



21/22

ANNUAL REPORT





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Connecting Taranaki For Thriving Biodiversity



Who We Are

Wild for Taranaki is the region's biodiversity trust, supporting more than 47 conservation and restoration organisations working to protect and enhance the unique native plants, animals and ecosystems within Taranaki.

Our purpose is to support and coordinate members for better efficiency, grow funding for the sector, and led the region in a connected vision of thriving Taranaki biodiversity.

What We Do

- Provide support for growing the work of Wild for Taranaki members, who are all engaged in improving biodiversity in the region
- Coordinate the sector including regular catch-ups, a biodiversity forum and problem-solving on key issues
- Connect groups for enhancing efficiency in the sector
- Encourage investment, secure funding and support funding applications
- Build partnerships
- Provide information and resources, such as planting guides and best-practice knowledge
- Advocate for biodiversity protection
- Promote success stories, encouraging individuals and groups to get involved.



Te Whenua Tōmuri Trust



Kaitake Community Board



Ngāti Tara Oaonui Sandy Bay Society



Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board



Waireka Properties Ltd

Waihowaka Green Community Group



Our Members

Our members are a hugely diverse bunch, from small grass-roots restoration groups to larger more formal organisations.

Most are based within Taranaki working on environmental projects, such as replanting, trapping and reintroducing species, or supporting biodiversity efforts to add value as part of what they do. Some are national organisations and research-focused, connecting with us on shared areas of interest. All of our members are committed to seeing Taranaki biodiversity in a thriving state for the benefit of all.

Our Board



Bev Gibson
Trust Chair



Simon Cayley
Deputy Chair



Michael Joyce



Lauren Wallace



Amanda Clinton-Gohdes



Jan Hania



Damian Roper



Tane Houston

Chair's Report

Pūrongorongo mō te tau o Wild for Taranaki. On behalf of the Wild for Taranaki, it is with pleasure that I present the Annual Report on the performance of Trust activities for the financial year 2021/2022.

TE POARI O WILD FOR TARANAKI *Governance*

Wild for Taranaki is in the second year of its 3-year strategy and continues to embrace the three objectives Connect (with each other, funders, and the wider community), Enable (sector upskilling and fostering innovation), and Resource (growing funding and resources for the sector). Wild for Taranaki welcomed four new board members Amanda Clinton-Ghohdes, Jan Hania, Tane Houston, and Damian Roper. I am fortunate to be the chair of a well-balanced board with an amazing wealth of governance and biodiversity experience and skills.

HE TURE O WILD FOR TARANAKI *Constitutional Review*

Recent legislative changes of the Trust Act (2019) have provided a timely review of the Wild for Taranaki Trust Deed to make it legally compliant and resilient for the future of Wild for Taranaki. More work is required to ensure the Trust is managed properly, to lessen the risk of liability, and to confirm the benefits of the Trust are achieved.

TE MOKO HOU *New Logo*

Updating the logo with the brightly coloured Notoreas Moth and transforming the story in Te Reo was a key project this year for Wild for Taranaki. The new logo and a re-vamped website are helping to improve the visibility of Wild for Taranaki as the region's biodiversity nerve centre.

TE KANORAU KOIORA PAETUKITUKI *Biodiversity Website - Action Hub*

Management has worked hard to get the 'Action Hub' up and running, to launch a one-stop solution for a collective biodiversity vision that has the ability for members to connect locally, regionally, and nationally. It is hoped the Action Hub will continue to grow, with the support of members, so that the sector and wider public will get to know and use it as a place to highlight biodiversity projects, and engage with the volunteer sector and the philanthropic community.

TE HANGA PUMANAWA *Building Potential*

Wild for Taranaki Trust and its members have continued to connect and grow their work in the area of conservation and restoration. Working alongside the community, the Trust seeks to engage and advocate for our amazing ecological biodiversity. Organising and supporting forums on trapping, feral cats, maintaining quarterly-catch-ups, and supporting member groups with filmmakers (Better Ancestors) to video hapū and Ngā Motu Marine Reserve society representatives about kororā, little blue penguins, and their work of conservation are a few examples of Trust participation.



HE WHAKAMUTUNGA

Conclusion

It's been exciting to see the changing landscape with significant Jobs for Nature funding in Taranaki. As a result, there are more iwi and hapu lead projects, increased capacity for restoration, and more collaboration across organisations. Wild for Taranaki will need ongoing investment to ensure gains are prioritised and our biodiversity is in the spotlight.

Overall, the board is positive about the achievements being made and working toward securing a healthy, sustainable, and balanced ecosystem for the next generation. Wild for Taranaki continues to build relationships, and develop strong partnerships to secure long-term investments. Accordingly, the Wild for Taranaki Trust gratefully acknowledges and expresses our sincere appreciation to our principal funders, the Taranaki Regional Council, and the Department of Conservation.



