



Te Kete Hononga – The Basket of Connections

Exciting times are happening at Reconnecting Northland as we embark on trialing our brand-new service, Te Kete Hononga – The Basket of Connections. This pioneering service seamlessly intertwines a diverse range of resources such as services, investment, knowledge and skills, to provide support to communities and ecological projects that need it most.

We will be setting out on a path of discovery and understanding with Te Kete Hononga, inspired by the Maori tradition of the legendary figures Tāwhaki and Tāne who ventured to the heavens to bring back baskets of wānanga, containing wisdom that would enable humans to understand and engage with the world around them.

We are currently working with a selection of groups to trial Te Kete Hononga. Our skilled Kairaranga, or Weaver, will work closely with these groups and partners to identify their needs and connect them with the people and resources necessary for success. We anticipate the trial will take 18 months to complete.

Once the trial is completed, we will then be able to offer the benefits of Te Kete Hononga to Te Tai Tokerau groups working on ecological restoration projects.



Chainsaw Training with Training Ventures

Reconnecting Northland recently hosted a successful training event in the South Hokianga community, led by Kevin Mitchell from Training Ventures. The event was part of RN's ongoing efforts to provide pathways into employment for members of the community.

Attendees were given a comprehensive overview of machine safety, including the importance of maintaining high levels of safety around the machines. Kevin shared real-life stories to illustrate the importance of safety, which kept everyone engaged and focused on the topic.

In addition to machine safety, attendees also learned about machine maintenance, hazard identification, and cutting techniques.

These skills are essential for those seeking employment in various industries, and the training provided a valuable opportunity for individuals to gain knowledge and experience in these areas.

We would like to thank Kevin and Training Ventures for their expertise and contributions to this event, and we look forward to continuing to provide similar opportunities for the community in the future.



Kevin from Training Ventures



Matakohe -Limestone Island

For the end of year Christmas Team Building day, the RN team and their families took a trip to discover the hidden gem of Matakohe, Limestone Island, nestled in the picturesque Whangarei Harbour.

Our tour guide for the day, Jo the island's very own DOC ranger, greeted us in the morning and ferried us to the island. Once we arrived, we joined forces with Jo, replenishing bait lines to keep the island predator-free while uncovering the island's rich history.

Matakohe once served as a strategic Pā and a bustling hub of various industries like flax trading and boat building, there was even a quarry at one point. But, the island was left worse for wear due to all the industrial activity.

That was until 1989, when a group of passionate locals fought hard and alongside a group from Forest and Bird, to form the Friends of Matakohe. They lobbied to have it gifted to the council, and restoration work began to turn it into a sanctuary.

With the sun shining, it was a beautiful day of volunteering. We finished off with a delicious lunch in the charming town basin of Whangarei. It was an adventure we won't forget!"

If you would like to learn more about Matakohe Island or even visit, check out <http://www.limestoneisland.org.nz/npages/index.html>

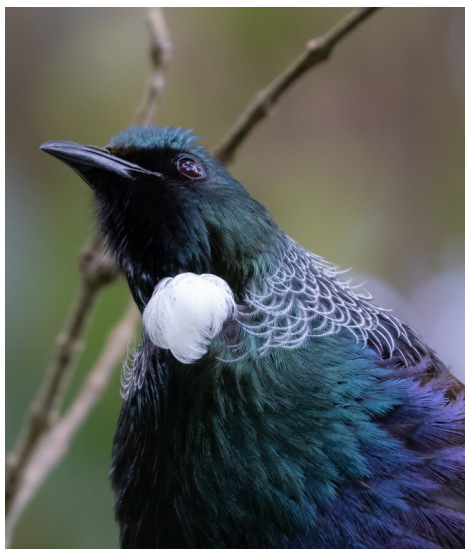


Connectivity Conservation - Why It's Important

Connectivity Conservation is a crucial part of ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of our natural environments. This approach aims to revive and restore the connections between different habitats, such as forests, wetlands, and grasslands, that allow for the movement and migration of species.

One of the main reasons that Connectivity Conservation is so important is that it allows for genetic diversity within populations of plants and animals. When habitats are isolated from one another, the populations within them are also isolated. This can lead to inbreeding, which can result in a lack of genetic diversity and make the population more susceptible to diseases and other threats.

By protecting and restoring connections between habitats, we can help to ensure that populations are more diverse and resilient.



'It is clear that Connectivity Conservation is essential for the long-term health and sustainability of our natural environments.'



Another important aspect of Connectivity Conservation is that it helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change. As temperatures and weather patterns change, many species will need to be able to move to new areas in order to survive. Connectivity Conservation can help to create corridors that allow species to move to new areas and adapt to the changing climate as well as rehabilitating existing habitats.

It is evident that this type of restoration work can only be successful if it is done in collaboration with communities. Community engagement is essential to the success of the movement for environmental change. It involves involving local communities in the planning, implementation, and management of ecological projects. This can help to build support for environmental efforts and ensure that they are sustainable in the long-term. Additionally, community engagement can help to ensure that conservation efforts are tailored to the specific needs and priorities of the local area.

There are a number of ways that community engagement can be incorporated into Connectivity Conservation. One approach is to involve local community members in monitoring and surveying for species in the area. This can help to identify areas that are important for conservation and ensure that these areas are protected.

Another approach is to involve local community members in the management of ecological habitats. This can help to ensure that these areas are protected from threats such as poaching, logging, or development. Overall, it is apparent that this approach is essential for the everlasting stability and sustainability of our natural world.

Reconnecting Northland's goal is to promote environmental sustainability in Te Tai Tokerau through collaboration with communities and our partners. We strive to be a driving force for positive change in the region. If you would like to learn more about what we do, please visit www.reconnectingnorthland.org.nz to read more about our journey.