

Issue 1

July 2012



Panui o Te Tuawhenua

Biodiversity Assessment

We are well into our project for assessing the vitality of our bush and river life in the Tuawhenua – what species do we have, how common and how healthy are they? This project is being done by Wildlands Consultants of Rotorua, and trustee Anthony Te Kurapa worked with them in the extensive field work they did throughout our bush areas. A draft report has been completed and Landcare Research, GNS Science and the BOP Regional Council are assisting in reviewing the report. We will hold a hui to present and discuss the findings of the biodiversity assessment in August, so look out for the notice at the shop...

The assessment has found that the Tuawhenua region has some real significance for biodiversity – we still have a number of species that are threatened elsewhere. Short-tailed bats and long-tailed bats were identified, along with kaka and kiwi, kaeaea, whio, kereru and all the smaller birds. Some special patches of bush were also identified and our bush areas classified according to type and how it has been changed in the past. We need to think carefully about what we need to do in the future about these special features and species in the Tuawhenua region. We will be going through process over the next few months and will be involving the marua in this discussion and planning as we go along.

Some kaka were found in our biodiversity assessment, mainly in higher lands



Of particular interest were the findings of bats in the Tuawhenua likely to be long-tailed bats have been sighted in several locations, including the Otainoho Stream, the Tawhiwhi Safari Camp, the waterfall near Taumapou on the Mangatawhero Stream, the central Waiau Hut, the Waikare River, on Ruatahuna Farm near Pukerimu, and emerging from a grove of kahikatea adjacent to Ngahiramai Hut.

We have been successful in detecting the short tailed bat in the Waituhi block and Waihui Bush. Using Automatic Bat Monitors over extended periods. Detection of short-tailed bats at these sites has extended the known distribution of the population centred on Whirinaki Forest Park, and is a significant finding.



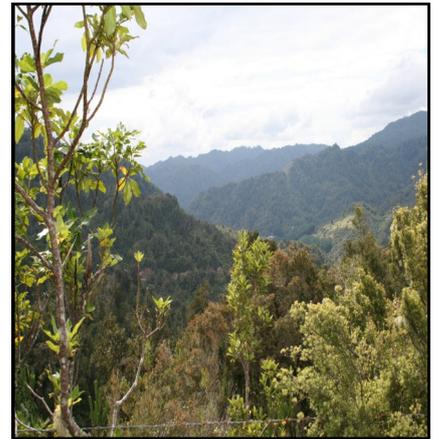
Working with Different Authorities

The Tuawhenua has been identifying that different authorities are planning or operating in ways that impact on us all in the Tuawhenua region. One of the latest examples is the Whakatane District Council and its draft plan for the next 10 years. Its original draft plans would have seriously limited the way in which we are able to clear vegetation on lands in the Tuawhenua region. The TTT has been working with the Whakatane District Council on protecting that the long-held rights of the hapu of the Tuawhenua to clear vegetation or fell trees for a range of purposes (e.g. housing, grazing, forestry, hunting). We have taken this initiative on behalf of all land-

owners of the Tuawhenua region. If you want more details on this initiative then please contact the Trust office.

We are also working with DOC on their concession applications for helicopter operators. First of all we simply objected to the issuing of any new concessions. Secondly, we have sent a letter to the Minister of Conservation in Wellington objecting to helicopter concessions in general, and raising all the issues about helicopter landing sites and huts on private Maori land, poaching and trespass by helicopter operators and hunters, trampers etc. The Trustees of the Tuawhenua are tired of the problems that come with

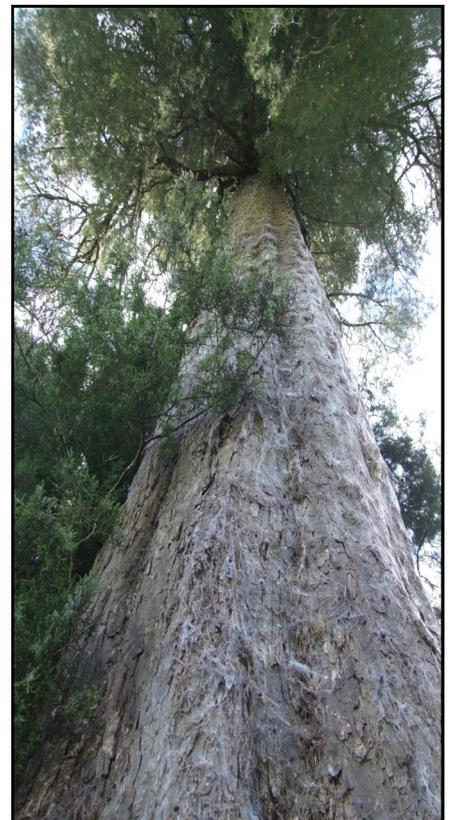
helicopter operators that are not under control in the Urewera National Park or on Tuawhenua lands. We are raising these issues on behalf of all land-owners in the Tuawhenua region. For more information call us at the Tuawhenua office.



