



Celebration of the He Ripo Kau, Employment and Recovery Project

In November an event was held at The Heads, Hokianga to celebrate the completion of the He Ripo Kau, Employment and Recovery, Clean, Clear Water Project. With support from Kānoa Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit, the project ran throughout 2020, to 2022 with the aim of improving water quality in the Whirinaki and Waimamaku districts, through riparian planting and fencing.



TeMaapi, Clean, Clear Water Project Manager

The celebration was opened by Eamon Nathan, the Pou Manatū from Reconnecting Northland.

Te Maapi Simich-Pene, the Project Manager gave a presentation on what the project involved, the learnings, and what had been accomplished. It was inspiring to hear how the teams prepared and planted over 75km of streams and waterways, and fenced 75ha of land. The work wasn't always easy, with some incredibly steep terrain and weather conditions, sometimes difficult.

Julie Eaddy the Training and Development Coordinator spoke about the enjoyment she had, working with the programme. The Training and Development component resulted in nearly 100 certifications, with the crew from All Out Contracting working hard to obtain the specific skills and experience needed to build their careers in the environmental sector. Jamie from Bozcut, a Hokianga based fencing contractor spoke about the value of the project and how his team had enjoyed being part of it.

Reconnecting Northland would like to extend their warm thanks to Kānoa RDU, AOC, Bozcut, Landowners and all the training providers for their contribution to this valuable project.

To find out more visit
[www.https://www.heripokau.com/](https://www.heripokau.com/)



Eamon Nathan, Pou Manatū

November 16th 2022

The Great Eastern Ranges Conference - Brisbane

Recently our Pou Manatū, Eamon Nathan traveled to sunny Brisbane to speak at the Great Eastern Ranges 'Connecting People, Connecting Nature' Conference.

Over 150 people attended the event to hear presentations on a variety of topics within the subjects of 'science and practice of connectivity conservation, taking inspiration from others and moving beyond business as usual'.

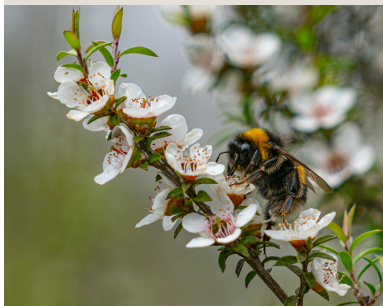
Eamon's presentation on 'Supporting communities to create healthy, functional and resilient landscapes' was well received and there was great interest in learning more about how, through leaning on traditional cultures and knowledge, we can motivate efforts to revitalise our natural environment.

We would like to thank Great Eastern Ranges for inviting us and for their hospitality. It was great to reconnect with friends and colleagues and to hear about the ongoing work taking place across the globe.



Eamon Nathan - Photo courtesy of Great Eastern Ranges, Australia.

Backyard Ecosystems



"It is that range of biodiversity that we must care for - the whole thing - rather than just one or two stars."

David Attenborough



Reconnecting Northland's vision is to see a flourishing tapestry of abundant and resilient ecosystems throughout Te Tai Tokerau, NZ.

When we think of ecosystems, we tend to think of large ones, like rainforests, however, small ecosystems are just as important to the environment and one that we can all create is a **backyard ecosystem**!

Creating a backyard ecosystem provides a home for birds, insects and even small lizards such as geckos. Many of them are vulnerable to our changing climate and can be adversely affected by lack of food, water and suitable habitats to live in.

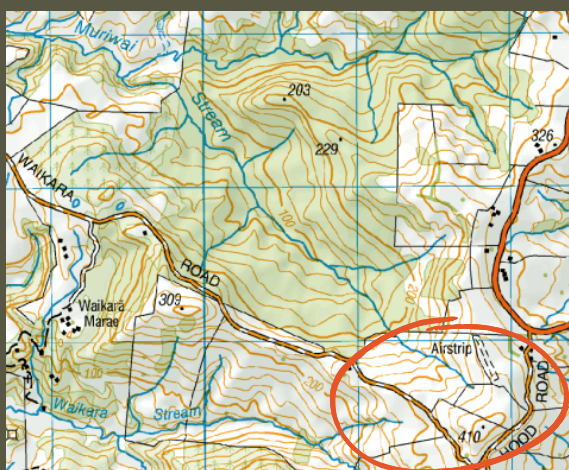
As more of our larger ecosystems become threatened, our humble backyard can become a haven for endangered species. Here are a few tips to help you create a healthy backyard ecosystem:

- Keep part of your garden messy! Leaving foliage and tree branches on the ground allows weta and other insects to make a home in the leaf litter and wood. This in turn attracts insect eating birds such as Pīwakawaka and Riroriro.
- Plant native shrubs such as Kānuka, Mānuka, Māpou and Kōhūhū, this will provide nesting sites for Tui and Pīwakawaka.
- Provide a water source. In summer this will provide thirsty birds and bees with something to drink. In winter, sugar water will attract Tui and other nectar drinking visitors to your garden.
- Reduce your lawn. Described by some as the monocultural deserts of one plant species, lawns are the opposite of biodiverse ecosystems. If you don't want to go to a full wildflower meadow, consider cutting your lawn less frequently and letting dandelions provide some much-needed food for pollinators.
- Say no to chemicals! If you want to provide a clean, healthy environment for birds and insects then stay away from insecticides and fungicides. As well as harming creatures they are also not good for humans.

We hope you enjoy creating your own biodiverse backyard sanctuary, The more diverse ecosystems there are, the healthier our environment will be.

“It's a big project for the Trust which has a small crew so we're grateful to have been able to take on All Out Contracting for the bulk of the planting. They have been great to work with and it's nearly complete.”

– Georgina Read,
Manager of the Waipoua Forest Trust



Location of the mahi being done in the Waipoua Forest.

The plant nursery at Waipoua Forest Trust



Waipoua Forest Trust Project

It's been an exciting year for Reconnecting Northlands' friends at Waipoua Forest Trust and All Out Contracting who have worked together on the The Pukemiro Ridge Regeneration Project funded through One Billion Trees, Stephenson Fund and Pub Charity. The project aims to regenerate 60 hectares of land located on a corner block between Hood & Waikara Rd and joining the Kaitui Reserve on its northern boundary, over a 3 year period. Until recently the block has been used for grazing, however all stock and fencing were removed permanently last year. The land hosts two springs that feed into a freshwater system throughout a central gully where a small wetland occurs. The tributary then feeds into the larger Murawie stream & wetland.

Much of the planting has been undertaken by locally based Whirinaki business, All Out Contracting. 41,000 native plant species were planted in July. The Waipoua Forest Trust has built a native plant nursery on the site to facilitate the project with a holding capacity of up to 60,000 seedlings. Pest control is coordinated between DOC, NRC, and the Trust.

“It's a big project for the Trust which has a small crew so we're grateful to have been able to take on All Out Contracting for the bulk of the planting. They have been great to work with and it's nearly complete.”, says Georgina Read, Manager of the Waipoua Forest Trust.

Congratulations to all involved. We love seeing community-based partnerships taking the lead in kaitiakitanga. Future generations will benefit from the work being done here in Pukemiro.

Community Based Freshwater Monitoring

Recently, Reconnecting Northland joined the Whitebait Connection to explore a West Coast stream in Waimamaku, Hokianga for the purpose of delivering community-based freshwater monitoring.

The importance of doing this is to capture data to understand the current state of health of various sites and to determine if the water quality is improving over time due to riparian restoration practices.

While setting up the monitoring points at the reference site, two special rare native species, the Shortjaw Kōkopu and Green Stonefly (stenoperla) were discovered.



Shortjaw Kōkopu
Image credit to Whitebait
Connection - Kim Jones

The Shortjaw Kōkopu is a native fish that is rare and secretive. It's conservation status is 'Threatened'. It is one of the species caught as Whitebait during it's juvenile life stage. The Green Stonefly is commonly found in bush covered, freshwater streams and is usually a good indicator of a healthy waterway.

As the population of these species are declining, to come across them was exciting for the team.

Pettania Hohaia and her crew will be starting regular monitoring at this site, and others, to track the health of the water over time.

Green Stonefly
Image credit to
Whitebait Connection - Alex Going



Image credit to Whitebait Connection - Kim Jones

Team Building Day Rongoa Workshop

As part of our culture and wellbeing programme, we take part in regular team building activities. Recently we attended a Rongoa workshop with Paula Hohoua at the Moria Marae. The theme of the day was well-being. Rongoa is a holistic system of healing that has evolved out of Māori cultural traditions, it encompasses a body of knowledge that has at its core the enhancement of wellbeing.

We arrived to a warm welcome and pōwhiri and then Paula began the workshop, showing us how to use the Kawakawa plant to make a healing balm and other natural products. We learned the importance of harvesting plants sustainably and sourcing them from areas that aren't contaminated with harmful toxins. Paula also spoke about the importance of taking care of our well-being and the well-being of our natural environment, as the two are interconnected. This outlook aligns with the Reconnecting Northland intention - "to bring people together to revitalise the natural environment".

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe Paula, it was a fantastic experience for everyone, and we all really enjoyed the day.

