

Maraetōtara Tree Trust



www.maraetotaratreustrust.co.nz

2019

ANNUAL UPDATE



Pat Turley
MTT Chair

Project Update

The Maraetōtara River's restoration 17-year journey is an ongoing substantial success. 86 kilometres both sides are over half distance reserved, fenced-off, willows removed and planted in native trees. The river exits to the Pacific at Te Awanga at an average flow-rate of 2.3 million litres per hour.

Spectacularly, Unison Networks recently joined the Maraetōtara Tree Trust whānau as project Lead Partner. Most years the trust has planted 11,000 to 15,000 native trees and with Unison's support will plant 9,000 more trees in the next three years. Unison is well-suited to the community partnership. Trustees and other project supporters are very pleased and excited about the lines company getting involved. Our thanks to Unison.

Our Regional Council chair Rex Graham says the Maraetōtara River project is "one of the best two of its type in Hawke's Bay." It will soon be 20 years of annually planting trees at the Maraetōtara River.

The project's first chair John Scott led project establishment helping to persuade Hawke's Bay Regional Council of the necessity. Andy Lowe in 2002 was trust settlor and another project visionary, Cynthia Bowers, was there on day one as inaugural trust secretary.

Raewyn Ricketts recently retired as a founding trustee and was no ordinary trust board member 2002-19. Raewyn was in the thick and thin throughout. She served as chair and deputy chair. Retired accountant, Alan Berry, is honorary treasurer. Alan is also project volunteer operations manager and chief planner. Retired farmer and farm forester Alec Olsen, who is a trustee, supervised the winter planting programme.

Our newest trustee Josh Lynch is longstanding project key sponsor David Trubridge's general manager. Josh has recently expertly redeveloped the Maraetōtara Tree Trust's website, added long-planned Facebook,

LinkedIn, Instagram and successfully initiated Give-a-Little. Within days an anonymous donor had gifted \$600.

Dean Roughton of Hawke's Bay Regional Council is a river project key partner. Dean attends Maraetōtara Tree Trust board meetings, is boots-and-all in the field and is key team. He is the glue between the trust and HBRC, and landowners.

Maraetōtara Tree Trust's governance board meets at least 11 times per year.

Trustees and officers are volunteers who lead the project partnership with Hawke's Bay Regional Council that works with the trust and the landowners who covenant their land. The trust works with the wider community of Hawke's Bay including schools. Trustees also lead project fundraising raising from private and public donors up to \$50,000 annually for native trees at the river.

Taikura Rudolph Steiner School pupils are propagators of native trees, which they plant at the river every winter. Peterhead School at Flaxmere will be involved in 2020, including fieldtrips studying tuna (eels) and their habitat at the river. Brathwaite Trust managed by Stuart Roper will fund Peterhead fieldtrip transport. Brathwaite Trust grants are funding masses of trees for the river corridor.

Supporters and donors are many. Permanent sponsors are: Unison Networks, David Trubridge, Turley & Co valuers since 2006, Souness Stone and Clearview Estate Winery. Hawke's Bay Regional Council and landowners are key partners. Taikura and others are involved.



Danny Gough Unison's Relationship Manager with Pat Turley MTT Chair and Flynn. Unison has become a MTT Lead Partner. The CEO of Unison Ken Sutherland said 'Unison's vision is to be leading a sustainable energy future, which has a strong environmental dimension, as well as social and economic dimensions of sustainability.'

John Cowpland - Alphapix Photography

To the volunteer board that keeps a 100-1,000 years vision progressing nicely, good work: Richard Stone (deputy chair), Alec Olsen (secretary and field supervisor), Alan Berry (treasurer and project planner), Hylton McDermott (a founding trustee and No8 wire guy), Kapa Toa (trustee and project kaumatua), Lisl Prendergast (trustee photographer and newsletter editor), Mark Roper (trustee and freshwater ecologist), and Josh Lynch (new trustee and digital coms leader).

Maraetōtara Tree Trust and the river restoration project have never looked better. Thank you so much to so many people.

