



ASB Community Trust

Te Kaitiaki Putea o Tamaki o Tai Tokerau

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT PUKENUI/WESTERN HILLS FOREST CHARITABLE TRUST (November 2014)

Another big step in the biological restoration of Pukenui Forest has been taken with the sixteen-page Pukenui Forest Reintroduction Plan, prepared by Dr Kevin Parker. Kevin came highly recommended by DOC and the Friends of Tiritiri Matangi. It would seem that we still have a way to go yet before we can return iconic species like kiwi and kokako.

The last of the years poisoning happens later this month and Max Hutchings has done his usual brilliant stuff in preparation for this poison operation.

Thanks to Tanya Cook, our current Treasurer and tutor at Northtec in their Conservation and Environmental Management Programme, a number of students visited Pukenui Forest to learn about pest management. They also checked one lizard cover line which showed lots of cave weta but, sadly, no geckos under the covers. Northtec also had a stand at the Farmers' Market in Whangarei during Conservation Week and our Pukenui Forest brochures were available. Well done Tanya!

Further to which, the Trust is preparing to have a display at the annual up-coming A&P Show at Barge Park. We have been kindly given space in the Landcare Trust tent, saving us money and time, for which we are very grateful. It will be another opportunity to tell the public about the great potential of Pukenui Forest, starring the very large map we produced last year.

As the Trust representative on the Mangere Stream Catchment Group, I will be hosting the group in mid-December. We will be meeting at the end of Woods Road and then drive to the forest edge where I will give a talk on the Pukenui Trust's work, especially the pest control we have been undertaking for the last few years.

I attended the meeting of the tentatively called "Western Hills Collective", consisting of the Pukenui Trust, Kiwi North, Quarry Gardens and the Quarry Arts Centre. We had a very creative discussion, looking at how the four organisations can maximise and synergise our collective skills and talents for the benefit of us and tourists looking for something different when they hit our beautiful City.

The Trust was recently approached by a Registered Survey Company, enquiring about our position on a local pest-free subdivision. The answer was that we have only one position, and it isn't the missionary one.

Gerry Brackenbury

Community Relations/Advocacy (Part-time)