



April 2025

This last month has really been a continuation of summer and the clear weather has meant our team could get out and do the mahi daily. We have also been able to meet with and support so many locals doing the same on their own properties. A big thank you to BackYard Kiwi and Kiwi Coast for having us along to the recent kiwi release in Parua Bay - a chance for us to share the habitat restoration message to a wide audience!



Parua Bay Group

On Saturday 22 March the Parua Bay Weed Action Group sprang into existence, thanks to the enthusiastic folks who came to the Community Centre carpark for a discussion about how we can help the reserves and other public spaces around Parua Bay.

There was a lot of great local knowledge and ideas shared. Following this, we spent an hour and a half practising our techniques on the weedy plants around the carpark. While this is not our usual native bush environment, it provided easy access to example species such as cotoneaster, tree privet, Chinese privet, moth plant, and woolly nightshade.

If you are keen to find out more or take part, join us for our next get-together:

Date: Saturday 12 April

Time: 9am

Where: Kiteone Road Scenic Reserve





Moth Plant Pod Bin

Keep those pods coming! The first pod bin at the Parua Bay Community Centre took 6 weeks to fill up, which is slower going than recent years. The second bin will be in place until full. Traditionally this has filled up quickly, especially over the Easter period, so it will be interesting to monitor how long it takes this year.

Please remember it is vital we all bag up our pods in black rubbish sacks - thank you to everyone who has done this.

You can still get in touch to receive a free half-size bottle of [Cut 'n' Paste Met Gel](#) to treat the stumps of moth plant - contact Kate at info@weedaction.org.nz



Planting Prep Underway - Reotahi & McLeod Bay

In early March Weed Action's Mike and Kate spent a morning spraying back the kikuyu at selected sites at Reotahi and McLeod Bay, in preparation for planting natives in June.

Weed Action groups have done small amounts of planting over the years but this year, in keeping with our focus on the whole picture of habitat restoration, we are planning to get 600+ seedlings into the ground across these sites.

We are only able to do this with the support of so many individuals and organisations - motivation, planting plans and seed-raising from trust member James Bellamy, advice and extra seedlings from Bream Head/Te Whara Conservation Trust, some contractor spray work and approval from Whangarei District Council, and the loan of the gun and hose for spraying thanks to Kelly Maxwell and Native Forest Restoration Trust!

Watch this space for our planting date announcement - we'd love you to join us.

Photo: Proposed planting locations at Reotahi; Mike in spray mode at Reotahi.

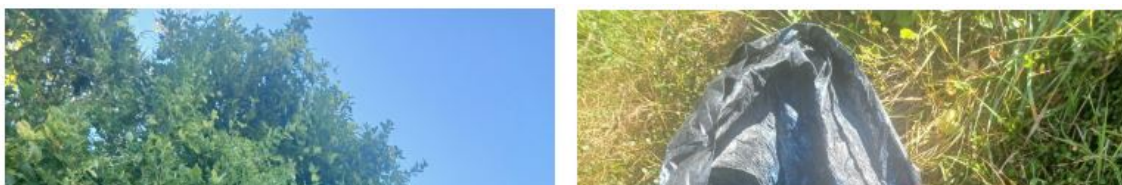


Smugglers Track Crew Report

On an already humid March Sunday morning, the Smugglers Track Crew set off for Home Bay, determined to pull out more moth plant roots and collect the pods. There are several nooks and crannies not visible from the track where this rampant vine has been hiding. Hundreds of vines were pulled or cut and treated with [Cut 'n' Paste Met Gel](#) and a full black rubbish sack of pods was collected in the 2.5 hour session.

A huge thanks to the team who came and sweated it out that morning - perhaps lucky for us all we didn't get a pic together!

Photo: One tree laden with moth plant pods; the spoils of a morning's work.





Container Returns

Have you previously received free herbicides from us? We are calling for any empty containers to be returned so we can wash and use them again!

A bin with secure lid has been placed beside the moth plant pod bin at the Parua Bay Community Centre at 1347 Whangārei Heads Road. Into this you can put:

- Empty 500ml white jerry cans
- Empty 250ml red lidded pottles
- Empty Cut n Paste bottles
- Please ensure the lid is on in case there are residual amounts of herbicide.

If you have unused herbicide or a larger container that you received from Weed Action to return, please contact Kate at info@weedaction.org.nz to arrange this.



Elaeagnus and Cotoneaster

While we have felt like a very moth plant focused organisation for the last couple of months, rest assured we are not letting all those other invasive weeds fly under the radar! A couple of hardy hedge type weeds that do manage to keep themselves

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 radat! A couple of nasty hedge type weeds that do manage to keep themselves hidden until they're suddenly a huge problem are cotoneaster and elaeagnus.

Now is a great time to spot cotoneaster, with its bright red berries on display. Even if you can't pronounce it, if you can identify it correctly (don't mix it up with the orange berried native kumarahou), you can kill it! Check out how here: <https://www.weedaction.org.nz/cotoneaster/>

Elaeagnus will produce berries later in the year, but until then, it can easily be out of sight, lurking amongst other trees and shrubs. Look for its long reaching tendrils which turn into woody "legs", typically covered in nasty spikes and often re-rooting and spreading outward from the main trunk. The leaves have a distinctive bronze colour on the underside. Previously planted as a hedge, this beast has the ability to completely overtake a forest canopy and collapse it. It's also a tough one to get rid of so the best time to check for it and start is always now! Techniques here: <https://www.weedaction.org.nz/elaegagnus/>

If you'd like tips or herbicides to get you started on tackling these two, get in touch at info@weedaction.org.nz and we can come round and show you how.



Upcoming Events

Check out these working bees in reserves and forests around the area and come along to learn more and help out! Or for more information contact Kate at info@weedaction.org.nz

Saturday 12 April - Parua Bay Weed Action, meet at Kiteone Reserve at 9am.

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

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

Tuesday 29 April - Tamaterau Landcare Group, meet at Tamaterau Reserve at 9am.

Dates changing - **Manaia Bush Recovery Group** and **Smugglers Track Crew** are shifting their regular days of the month. If you would like to take part please get in touch with Kate to confirm.

With thanks to our community, ratepayers and major funders and supporters at Northland Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Lottery Grants Board, Cut 'n' Paste Weedkiller Gels and Whangārei District Council.



Whangarei
District Council

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