



Volunteer

Help us restore our natural world

Western Bay of Plenty



Benefits of volunteering

- Volunteering is a way of exploring your local parks and reserves and making a positive contribution to the health and prosperity of the native plants and animals that live there.
- Volunteers often get the chance to undertake free or subsidised professional training in things like First Aid, weed control, pest animal control and so on. This will help you contribute even further to your chosen group or project, and may improve your CV.
- You can learn some great new skills as a volunteer, such as recognising different plants, using birdsong to measure bird numbers, and caring for plants and animals. The easiest way to pick up such skills is to get involved and learn from others. You can also learn online using the 'Get Trained' system on DOC's website.

Where to start

- You can help by volunteering for a short period, such as between jobs or while studying, or you can make a long-term commitment.
- Most groups have working bees all year round. You can simply turn up and get stuck in, but you must follow the rules and instructions of the group.
- Choose a group or activity that suits your situation - choose something close to home, doing something that you enjoy, and something you find interesting.
- Get in touch with your chosen group or organisation directly, and ask them when the next volunteer opportunity is happening.

www.doc.govt.nz/volunteer



For more information

Department of Conservation

Tauranga Area Office, 253 Chadwick Rd, Greerton, Tauranga

Ph: 07 578 7677

Email: taurangainfo@doc.govt.nz

Tauranga Environment Centre

Historic Village, 17th Avenue, Tauranga

Ph: 07 578 6664

Email: tgaec@xtra.co.nz Web: www.tgaenvcentre.org.nz



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Published by Department of Conservation, Tauranga Area Office, May 2011.

Cover image: Locals restoring the Athenree saltmarsh/wetland during Conservation Week.
Photo by Pete Huggins.

Volunteering opportunities

There's a wide choice of conservation volunteer projects in the Western Bay of Plenty. Look at the opportunities listed below, and remember to check out the many others that can be found online. If you are still unsure you can contact DOC or your local council to discuss your options.

Waitawheta Hut Wardens

What you'll do: help care for the popular Waitawheta Hut on the Kaimai Heritage Trail and help local and international visitors to have the best trip possible.

What you'll learn: explore the tracks and attractions around Waitawheta, and learn about DOC's work in this historic area.

Get help: training is available, although you must be relatively experienced to take on this role.

Contact: Visitor Assets Programme Manager, DOC, Ph: 07 578 7677. Email: taurangainfo@doc.govt.nz.

Coast Care

What you'll do: help restore the sand dunes and the natural habitats there, educating beach users and adding native plants in season. Some leadership roles exist, with the opportunity to adopt your bit of the dunes. Groups operate right across the bay.

What you'll learn: discover the unique ecology at the beach and the way in which dunes protect the coastline and support wildlife.

Get help: tools are provided, and training is available to committed members.

Contact: Coast Care Co-ordinator, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Ph: 0800 884 880. Web: www.boprc.govt.nz

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust (Oropi)

What you'll do: join a large volunteer force undertaking work in the beautiful Otanewainuku Forest. Help with pest control, monitoring kiwi, assisting with open days, or get involved in running the organisation.

What you'll learn: experience the majestic forest and discover what it takes to protect it from introduced threats such as stoats, rats and possums. Some opportunities for advanced training available.

Get help: tools are provided, and training is available to committed members.

Contact: Dave Edwards, Ph: 07 544 0885.

Email: info@kiwitrust.org. Web: www.kiwitrust.org.

Estuary Care

What you'll do: keep open estuaries looking in pristine condition, clear of mangrove seedlings and help set traps and monitor birdlife. Some leadership/organisational roles exist. Groups operate all around Tauranga Harbour.

What you'll learn: meet like-minded locals and discover the variety of plants and animals that inhabit the estuary.

Get help: tools are provided, and training is available to committed members.

Contact: Estuary Care Co-ordinator, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Ph: 0800 884 880. Web: www.boprc.govt.nz.

Maketu Ongatoro Wetlands Group

What you'll do: help clean-up the Maketu Spit and protect habitat for endangered birds, and get involved with some of the other exciting restoration projects around Maketu Estuary.

What you'll learn: learn about the numerous rare birds of the area, including New Zealand dotterel, and find out more about the importance of the Maketu spit to biodiversity in the area.

Get help: tools are provided and training is available.

Contact: Julian Fitter, Chairperson.

Email: julianfitter@xtra.co.nz.

Friends of Puketoki (Whakamarama)

What you'll do: join a long-running effort to control pests in this protected bush near the edge of the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park.

What you'll learn: take part in trapping operations and learn how to protect plants and animals from damage by possums and other mammals.

Get help: tools are provided, and training is available.

Contact: Colin Hewens, Secretary, Ph: 07 552 6771.

Email: col.hewens@orcon.net.nz.

Athenree Saltmarsh Wetland (Waihi Beach)

What you'll do: be a part of this tremendous gift of retired land from a local farmer being restored to natural habitat. Take part in working bees to help monitor bird life and control pests.

What you'll learn: discover this natural treasure, meet like-minded locals and learn about saltmarsh habitat, bird monitoring methods and pest control.

Get help: tools are provided, and training is available to committed members.

Contact: Community Relations Ranger, DOC, Ph: 07 578 7677.

Email: taurangainfo@doc.govt.nz.

Aongatete Forest Restoration (Katikati)

What you'll do: help protect this regenerating forest by assisting with baiting operations to control pests. Some leadership/organisational roles exist.

What you'll learn: find out about the history of this amazing forest, pest control methods and the impact of predators on bird and plant life.

Get help: tools are provided, and training is available to committed members.

Contact: John Howard, Chairperson, Ph: 07 549 3238.

Waihi Walkways

What you'll do: assist with the development of the Mill Stream area as a scenic and educational retreat. Help with track maintenance, and get involved with environmental care such as planting and weed release.

What you'll learn: get to know the rich history of this area, learn about improving waterways, find out about the local birdlife, and be involved with this dedicated community group.

Get help: tools are provided, and training is available to committed members.

Contact: Ruth Ordish, Co-ordinator, admin@waihiwalkways.org.nz.

Mauao Care Group (Mount Maunganui)

What you'll do: care for Tauranga Moana's beautiful maunga and learn more about its history and treasured natural environment. Join a mailing list of hundreds to be notified of working bees every five weeks from April to December, with planting between autumn and spring. Opportunities to do pest control and help monitor birds also exist through Forest & Bird.

What you'll learn: find out about the ecological restoration of Tauranga's world famous landmark, and discover some of the history of this magical place.

Get help: tools are provided, and friendly advice is available for people who are new. Morning tea is provided after the work is done.

Contact: Mark Ray, Park Ranger, Ph: 07 577 7000.

Email: mark.ray@tauranga.govt.nz.

