



LANDCARE IN THE NORTH

Spring 2016

Kia ora. NZ Landcare Trust is proud to announce its 20th Anniversary this month, and to mark the occasion we've released the findings of our recent national survey on Freshwater Management Knowledge. The survey was designed to increase our understanding of the availability and value of resources aimed at supporting water quality improvement. A summary of the survey findings can be downloaded from www.landcare.org.nz

Our partnership programme with WWF-New Zealand, Reconnecting Northland, continues to evolve with four projects now underway and more in the pipeline. These projects demonstrate environmental and social connections across the Northland landscape, moving from the dune lakes of the Aupouri peninsula down to Warawara Forest in the northern Hokianga Harbour, across to the East Coast kiwi 'strongholds' and down into the Kaipara Harbour catchment with its expanding mosaic of riparian and wetland enhancements.

Go with the Flow – Kaipara Harbour Catchment Project



The year's work is well advanced and the project has now achieved 85 hectares of riparian and wetland restoration since inception in 2014. This includes over 11 km of stock exclusion fencing and 88,000 native plants. A special acknowledgement goes to Otamatea HarbourCare Society with their target of planting 16,000 trees by September... mission accomplished! Well done Mark and all those landowners and volunteers who participated.

Mark Vincent of Otamatea HarbourCare chats with new Kaipara resident Paul Henry during the planting day. Photo Courtesy of Otamatea HarbourCare Society





Kathryne Easton of TotalAg guides Hotoe catchment farmers through the Hotoe Land & Environment Plan workshop.

Healthy streams are linked to healthy land and we have continued to support the delivery of the Beef+Lamb NZ's Land & Environment Plan workshops with two successful events in the Hotoe and Kaihu River Catchments, both had a great turnout from local farmers.

Another notable success was the discovery of a further inanga spawning site at 'The Landing' in Paparoa. We'll be working with the Whitebait Connection and Paparoa School to ensure that this site is in the best shape possible for future spawning events.

Students from Maungaturoto School investigate the recently laid inanga eggs on the Wairau River, Kaipara Harbour.



Kiwi Coast

The Kiwi Coast continues to gain momentum with 76 community groups, projects, iwi/hapu, forestry companies, government agencies and organisations now involved. The Kiwi Coast now extends from Bream Head to the Aupouri peninsula in the Far North, a length of approximately 195km, with 120,293 hectares under active pest control.

Reducing threats to kiwi survival has remained a priority with the deployment of new predator traps; more time spent servicing traps and holding events to engage people in kiwi protection and improving dog control.

Over 500 predator traps were strategically located amongst groups with the result being that the kiwi populations of Whangarei Heads, Mt Tiger, Whanui and Tutukaka are now close to being linked by a continuous trapping network. Likewise, fourteen projects from the wider Bay of Islands area are now working together as the Mid North Alliance.

The Kiwi Coast's annual collation of animal pest control data has again demonstrated the strength of collaboration at a landscape scale. 52,091 animal pests were removed by groups and projects in 2015. This year also saw the first 'Kiwi Coast Kiwi Listening Blitz' and the NorthTec 'Kaka and Bellbird Distribution Survey', work that will assist the Kiwi Coast to measure progress towards its goals.

The Kiwi Coast annual report is available from, www.kiwicoast.org.nz



Northland Pest Control workshop

Over 100 people attended the Pest Control Workshop at Waimate North on 26 June. The workshop theme was emerging technologies and participants heard presentations from Celium Technologies on telemetered trapping networks and the Trap.NZ smartphone application developed by Groundtruth to assist groups to monitor pest control activity.

A range of local speakers also gave updates on pest control activity from around the region. The event concluded with a practical session to allow groups to experience and reflect on a range of animal pest control products including a 'sweet deal' from the guardians of Opua State forest, Bay Bush Action.



Local honey produced by Bay Bush Action.

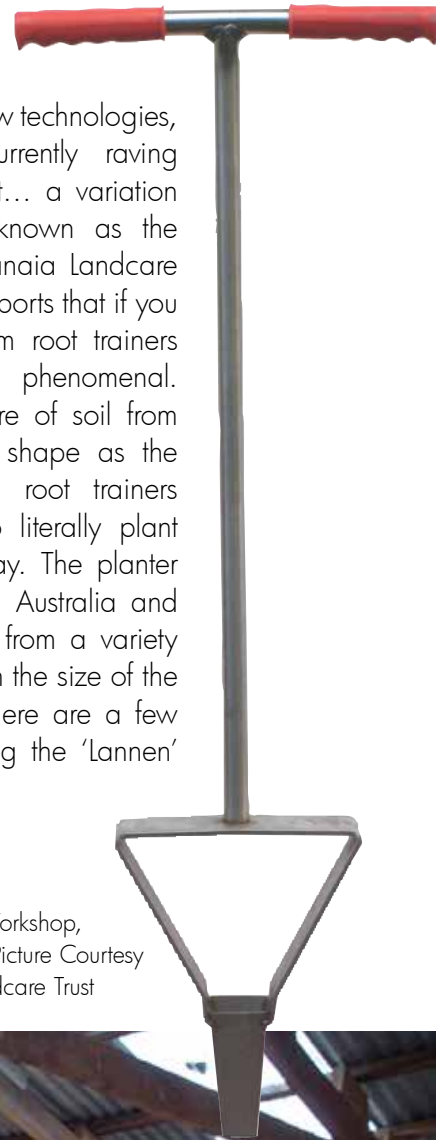
Northland trappers have an insatiable thirst for knowledge and are always looking for ways to be more effective. We're keen to hear your suggestions on speakers and topics for next year's workshop... so don't be shy drop us an email.

Dig this!

Continuing the theme of new technologies, Manaia Landcare is currently raving about their latest bit of kit... a variation on the humble spade, known as the Hamilton Tree Planter. Manaia Landcare coordinator Martin Hunt reports that if you are planting at scale from root trainers then the efficiencies are phenomenal. The planter extracts a core of soil from the ground of the same shape as the commonly used 'Lannen' root trainers allowing an individual to literally plant hundreds of plants per day. The planter is designed and made in Australia and can be purchased online from a variety of suppliers. Depending on the size of the core you wish to make there are a few models available (including the 'Lannen' model).

The Hamilton Tree Planter

2016 Northland Pest Control Workshop, Waimate North Showgrounds. Picture Courtesy of Bruce Jarvis, Whaakangi Landcare Trust



Manuka North: Adding Value to Sustainable Land Management

The Landcare Trust has recently developed the Manuka North project and is currently seeking funding for its implementation. Manuka North aims to diversify farmer income by facilitating the uptake of manuka plantations by landowners with associated co-benefits for erosion control, water quality improvement and year-round bee health.

With growing demand for manuka honey 'farming' manuka is an economically attractive option, especially on erosion prone land. This fast growing primary sector presents an opportunity to address Northland's biggest water quality challenge, sedimentation. The project will add value across the supply chain, providing advice and support to landowners wanting to establish manuka and bee feed plantations.

Subject to funding, we hope to start the project mid-2017. If you would like to register an interest in the project drop Jon an email, jon.hampson@landcare.org.nz

Its spring and Northland's beekeepers are as busy as... well bees actually!

Coming up...

12 Nov Visit the Kiwi Coast at the Bay of Islands Industrial & Pastoral Show.

23 Nov Northland Totara Working Group field day – details to be confirmed on the NZ Landcare Trust web calendar soon.

3 Dec Visit the Kiwi Coast at the Whangarei Summer Show.



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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, then please drop Jon a line.

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