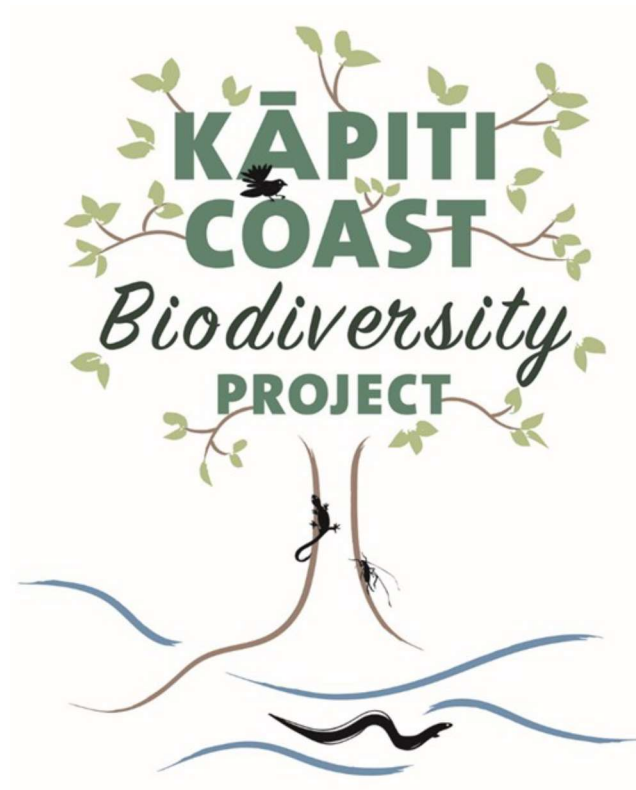


# Biodiversity News

*Information for Volunteers and all people interested  
in the environment on the Kapiti Coast*



**A three year conservation project initiated by the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park, funded by the Community Environment Fund and working in conjunction with Whareroa Guardians and Nga Uruora**

## *Hello Kapiti Coasters:*

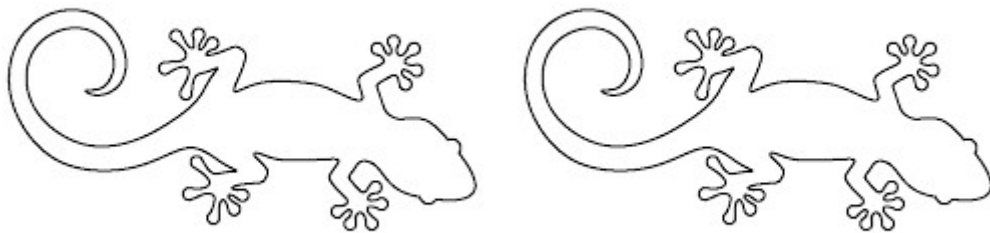
**This newsletter is to let you know about the Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Project and to invite you to help us.**

### *What is Biodiversity?*

- Biodiversity is shorthand for “biological diversity” – the number and variety of organisms found in a specific geographic area
- New Zealand’s native biodiversity is unique, stemming from long isolation as small islands in a vast ocean
- The high percentage of endemic species (those found nowhere else in the world) make New Zealand’s native biodiversity both special and highly vulnerable

### *What is our project doing?*

- We are working to improve the habitat for birds, lizards, weta and other invertebrates, rare dune plants, and fish and other stream life.
- We aim to create a Mainland Island by intensively trapping introduced pests around and within all the land from Pukerua Bay to Raumati South including the Paekakariki Escarpment, Whareroa Farm Reserve and Queen Elizabeth Park



## *In particular, we have teams working to:*

- ***Create a Mainland Island:***

We want to protect and restore habitats on the Kapiti Coast through intensive management of **introduced pests**. We are tracking and trapping opossums, rats, mice, stoats and weasels.

- ***Love the Lizards***

**Surveying and monitoring Lizards** – we aim to protect existing lizard populations and allow them to stabilise and grow through improved pest control regimes.

- ***Care for our Beautiful Birds***

Bellbirds, kakariki, kaka and little blue penguins are all very low in number on the Kapiti Coast. We want to provide safe habitat, food sources, nesting places and freedom from predators for all our birds

- ***Keep our Wonderful Weta***

The numbers of weta are an indication of the health of invertebrates. We aim to survey numbers by providing weta houses in the bush and by reducing predation by mice, rats and cats

- ***Have more Fish in our Streams***

We want to bring back the native fish and invertebrates to the streams by planting trees to shade the water. Shading reduces weed growth, improves water flow and drops water temperature providing better habitat for our native fish

- ***Propagate and Grow more rare dune plants***

Some dune plants have become rare or extinct. We aim to re-establish populations of rare plants through plant propagation, weed removal, planting and monitoring eco-sourced rare plants



## *How you could get involved:*

### **Lizard Monitoring:**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb – Monday 29 Feb. An intensive week of checking lizard “homes”  
Could you help us this week? [Contact Gay: ghay11@gmail.com](mailto:ghay11@gmail.com)

### **Penguin nesting box placement:**

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March we are placing 40 penguin boxes in the dunes. Can you help dig boxes into sheltered nooks in the dunes? [Contact Sue: sgblaikie@gmail.com](mailto:sgblaikie@gmail.com)

### **Potting up and plant work at the Nursery**

Every Wednesday morning volunteers meet at the nursery in Queen Elizabeth Park to pot up plants. We'd love you to help. [Contact Michael ja.mi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ja.mi@xtra.co.nz)

### **Bird Counts:**

We can train people interested in doing 5 minute bird counts once a month in Queen Elizabeth Park or Whareroa Farm. Interested? [Contact Sue: sgblaikie@gmail.com](mailto:sgblaikie@gmail.com)

### **Weta Houses**

Once a month all 100 weta houses in several locations are checked to see who has taken up residence! Like to help? [Contact Jan: bikeridenz@outlook.com](mailto:bikeridenz@outlook.com)

### **Special Care for Rare Dune Plants**

Stephen would like a small group to help him propagate these special plants so we can save them from extinction. [Contact Stephen: Talisman.otaki@hotmail.com](mailto:Talisman.otaki@hotmail.com)

### **Pest Trap Monitoring**

We are monitoring out traps and recording our pest catches throughout the whole biodiversity area. It's a big job. To help: [Contact Paul: Paul.callister@outlook.com](mailto:Paul.callister@outlook.com)

### **Stream Restoration**

There are hundreds of plants to plant and keep free of weeds to provide shade and safe places for our native fish. Could you help? [Contact Jean: Treetops139@gmail.com](mailto:Treetops139@gmail.com)

**For General enquiries about this Project Contact Glenda:**  
[biodiversity.kapiti@gmail.com](mailto:biodiversity.kapiti@gmail.com)

**Like further information? Try the Naturespace Page**  
<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/kapiti-coast-biodiversity-project>