

Catchpool Restoration Project – Update February 2021



Trust volunteers planting *Poa cita* (Orongorongo Track)



Trailer nearly emptied following that tree-planting day

Seed Collection

This is a matter of immediate focus for the project. We need to re-stock our seedling nursery with species that are needed for our future riparian and wetlands restoration efforts. Presently ripe for collection are:

Akeake, five-finger, karamū, mahoe, toetoe, harakeke, pukatea, kawakawa and tarata.

Nursery

Needs a half-day working bee soon to tidy up the weeds and repair the overhead irrigation system and shade cloth which suffered some damage during high winds during January. Mike Rees to organise – Additional volunteers always welcome!

iNaturalist Observations – Remutaka Forest Park

The number of observations contributed to the Remutaka project recently exceeded 2,100 - encompassing 734 species and with more than 133 contributors/ 250 identifiers so far to date.

Some great accompanying photos, most of which are of ‘research grade’. Pleasing to see a few of our current RCT trappers and Fixit team among the most recent contributors.

Myrtle Rust

A few recent reports of heavy *Austropuccinia psidii* infections on Ramarama (*Lophomyrtus bullata*) in the Remutaka Forest Park (mostly near Big Bend on the Orongorongo River banks) have come through via the Myrtle Rust Reporter/ iNaturalistNZ. Ramarama species appear to be particularly susceptible to this pathogen. There is some concern that we may lose these populations. Fortunately (so far at least) our precious rata, kanuka and manuka species are showing considerable resistance.

New Volunteers

Couple of new volunteers have joined the Catchpool Restoration Project recently following their enquiries for volunteering opportunities with the Remutaka Conservation Trust. They are James Miller and Will Collin. Both have been through their induction session recently and will also take up trapping duties for the OW and ST lines.

Tree Sponsorship

Planted a couple of Nikau palms for Karen Baker who sponsored a tree as a memorial gift to the grieving parents of an adult son who died unexpectedly late last year.

The nikau were planted on the banks above that wee feeder stream in the shady, kawakawa-dominated native bush area between the wetlands and the Catchpool Campground. Lovely spot!



One of the nikau planted for Karen



The other nikau, following transplanting



The tributary stream below...

All the nikau we've planted there earlier are flourishing, so these new additions will likely thrive too.

New waharoa photo-bombing photopoint location #1



On the day of its blessing Dec 2020 – New waharoa



Same scene in Sept 2009 – CRP Restoration Day

Corporate Volunteer Days

December, January and February are typically quieter months for corporate volunteer activity in the Remutaka Forest Park and these last 3 months have indeed been rather quiet.

Have a couple of groups from IAG and Wellington Electricity planning to re-visit their corporate volunteer day experiences in March. Currently negotiating suitable days and suggested schedules of activity. Primary focus this year will again be riparian and wetlands restoration.

Other Volunteer Days



Mike heading back to the trailer for more plants



Rosemary and Grandies planting native trees



Geoff digging a hole for native grasses



Smiling for the camera before getting back to work



Pleasant BBQ lunch enjoyed by hard-working team



Campsite kitchen extension a good spot for lunch



Mike White brought his own spade along and used it well



The old picnic spot near the entrance to the park

Restoration Project/ RCT Tweets



Orchid hunting in the Remutaka Range [blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2012/08/22/orc... via @te_papa](http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2012/08/22/orc...)

Final native tree planting day for this season today (following postponement of last week's one due to dreadful weather). #CatchpoolValley, #RemutakaForestPark. Lovely day at last! This area at the campground shot in 2009 has been totally transformed today by volunteer work. 🌱

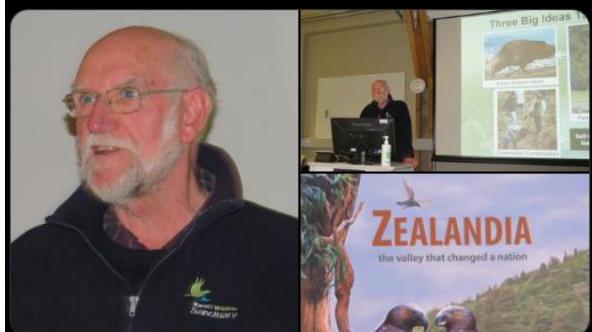


Great article by Clare Fraser who shared her story of an overnight tramp - with family in tow - to the #RemutakaForestPark and discovered the beauty of this wee gem in Wellington's backyard. 🌱 Great exploring best backyard | Otago Daily Times Online News



Great exploring best backyard
Restricted travel leaves us appreciating the beauty of our backyard. And boy is Wellington's backyard beautiful, writes Clare Fraser. 🌱 odt.co.nz

Jim Lynch was a superb guest speaker at our Remutaka Conservation Trust AGM tonight. He recounted the Zealandia eco-sanctuary journey and the beneficial outcomes for our capital city and broader Wellington region & influenced NZ conservation thinking. #RemutakaForestPark 🌱



Orchid hunting in the Remutaka Range | Te Papa's Blog
When we think about orchids we usually think about tropical islands or unexplored jungle-covered mountains in distant lands. This ...
blog.tepapa.govt.nz

Cathye, one of our kiwi trackers, who is also a volunteer stoat trapper on the Cattle Ridge line, sent in these cool photos from her latest adventure in the #RemutakaForestPark. Clematis paniculata (White clematis; puawānanga) and Anenetus virescens (Puriri moth; pepetuna). 🌱



Anemone stinkhorn fungus spotted in the #RemutakaForestPark. Lovely example of this fungus from the Phallaceae family of fungi (Order phallales). These are quite commonly seen along walking tracks in the #RemutakaRange, as are many other colourful fungi in these rain forests.



The #waharoa at the start of the #OrongorongoTrack, #RemutakaForestPark which was blessed today in a ceremony at the top car park, #CatchpoolValley. (Palisades to be added soon). #RFPT



King of the Kowhai is not a Kereru! #tui Catchpool car park, #RemutakaForestPark.



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It's that time of the year again when tui gather in great numbers in the Kowhai trees at the Catchpool Centre car park in the #RemutakaForestPark. Entertaining and melodious! #RFPT.



The #Waharoa at the start of the Orongorongo Track, #RemutakaForestPark was blessed this morning at a brief opening ceremony - top car park, #Catchpool. Palisades to be added and little more painting of Rongorongo (Centre figure) required. #RFPT #RemutakaConservationTrust. 🌱



Busy week in the #RemutakaForestPark again with school visits and committee strategy meetings, usual trapping and monitoring activities and preparation for annual photo-points scheduled for next week. 100s of school kids visiting our #Catchpool and Graces Stream eco-hotspot. 🌱

