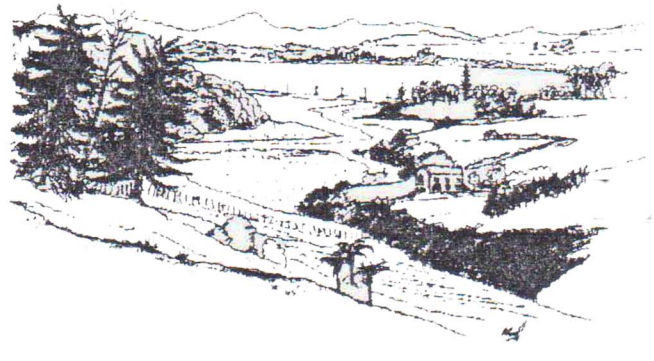




# THE FRIENDS OF MANGEMANGEROA

Winter Newsletter  
2023



Welcome to our winter newsletter. We have the latest updates and happenings for the past few months in the Mangemangeroa Reserve. Some of the highlights covered in this issue are our recently held Annual General Meeting and the successful planting days that have been held in May and June, these days provide a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community. Also we update on Lot 29 activities and the impacts of weather damage in the reserve in the past few months.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4 MAY 2023

On the 4th of May, the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Mangemangeroa was attended by both members and visitors.

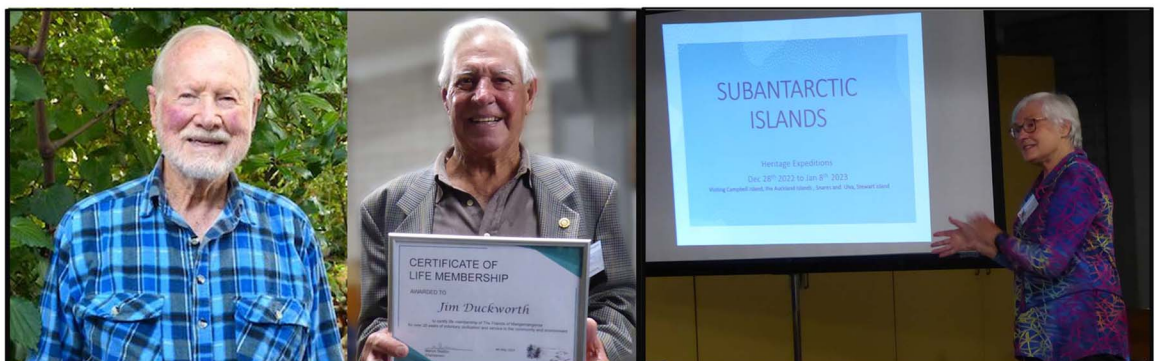
It was our pleasure to have Sally as the guest speaker on the subject of her recent expedition to the sub Antarctic islands. Sally and her friend Gretchen had been keen to travel to these remote islands, south of New Zealand, for many years and took the opportunity to do so on a Heritage Expedition early in the new year. Sally's power point presentation provided a wonderful insight into the plant and wildlife found there and the history of the area including a connection to Graham Falla's family. It was most interesting and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Following the presentation Warwick Kitchen, committee member and stalwart of the Wednesday Weeders, presented Sally with a small gift for the all the work she does on the reserve and a lovely bouquet as guest speaker.

The chairperson's report was electronically circulated prior to the meeting. Marion summarised points highlighted in her report, which covered a wide cross section of events and all that had been achieved during the past year.

This was followed a Special Presentation to Life Members:

Marion presented Jim Duckworth with a Life Membership certificate for his dedication and service for over twenty years to the Friends of Mangemangeroa Society Inc. Jim was surprised and delighted. Unfortunately, Graham Falla was unable to attend the meeting to receive his Life Membership certificate, which was presented to him at a later stage.

Sally Barclay presented her weeding report, which had been circulated earlier including a photo. Sally thanked the regular, hardworking helpers who assist her battle the weeds every Wednesday. The weeds removed include gorse, blackberry, moth plant, ink weed and wattle to name a few. The most troublesome one is bindweed, which climbs vigorously over the native plants smothering them. As well as doing an excellent job tackling the weeds the group also help prepare planting sites, shift mulch and have recently set up a watering system to the plant unit, which required relocation and has proved invaluable in getting the young seedlings started. Sally established a watering roster by volunteers to keep the plants alive in dry conditions and a big thank you goes to all those who are helping with that.