Bev Gibson
Wild for Taranaki's Chair



General Manager's Report

We've made steady progress in a number of areas in the past year. One of our main achievements has been to get the Action Hub up and running on our refreshed website, working closely with IT provider, Zest IT.

In my time at Wild for Taranaki it's been an ongoing theme for members – more connectivity and support, whether volunteer, equipment or cash. Why I'm so excited about the Action Hub is that it provides a useful tool in one place to empower all groups – members and beyond – to reach a wider audience with their biodiversity action.

I've been talking with other conservation hubs and the Ministry for the Environment about how the Action Hub has the potential to be scaled nationally if others want to use it. However, as we're still in the pilot stage, it's important our members let us know if it is useful for them and how it is working. I am grateful to everyone who has provided feedback on the hub and its functionality and for those who have signed up and are actively using it.

In spite of Covid disruptions we've continued to host and foster connections and partnerships. We've had 113 come to meetings and workshops and our team has engaged with members in more than 60 individual meetings and 50 with the wider sector. It was great to support the PKW Trust hosted Kura Taiao to bring Maori working together in the biodiversity space to learn and share knowledge.

We've had behind-the-scenes input into the NPDC's new Environment Hub at Brooklands Zoo and been working on a plan with He Hononga Taiao on post Jobs for Nature funding and training. We supported the Govett Brewster Art Gallery with its art and water hui, with many members attending, and being speakers, with new art/environment collaborations underway as a result.

A particular focus in the past 12 months has been feral cats, which members have identified as being an increasing problem. It's pleasing to see our discussions and advocacy has helped pave the way for TRC to begin including feral cats in their own pest strategy. We've called for change nationally and locally, as well as holding a practical follow-up workshop on cat trapping, all for the aim of seeing our unique ecosystems and native species thrive.

It was great to receive Lotteries and Environment Heritage funding to map out a regional long-term plan of action for the seabirds and shorebirds along our diverse coastline, and we're seeking large scale funding to enhance, protect or bring back important bird species. There will be lots of meetings with communities throughout the region to inform and develop this body of work.

It's been an important development to see the growth of Maori-led projects, enabled by Jobs for Nature, in Taranaki growing. We are also observing increased collaboration with teams working across projects to support each other. This level of cooperation provides a strong demonstration that Taranaki is a great place to invest as we can move forward together.

We continue to advocate at a national level for biodiversity in Taranaki. Meanwhile, we are steadily working on other regional-scale funding and advocating member projects with funders. It can feel like slow progress with few wins, however we are laying foundations with, for example, relationships and awareness with key government departments.

We've now got a Donate button on our website, to drive donations towards projects on the hub or towards a general fund, and marketing materials to help get businesses on board as supporters or volunteer help. The aim is to make it as easy as possible for people to contribute financially and for donors to tag their support to an individual group if they wish. We are planning to provide targeted support this year via our Action Hub.

Financially, we have worked hard to be in a stable financial position amid uncertain times, a situation most trusts and charities find themselves in. We carefully consider all our spending as we look to support sustainable action for the long term. We are grateful to our funding partners, particularly Taranaki Regional Council and the Department of Conservation. Your backing has enabled us to proactively progress opportunities such as the Action Hub that will provide wide-reaching opportunities to support thriving Taranaki biodiversity.

Lastly, we value the inspiring, significant and tireless work being undertaken by our member groups. We are fortunate as a community to have so many remarkable people committed to improving our biodiversity for future generations. Thank you. We look forward to seeing you at our Biodiversity Forum and the AGM.



Andy Cronin

Wild for Taranaki's General Manager



Our Strategy

Below is a summary of our strategy. It was refreshed in 2021 with a three-year outlook.

OUR VISION

Thriving Taranaki Biodiversity

Taranaki's biodiversity is restored to a state where it is visibly healthy and provides significant benefit to communities throughout the region.

OUR PURPOSE



OUR VALUES

Ngātahitanga Collaboration

Panekiretanga Excellence

Tapatahi Integrity

Whakarāmemene Inclusiveness

Manaakitanga Kindness

CONNECT

OPPORTUNITY

Creating connection to enhance efficiency in the sector. Bringing parties together for the common cause of "Thriving Taranaki Biodiversity".

ACHIEVED

- More than 60 individual member meetings
- Quarterly catch-ups and workshops
- New logo and refreshed branding
- Expanded social media platforms and reach, weekly FB posts and bi-monthly member newsletters
- Refreshed website
- Action Hub developed, 30 plus meetings to onboard members
- Fundraising and communications strategy
- Actively Engaged with DOC regional hub networks.

