



2022/23

ANNUAL REPORT



WILD FOR TARANAKI

Tō Tātou Taiao – Maranga Papatūānuku

PO Box 226

New Plymouth 4340

www.wildfortaranaki.nz

WHO WE ARE

Wild for Taranaki is the region's biodiversity trust, supporting more than 49 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.



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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

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!



OUR BOARD



Bev Gibson
Trust Chair



Simon Cayley
Deputy Chair



Michael Joyce



Lauren Wallace



Amanda
Clinton-Gohdes



Jan Hania



Tane Houston

OUR MEMBERS

Wild for Taranaki continues to work behind the scenes advocating and strategically enabling the development and continued work of Our Members.

Wild for Taranaki strives to connect the various branches of the biodiversity network across our rohe, facilitating productive long-term solutions and successful environmental outcomes. We are proud to tautoko our diverse membership, which ranges from volunteer restoration groups to larger organisations.



Most groups are Taranaki-based environmental projects doing work such as replanting, trapping, reintroducing species, or supporting biodiversity efforts to add value as part of what they do. Some are national organisations and research focused. All our members are committed to helping enable thriving biodiversity throughout Taranaki.



Te Whenua Tōmuri Trust



Kaitake Community Board



Ngāti Tara Oaonui Sandy Bay Society



Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board



Waireka Properties Ltd

Waihowaka Green Community Group





CHAIR'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report on the performance of the Wild for Taranaki Trust activities for the financial year of 2022/2023.

Governance

Our strategy continues to focus on maintaining momentum, guided by three core strategic objectives 'Connect, Enable, and Resource' and fostering relationships within the sector, the wider community, and engaging funders. Upskilling, innovation, and growing the resources available in our network are other high priorities. The various skills and diverse backgrounds of our board members help us think strategically on behalf of our member groups and provide a well-balanced set of experience and expertise.

Continued Engagement

The steady growth of Action Hub has been encouraging. The team has been working hard to design the platform to meet the needs of our users. The continued work aligns to provide connectivity and visibility for regional projects while showcasing the outstanding work being done.

Funding Distribution

It was a privilege to distribute our Community Fund again this year after a pause due to COVID-19. The application process gives us additional insight into what support is required in the restoration sector as we strive to distribute the funds fairly. The next round of applications will be opening soon.

Strengthened Partnerships

Te Whānau Toroa is an exciting new initiative that the Trust hopes will make sea and shorebird groups stronger, and better resourced and encourage whanaungatanga. The groundswell of enthusiasm from bird groups is enormously positive and Wild for Taranaki is committed to keeping the ball rolling. With Te Whānau Toroa, the aim is to find ways of connecting and sharing resources and knowledge. It is also about creating opportunities for communal education and engagement, supplying the support required to help these special bird populations thrive.

Looking Ahead

Continued success for the many who have been involved in the Jobs for Nature initiative is at the heart of our involvement with He Hononga Taiao. Jobs for Nature has provided opportunities and there have been excellent outcomes for people as well as our taiao as a result. Alongside DOC, TRC, Iwi, and hapū, the impetus is to encourage investment and collaboration to continue to deliver a support package over the next 12 months.



BEV GIBSON
Wild for Taranaki, Chair

Captions here, clockwise from top left: Toutouwae (Robin); Hiihi eating berries; Keruru at Lake Mangamahoe Taranaki; *Entoloma Hochstetteri* fungus resembles the blue wattle of the kōkako bird; Goldstripe Gecko.



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Wild for Taranaki continues to work behind the scenes advocating and strategically enabling the development and continued work of biodiversity groups in the region. Te Whānau Toroa is a new advocacy initiative we are thrilled to have launched in the last year. We are delighted to resume distributing aid through our Community Fund, after a covid enforced pause. Wild for Taranaki is invested in seeing the success of He Hononga Taiao which will ensure the continued accomplishments of work done under Jobs for Nature and we aim to help perpetuate the positive outcomes of this work.

The passion and support for our sea and shorebird species we have witnessed is tremendously encouraging. It is a privilege to be able to help facilitate and enable growth in this area with the introduction of our Te Whānau Toroa initiative.

The scoping report has been an excellent starting point for the work we intend to continue to develop by engaging with the sea and shorebird groups and strengthening these networks.

Distribution of the Community Fund earlier this year provided an excellent opportunity to gauge what is needed from our community. The fund was temporarily paused during covid, so it is our privilege to again offer the fund to restoration projects. The range of recipients varies from individual projects, schools to community groups. We see the fund as strategically important and look forward to offering Community Funding again this financial year.

