



COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

February 2014

A warm 2014 welcome to all friends and volunteers of Pukenui Forest as we prepare for another year of action.

Following a strategic meeting of the pest control team at Max Hutchings office, we have already started extending the “Ark in the Park” area cutting and putting up new bait stations, and will continue to do so into early Autumn. We welcome Bevan Cramp to our pest team, and already he is showing his talents. He scored the equivalent of a golf’s “hole-in-one” by getting two stoats in one trap!

I have recently contacted Kay Smith, secretary of the Whau Valley Landcare Group, and advised her that we are about to lift the Trust’s community liaison work in the Whau Valley area. This follows about two years of discussion with the Whangarei District Council and DOC, and more recently with the Northland District Health Board to get permission, all things being equal, to remove possums and rats in this part of Pukenui Forest.

Margaret Pohe and I joined a DOC volunteer team and worked on weeds along the walking track that starts at Kauika Road West. This is the second time we have worked on this track, and I fear it won’t be the last!

I recently received a very nice “thank you” letter from the Manager of the Royal Society for our hosting Jane Norman. Jane and I checked the last lizard refuge line above the Clements Quarry and were very pleased to find a Pacific gecko under one of the covers.

Finally I wish to thank the Whangarei Native F&B Society for their generous grant of money from their Trust Fund.

Gerry Brackenbury
Advocacy and Community Relations.