ENABLE

OPPORTUNITY

Supporting the continuous improvement of our members and the community, taking the region closer towards our vision of "Thriving Taranaki Biodiversity".

ACHIEVED

- Advocating on Feral Cats
- Submissions on biodiversity issues
- Sea Change Survey completed
- Better Ancestors video on Kororā
- Input to proposed NPDC Environment Hub
- Active participant in He Hononga Taiao to continue Jobs for Nature.

RESOURCE

OPPORTUNITY

Resourcing the sector in order to enable "Thriving Taranaki Biodiversity".

ACHIEVED

- Seabird project
- Replant for Tomorrow
- Supported member events
- Resourced Action Hub
- In kind – meetings rooms and meetings facilitated.

Seabird Project

This year, we moved one step closer to a landscape-scale seabird restoration project in Taranaki.

Taking ideas from the Wild for Taranaki Coastal Marine Workshop last year (2020), we put together a funding application for the scoping phase of this project. Thanks to funding from Lotteries Environment and Heritage, we are spending the next 10 months working alongside our members and seabird experts from Wildlife Management International Ltd to design the landscape scale project.

During this scoping phase, three information strands will be brought together: existing datasets, local knowledge (from existing member projects and from public community workshops) and field work.

With our members' help, we aim to short-list key Taranaki sites which will form the basis of the next phase of the project. These sites will be in areas which have ecological value for our sea and shore birds and where the community has aspirations to build on existing work or bring bird species back which have disappeared from an area.

A decade-long aspirational game plan will be drawn up for each site. Overall, these plans will form our landscape scale sea and shore bird restoration project, which aims to build resilient populations around our region.



New Look



Our new logo reflects collective action and our community.

WILD FOR TARANAKI

Tō Tātou Taiao – Maranga Papatūānuku



The image is of our native moth, Notoreas Taranaki. Each of its wings converges, creating an organic visual of Taranaki Mouna.

The colours represent four important elements:

PINK for our Community

GOLD for our Wildlife

GREEN for our Environment

BLUE for our Fresh and Coastal Water.

TŌ TĀTOU TAIAO

This represents our membership. It means – our natural environment. One meaning for the word ‘tō’ is – a single item shared between multiple people. In this context, it means you and I share and are part of the single existing natural environment. This kōrero highlights the importance of our vision as it emphasises inclusion and the fact that we only have one natural environment to protect. It’s a communal statement that resonates with the idea of a large community working together towards the wellbeing of the natural environment.

MARANGA PAPATŪĀNUKU

Maranga Papatūānuku means the raising of Papatūānuku, the Māori god mother who is all of the land itself. This phrase is a great Māori example of the term ‘thriving biodiversity’. It speaks to the raising and restoring of the land in Taranaki and Aotearoa to a healthy, flourishing, biodiverse state. It’s a strong statement to support the vision of the community restoring Taranaki’s Biodiversity.

TŌ TĀTOU TAIAO – MARANGA PAPATŪĀNUKU

Placing both terms together overall represents a shared responsibility over the natural environment with a vision to restore it to its most natural and thriving state. Tō tātou taiao leads us into the natural environment as one large collective with intention to restore its biodiversity and native wellbeing. As we get closer to achieving that goal, we reach a state where Papatūānuku begins to flourish and rise. Maranga Papatūānuku can be seen as a statement of desired outcome, provoking our imagination towards the height of a thriving biodiversity.

Action Hub

By working collectively and showcasing what we do, we create more impact and add momentum to restoration efforts in Taranaki.

Our Action Hub is a free shared platform for connecting groups, projects, landowners and helpers. The platform was developed from members consistent feedback calling for more connection and sharing across our networks. We partnered with Neil Hamlin from Zest IT, tailoring a web-based platform he and his team had been developing to suit a range of restoration and biodiversity action projects for Taranaki.

A trial phase involved some members using a test site and incorporating their feedback to refine the Action Hub and ensure it was easy to use with a range of functionalities. The Action Hub features a searchable list of restoration projects in Taranaki, a regional events calendar, tools for volunteer

coordination and project management, mapping capabilities and electronic plant lists (based on the Taranaki Restoration Planting Guides). Once registered, users get a project page to edit and can browse other helpers, create events and message other users.

Since the Action Hub launched in May 2022 momentum is steadily growing with 33 projects listed including 68 individual profiles and 51 group helpers. We'd like to thank all our members for their involvement in the development phase and their on-going support. In particular, New Plymouth District Council who has made the Action Hub an integral part of reporting on the Planting our Place programme of work and provided financial support.

Our Supporters

Without your financial and in-kind contributions we wouldn't be able to work towards achieving our vision of thriving biodiversity in Taranaki. Thank you!





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