

# Catchpool Restoration Project – Update Notes – November 2022

## Corporate volunteer group from Xero



*A small corporate volunteer team from Xero NZ came to the park in early October on their Volunteer day. They spent most of the day tackling woody weeds and planting native trees grown in our nursery up near the top car park. In the afternoon, they transferred the equipment stored in the Catchpool Restoration Project's container to a new home in a nearby shed that had previously housed DOC's LPG bottles for the Orongorongo huts.*



*In the morning, the Xero team rescued some plants abandoned along a section of the Nga Taonga Trail earlier this year by the Konini School group when their event was terminated early and washed out by heavy rain. We replanted them alongside the Orongorongo Track.*

*Shown above is a couple of the Xero volunteer day team members at the waharoa at the start of the Orongorongo Track. Some of their colleagues can be seen at work further up the track.*





*The team worked on the left-hand side of the Orongorongo Track to remove remnant gorse and acacia and then planting replacement native trees in the gaps. They made an improved and visible difference for other visitors to the Park ahead of the busy Summer season.*

## **New tool shed replaces the container at the DOC Catchpool Field Depot**



*The new storage shed for the project's tools, nursery supplies and equipment is the one on the right with pink-ish doors and wooden slats. Blair from DoC added a new L-shaped workbench inside at the far end and will make the doors more operable and secure. Volunteers from Xero helped to transfer the contents of the old container to their new home on their volunteer day in October.*





*The old storage container is shown right/centre in front of the caretaker's residence. Peter Blaxter (DoC) now has vacant possession for whatever purposes he sees fit.*

### **Native mistletoe restoration successes and losses**



*It may not look too exciting to the uninitiated, but this native mistletoe (*Tupiea antarctica* – or ‘white mistletoe’) sprouting from a tree lucerne host got me and my mistletoe mentor, Trevor Thompson (QEII Trust) very excited when we discovered it flourishing in the carpark above Kereru Corner. We had infected the host several years ago and it has taken quite a while to become established and noticeable. It has survived the mowing contractor's slashing machinery unlike most of the others that we planted on *Pittosporum eugenioides* and tree lucerne hosts along that entire car park bordering line.*



## Other update briefs:

- School visit from Tui Glen planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December
- Myrtle rust checks – Peak season for spotting new outbreaks
- Mistletoe restoration checks (New growths found!)
- Nursery irrigation system checks/ weeding
- Ad hoc releasing re-veg items and woody weed removal
- Seed collection – Opportunistic & Planned

## iNaturalist Project for Remutaka Forest Park (November 2022)

We've reached over 4000 observations of more than 1000 species! Most are of Research Grade and provide a fabulous record of the biodiversity of the Remutaka Forest Park.

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