

Catchpool Restoration Project – Update May 2021



Duke of Edinburgh Award service lads from Hutt Valley International School survey the enormity of their chosen task:- i.e. Remove all yellow flowers (mostly gorse) from being seen my September 2021 photo-points that will be taken near the top car park and Nga Taonga Trail areas of the Catchpool Valley. They are cutting the gorse and applying herbicide gel to the stumps to avoid regrowth. A recent check on their progress to date has shown that most of the gorse seen in this image has now been removed.



Teacher - and RCT volunteer trapper - Paul Falloon (L), with the DoE Service fellows shown here armed and ready to take on their quest after the challenge (and safety training) was provided. These young men turn up every other weekend to tackle gorse and other woody weeds.



Mat Marois and I collected heaps of native tree seeds over a couple of Sunday afternoons...



Mike's trailer nearly filled with plastic rubbish following one of our nursery working-bee days

Seed Collection

This continues as a primary focus for the project. We are re-stocking our seedling nursery with species that are needed for our future riparian and wetlands restoration efforts. Presently ripe for collection are:

Five-finger, karamū, mahoe, toetoe, harakeke, pukatea, kawakawa, kahikatea, tawa, manuka, kanono,

Seeds and cuttings are being dried and/or prepped for propagation in seedling trays or other appropriate containers. Purchases of additional potting mix, seed-raising mix and rooting compound will be needed soon.

Nursery

Over the past couple of months we conducted several half-day working bees to tidy up the plants and nursery. Weeded the entire site, laid down a new tarpaulin and placed all of the remaining potted trees onto raised bread-bins for easy maintenance and delivery to planting sites. Used our surplus Philproof tracking tunnels to elevate the bread-bins to ensure better drainage. Audited our consumable supplies, and nursery equipment/ tools etc. to see what needs to be replaced/ supplemented. Prepared a list.



iNaturalist Observations – Remutaka Forest Park

‘Tis the season for fungi – and a large number of new observations of a great variety of fungi have been contributed to the Remutaka Project recently. The total number of observations now exceeds 2,220 - encompassing 767 species and with more than 143 contributors/ 269 identifiers so far to date.

Most observations include great accompanying photos, most of which are of ‘research grade’.

Volunteer Tree-Planting Days

Have several groups from corporates, schools, to girl guides planning their volunteer day experiences in June. Currently negotiating suitable days and suggested schedules of activity. Will plant out the remaining stocks of native trees held in the nursery to make room for the rows of new seedling trays and plant containers set aside for future seasons. Primary focus this year will again be riparian and wetlands restoration.

Recent Restoration Project/ RCT Tweets

Beaut day for a BBQ at Troup Lawn Picnic area, Otari-Wilton's Bush. Our [#RemutakaConservationTrust](#) stoat trappers and kiwi trackers typically get together a couple of times a year to swap yarns and tales of derring-do. [#RFPT](#) 🌿 Even the trees have name-tags here!



Today's expedition into the [#remutakaforestpark](#) is to remove the leg transmitters from some of our long-tracked kiwi, so they can become truly 'free' - We'll still monitor them via acoustic recorders, call monitoring and field cameras, but they'll be truly wild once more [#RFPT](#) 🌿



Remutaka Conservation @RemutakaC · May 8

Celebrating 15 years of successful wild kiwi in Remutaka Forest

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Heh! 'Operation Mystic' should read Operation Nest Egg (O.N.E.) or Egg Heists as we call them. 😊



Celebrating 15 years of successful wild kiwi in Remutaka Forest

There's a special celebration for the Remutaka Conservation Trust this month. It's marking fifteen years since it reintroduced kiwi back into th...

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Our volunteer kiwi handler and kiwi project coordinator, Susan Ellis, was interviewed by Jesse Mulligan on [@radionz](https://www.radionz.co.nz) 'Afternoons with Jesse Mulligan' about the 15th anniversary of our release of wild kiwi into the [#RemutakaForestPark](https://www.radionz.co.nz) near Wellington NZ 🌿

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