There has much work been undertaken already from the last funding round. (See photos).

Wild for Taranaki continues to sit alongside TRC, Iwi and DOC to leverage the momentum generated by Jobs for Nature. He Hononga Taiao focuses on strategically supporting the Jobs for Nature projects and those people leading them. The goal is to sustain the rate of progress while attracting further investment to continue the significant successes of the projects involved. Employment, training, and eventual restoration outcomes are key to developing a workforce and career progression in the biodiversity field. We will deliver a package over the coming months that will support the people and projects launched under Jobs for Nature.

Wild for Taranaki continues to follow up with Taranaki Regional Council regarding the management of feral cats. Regional Council has a leadership opportunity in this space so we are heartened they are taking the issue seriously. Aspirations are to develop a framework using tools already available, such as the regional pest management plan.

An ideal balance would minimise the harm done by feral cats while keeping domestic pets safe.

Action Hub is steadily gaining traction and our Regional Coordinator, Nicole Boniface, has invested a lot of time helping members to get the most out of this innovative restoration and engagement tool. Action Hub aims to create direct connectivity between groups and individuals on the same platform and we urge everyone to list events and projects to boost engagement. We have been listening to the feedback from our members, and strive to make Action Hub a viable and accessible tool.

Last year's Biodiversity Forum was a great event, attended by nearly 100 people. We enjoyed healthy discussions and whanaungatanga. The forum is a fantastic opportunity to share ideas and successes, thank you to everyone who contributed.



ANDY CRONIN
Wild for Taranaki,
General Manager

Community Fund recipients, clockwise from left:

Rapanui/Grey Face Petrel Trust, repairing the fence; Norfolk School students working on restoration projects; The new community funds sponsored signage at Nowell's Lakes informing the public about the returned endangered Matakū-Hūrepo birds at the lakes; Matakū-Hūrepo bird at the lakes, photo credit Jenny Kerrisk.

OUR STRATEGY

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

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



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

- Biodiversity Forum and member catch ups
- Increased social media presence
- Action Hub growth in use and functionality
- Actively engaged with DOC regional hubs network
- Maintain regional and national network of biodiversity stakeholders
- Regular contact with members, stakeholders and mana whenua

ENABLE

OPPORTUNITY

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

ACHIEVED

- Facilitated regional training sessions
- Active member of He Hononga Taiao
- Increased online resources
- Delivered regional Seabird and Shorebird scoping report

RESOURCE

OPPORTUNITY

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

ACHIEVED

- Secured funding to develop Te Whānau Toroa
- Delivered Community Grant round
- Resourced Action Hub
- Replant for Tomorrow partnership

ACTION HUB

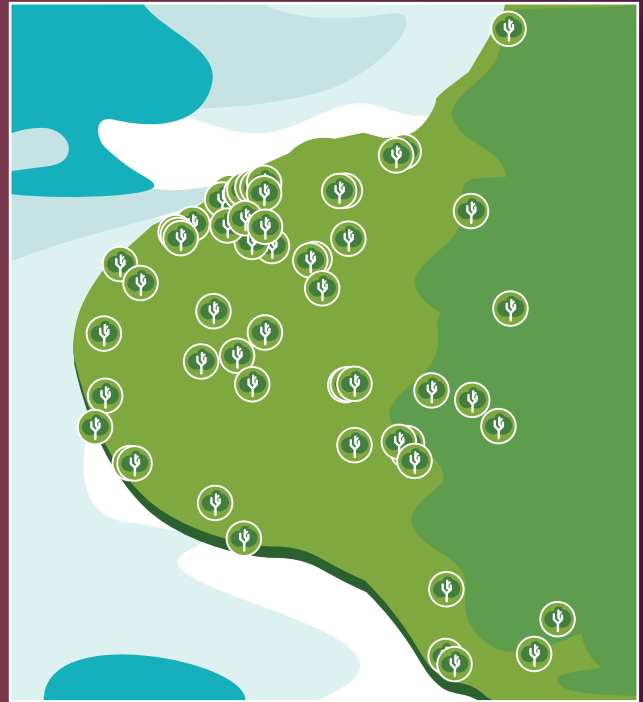
Action Hub is a gateway to the restoration sector, where members and individuals can directly access projects, get involved, connect, and contribute.

It is purpose-built for the restoration sector with an extensive range of easy-to-use tools, from volunteer management and event registration to carbon calculators.

We regularly make modifications and improvements based on feedback from our members. Recent updates include bulk contact upload and messaging capabilities - which makes managing volunteers easier. Events can now be duplicated if you run similar events on a regular basis, and public events no longer require you to approve helpers as part of the registration process; making event promotion and management easier.

