



May 2025

Hundreds of millimetres of rain during April was "great for the garden" and native bush after a dry summer, but certainly put a dampener on getting out to control invasive weeds. Nevertheless, the Weed Action team and volunteers have been hard at work planning for the last few months of our work for this financial year, with some exciting events coming up in May and June. Whangārei Heads residents have been busy removing weeds from their properties and contacting us for advice and assistance. We are always happy to provide advice by phone or a visit to your property to help you manage environmental weed problems.



Campbell Road Landcare Workshop

A huge thank you to the 18 keen Campbell Road residents who came along to our Weeds Workshop in early April. Organised by Campbell Road Landcare's James Bellamy, it was a chance for landowners to share their experiences battling a variety of weeds, learn about different techniques and targeted herbicides, and discuss common goals and challenges.

There is a lot of good work going on to keep invasives such as woolly nightshade, pampas, moth plant and privet out of native bush blocks and the wider eco-system

that can go unseen. Weed Action encourages any group of landowners in the Whangārei Heads area that wishes to hold a similar workshop, targeted to your concerns, to get in touch - just email info@weedaction.org.nz !

Photo: Mike Ulrich with Campbell Road Landcare members talking drill-and-fill.



Report Madeira Vine To Us

Do you know about madeira/mignonette vine? Look for these succulent-like leaves and warty tubers.

This hard to kill vine can sprout from fragments of the rhizomes or tubers you see in these pics. They can survive saltwater conditions, so infestations on coastal sites pose a serious risk of spreading around the harbour. Once established, the fleshy leaves form a heavy mass that can topple medium size native trees and reach high into the canopy.

For the last 3 years, Weed Action has been locating sites, mapping them, and sourcing funds to remove it. We currently have a list of 13 known sites to work on, including several in McLeod Bay and a large infestation at Reotahi, at the base of the south-western slopes. Reporting sites will help us build a full picture and prioritise removal work, so we can stop the spread.

We find the best control requires a lot of manual removal - in 2023 a working bee collaboration between Department of Conservation and WANHRT gathered 20 rubbish sacks of material!

<https://www.weedaction.org.nz/madeira-vinemignonette-vine/>



Kiteone Reserve Action!

What an outstanding turnout for the second outing of the new Parua Bay Weed Action Group. Kiteone Reserve received several hours of attention from the 12 participants who showed up on the morning of Saturday, 12 April. It was especially great to welcome local residents who already do a lot of maintenance and weeding in the reserve as part of their regular walks.

With several "novices" to our methods on board, we were pleased to have plenty of [Cut 'n' Paste](#) weedkiller gels on hand for volunteers to use. Met Gel is great for privet and moth plant, and we brought out the Bamboo Buster for the many many woolly nightshades, which don't respond to metsulphuron-methyl (the active ingredient in Met Gel). Other attendees were happy to be drill-and-filling the larger specimens.

Thanks to everyone who came out and worked so hard, and to those walking by and cheering us on.

Photos: Don heads once more into the woolly nightshade. Barb using her trusty Met Gel on privet.



Mega Moth Plant Movement

Year 1 of a 5 Year Community Challenge to Control Moth Plant

Moth Plant Pod Bin

Yes the moth plant pod amnesty bin is still in place and will be until it is full! At current rates this means it is likely to be there till the end of May. Thanks so much to everyone who is following our guidelines around bagging up your pods - we don't want loose pods bursting while in the bin!

Check out this impressive haul from an Owhiwa Road resident - yes they were bagged correctly before disposal. Get in touch if you don't have suitable bags or need help getting them to the bin - text Kate on 022 546 6123.

Moth Plant in the Media

In case you missed it, there has been some excellent mainstream media on the scourge of moth plant recently.

The Whangārei Heads community gets some lovely praise towards the end of this piece: [Northern Advocate - Whangarei Dad Battles Moth Plant](#)

And The Spinoff have featured a day in the life of our friends at S.T.A.M.P. (Society Totally Against Moth Plant): [The Spinoff - Stamp It Out](#)

Upcoming Weed Events

Monday 12 May - SWAT will be working at Manganese Point/Headland Farm Park with local residents, targeting a large moth plant infestation. Experienced volunteers only sorry.

Thursday 15 May - Ocean Beach Landcare Group. Meet at the lower carpark at Ocean Beach, 9am.

Sunday 18 May - Reotahi Working Bee. Meet at the Beach Road carpark at 9:30am.

Monday 26 May - Manaia Bush Recovery Group. Meet at The Green at 9am.

Tuesday 27 May - Tamaterau Reserve Landcare Group. Meet at the Tamaterau Reserve carpark at 9am.

Tuesday 3 June - Smugglers Track Crew. Meet at the Urquhart Bay carpark at 9am. (Moved from regular Monday morning time due to King's Birthday).

Saturday 7 June - Parua Bay Weed Action Group. Location TBC - contact Kate for more information - info@weedaction.org.nz



More to Keep an Eye Out For:

Kangaroo Acacia and Creeping Gloxinia

These two invasive weeds couldn't be more different, but have both been detected in the McLeod Bay area in recent months by Weed Action and Northland Regional Council staff. Please get in touch if you think you have seen either of these!

Kangaroo Acacia is unsurprisingly from Australia and characterised by its distinctive furrowed twigs and leaves. Read more and view more pics here:

<https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/kangaroo-acacia/>

Creeping Gloxinia is native to Mexico and has large hairy triangular leaves and bright white, purple, or rose coloured flowers (October to March). Several sites have been discovered in the lower areas of Manaia. Read more here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/164778-Lophospermum-erubescens>

Photo: L - Kangaroo Acacia. R - Creeping Gloxinia.

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.



Whangārei
District Council

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