



# **Ngā Uruora – Kāpiti Project Incorporated**

## **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**

### **2021 – 2022**

10 May 2022



## **Committee 2021-2022**

### **Convenor**

Andy McKay

### **Secretary**

Andrew Kear

### **Treasurer**

Barbara MacDonald

### **Committee**

Peter Kentish, Pete McLaughlin, Andy McKay, Barbara MacDonald,  
Andrew Kear, Sue Boyde, Nick Vincent, Ollie Gibson

## Introduction to Ngā Uruora - Kāpiti Project Inc.

Ngā Uruora - Kāpiti Project Inc. was established in 1997 by Fergus Wheeler and the Paekākāriki community to halt and reverse the decline of coastal forest on the Kāpiti – Porirua coast.

While the focus of Ngā Uruora has shifted over the past 25 years, the core activities of planting, weeding and pest control have continued. Over recent years, as other community conservation groups have formed around us, activities have become geographically constrained to a 292 hectare strip of land between Paekākāriki and Pukerua Bay.

This area contains the Paekākāriki Escarpment, recognised as an Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL)<sup>1</sup> under the Resource Management Act and in accordance with the Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement.

Within this ONL exists the Paekākāriki Escarpment Key Natural Ecosystem (KNE) which is 118 ha of land that straddles the boundary between the Kāpiti Coast District and Porirua City councils' jurisdictions<sup>2</sup>. The KNE site comprises an exposed, steep coastal escarpment and contains remnant and regenerating coastal forests, grey scrub, and flaxland. The majority of the KNE site is legally protected, either by agreement between KiwiRail and the QEII National Trust, or by being within local council road reserve and recreation reserve designations.

## Convenor's Report 2021-2022

It's a cliché, but it seems like it was just a few months ago that we were holding the 2021 AGM. The world keeps speeding by.

COVID-19 has continued to dominate our lives, impacting when and how we meet. Ngā Uruora activities have been no different, with a number of working bees cancelled and committee meetings moving to online over the last 6 months. We also had particularly bad luck with weather, with around half of our Waikākāriki Wetland working bees cancelled due to heavy rain.

There is also the background stress of the pandemic, navigating work, school and social situations, as well as global political concerns with the invasion of Ukraine, and the dual climate and biodiversity crises. None of this has made the last year particularly easy, and I have certainly found myself feeling I have less to give than perhaps I would have otherwise.

That being said, Ngā Uruora is still a very important part of my life. There is therapy in those hills, and it's something I appreciate each time we carry out working bees.

Although in some ways this has been a relatively quiet year for us an organisation, I still believe we have managed to achieve some great things. We are lucky to have a core group of dedicated volunteers to who continue to chip away trapping, weeding and planting on a weekly basis.

Thank you all so much!

---

<sup>1</sup> Kapiti Coast District Council Proposed District Plan, Landscape and Coastal Environment Addendum, August 4th 2015

<sup>2</sup> Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Paekākāriki Escarpment 2015-2018, Great Wellington Regional Council

