

The Friends of Mangemangeroa Society Inc
Final Report for 2015 year Mangemangeroa Reserve – 30th Nov 2015

Adjacent to the Mangemangeroa Estuary is a coastal strip of forest containing remnants of forest accessible and available for the public of Auckland to enjoy.

The reserve has a diversity of species including mature taraire, kohekohe, puriri, titoki, and tawa. Our desire is to see this area of forest protected and extended.

Vision of the Friends of Mangemangeroa Inc: The enhancement of this urban coastal native reserve remnant through the encouragement of plant restoration, control of plant and animal pests, and the promotion of the reserve for the benefit of the local & wider Auckland community in 'partnership' with the Auckland Council.

Project: The raising and planting of locally eco-sourced species to restore the pasture in the reserve to native species.

Progress: The 2015 season was once again successful with two new areas approved by parks staff and prepared by Council's contractors for our plantings this year. Two public days despite the weather bomb were successful with 3350 plants being placed in the prepared ground. Infill planting was undertaken by a Rotary Youth Leadership team, with a number of karaka now in place along the Rotary loop and about 50 kowhai along the Kowhai Walk. Further plantings were carried out by Howick College, Buckland's Beach Intermediate, Somerville Intermediate, Pakuranga College and Cockle Bay School.

During the winter two new planting units were installed and are now in use.

To continue infilling with canopy species seeds for taraire, kowhai, and titoki, kahikatea and other species have been eco-sourced and are now flourishing in our unit at Somerville Intermediate and in our new EIF funded unit at Brebners. As well, pioneer seedlings (manuka and flax) which have just been pricked out by Cockle Bay School Environment group



are rapidly filling up the remaining space in the new EIF unit. All in all we have a total of 400 canopy species in pots either hardening up ready for planting out next winter or, growing on, for another year. As well we have approximately 5000 pioneer species at various locations in root trainers ready for next year's

revegetation program.

Our new EIF unit was measured, built and delivered by the students of Howick College Trades Academy. It was a wonderful project for them to be involved with and we are most grateful to the EIF fund for providing the finance to enable us to have this unit which was sorely needed!

Our big problem now is animal pest control; units have aluminium sides and a roof cover to prevent possum browsing.

This year young growth on some of the canopy species and rata vines in the bush has been severely browsed, reducing flowering and hence seed production for next year. As well, the destructive pukeko have been a nuisance in the most newly planted areas, eating out the growing tips from the newly planted plants and ripping out plants to feed on the grubs and other soil dwelling organisms below. We are now looking at ways to combat these issues!



Somerville Intermediate with



kowhai at one end



karaka in shade underneath



Brebner unit with



tairaire looking healthy



manuka just pricked out



Making room @ Jims for



duff seedlings just potted up



flax waiting & potted up



Robinson unit where



Warwicks species potted up



and waiting to be potted



ALL HANDS: Howick College Trades Pathway students and teachers with a newly-assembled plant propagation unit, from left, Louis Mitchell, Jack Smith, Willem Du Toit, Peter Pearce, Ruben Lombard and Jordan Liddington.

Times photo Wayne Martin

Youths deliver planting unit

By **MARIANNE KELLY**

A group of students have contributed their knowledge and skills to a project restoring native bush in a protected valley.

Four of the eight Howick College Trades Pathway team assembled a plant propagation unit at Craig Brebner's property in Point View Drive. The unit is one of a number operated by the Friends of Mangemangeroa (FOM) which is the key group working on a native bush restoration project in the Mangemangeroa Valley Reserve in Somerville Road, Howick.

One already commissioned was funded from the Howick Local Board's operational expenditure budget while the new one was funded by Auckland Council through its Environmental Initiatives Fund, a contestable fund that allocates grants annually.

FOM chairman Allan Riley says the 'Friends' appreciate very much this support.

"It allows us to take our native bush restoration within the reserve confidently into the larger canopy tree species planting stage."

Work on the planting unit was part of the students' unit standards for their engineering and fabrication course. Willem Du Toit who supervised the installation says the students applied the theoretical knowledge they had learned into a practical project.

Part of the course criteria requires the work quality to be as

high as if they were working for a real-life commercial client.

"Therefore the planting unit was a very appropriate project," he says.

"Before they assembled the unit at the property, they assembled it at school to ensure all parts were there and that all fitted. They also had to clean the threads of the holes after it was galvanised," Mr Du Toit says.

It's a first for Craig Brebner, on whose property, overlooking the upper reaches of the reserve, the unit has been installed.

He recently retired from full-time work and saw an advertisement for someone to accommodate it.

"I've not been involved in anything like this before. I love gardening, but I've never done any propagation before.

"I will help out the FOM people. Now I have more time I can get involved in something like this."

FOM requires more planting units now that more mid to high canopy trees are being planted. Over the past 12 years plantings have included pioneer species such as manuka and karamu which will provide shelter for the canopy trees, Mr Riley says.

"Since the first 2003 planting we have successfully established the wind protection in former barren areas of paddock. Now greater numbers of larger tree species need to be planted within those sheltered areas."