conservationvolunteers.org.nz