

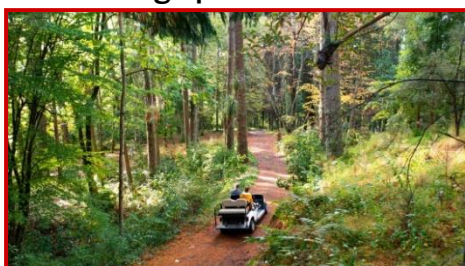


EASTWOODHILL – A NATIONAL TREASURE

There are an estimated 73,000 tree species around the world, about a third of these are categorised as threatened due to various factors, the majority of them human influenced. Globally and collaboratively, Botanical Gardens, specifically Arboreta and Seed Banks, operate to protect and conserve as many of these tree species as possible, serving as an environmental insurance policy to ensure that extinction is prevented.



Eastwoodhill, Te Mara Rakaunui o Aotearoa, the National Arboretum of New Zealand, has a unique, serendipitous and rich 112-year history of one man’s obsession and another man’s gift that has led to the collection of biota, (the total complement of plants in a particular area) in an isolated location that has huge potential for collaborative, positive outcomes for Global Tree Conservation.



Curator, Martin Weaver, tells me that Eastwoodhill hosts over 2,300 species from six continents and eighty one individual countries from around the world. Of these, over 100 species are deemed to be extinct in the wild, critically endangered or endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List of Species.

View @ <https://eastwoodhill.org.nz/collection/>



“Since the 1975 Eastwoodhill Trust Act was passed, a Board of Trustees with six members has governed the organisation to ‘Maintain, Improve and Educate for and with the Arboretum.’ The Trust operates as a charitable organisation with no direct or consistent Government or Local Authority funding,” Martin explains.

He adds that numerous goals reached since 1975 have advanced the arboretum to currently employ four full-time and three part-time staff.

In 2010, the Trust’s guiding document. ‘Preserving the Past, Growing the Future’, a one-hundred year masterplan was formally adopted. This ambitious document applies strategic direction to the Trust’s purpose and future goals. See:- <https://eastwoodhill.org.nz/masterplan/>

WHAT THE TRUST DOES: It ensures that Eastwoodhill serves as an arboreal ark, a safe haven for threatened and endangered trees, as well as being a place of inspiration for research and education.

WHAT THE TRUST BELIEVES IN: It stands for proactive and interconnected conservation programmes for the global diversity of plant species and the appreciation of all life.

Martin advises that, “To further our purpose, we need greater exposure nationally and internationally along with more consistent funding to better resource our entire organisation. Estimates are in the region of an additional \$1.5m required annually for increasing staffing levels and \$25 million required for capital projects.”

“We have outlined our needs for amplification of our organisation via our *Trees For Our Future* campaign and the need to improve how we communicate this to a wider audience. Business opportunities, via environmental alignment with us and furthering connections to research institutions and NGO’s are essential outcomes.” For lots more information:- www.treesforourfuture.org.nz www.eastwoodhill.org.nz https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf_4uBZHp0SHHDx_ip08aKA <https://www.facebook.com/eastwoodhill> <https://www.instagram.com/eastwoodhillarboretum/>



CONTRACEPTION CONTROL: There was a lot of interest in this year's Kaimanawa Wild Horse muster in May when, as mentioned in the June newsletter, thankfully, no horses were sent for slaughter. While the horses were in the yards, a new era in their management began, with the introduction of an immuno-contraception programme to control future population growth.

Kaimanawa Heritage Horses has long been championing this option, viewing it as complementary to the successful re-homing programme, which will continue.



It's been a thirteen year journey, involving research, technological advances and efficacy in immuno-contraception and, finally, gaining approval from the Animal Ethics Committee, but it's clearly a very practical management tool.



