High Value Area

QUARTERLY UPDATE

July to September 2026

WEED ACTION
NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION TRUST

Our vision

To work with community, tangata whenua, NGOs, and government agencies to restore the native habitats within the Whangārei Heads High Value Area, so indigenous ecosystems are healthy, flourishing, and free of invasive exotic plants, and the biodiversity of the area can thrive

The winter months are often a time of consolidation, reporting back and planning for the new financial year. However, habitat restoration doesn't stop during this time, and a comparatively dry few months has meant a lot of work was able to be done by volunteers and the team.



Our work so far this year would not be possible without the funding and support of the below organisations. Thank you for continuing to back our habitat restoration projects.

FOUNDATION NORTH
Pūtea Hāpai Oranga
Funding to Enhance Lives

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Northland REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau

Whangarei District Council

QEII NATIONAL TRUST
Ngā Kairauhi Papa Forever protected

Pub Charity Limited

Supporting community engagement in habitat restoration



Landowner Assistance July to September 2026

10 landowners in the Whangārei Heads area contacted Weed Action for assistance over this period.
These included herbicides and advice with wild ginger at Taurikura, some large specimens of queen of the night at McLeod Bay, and privet and climbing asparagus at Owhiwa Road.
As well as this, several landowners were engaged with for our strategic weeds programmes: Taiwan cherry, privet, and madeira vine.

Our 2025 - 2026 Annual Report was completed and shared with the WANHRT database.

This complements the ArcGIS StoryMap created by Hadden Morrison, showing volunteer group activity and landowner engagements for the 2025 – 2026 year.

Native Plantings at McLeod Bay

With the drier than usual winter, we have been checking the late June plantings at McLeod Bay regularly and they are doing well. One small manuka is already in flower!



Mega Moth Plant Movement

The upcoming Mega Moth Plant Movement season received an important boost with the support of Northland Waste providing a bin for moth plant pod collection, and a new location for this thanks to Coastal Landscaping and Supplies on Pataua South Road. New signs for this were made possible with the remainder of the previous Whangārei District Council grant towards moth plant, madeira vine and other species promotion and control.





Volunteer habitat restoration in reserves



Work in Reserves and PCLs

Apart from a couple of cancelled dates due to bad weather, all of the seven WANHRT volunteer groups met each month during this period.
Some examples below:

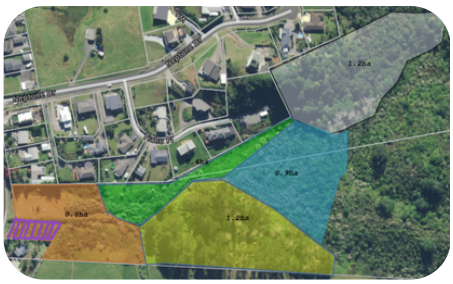


SWAT

SWAT completed a third follow up cut back of jasmine at the corner of Reotahi and Darch Point Roads, as well as a second sweep through the small wetland section of QEII covenant adjacent to the Parua Bay Sports Fields.

Manaia/McLeod Bay

The Manaia Bush Recovery Group worked hard in the former 'Watercare' lands (blue and white on the map) behind Neptune Drive, a still highly invaded area but with progress becoming apparent.





Parua Bay

The Parua Bay Group continued their circuit of the sports fields and fringes of the QEII block, undaunted by the scale of the task thanks to a restoration plan developed by Kate D and Louise.

Pub Charities Grant

Volunteer group efforts will be well-supported by a substantial grant from Pub Charities which has already enabled the purchase of herbicides, a printer, two new Makita drills and a Makita hedge trimmer, plus replacement Silky saws and saw blades. Further purchases include branded caps and tops, 2 x GrowSafe courses, and herbicide bottle pouches. A full equipment and herbicides audit was completed by the Kates in early October.

Reporting Back to WDC

As part of our MOU, annual work plans and reports covering WANHRT activities on Whangārei District Council reserves have lodged with the Parks and Reserves manager.

Landscape level habitat restoration



Pilot Project Phase 2 - Whenua Ora

The Foundation North funded Pilot Project phase two, now called the Whenua Ora Fund, was adopted and rolled out thanks to project coordinator Sheila Taylor. Applications to the fund by tangata whenua and tangata tiriti individuals, groups, and organisations for their projects were due by 30 September. The panel will then make their decisions and projects are to be completed by April 2027. There has been excellent engagement with this fund.

Manaia - DoC Threatened Species

The DoC Threatened Species project was completed and final report delivered by Aki Tai Here. In exciting news, a second three-year project application was accepted by DoC in August.

Parua Bay - QEII Stephenson Fund

The second year of the QEII Stephenson Fund project on QEII covenanted land at Parua Bay was completed by Aki Tai Here, with two opportunities for WANHRT team members to attend. This was a welcome chance to mahitahi and grow our understanding of this special habitat.

Strategic Sites / Weeds

A Strategic Weed Management Plan is being developed to ensure all strategic weed projects are encapsulated and stay on a yearly agenda.

Madeira vine work for the year is underway with 8 sites under management. Two new sites at Robinson Road and Taurikura have been added to the workplan.

A plan to utilise a small mulching machine at the Parua Bay Sports Fields to address gorse, pampas and woolly nightshade will create another excellent future planting site for the 2027 planting season.

Madeira vine control before...



And after....