## Cyclone Gabrielle and Weather Damage 2023



Starting from Friday, 27 January 2023, Auckland experienced severe flash flooding, with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) reporting that the city received an entire summer's worth of rainfall in just one day. This event, which has been described as a 1-in-200-year occurrence, is being considered the worst flood in Auckland's modern history.

On 28 January, damage was reported in Mangemangeroa Reserve, where a slip occurred from the fence line of 253 Whitford Road to the estuary. The slip completely covered a stream that runs through the area. The only notable tree that was affected was a Chinese privet from a nearby property. Auckland Council contractors, Ventia, later installed a steel mesh panel to close the southern section of the track from the Rotary loop due to the 300 mm layer of wet clay and vegetation that covered the track in the first gully past the Mangemangeroa bridge.

As a result of earlier floods, states of emergency were already in place in Auckland when, on 9 February, red heavy rain and wind warnings were issued as Cyclone Gabrielle approached the country. The state of emergency was extended on this day. On 14 February, the cyclone hit the country, resulting in severe flooding and damages to buildings, including roof tear-offs and landslides.

On 15 February, damage at Mangemangeroa Reserve was reported with trees down across a boardwalk on the main track between below the barn and Archie's Lookout. As the heavy rain continued in Auckland there were more slips and damage in the Reserve.





## Planting Groups in the Reserve May to June



Howick Youth Group 28 May Don Brazier kindly transported the plants to the site.

### Interschool Planting Day 2 June 13 June



#### Pest Free Howick Ward

Today we were joined by students from Howick College who helped us rebait traps in Mangemangeroa Reserve. Students participated in a real-world conservation project and were able to play a part in protecting our native flora and fauna!







**Friends of Mangemangeroa and Rotary Planting Day** *Marion Skelton*

It was a beautiful, sunny day on Saturday, June 10th, for the annual The Friends of Mangemangeroa and Rotary planting day. We were joined by approximately 120 volunteers from various organizations including Rotary, Botany & Flat Bush Ethnic Association, Pakuranga Chinese Association, Botany Chinese Association, New Zealand Chinese Support & Caring Group, and members of the local community, who joined forces for this planting. Two planting sites were designated at the top of the Rotary Loop, where a total of more than 460 eco-sourced plants were planted. We thank NZ Bio security for assisting with the moving of the plants and equipment the previous day. As a thank you after the planting, Howick Rotary treated all the volunteers to a delicious sausage sizzle once the planting was completed—this was greatly appreciated by everyone in attendance. Our thanks goes out to all the volunteers who participated and contributed their efforts at this planting day.



Sally giving a demonstration to the Bucklands Beach Intermediate school group on 13 June on how to remove the plant from the pot before planting



**Forest and Bird Planting  
17 June 2023**



**Forest and Bird Planting Day** *Graham Falla*

Six to seven hundred trees to be planted by 18 volunteers within two hours was a tall order, and it's no surprise that we did not quite make it. Luckily a group from Howick College, scheduled by the Friends of Mangemangeroa to turn up the next day, was able to finish the job. Areas planted were on the upper part of Gully L and alongside the main track dropping down below the barn. A huge amount of personal time and effort by a number of growers had gone into raising 300-400 plants from our local forest duff, along with 350 manuka. Species ranged from kahikatea, totara, puriri and karaka to putaputaweta and karamu. Murray and Kevin did the tough site prep. Thanks go to Council's contractors helping with handling the plants on the Friday. They were impressed by their wide variety and high quality. We are grateful for help given by several members of the Friends of Mangemageroa and the Council Ranger. Everyone enjoyed the fresh baking supplied by Rogan Falla with an extra bonus of cream and jam.



**Howick College Planting Day 18 June**



**RYLA Planting Day 30 June**



**LATEST FROM LOT 29** *Karyn Gradon*

Trapping has quietened down, not the number of predators in the area now. Even so, interestingly caught another Weasel. I have never seen a Weasel on a trail camera, so it is always a surprise to catch one, this is the second one caught here. Have seen a Stoat on and off on the trail cameras since April, last sighting in June. Sadly the bait wasn't fresh enough to entice it into the DOC200. The male possum that has proven to be difficult to catch hasn't been around for a few months, but has now been seen again in a different area. I will monitor his movements to decide whether to move the smart cage. I have also purchased one of the new F-Bomb traps, something new for the predators to look at, and more importantly are not used too.