Around sixty mares were vaccinated with GonaCon Equine and subsequently released. Previously, it had been a sad sight to see herds broken up but, this time, a total of 150 horses, comprising stallions, mares and foals were released to re-form their bands, make their way back to their home territories in the ranges and resume their lives. Congratulations to Kaimanawa Heritage Horses, DOC, the Kaimanawa Wild Horse Advisory Group and all volunteers. [Thanks to Ros Rowe for the great pics.](#)



CONSERVATION WEEK is celebrated annually between 5 - 11 September. It's great to hear about young people being involved and being taken out and about to various locations to see nature up close and personal.

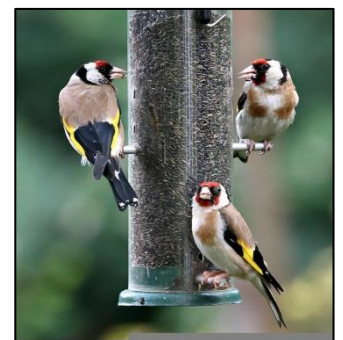
HBRC's Community Engagement Advisor, Sally Chandler, told me that they had started their school activities last month. Sally explained, "With our partners Pan Pac Forest Products Ltd., and the Guthrie-Smith Arboretum and Education Centre, we're supporting five schools to experience a lowland bush remnant at White Pine Bush, a bus tour of the Pan Pac Whirinaki site and taking them on a guided walk

and native tree planting exercise around Guthrie-Smith Arboretum and Lake Orakai. The end of the day is spent on the edges of Tūtira Lake before the bus trip back to school."

Sally mentioned that thousands of Hawke's Bay school students have participated in this day out since the programme began back in 1992. This year, HBRC is hosting Mayfair, Bledisloe, Porritt, Greenmeadows and Napier Central schools. That's over 150 students, their teachers and whānau.



TOP TIPS: I love cats but I also love birds. To minimise the negative impact cats have on wildlife, some simple tips for cat owners are:- Try a safety collar with a bell on it (this has been shown to reduce kills by 41%); keep cats in at night as birds are most vulnerable around dusk and early morning; best to use a high feeder, out of reach of cats; avoid feeding birds on the ground near bushes where cats may hide; feed your cat well, so it's not hunting through hunger and remember that bread is bad for birds as it lacks the right nutrition.



PICTURE PERFECT

I don't know how Rob Reeves managed to capture such a great shot of this gorgeous wee fantail (pīwakawaka), showing such detail and so close up because, whenever I try to get a photo, they flit about and don't sit still! But he did and he actually sent me half a dozen equally good photos to choose from. Some people just have the knack.

These charming little birds with their familiar 'cheet, cheet' call can be quite confiding, coming within a metre or two of people and quickly darting about to catch insects disturbed by footsteps. They mainly eat small invertebrates, such as moths, flies, beetles and spiders.

Their DOC status is 'Not Threatened'. They are found throughout both islands and are, of course, regular visitors to urban gardens. More info @ www.nzbirdsonline.co.nz



INTRODUCING ANDY McCALL: Andy is the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's recently appointed Urban Catchment Advisor. This is a newly-created role and one of the council's responses to concerns over water quality in local streams.

Andy was previously part of the Environmental Team at the Marsden Point Oil Refinery and has worked as a Land Management Advisor (Project Lead) at the Northland Regional Council.

His role will take a high-level view of the Karamū Catchment, with the main focus being on urban waterways and he's going to complete a stocktake of the urban catchment, which includes land-use types, industries, discharges etc.

He'll then feed this data into a Karamū Catchment Plan, its ultimate goal being to improve water quality, biodiversity and eco-systems throughout the area. I asked Andy what part of his job he really liked and he told me enthusiastically, "I'm really enjoying getting out and about around the catchment and meeting different individuals and groups."



PROLIFIC PLANTING: So many planting days have been held over the past three months and tens of thousands of plants have been established. The input from literally hundreds of volunteers has been immense and has been much appreciated by the various organisers.

