



ASB Community Trust
Te Kaitiaki Putea o Tamaki o Tai Tokerau
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COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT PUKENUI/WESTERN HILLS FOREST CHARITABLE TRUST (July 2014)

It is with great sadness that we formally acknowledge the passing of Ian Buckley. Ian was a volunteer and true friend of the Pukenui Forest Trust and did pioneer work in setting up the current trapping network in Pukenui Forest.

A number of us attended his funeral service at his home and I spoke a few words representing the Trust. Ian lived life to the full, and we were privileged to have known him and shared his enthusiasm for life, and his work for conservation. He will be greatly missed by many.

Further to which, the pest control team held a meeting recently with trapping Guru, Steve Allen. Steve has huge trapping experience which he happily shared with us.



Ian prepares for his next adventure

The rationale for all this pest control is that one day, we can return some rare native species back to Pukenui Forest. Subject to confirmation from DOC, it looks like they have the funding to totally eradicate goats from the forest. The possum knock-down is on track for this coming August in the Western Hills above Maunu Road. So the work goes on. Give a thought to our two trappers in this grotty spell of weather.

I have been in touch with Kevin Parker, ecological restoration expert, and have made a tentative date for him to come up and look at the forest, maps, etc. We hope to get Kevin to produce an Ecological Plan that is acceptable to DOC for any species translocations that could be approved. We inch our way to Paradise.

Hearing dates on our submissions to Council on the proposed subdivision at Three Mile Bush Road have been set, and these are July 17th and 18th in the May Bain Room at the Whangarei Public Library. Could be an interesting exercise.

DOC staff have cleared an area of weeds and grass at the Amalin Road entrance to the forest. I have spoken to Jane Norman of Kamo Primary and she is keen to get her class out for some planting. There has been a suggestion that a small Kauri Grove could be planted in memory of Ian.

Finally, a small team did another round of planting Kowhai at the Arts Centre. Four very large poplars were dropped gratis by Northpower and there are several mountains of bark mulch that need spreading around the plantings.

Gerry Brackenbury

Community Relations/Advocacy (Part-time)