

THE WORD ON WEEDS

Issue November 2022

Banana Passionfruit Urquharts Bay, October 2022

Can you believe it's time to think of New Year's resolutions and gifts already? How about adopting one hectare of local land and ensuring it's weed free or gifting te taioa a tree or two - or better, buying a friend a 2023 Weed Action calendar?

That's right, we've relaunched the world famous in Whangārei Heads calendar. It's gloriously glossy, artistically informative and shows off some of Whangārei Heads' worst weeds. Pick up a few copies of these stocking fillers from G.A.S. Parua Bay or email us. All money will contribute to our ongoing native habitat restoration mahi.

We're enjoying that you are enjoying these newsletters. We're here to help. Please let us know if you wish to be removed from our mailing list (info@weedaction.org.nz)



Woolly Nightshade
Solanum mauritianum
Also known as tobacco weed, it can grow into a tree up to 10m tall. It grows extremely fast, with suckers sprouting in summer. In flower and producing seed by autumn. Each plant can live for over 20 years, producing thousands of seeds each year, which are dispersed by birds. Flowering and seedling year-round, woolly nightshade can establish and spread at a slow but very rapid rate.

Best control methods:
Caution: The dust from the furry leaves and stems can irritate the skin, eyes, nose and throat. The berries are poisonous to humans if eaten, and to stock.
• Pull up all small plants, dig out large ones ensuring no remaining roots are exposed to light as these will regrow.
• Cut at ground level and immediately treat stump with metsulfuron methyl or glyphosate. See page 2 for details, or picloram gel.
• Drill 12mm diameter holes into the soil, spaced at 1m intervals around the base of the trunk at or near ground level and fill immediately with Ligum metsulfuron. Water, wait until the liquid subsides/absorbs and then drill again.
• Spray with Tordon Brush Killer 10L water or 600ml Lopyr 100ml penetrant, 10L water.
Maintain shade by planting dense cover to reduce seedling germination. If standing where possible to allow easy access for seedling follow up, follow up for three years.

Dive into summer!?

This time of year is especially critical to control cursed creepers as birds devour berries that broadens our biodiversity battle. WANHRT is pretty passionate about our environment. We're often on our knees or waist deep in weeds trying to stop the spread of non native invasive weeds.

Put simply, this is the best time of year to escalate your weed control.

We have all the specialist advice, tools and equipment and herbicide to assist landowners and community groups? Get in touch today info@weedaction.org.nz.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EVENTS::

WHAKA ORA REOTAHĪ - meets on the 4th Sunday of every month. Contact Logan Carter ph 027 292 2075

TAMATERAU - meets on the last Wednesday of every month 9.30 till 11.30 Contact Jane Barr ph 09 4365222

MANAIA BUSH RECOVERY - meets on the 1st Saturday of the month. John Thompson 09 434 0952

OCEAN BEACH - meets on the first or second Wednesday of the month. Contact John Green: annandjohng@gmail.com

If your neighbourhood is interested in an ongoing event contact (info@weedaction.org.nz).

We will provide advice, tools, equipment & herbicide so you can take action!



Jan Marshall & Climbing Asparagus Parua Bay

Robyn Bigelow - Chairperson

WANHRT's Chairperson and Founder Robyn Bigelow has been busy for the past year transforming the inner workings of the organisation from one loosely joined to WHLC to a well oiled standalone Charitable Trust with its own H&S, accounts, inventory, board and governance structure.

In the last newsletter we welcomed Marion Blake, this time we would like to welcome Simon Gurnsey as a trustee, who brings decades of experience working in the not for profit sector and a pragmatic and positive personality. We would also like to thank Philip King for his years of service and consultation to the trust as he has decided to retire.



Mike Ulrich - Project Coordinator

WANHRT and Aki Tai Here exhausted the Lotteries Environment funding with Whaka ora Reotahi having controlled an estimated 95% of all high impact target weeds (elaegnus, ginger, woolly nightshade, monkey apple, cotoneaster, agapanthus, privets etc) Over 2/3 of the entire mountain!

Mike has been instrumental in the training and development of Aki Tai Here, the tangata whenua based conservation team from Pataua South. ATH are now contracting directly to NRC for control of pest plant species and acquiring their own ongoing contracts.

Assisted by WANHRT and funding from the World Wildlife project, Aki Tai Here have been working on their whenua at Pataua doing heaps of weed control and planting more than 500 native trees. A further 5 years funding has been obtained which will restore the native habitat of this stunning whenua at Pataua.

