



ASB Community Trust
Te Kaitiaki Putea o Tamaki o Tai Tokerau
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COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT PUKENUI/WESTERN HILLS FOREST CHARITABLE TRUST (February 2015)

Greetings and may 2015 be everything you hoped for.

The Trust hoped that by now we would have a full-time Ranger, with all the advantages that this implies, but the fickle hand of Fate has deemed otherwise. But it will happen.

I currently represent the Trust on the Northland Regional Council Waiora Northland Water Programme, which is tasked with improving the water quality throughout Northland. Our group is the Mangere Stream Catchment Group. The Mangere Stream flows out of the Pukenui Forest and eventually comes out at the Kaipara harbour...quite a journey!

The excellent news for all those involved is that the Mangere Stream has received the Most Improved River Award in Northland, and is one of the top four in New Zealand. The Awards are sponsored by the Morgan Foundation for significant reduction in things like phosphorous, nitrogen and sediment, amongst other nasties. The Pukenui Forest Trust does its bit by reducing possum numbers that browse the forest canopy.

Next week our Trust will host the Mangere Stream committee in the forest itself, to look at the trapping work we have been doing over the last few years.

We are now the proud owners of a shipping container, which is to be housed in the grounds of the Quarry Arts Centre. This will allow Max Hutchings to get his garage back. I would like to thank Max on behalf of the Trust for looking after our gear for so long. The container is in a central location close to the forest, which is much more sensible.

I have written a Kiwi Translocation Proposal as the first step to return kiwi to Pukenui Forest, and sent it in the first instance to Clea Gardiner, local Manager for Kiwis For Kiwi, and she has hinted that if we get all our paper work done for the Department of Conservation, we may be looking at next year (2016) for a kiwi release...fingers crossed.

Further to which, the bi-annual national Kiwi Hui is being held down the road this year, at Marsden Point over three days, starting on May 13th. This is a good opportunity to hear from the experts what the state of our National Bird is.

Gerry Brackenbury

Community Relations/Advocacy (Part-time)