

## Waitao Kaiate Field Day

The Waitao Landcare group is arranging a field day to educate residents in the Waitao catchment area on the importance of controlling animal pests and also what techniques to use to undertake animal pest control on your own property.

The field day will also include a presentation from NIWA on water quality monitoring results from the Waitao Stream and displays on pest plant control.

We encourage all residents including children to come along and learn about how you can improve the environmental state of the Waitao catchment.

A date for this has not yet been set but we are looking at early November, so watch this space!

## How can you help?

We need more volunteers for planting events. Planting dates are listed on page 2 of this newsletter and the board is updated regularly with date, time and place for planting events.

We need more properties with river boundaries and wetland areas to plant. Together, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council offer a generous subsidy to landowners who fence off waterways. Riparian Management Plans are simple documents used by the Councils to fund fencing, native planting along the edge of the stream, stock drinking water (if associated with waterway fencing) and pest control (both weeds and animals).

## For more information, contact:

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# Waitao

## Landcare Group

*Creating a healthier, more natural place to live and enjoy*

Winter  
2013

Residents  
Newsletter

## Who are we?

A social group with an interest in improving the quality of our waterways and increasing biodiversity in the Waitao-Kaiate catchment area.

Anyone in the area who has an interest in making our river and tributaries clean for swimming, saving the native fish and bringing native trees, plants and birds back to the valley are welcome to join the Waitao Kaiate Environmental Group.

All Adults and children welcome. No experience needed!



## What are we doing?

Fencing off and planting stream and river margins to keep stock out and develop shade and habitat.

Propagating all our own plants from locally sourced seeds (approximately 4,000 plants prepared for this season's planting). We have several experts in the valley that we can learn from, and other outside agencies that have input into our issues. We are also interested in planting steep land that is prone to slips or weeds, or unsuitable for farming.

## Why are we doing this?

Our river and catchment area is an important historical and cultural waterway that feeds into Rangataua Bay.

Poor water quality entering the harbour has degraded its health over time. Protecting and enhancing streams and wetland areas by fencing off and planting with natives is important for filtering contaminated water running off the land, holding stream banks together and the planting also creates a notable ecological corridor for native birds.

## Where and when?

Autumn/Winter: fortnightly planting out on properties in the Waitao area.

Spring/Summer: fortnightly potting up of plants that we have raised from seed at one of our three small nurseries.

## What's in it for you?

- Learn new skills and enjoy a social cuppa afterwards
- Sense of achievement of being able to watch the trees establish and create an attractive landscape
- Free planting and plants for suitable parts of your property
- Potential for financial and physical assistance with fencing off suitable areas
- Close liaison with the Regional Council Land Management Officer if you want advice or to see if you are eligible for funding
- Fostering and developing conservation principles in our children
- Information and skills workshops can be arranged to the topics of your choice
- Learn about the unique biodiversity in this valley, for example, a lamprey eel was found at Kaiate Falls and our waterways have a large variety of native fish species...it's not *just* eels out there!

## Children's Group

It is planned to do a walk into the Ōtawa bush at the top of Waitao Road (on the left) from 11am until 1pm on Sunday, 18 August. The aim is to show the children/adults what the long term aim of our planting is.

Rob McGowan will lead the walk and talk through the native bush and down to the stream followed by lunch.

Afterwards we will be doing streamside planting from 1pm-3pm at 299 Waitao Rd.

### Remember to bring:

- Workbook and camera
- Gumboots
- Warm gear
- Picnic lunch
- Spade and gloves (if you are coming along afterwards to help plant)



**Left: Rob McGowan speaking about the native plant species used at a recent Children's Day**

## Planting dates for remainder of the 2013 planting season

Saturday 3 August	10am-12pm 577 Waitao Rd
Sunday 18 August	11am-1pm Children's group and then 299 Waitao Rd
Saturday 31 August	10am-12pm 447 Waitao Rd
Saturday 14 September	10am-12pm 220 Waitao Rd
Saturday 28 September	10am-12pm 533 Waitao Rd
Saturday 12 October	10am-12pm 577 Waitao Rd
Sunday 20 October	10am-12pm 107 Waitao Rd

***Dates are dependent on weather, watch the board for changes!***



## TrustPower Community Award

The Waitao Landcare Group received a commendation award in the Heritage and Environment category at the TrustPower Community Awards held recently in Katikati for the effort they have put in to restore the waterways in the Waitao and Kaiate catchments.

**Right: Russell and Shirley Nelson with Dave Hooker**



## Pest Control – do you have problems with animal pests?

The group have also recently started focusing more on controlling pest animals in the catchment including possums, rabbits, mustelids (stoats, weasels and ferrets) and hares.

These pests are a problem for many landowners for a variety of reasons including damage to pasture and native bush and preying on native birds.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council are currently putting together some advice for the group to help increase their knowledge on pest animal types present in the Waitao area and how and when to control them.

## Bay of Plenty Regional Council assistance for fencing waterways and enhancing biodiversity

Several landowners in the Waitao Kaiate catchment have taken advantage of funding assistance available from Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Funding is available for fencing off waterways, planting stream banks with native species, controlling weeds and animal pests within the protected area. If you are interested and would like more information on the Regional Council's Riparian Management Plans or to check eligibility for funding, contact **Courtney Bell, Land Management Officer, 0800 884 881 extn 8520.**