Jan Marshall - Parua Bay Privet Buffer Coordinator

WANHRT Co-founder Jan Marshall continues to be the genuine jovial gardening goddess. Her main modus operandi is pulling privet from Parua Bay but she is lending her worldly weed vision further afield to the newly rebooted Taurikura Tactical team. She is very well connected with private property owners and continues to spend countless hours humbly restoring habitat around the heads

Kate Hardcastle is the newest member of our team who will be strengthening our relationships with the wonderful Weed Action groups and landowners, and supporting events, training and equipment. If you would like to start a weed control group in your area, please email kate@weedaction.org.nz, she will triage your request.

Hadden Morrison is in the thick of getting the calendar printed, drawing up new signage for the SWAT team and Weed of the Month (thanks to Jo Barr from NRC for organising the traffic management course), writing introductory letters to new councillors and promoting events and control methods.



WANHRT's WEED OF THE MONTH:

December's Weed(s) Of The Month is the Passion (family).

Banana Passionfruit, recently discovered Batwing passion flower and regular passionfruit are all fast and nasty invaders of the ngahere. If you see a vine please pull it. Whangarei's tropical climate encourages these exotic vines to spread and grow quickly and it's a real threat as it smothers the understory and the weight of the vine climbing trees leads to canopy collapse.

Unfortunately birds easily distribute the small seeds so no area is immune to infestation. We do not want any of these plants to become naturalised as they will alter the balance of our ecosystem.



Manaia WDC Parks and Watercare project

Thanks to funding from the Whangārei District Council a giant joint organisational effort has administered first aid to the forests of maunga Manaia. The outcome of this mahi will have an enormous effect on the health of the Whangārei Heads habitat.

During August and September WANHRT, Aki Tai Here, NorthTec students, Ngati Wai Kauri Ora and local weed warriors from Manaia Bush Recovery Group (MBRG) collectively dedicated 6 days to sweating over a 3.2ha key ecological link between the maunga and the coast. It was a privilege to work with such passionate people and forge unforgettable relationships.

The target area of this project by many accounts was one of the most weed invaded systems ever encountered in Whangārei Heads. All tiers of regenerating forest were hyper invaded by a suite of high impact climbers, woody weeds and groundcovers. This combined assault was heavily impacting on the native flora through competition for light, water and nutrients.

The SWAT team is a new initiative to try to deal with hotspots of weeds. It requires us to cover Traffic Management costs but we believe this is super worthwhile as the roads are the worst weed vectors out to Manaia, Bream Head and Reotahi. We hope to access funding to continue running these SWAT events in 2023. A big thanks to the Strategic Weed Action Team volunteers and Mike Ulrich.





Whaka ora Reotahi Project

This project has been a huge landscape scale weed control project happening out Whangārei Heads. Following the work from local weed warriors Marc Lawrence and Frank Bates, Weed Action in partnership with local tangata whenua based conservation entity Aki Tai Here received a 50K grant for the restoration of Reotahi, the iconic 60 ha forested maunga in the Manaia Ecological District.

WANHRT utilised another 15K of WDC grant funds to assist the engagement of a contractor to project lead and manage the overall operation. This equated to a total of 1400 hours of control work on the mountain!



This mysterious masked man is John Green, coordinator of the Ocean Beach Landcare group. John's been volunteering for 12 years and is responsible for the disappearance of everlasting sweet pea from OBs. He also volunteers for our friends at Bream Head Conservation Trust. Thank you John, legend!

Community Weed Control Resources

The aim of the community resources is to make it as easy as possible to tackle the weed problems in your backyard or local community. This is done by loaning the tools, equipment, safety gear, and providing the herbicide for our priority weed species. We also provide all the 'how to info' so you know exactly what you need and how to use the equipment and herbicide that you require.

We have hand tools, spray bottles, gel applicator bottles, knapsacks, overalls, safety glasses, nitrile gloves, spray masks, a choice selection of herbicides and more!

For more info or to arrange a pick up, Get in touch via info@weedaction.org.nz. Don't be shy, get into it! Let's show those weeds that the Whangārei Heads community means business!



WANHRT RECEIVES ANNUAL FUNDING FROM: [THE NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL](#), [WHANGAREI DISTRICT COUNCIL](#) AND RECENTLY RECEIVED ONE OFF FUNDING FROM [LOTTERY ENVIRONMENT](#) AND THE [WORLD WILDLIFE FUND](#).

FUNDRAISING IS AN ONGOING PROCESS AND ANY SUPPORT, DONATIONS OR IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING WILL BE WELCOMELY RECEIVED.

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It's an easy way to keep up to date on WANHRT's projects and events + a great way to interact with our/your community!