



Ngā Uruora – Kāpiti Project Incorporated

26th Annual Report

2022 – 2023

9 May 2023



Committee 2022/2023

Convenor

Andy McKay

Secretary

Ollie Gibson

Treasurer

Barbara MacDonald

Committee

Peter Kentish, Pete McLaughlin, Andy McKay, Barbara MacDonald,
Sue Boyde, Ollie Gibson, Maree White, Amelia Geary

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)¹ 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' jurisdictions². 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 2022/2023

Every year it seems like time speeds up. It seems like only a few months ago that I was writing the last annual report! Reflecting on the last year, again I think we can be proud of what we have achieved, while always looking to what we can do better.

The Waikākāriki Wetland has continued to flourish, and the recent hosting of the Forest and Bird Centenary was a fantastic opportunity to show off the culmination of four years of hard work as well as the long conservation history in the area.

Thanks to some generous donations from RDCL and our members, our bank account is looking healthy. We now we need to look at how to spend this money in the coming financial year in order to benefit the escarpment and surrounding area.

Thank you as well to the Paekākāriki Store for continuing to support our weekend working bees by providing morning tea.

Our email newsletter has lagged somewhat over the past two years, although our social media presence has been constant and continues to expand. A focus for me for this year is looking how to make our communications more sustainable in terms of time and effort, balancing this with all the other time pressures that come from general life.

Overall, I'm pleased with progress over the past year and I think we continue to achieve the only metric that really matters: that the escarpment is in better shape than it was 12 months ago.

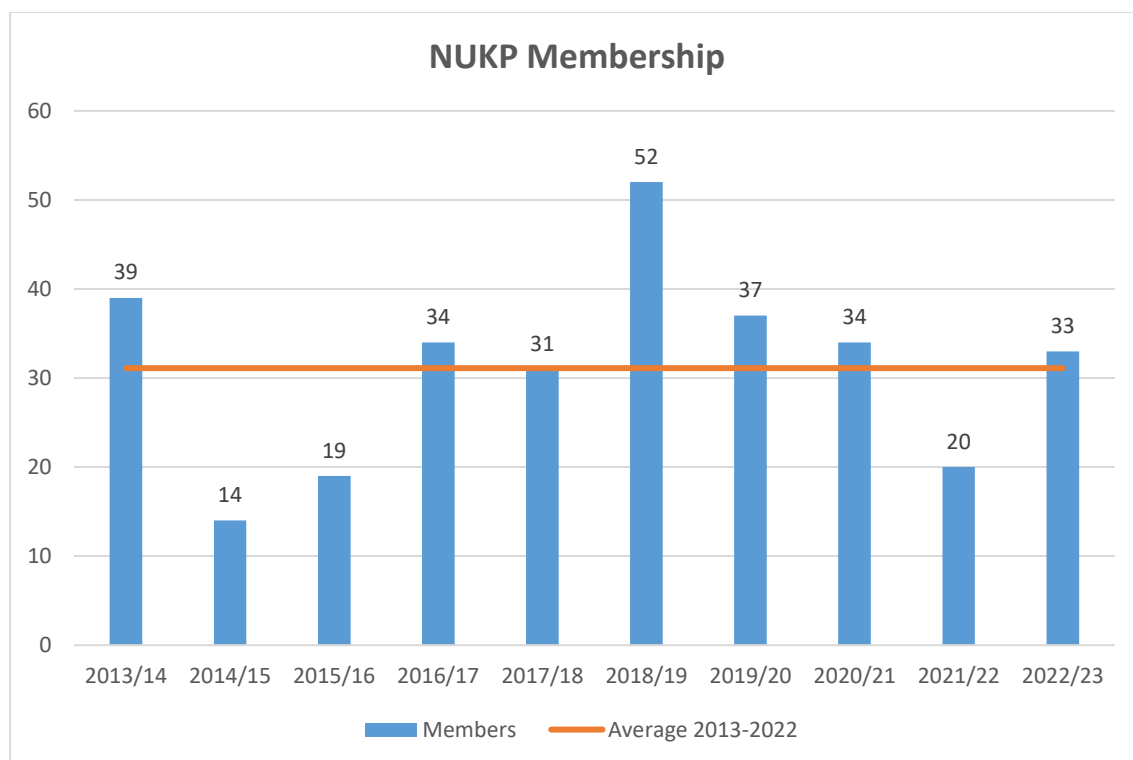
¹ Kapiti Coast District Council Proposed District Plan, Landscape and Coastal Environment Addendum, August 4th 2015

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

Membership

We had 33 individual and household members over the 2022/2023 financial year. This is an increase of 13 members compared with the previous year, and just above average for the previous decade. We are keen to keep growing our member base and our committee have some ideas for this year.

We are always grateful to our financial members as this money and the associated donations give us more freedom for the committee to spend funds as required, especially when compared with funding from organisations such as DOC and philanthropic trusts that are for a specific purpose.