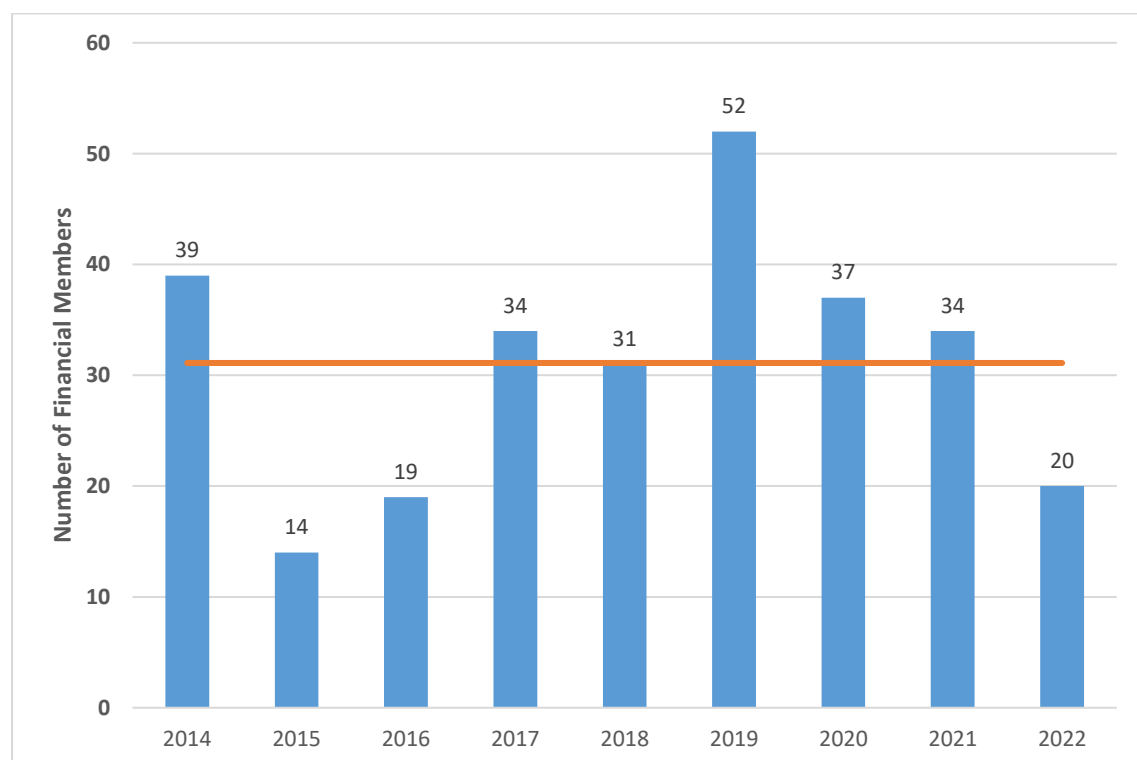
## In Memoriam

We were sad to hear of the passing of Ngā Uruora life member Tony Griffiths in February 2022. Tony and Helen were early members of the organisation and have not only contributed to our work over many years but have volunteered on projects around the district. In recent times Tony and Helen regularly checked traps on our Loop track and in Ames Street Reserve. Tony will be greatly missed.

## Membership

We had 20 individual and household members over the 2022 financial year.

We are always grateful to our financial members as this money and associated donations allow us to pay for administration fees such as the website and post box that funding from organisations such as DOC and philanthropic trusts generally doesn't cover.



## **The Year in Review**

### **April 2021**

- Early planting at the Lizard Quarry site and below Paekākāriki Hill Road

### **May 2021**

- Planting at Pukerua Bay with Conservation Volunteers Wellington
- Farewell to Lawrence Silas

### **June 2021**

- Cubs and parents planting harakeke at the Waikākāriki Wetland
- Article on Waikākāriki Wetland published in the Forest and Bird magazine
- Fencing and releasing at Pukerua Bay
- Planting on Perkins Farm above AT Clarke Reserve

### **July 2021**

- Pukerua Bay working bee

### **August 2021**

- Slip derails train at Paekākāriki end, Escarpment Track closed for repairs
- COVID-19 lock down

### **September 2021**

### **October 2021**

- Kākā sighted flying over Paekākāriki
- Escarpment Track reopened
- Bob's Track Working Bee

### **November 2021**

- Paekākāriki School lizard garden working bee
- Waikākāriki Gully Weed Sweep

### **December 2021**

- New bridge over Waikākāriki Stream completed by KCDC
- Pukerua Bay working bee with help from Conservation Volunteers Work Skills group
- Rescued a dumped puppy from below Paekākāriki Hill Road

### **January 2022**

- Kākā sightings Pukerua Bay
- Releasing Waikākāriki Wetland

### **February 2022**

- Releasing Waikākāriki Wetland

### **March 2022**

- Releasing Waikākāriki Wetland
- Ferret caught at Whareroa Farm Recreation Reserve
- Planted purei (*Carex secta*) on slip at start of Escarpment Track

## Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project

The Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project formally incorporated in 2019 and Ngā Uruora remains an active member.

The Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project was granted \$276,000 in 2021 by the Wellington Community Trust Climate Action Fund to undertake restoration projects in our local area. Our part of the project involves planting 2,000 enrichment species (the types of trees that would have once been common in our area such as northern rata, matai, miro and totara) and giving a boost to our Waikākāriki wetland project work.

We believe that local resident Val Sanderson planted the now mature cabbage trees on that site. We hope to rename that part of Te Araroa 'Sanderson's Way'. In association with the Kāpiti-Mana branch of Forest & Bird we will also develop signage about Sanderson in time for the 100th anniversary of the founding of Forest & Bird in 2023. In doing this we will acknowledge the special connection Ngāti Haumia Ki Paekākāriki have with this area and we will be working closely with them.

We have contracted Ngā Uruora Contracting Ltd (NUCC) to prepare the Waikākāriki Wetland for planting and they have done a great job spraying weeds. Volunteers have also removed all the dead wattles and other wood that was onsite. We are ready for planting to begin in June once we have some rain.

## Planting and weed control

### Planting

We began planting at the Pukerua Bay site in 2017. However, given the early site is extremely exposed to wind and salt most of these plants have barely made it above their guards. Sheep haven't helped either. Wetter, more sheltered areas have been much more successful and we have had great success with both plant growth and survival. Vicky Griffin has grown us more plants for 2022 and we are also thankful to Porirua City Council for providing tree guards this year.

Most of our planting at the Paekākāriki end continues to be around the Quarry Lizard Garden. We remain focussed on specialist planting, adding in a number of species to the lizard garden that have been locally extinct for a considerable amount of time.

This year Kāpiti Coast District Council are providing 500 plants and tree guards to start filling in gaps in the regenerating forest above the first section of the Escarpment Track at the Paekākāriki end. They are also providing another 500 plants and tree guards for Ames Street Reserve.

2019 saw the beginning of the restoration of the Waikākāriki Wetland. Weeds are a huge issue but we have managed to get a range of natives in. The new funding from the Wellington Community Trust Climate Action Fund described above will be a huge boost for this particular project.

We are grateful for plant donations from the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park, Groundtruth, Paul Callister and Finn Michalak.

### Weed control

During the year this work included controlling climbing asparagus, English ivy, pampas, blackberry, tradescantia and boneseed control and has been undertaken by NUCC under a contract, reviewed

annually. We thank NUCC for carrying out a substantial amount of extra weed control work for us free of charge.

In addition, Ngā Uruora has continued work weeding and planting at the Pukerua Bay end of the escarpment as well as controlling wilding pines and boneseed up Fly-By-Wire Gully.

Thanks also to Greater Wellington Regional Council for their weed control efforts on the escarpment.

