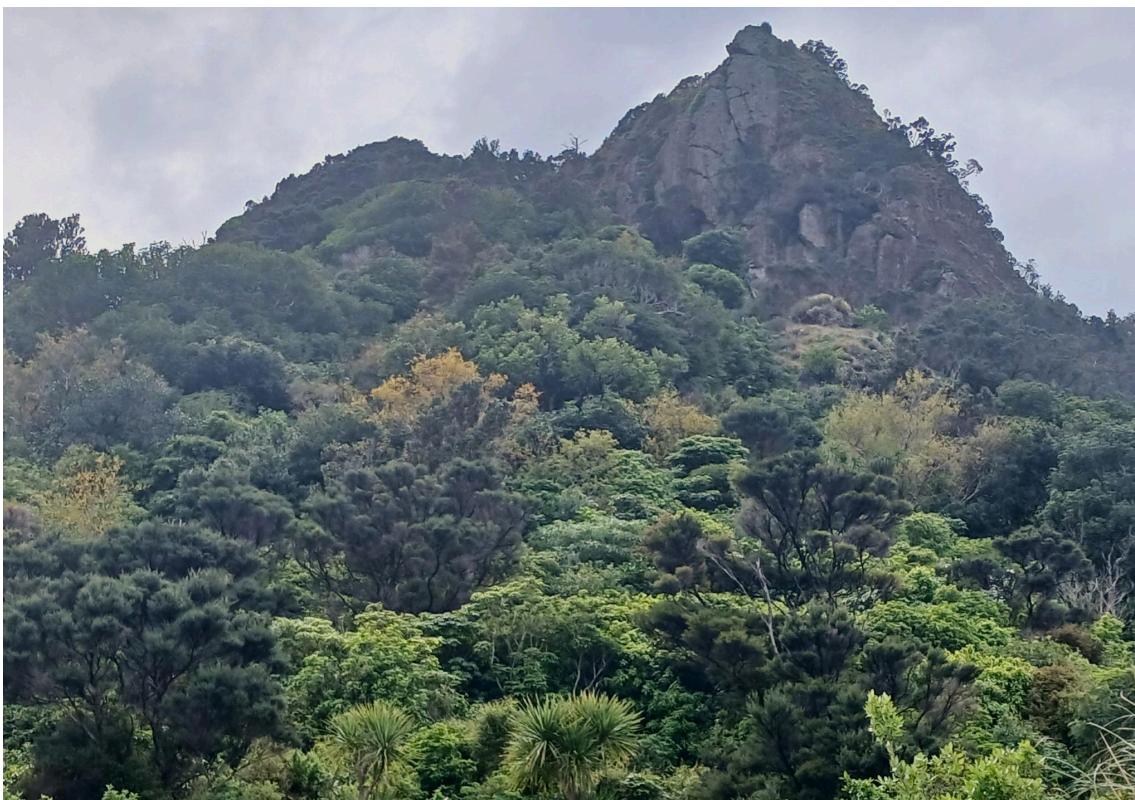




October 2024

The weather is warming up and this means vigorous weed growth, but also abundant native regeneration and renewed energy for taking action against weeds. The updates in this month's newsletter keep us inspired and positive in this ongoing battle for our native habitats!

Photo: Kowhai in bloom at Reotahi



Reotahi Progress

Work across the 60ha Reotahi maunga continues at pace, with most of the Northern and Western flanks now covered and swept for invasive weeds. The team from Aki Tai Here report that wild ginger, queen of the night, elaeagnus and moth plant are still prevalent, but the knock down work done 2 years ago is very evident.

The discovery of a small group of Chilean Rhubarb plants in the reserve is worrying and we urge everyone in the Reotahi area to please check their backyards for this highly invasive species. If you do locate it, please get in touch and we can come and help you sort it out - info@weedaction.org.nz

Photo: Aki Tai Here's Ngawaru Munroe with Chilean Rhubarb.
Credit: Tekaurinui Parata



Ocean Beach Landcare Group

In mid September the wonderful weeding team at Ocean Beach had another great morning tackling such species as cape honeysuckle, gravel groundsel (*senecio skirrhodon*), and flame trees in their usual area by the lower carpark.

There in support was Weed Action's Mike Urlich and Laura Shaft from Northland Regional Council, to share her expertise in dune and coastal habitats. Together with OBLG leader John Green they discussed options and planning for working in this unique landscape over the next year, taking into account the different needs of the active dunes, stable dunes, riparian and coastal forest environments. Watch this space as this habitat continues to improve!