The Year in Review

April/May/June 2022

- Removed woody debris from the Waikākāriki Wetland
- *Ileostylus micranthus*, pikirangi/green mistletoe seeds added to *Coprosma propinqua*, mingimingi at the start of the Escarpment Track
- Planting at Pukerua Bay
- Planting at the Waikākāriki Wetland
- Planting at Quarry Lizard Garden
- Planting at Waikākāriki wetland for matariki in partnership with Māoriland Charitable Trust
- eDNA results received from Waikākāriki Stream

July/August/September 2022

- Finalised planting over various sites, over 1000 plants for the season
- Releasing plants in September with spring growth
- Multiple working bees cancelled due to the weather

October/November/December 2022

- Lots of releasing
- Multiple working bees cancelled due to the weather
- Christmas Party at Ken and Julia Fraser's house

January/February/March 2023

- Lots of releasing
- Prepping Waikākāriki Wetland for the Forest and Bird Centenary
- Blackberry removal up Waikākāriki Gully

Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project

Ngā Uruora continues to benefit from being an active member of the Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project (KCBP).

KCBP 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.

This funding has paid for the recently installed 'Sanderson's Way' and interpretive signage at the Waikākāriki Wetland, along with a large number of plants and contractor hours to help keep weeds under control. In association with the Kāpiti-Mana branch of Forest & Bird we recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of Forest & Bird in 1923.

We have contracted Ngā Uruora Contracting Ltd (NUCC) to prepare the Waikākāriki Wetland for planting and provide ongoing maintenance and they have done a great job spraying and scrub barring weeds. Volunteers also continue to meet on a monthly basis to remove weeds.

Planting and weed control

Planting

In the previous winter season, we planted over 1000 new plants across the escarpment and Waikākāriki Wetland sites.

Paul Callister continues to supply enrichment plants and we have a big order of totara and other canopy species ready for planting Winter 2023 and 2024.

We are grateful for plant donations from the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park. Thanks also to Te Rito Gardens and KCDC for providing the majority of our other plants.

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.

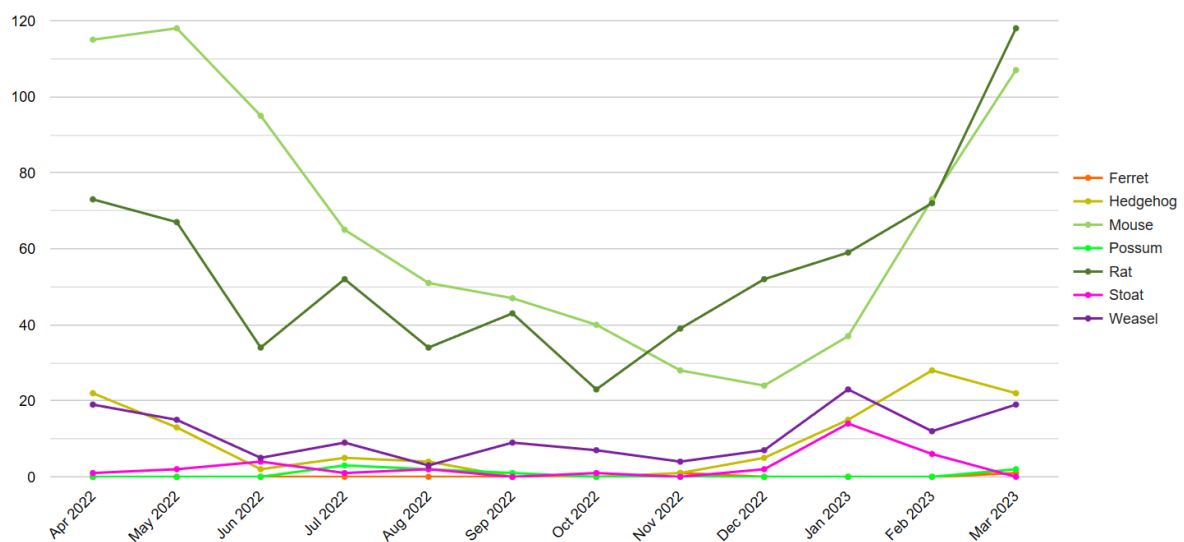
Thanks also to Greater Wellington Regional Council for their weed control efforts on the escarpment.

Pest control

We run a network of 226 traps and 168 bait stations, which is a slight decrease from last year as some older traps and bait stations got retired.



330 pests were caught over the 2022-2023 financial year (443 the year before), with 237 rats (273), 37 weasels (73), 19 hedgehogs (35) and 6 stoats (9). There were 1,561 trap checks over this period compared with 2,141 traps checks last financial year.



Thank you to Greater Wellington for continuing to supply bait and brodifacoum.

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:

- 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
- Kava Kata and Aidan Mitchell from Kāpiti Coast District Council for supporting our field work
- The team behind the Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project - in particular Glenda Robb, John Hay and accountant Peter Huse,
- 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, Rob Cross and Jess Stevens
- All the Pukerua Bay end Tuesday volunteers
- Russell Bell and Paul Callister for their fundraising efforts and advocacy
- Groundtruth for providing Trap.nz free of charge
- 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
- 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.
- Raphael House school for weed work in the Waikākāriki Wetland

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

Paul Callister, Ken Fraser, Vicky Griffin 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, and Vicky Griffin 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 \$75,509.43 at the close of the 2022/2023 financial year. This is an increase of \$1,909.12 from the equity from the previous years \$73,600.31.