Manaaki Whenua Scholarship

We are really pleased to announce the establishment of the Manaaki Whenua Scholarship. This is a joint initiative of Landcare Research Manaaki Whenua and the Tuhoe Tuawhenua Trust, that has come from our long-established relationship with Landcare Research. The Manaaki Whenua Scholarship is focused on supporting learning in the broad area of forest ecology, which includes forest biodiversity, traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous forestry. The scholarship is not necessarily for study at an institution, it could be awarded for on-the-job training such as what was done for the TTT Scholarship award to Nick Mitai for apiculture (bee-keeping).

The Manaaki Whenua Scholarship award will be awarded annually for up to \$3000. This year's round for the scholarship is open now for candidates to submit their applications by the end of August 2012. Check out the notice at the shop or contact the Tuawhenua office for more information.



Blackberry Eradication

The Tuhoe Tuawhenua Trust completed a major stage in blackberry eradication in the Ruatahuna-Tuawhenua region in 2011-12. The programme had a number of components

- Residential, marae, school and Ruatahuna village areas for which we asked land owners or responsible kaitiaki to pay for blackberry eradication services
- Areas on the Ruatahuna Farm near to the roadside, including the reserve areas at Sharpies and past Tipapa.
- Areas on blocks near to the sides of roads in the Tuawhenua region, the costs of which have been covered by the Tuhoe Tuawhenua Trust for blocks under its auspices and by a contribution by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for lands where there is no organised whanau or responsible trustee.
- Areas on DOC land at the Ruatahuna village and along Sister Annie Road, and on DOC blocks and Urewera National Park along the main road from Huiarau to Te Pohue.

The side of the main road from Huiarau summit to Te Pohue, and Loop and Sister Annie Roads.

Thus involved in the total programme was:

- 12 residences
- 5 marae

- Ruatahuna Farm
- Te Wharekura o Huiarau
- Ruatahuna village
- DOC paddocks and the Urewera National Park
- 53 kilometres of roadside.
- 10 blocks under the Tuhoe Tuawhenua Trust, and another 4 blocks under other administration

We aim next season to follow up on areas sprayed this season, and to extend our programme for blackberry eradication to additional areas on the Ruatahuna Farm, blocks down the Whakatane River, Ngaputahi residential areas and land blocks, as well as other areas near Ruatahuna not covered this season.



Environmental Issues & Pests

This work is well underway and is being done by Norm Ngapo, a consultant in soil conservation and land use planning. Through this project the study aims to cover a range of environmental issues in the Ruatahuna Valley, they include plant and animal pests, erosion contaminated sites, and water quality. Consultation with members of the community was conducted through the process. The report is currently in draft and undergoing review. This report will be immensely helpful for all Tuawhenua lands and the Marua to assess options for future management.



Oranga Mo Nga Whanau o Te Tuawhenua

We are starting up a new project about "Making a Living". This Project aims to enable the whanau of Ruatahuna to be a part of the job and business development opportunities in the Tuawhenua to assist whanau into self-reliance, well-being and further developments.

We are looking to develop a better understanding of whanau skills, jobs / business, hopes / dreams and aspirations, training and business pathways / plans, education plans and opportunities, development for job opportunities in the short and long term.

Kirituia Tumarae and Tangiora Tawhara are the project workers, they will engage and facilitate whanau assessments, develop and deliver the whanau plans, Wena Morehu is providing support and will assist in different aspects of the project.

We are finalizing the planning and approach for this project,

however we are very excited to begin working with the whanau through the pilot stage, then further engaging other whanau.

In time our team will start making contact with you through pamphlet invitation, phone calls and finally face to face.

If you are really keen for you whanau to be a part of this project early on, then please contact one of the project workers of the Tuawhenua office at Mataatua.

It may take time before our team can get around to you, but we will get there. This project will take one year for the Trust to complete, we intend to finish the whanau assessments in November, and the whanau plans will be finalized in the New Year. We will be holding expos and workshops for this project in November 2012 and February 2013.



These photos are of tables made by one of our local whanau who has used the matakau that was recently milled by the Trust. We are hoping in the future that this kind of thing will become a part of the industry development in Ruatahuna.

Project Matauranga - Maori Television

Tuawhenua Forest Restoration - Kia ora whanau this episode will be on Tuesday 9th October at 8.00 pm.