The advanced functions of the Action Hub can shortcut data entry for progress reports and project statistics.

Bypass spreadsheets and instead enter your data directly into Action Hub. By regularly updating the number of trees planted on a land project, Action Hub calculators can produce mitigated CO2 emissions data.



Restoration projects listed on the Action Hub around the Taranaki Moutonga.

This is extremely helpful for use in funding applications or reports etc. This information is also visible for others to see on the site itself (if so desired).

The more we can connect using the Action Hub the more we can help the cross-pollination of skills, helpers, and volunteers. We encourage everyone to list their projects and events on the Action Hub and then share the link on social media. This will help spread awareness about your project while keeping all the event information in one place, instead of managing multiple event pages across platforms.



SEA WEEK 2023

Wild for Taranaki hosted a fantastic Seaweeek in March. The annual event had been on hold due to covid, so celebrating the rich biodiversity around Ngā Motu and the marine reserve with the community was all the more special. Snorkelling tours, a beach clean-up, science in action and wildlife monitoring demonstrations, art marine activities were enjoyed by many. Bringing together a range of organisations and the public to celebrate our much-loved marine environment is right at the heart of this kaupapa. It was great to get together with the Department of Conservation, Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery / Len Lye Centre, MetOcean Solutions Ltd, local businesses, such as Chaddy's, and clubs/trusts who interact with the sea.

TE WHĀNAU TOROA

Te Whānau Toroa - a Wild for Taranaki initiative – was set up with the purpose of helping to deliver site-specific, tailored support to the multiple sea and shorebird groups around the 263-kilometre Taranaki coastline.

Over the decades, sea and shorebird rūpū/groups have nurtured these precious native bird species, protecting nesting sites and increasing populations, despite thinly spread resources and limited funding.

The Wild for Taranaki team has spent three years engaging with these groups in a bid to understand how to better support sea and shorebird protection work on every level.

Out of respect for the diligent work of these bird enthusiasts, many of whom are voluntary workers, Te

Whānau Toroa was born, to create a collective pool of quality resources, access to training and expert assistance, where and when required.

Coordination between the groups not only helps achieve the goal of protecting and increasing bird numbers, it creates whanaungatanga/community where shared knowledge, resources and technology can be fostered.

Sharing regional vision, based on work already being done, only serves to improve the success of each project.

The aim of Te Whānau Toroa is not to homogenise the care of the birds, but to understand the Kaupapa of each site, offering shared skills and tools to achieve the best outcomes for specific bird populations and the communities which support them.

From bird banding, to trap upkeep, site stability, and ornithological expertise, Te Whānau Toroa aims to tautoko the work of bird protection across a range of skill sets.

Leading Te Whānau Toroa is biological oceanographer and Strategic lead for the initiative, Danielle Gibas.

Any queries, contact Danielle at danielle@widfortaranaki.nz

TĒNĀ KOE TĀNE

E rere rā te tauheke manu ō te moana.
Te manu nui, te manu tipua, te raukura ki runga ki Tangaroa. E te toroa, kua piki koe ki te rangi, kua piki anō koe ki roto ki tō tātou ngākau. Kua kawea e koe, te mauri ō ngā manu moana, tō momo whānau - Te Whānau Toroa.

Here in Taranaki the feather of the Toroa is a symbol of mana, peace and love. Our whānau often wear the raukura during significant gatherings as a display of beauty and connection to what is sacred. In our recent history, it is said that a large Toroa landed in front of a marae as it was being built. This marae now carries the name Toroanui - the large albatross. These are examples of how significant the Toroa are to Taranaki and why this name has been chosen for this kaupapa.

The Toroa is a highly esteemed and honoured manu among the people of Aotearoa and the Pacific. The name gifted to this project - “Te Whānau Toroa”, identifies the Toroa as a symbol for all seabirds and speaks to these species as a family of ocean going manu. This name has been gifted by a small collection of kaumātua here in Taranaki who continue to uphold the prestige bestowed upon this manu by our ancestors.

Take flight beautiful manu. Magnificent, sacred treasure that soars above the sea. Rise into the sky, as you have risen within our hearts. It is you that carries the life force of your species, the family of all seabirds. Te Whānau Toroa.



Nā Tāne Wiremu Houston
Ngāti Tupaia, Ngāti Tānewai,
Ngāti Manuhiakai.

Captions here, clockwise from top left: Baby Tūturiwhatu (Dotterel); Parininihi Cliffs (White Cliffs); Kororā (little blue penguins).



