



# September Newsletter

For the team at Weed Action Native Habitat Restoration Trust, this past month has been all about the encouraging signs of spring on the way and new beginnings.

Work on the ground has started in the second phase of the Weed Action and Aki Tai Here collaboration to sweep the entire Reotahi maunga for invasive weeds.

Meanwhile, working alongside Whangārei Heads School students and teachers as they learn more about looking after local native habitats has been a welcome reminder of what the next generations are capable of.

Photo: Aki Tai Here's Ngawaru Munroe surveying at Reotahi.  
Credit: Mike Ulrich.



## Whangārei Heads School Visits



Weed Action made two visits to Whangarei Heads School this August to talk with interested students about invasive weeds and how we can all help our native habitats. Whangarei Heads School is fortunate to have some stunning native bush surrounding it, and students are able to enjoy and explore this in their unique outdoor spaces, such as Fern Valley.

Alongside teacher Dane Higgison and a group of enthusiastic youngsters, we talked about what makes a weed a weed, identified various weeds using cuttings, then spent time in Fern Valley removing ladder fern and cotoneaster. It was fantastic to see everyone working together and knowing we were helping the beautiful native plants (many donated by school alumni) in this area.

After this burst of mahi, we trekked to the southern end of the school to check out some large patches of wild ginger. The students had a (highly supervised) go at cutting the ginger stalks at ground level, for our team to then treat later with herbicide. Well done to all the students who took part for your hard work and excellent care for your environment! We will be back to share more and help get the weeds here under control.

With thanks to James Bellamy and volunteers Robyn, Crea, Logan, Rick, Alannah, Peter and Nancy.

Photo: Students and volunteers working together.  
Credit: Kate Hardcastle



## Reotahi Phase Two Begins

Thanks to funding from the Lottery Grants Board Environment and Heritage Fund, Weed Action Native Habitat Restoration Trust and Aki Tai Here have been able to plan and start delivering a second full sweep for invasive weeds over Reotahi maunga. This is the important next phase of our long-term flagship project focusing on this 65ha reserve, which began in 2022.

This current mahi started with surveying and scoping to determine the time and resources required and since late July team members from Aki Tai Here have been

working their way up and over from Tiller Park and the northern side. We are especially grateful to local residents who have granted the team access to the reserve through their property.

This sweep has seen the team encounter a wide range of the usual suspect weed species, but with a noticeable reduction in size and spread thanks to the previous phase of work. Wild ginger is still the most prevalent species. To ensure each area worked has been fully swept, Aki Tai Here kaimahi track their path using their mobile phones. The image below shows all of their GPX files from the work done to date, covering an estimated 12.9 hectares of Reotahi maunga.

Image credit: Te Kaurinui Parata



## Volunteer with WANHRT

The Weed Action Native Habitat Restoration Trust is looking for passionate volunteers with expertise in several areas:

- GIS mapping and assistance with our EcoNet system
- Drone photography or drone weed ID
- Filming and digital storytelling to help us promote our awesome work
- Starting up and getting other people involved in a Weed Action group in your neighborhood
- Join a Weed Action group in your area
- Marketing skills and expertise in creating brochures
- Fundraising skills

Benefits to you:

- Involvement in your local community with a passionate group of people
- Making a difference to the environment
- Meeting like-minded people
- Getting outdoors and being part of a conservation movement
- Training in environmental weed management, native habitat restoration, and Te Tiriti partnership building



Contact Robyn on 0274776116 if you are interested or want to have a chat about your interests.

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## Reotahi Working Bee Report

Despite the forecast rain, Rick, Wayne and Logan met at the Beach Road carpark on Sunday 18 August for the working bee near the carpark.

The team continued to work on the steep slope between the beach access and the point. We cleared an assortment of weeds, including ginger, pawpaw, cotoneaster, elaeagnus, tree privet, agapanthus and moth plant. In one of the spots where we worked was the rotting remains of a very large elaeagnus that one of the early Reotahi working bees had dealt with.

It was very gratifying to see a lot of five finger and kawakawa seedlings of good size, evidence that this area was well on the way to again being a healthy native habitat.

At the end of the session, as we walked back to the carpark, the sun was shining and the bush was alive with birdsong - what a great place to do mahi!

Report: Logan Carter.

Photo: Rick and Wayne deal to a mountain paw paw amidst native regeneration.

Credit: Logan Carter.



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## Pilot Project Webinar

If you missed the webinar presenting the highlights of the Community Impact Report on the outcomes of the 2023-2024 Pilot Project, you can watch a recording on Youtube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgxB-HhtGA8>

Panellists Nicki Wakefield, Robyn Bigelow and Tekaurinui Parata discuss some of their experiences and findings over the 1 year Foundation North funded project, trialling matauranga informed collaborations for habitat restoration across Whangārei Heads.

We will share a link to the report itself as soon as it is available.

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## Weed of the Month - Queen of the Night

Let's get Queen of the Night out of our sight!

September's Weed of the Month is all filler, no killer. Forming dense mono-stands in the forest understorey, it crowds out native seedlings for light and space. The stems also resprout, so effective control means returning in 6 months to check for regrowth.

Produces many long-lived and widely dispersed seeds, and forms dense, shady masses. Likes damp conditions, is moderate to highly shade tolerant and grows in most soil types.

Control methods here:

1. Pull out small plants (all year round), leave on site to rot down.
2. Cut down and paint stump (all year round): a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L (100ml/L) or triclopyr 600 EC (100ml/L) or triclopyr 120g/L (500ml/L).
3. Spray (spring-summer): triclopyr 600 EC (30ml/10L) or triclopyr 120g/L (15ml/L).



## Take Action for Nature!

As we emerge from winter, our regular groups will be enjoying a few hours of work in the great outdoors each month and seeing all those beautiful native seedlings shooting up. If you'd like to see what it's all about, come along!

**Manaia Bush Recovery Group - Saturday 7 September, 9am The Green, McLeod Bay**

**Smugglers Track Crew - Sunday 8 September, 9am Urquharts Bay carpark**

**Reotahi Working Bee - Sunday 15 September, 9:30am Beach Road carpark, Reotahi**



**Ocean Beach Landcare Group - Thursday 19 September, 9am lower carpark, Ocean Beach**

**Tamaterau Reserve Landcare Group - Tuesday 24 Sptember, 9am Tamaterau Reserve**

**Manaia Bush Recovery Group - Saturday 5 October, 9am The Green, McLeod Bay**

**Smugglers Track Crew - Sunday 6 October, 9am Urquharts Bay carpark**

Photo: Smugglers Crew with Whangārei Girl's High School students helping out.



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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