Biodiversity Hawke's Bay gave me a list of where there had been new plantings by groups that they knew about. These include:- Tauroa Reserve; Te Mata Park; Herehere Stream, Havelock North; Forest & Bird Hastings and Havelock North, Longlands Road, Hastings; Te Huka Waiohinganga (Esk) River Care Group; The Family Farm at Mangarara (see photo); Bostock Planting Day, St Georges Road, Havelock North; Whakakā Whanau and Community at Wairoa; Pirimai Cross Country Drain Planting Day; Manuka Planting Day at Te Mata Park; Te Taha/The Gap, Westshore; Wairua Regeneration Project, Taipo Stream; Rob and Helen Pattullo's farm at Puketitiri; Focus Maraekakaho and Napier Branch KCC at Waitangi Regional Park.



Administrator, Sarah Reddish, asked me to mention that, if there are groups who are planting, trapping or generally working in the biodiversity space, it would be great if they contacted Biodiversity Hawke's Bay as the biodiversity hub for the region. <https://www.biodiversityhb.org> and on Facebook.



THUMBS UP to Ros Rowe for dedicating twenty years of her life to support at risk youth by first founding and then co-ordinating Leg-Up Trust as a volunteer. Using horses as healers, Leg-Up helped improve the lives of so many young people and its closure marks the end of an era. Looking back, Ros, her human team and, most importantly, the four-legged equine therapists, stand out as exceptional community contributors.



HUNTING & FISHING: Fish and Game New Zealand has twelve regions round the country and a national office in Wellington.

Chris Newton, who is the interim manager for the Hawke's Bay Region, invited me along to see what was going on at the local centre, located on a 3.8 hectare property at 22 Burness Road in Jervoistown - and what an interesting visit it was.



Chris, who was on the Board of Fish and Game, took on the temporary role in May and is very keen to develop the property's obvious potential and create awareness of it as an outstanding Outdoor Education facility for local schools. He describes it as 'a cool place'.

Working alongside him, to clear vacant land and plant it up with natives grown on-site in the nursery, are around ten volunteers, most of who live locally. I met Graham Marshall who was busy checking out existing plantings and putting more home-grown plants into some very nice, moist soil after the recent rain.



We then went and had a look at the nursery, where around 5,000 plants are propagated annually. Many of the natives are planted around the property but a good number are also provided at cost to landowners who are developing wetlands on their farms.



Chris pointed out a beautiful rainbow trout lolling about in some amazingly clear water, apparently waiting for a boyfriend and then, right behind her, I saw an eel (one of many) which was around 1 metre long. Chris explained that the eels hang around waiting for an opportunity to eat recently laid trout eggs.



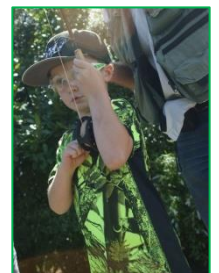
While the property is in the early stages of development, it's also a very exciting time.

Chris showed me a couple of recently dug-out but unfinished ponds, bringing the total number of lakes and ponds to four. Once established, these new areas are going to greatly enhance the local habitat.



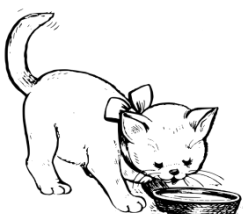
Fish and Game Hawke's Bay hosts children by organising 'Take me Fishing' events, where budding anglers receive fly-fishing tuition from its Anglers Club members. It also runs education programmes for children, adults, novices and ladies who are keen to take up the sport.

There's so much more to discover about this place. It's not just about trout and eco-systems; you can learn about sustainable harvesting of food using traditional methods,



how to create and look after wetlands and a whole lot more. The centre welcomes visits from members of the public Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and is closed on public holidays. If you'd like to join a great team of volunteers here, just e-mail:- hawkesbay@fishandgame.org.nz

If you're aware of a conservation champion or something relevant going on in Hawke's Bay, please let me know and I'll be happy to follow it up:- jessicamaxwell2017@gmail.com



"When you've nothing to give but the love within your heart, A gentle touch is everything."

Athey Thompson