The weather has been terrible to do any weed work. The weeds on Lot 29 are at a good maintenance level, but needs action as soon as the weather dries up a bit, otherwise it will soon become a bigger job. Nice walking around and seeing all the native seedlings popping up and surviving without the possums decimating the young shoots. The Giant Kokopu that used to frequent one of the waterways pools here were washed out due to the storms and cyclone, we hope some will return. One Long Finned Eel was spotted in the other waterway.

Martyn, another neighbour of Lot 29 who gives a lot of his free time towards conservation, has built two bridges & two styles on Lot 29 to make it a lot easier to get around. Bridges were needed after the huge amount of water from the storms had caused erosion, making crossing the waterways a lot harder with trapping or spraying gear. Derryn Jacobi, the Auckland City Council Conservation Advisor who replaced Nik Erikson, and Ethan McCormick from Pest Free Howick came out to Lot 29 to help for a few hours shifting the traps. I was very grateful for their help, it will take a few more days doing just a few hours at a time to get it all sorted and will depend on the weather as to when this job will be completed.

Work has been ongoing to create a website link off the Pest Free Howick Ward's web page for Lot 29. Not fully operational yet, but hopefully it will be soon. Pest Free Howick's YouTube page shows video clips from Lot 29's trail cameras showing some of the predators interacting with the traps as well as some of the native bird life that have walked by.



**Annual Howick Bird Count** *Marion Skelton*

On 4 March, the Annual Howick Bird Count organised by Pest Free Howick, was held in reserves in the area. I did the count for the Mangemangeroa Reserve and walked the Rotary Loop starting 8.25 a.m. walking and recording for the required hour. During this count I recorded the following birds. Blackbird Male 4, Black bird female 5, Chaffinch 3, Fantail 6, Grey Warbler 4, Myna 3 Rosella 6, Shining Cuckoo 1, Sparrow 8, Swallow 4, Tui 5, Waxeye 1, Mallard duck 5, Malay Spotted Dove 1, Gulls 11, Godwits 150-200 overhead Noticeably absent since the cyclone was the Kereru.



**New Plant Identification Signs** *Warwick Kitchen*

22 new plant identification signs have been installed in the reserve. These were crafted by Ralph Rockell and Mick Roberts who made these in the workshop in the Summerset Retirement Village. We appreciate the skills and time used in making these to help us build up and share our knowledge of the local native flora. The signs were installed with the help of RYLA members (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) who were participating in a leadership camp. The diversity of people and their craft skills contribute to making the reserve what it is. Thanks Ralph and Mick.

**Check this out**



Check out of poster frame at the entrance to the Reserve. Posters changed once a month. Let us know if you have any ideas for future posters.

**CAN YOU HELP - LOST SPADES**

After our planting day on 10 June, three spades were not returned. Two belong to the Auckland Council and had just been purchased and the third one has the name Spiller on it. We would love to have these spades returned. They can be dropped off to our weeding team any Wednesday morning. Thank you.





# A BIG Thanks to

Don Braizer for transporting by his dinghy  
plants and equipment for the Howick Youth  
Planting day

Dinghy photos Gordon Sanders



Pest Free Howick loan of Projector for AGM



Quick Printz Howick for displaying our posters



**Howick Village**  
Association

for printing, displaying our posters and  
use of their meeting room



for the Quick Response Grant

Facilities Team Auckland Council  
for replacing lock on Stile

Auckland Council Ranger Julie Robson

NZ Bio-Security for helping set up the  
planting days

Beautification Trust for Graffiti removal

Howick Library for allowing us to have  
displays in the library.

Ralph Rockell and Mick Roberts for making  
the plant ID signs

Dean Camp for attaching our frame sign  
to the fence at the Reserve

All our volunteers during the year and  
on planting days

Our Watering Team

Our Weeding Team

## GET INVOLVED

### BECOME A MEMBER

If you would like to become a member of the "friends" and help support us  
our annual subscription is  
\$10 single or \$15 family.

As we are a registered charity any donations over \$5.00 can be claimed  
as a tax rebate.

## Contact Us



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[mangemangeroa.org.nz](http://mangemangeroa.org.nz)



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## We NEED you Can you HELP?

Join our Volunteer team of weeders

Do you have a few hours free on a  
Wednesday morning?

Volunteers are welcome to join our  
Wednesday weeding group

We meet at 9 a.m.  
at the container by the barn before  
heading into the reserve

All equipment provided



### Contact

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