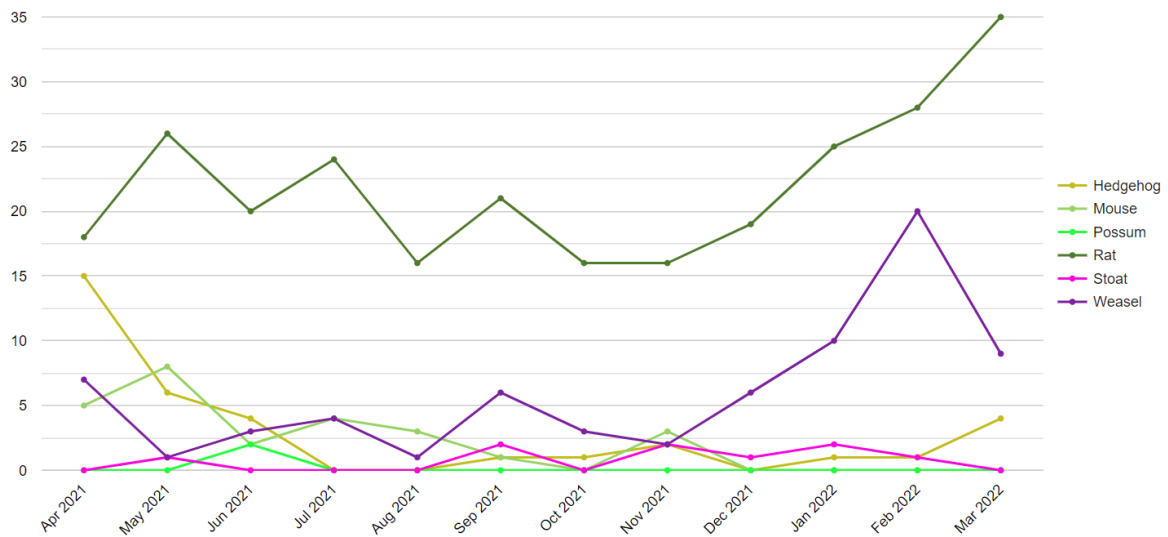
## Pest control

We run a network of 232 traps and 174 bait stations and expand this most years.

We continue to look at alternatives to brodifacoum, and trials of Double Tap (Diphacinone and Cholecalciferol/Vitamin D3) appear to have been successful with mouse tracking remaining low at our lizard protection site.



429 pests were caught over the last financial year (470 the year before), with 264 rats, 72 weasels, 35 hedgehogs and 9 stoats.



## Appreciation for support

During the past year many organisations and individuals have helped us with field work, office work and many other activities that make Ngā Uruora continue to hum. All of this help is greatly appreciated.

It is difficult to provide a list of everyone, but we would like to thank the following people and organisations, in no particular order:

- Rob Cross from Kāpiti Coast District Council for advice and support
- Porirua City Council for track support
- The team at Greater Wellington Regional Council, particularly Kim Broad for advice and support and Laura West for tradescantia work
- Department of Conservation, especially Angus Hulme-Moir
- Lawrence Silas, John Tesoriero and Kava Kata from Kāpiti Coast District Council for supporting our field work
- Trish Sarr and Keith Johnston for their generous financial support
- Paul Callister for his generous financial support
- The team behind the Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project - in particular Glenda Robb and John Hay, the project team leaders and Paul Callister
- Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park
- Guardians of Whareroa Community Trust
- Queen Elizabeth II National Trust for their support and engagement over the year, especially Trevor Thompson and Jess Stevens
- All the Pukerua Bay end Tuesday volunteers
- Russell Bell for his fundraising efforts and advocacy
- Groundtruth for providing Trap.nz and donations of plants
- Conservation Volunteers Wellington for providing lots of volunteers and their Conservation Work Skills group
- NZTA and Kiwirail for ongoing access to their land, and Kiwirail for fencing
- Ted Coats for all his hard work dealing with our sheep issue
- Pamela Meekings-Stewart for allowing us continued access through her farm over many years
- Te Rito gardens for growing plants
- Te Araroa, and their funders, for all their work maintaining the escarpment track
- Fly-by-Wire for giving us access via their track for trapping and weed control work.

Our pest control team continued to keep rats, stoats, weasels and possums under control. We would like to thank Drew Kear, Terry Brown, Helen and Tony Griffiths, Sue Boyde, Ruth Doyle, Jackson McKendry, Rob Hawke, Nick Thompson, Tony Older, Andy McKay, Paul Callister, Malcolm Garnham and Pete McLaughlin for all their hours spent checking traps.

Paul Callister, Ken Fraser, Vicky Griffin and Andy McKay continued to grow plants at Pukerua Bay Nursery, Queen Elizabeth Park nursery or in their home gardens.

We would like to thank the regular Tuesday working bee team including Peter Kentish, Ken Fraser, Drew Kear, Paul Callister, Steve Mann, Michael Stace, Georgia Beechey and we are grateful to Ken Fraser and Peter Kentish for the many hours they have put into controlling cape ivy, blackberry and

other weeds. Thanks also to the Pukerua Bay end volunteers including Ashley Blair, Janette Tolley, Victoria Roberts, Jim Cox and Vicky Griffin.

Thank you to all those that have contributed over the year whether on the committee, planting, setting traps, potting up plants or one of the many other jobs that are needed.

## **Financial report**

Ngā Uruora - Kāpiti Project's accounts record an equity of \$73,600.31 at the close of the 2022 financial year. This is an increase of \$6,185.43 from the equity from the previous years \$67,414.88.