Photo: Gravel Groundsel, from <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/weed-and-pest-control/pest-control-hub/?pwsystem=true&pwid=76>





Reotahi Working Bee

While Aki Tai Here are making great progress over the slopes of Reotahi, the Reotahi Working Bee group are also seeing the results of several years of consistent weed removal along the coastal walkway. Their main work site is the stand of bush next to the Beach Road freedom camping spot.

Where once queen of the night and smothering moth plant were taking over, now their mahi can range further and pick up more isolated incidences of weeds, including the usual suspects like wild ginger and elaeagnus, but also agapanthus, ladder fern, cotoneaster, smilax, Taiwan cherry, mountain paw paw and more. The most recent outing in September saw the team reach the end of the point and enjoy some coastal views that are often not visible from deep in the bush. Nice work Logan, Wayne, Rick and everyone else who turns up for these working bees!

Photo: Wayne, Logan and Kate at the pointy end of another great morning's restoration.



Upcoming Events

Thursday 17 October - Ocean Beach Landcare Group, meet at the lower carpark at 9am.

Sunday 20 October - Reotahi Working Bee, meet at the Beach Road carpark at 9:30am.

Monday 28 October - Weed Action will be at the **Labour Weekend Parua Bay Farmers and Crafters Market** with free herbicides and advice for all your weedy questions! And a special focus on moth plant ;)

Tuesday 29 October - Tamaterau Reserve Landcare Group, meet at the carpark at 9am.

Saturday 2 November - Manaia Bush Recovery Group, meet at The Green, McLeod Bay, at 9am.

Sunday 3 November - Smugglers Track Crew, meet at the Urquharts Bay carpark at 9am.

Pilot Project Report

If you missed our last email with the link to the Pilot Project Recommendations Report, here it is again: [Pilot Project Report](#)

This is the culmination of over a year's work (plus several years of discussions), with the aim to collaboratively grow a mātauranga informed approach to mahi mo te taoio in Whangārei Heads.

WANHRT Annual Report

And here you can view the 2023 - 2024 Weed Action Native Habitat Restoration Trust Annual Report: [WANHRT Annual Report](#)

Weed of the Month - Tradescantia

With this smothering ground cover weed in flower now, we wanted to highlight the detrimental effect it can have on our native forests, as well as being a right pain in our gardens and backyards!

While no fruit or seeds are produced here in NZ, this soft and shiny trailing perennial spreads from all stem fragments, rooting at all nodes that touch the ground. Unfortunately what this means is you need to remove all plant fragments to ensure complete control.

Often found near waterways and on the margins of gardens where waste has been dumped, tradescantia will also easily invade nearby reserves due to its tolerance of dense shade. Tradescantia forms thick mats that prevent native seedlings from establishing, which leaves a void for other invasive species to fill.

Have a look at more information, including how to control it, here:

<https://staging.weedaction.org.nz/tradescantia/>

and get in touch if you want advice or assistance with tradescantia at your place!

Photo credit: Carolyn Lewis, WeedBusters



Kohinui Landcare Bio-Blitz

October is an exciting month for the Kohinui Landcare Group, which is conducting a Bio-Blitz to record the current condition and presence of species in this 475 hectares of stunning remnant coastal forest that encircles the Kohinui Stream and runs into Parua Bay.

The Northland Regional Council, White Bait Connection, Predator Free, and Weed Action will join together to survey Vegetation, Invertebrates, Birds, Bats, and Aquatic Fauna and assess the level of weed or animal predators that threaten the ecosystem.

The aim is to record the current condition and presence of species, involve our local community with our native environment, and create a desire to be involved in maintaining the health of our native habitat.

Events planned include:

Tues 15th and Weds 16th October – Bio-Blitz Surveys

Sat 9th November – Sharing with the community

Any people interested should contact Mark Bixley - kohinuilandcare@gmail.com

Conservation Christmas Celebration

The Whangārei Heads Conservation Christmas Celebration is coming up! Whangārei

The Whangarei Heads Conservation Crew Christmas Celebration is coming up: Whangarei Heads Landcare Forum are this year's hosts and we are pleased to share the invite for what promises to be a fun and encouraging get together of the many dedicated local conservation workers, volunteers and their families.

Date: Friday 29 November

RSVP: todd.hamilton64@gmail.com by 24 November

Kick off your gumboots and celebrate another fantastic year for community conservation work at Whangarei Heads

You are warmly invited to the annual

Whangarei Heads Community Conservation Crew Christmas Celebration

Date: Friday 29th November from 5.00pm

Where: McLeod Bay Hall

Bring: Yourselves, your family, your friends, a salad or dessert, your favourite beverage, cutlery, glass and plates

With thanks to our community, ratepayers and major funders at Northland Regional Council, Foundation North, Department of Conservation, World Wildlife Fund, Lottery Grants Board and Whangārei District Council.



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