Proudly a trustee for 10 years and by November chair for 5 years, leadership will migrate to one of my trust board colleagues after the February AGM. I will be a regular trustee. In the past 4 years, three new trustees have joined ensuring ongoing river project governance team skills and ability. If you would like to be a trees funding donor go to Give-a-Little or contact a trustee.

Pat Turley | MTT Volunteer Chair 2014-19





Jen Speedy who is the gardener at Taikura with Sebastian Wyley, student. A lesson in how to spread those roots out.



Lisl Prendergast MTT Trustee helping with the Taikura planting.



Taikura students worked hard all morning and then were treated to lunch from the Pipi truck.

Taikura School (June) & Corrections Department (July) 2019 Matariki Planting on Adele Mohi's Property Ocean Beach Road

On 3rd July The Corrections Department assisted with planting in the same area that Taikura School had contributed to in June. They had five workers and a cook. The supervisors Harrison King, Corrections Department, and Alec Olsen, MTT Secretary were also out there working really hard. Kepa Toa, Trustee Kaumatua was there to mihi our guests. The Correction Department workers I spoke to were very happy to be close to the whenua and contributing in a very real way. They were from a wide range of rohe from Porirua to Gisborne. One man asked me how high his kahikatea would be in thirty years time and I said about 6 metres judging by the one I planted in 1990 on my river bank. The plants out there on Adele Mohi's property look really healthy and the recent rain will have helped them.

Taikura have a long association with MTT. The school had about 60 enthusiastic students planting at the river in late June. The students had a band of parent helpers with them and they were fed by the Pipi truck so a great day for all concerned.

Lisl Prendergast, July 2019



Alec Olsen and Harrison King, the Corrections Department supervisor, chat over a boil up and morning tea.

Planting in 2019

Many different organisations help MTT. We have had Taikura School, Iona College, Woodford House, Lindisfarne College and the Corrections Department help us this year. Later we will have more help from Iona College and Hohepa. Peterhead School is also engaged in an educational project. Great to see all these eco-enthusiasts out in the field.



Alec Olsen working with a Corrections Department worker planting on 3rd July 2019.

Raewyn Ricketts Retiring Trustee (MTT 2002 – 2019)

Raewyn was a part of the Maraetōtara Tree Trust from its inception in late 2002. It was formed by John Scott a keen angler. His primary focus was to clean up the river for trout fishing. The early Trustees were Sir Rodney Gallen, Hylton McDermott, Martin A'Court, Paratene Te Huia, Folker Liebenow, Tony Wilson and Raewyn Ricketts. John Scott was the chair. The first meeting was held at Lindisfarne College and Raewyn said that Trustees became good friends and the Trust has a great working atmosphere. Raewyn was a past chair of Forest and Bird NZ and was involved with the small nursery the Trust set up just off St. Georges Road on Bruce McMillan's property.

First plantings on the river were done near the bridge on the Waimarama Rd and later there were plantings near Mohi bush. The Trust held runs up Kahuranaki to raise money and there was a special relationship with Twyford School who grew plants for MTT. In 2013 a new flood-gate was installed to assist the plantings on Mr and Mrs Donnelly's property. Taikura School in Hastings was one of the first schools to get involved in the plantings and they also have their own nursery.

Our retiring Trustee, Raewyn has been a supporter of MTT, Forest and Bird and Friends of the Kawekas. She still has a file marked 'Protests' in her desk drawer and told me of the campaign they had to save the Kaweka's beech forest when it was threatened with collapse because deer had overrun it. She laughed when she described being referred to as "Raewyn Ricketts and her band of tree-hugging eco-terrorists". She and her partner Alan Berry are Heretaunga Tramping Club members (Alan since 1953). They have done great work for the Trust. Alan is the MTT treasurer, Operations Manager and Chief Planner. Raewyn served for sixteen years as a Trustee and talking to her about her work was a pleasure as she has a special spark and talks about her commitment to our native flora with real enthusiasm. Nga mihi ki a koe Raewyn. Kia ora mo tou manaaki o matou ngahere! We salute you!

Lisl Prendergast | MTT Trustee July 2019

MTT Governance Group

Chair: Pat Turley - Trustee | **Dep. Chair:** Richard Stone (Trustee)

Treasurer: Alan Berry | **Secretary:** Alec Olsen (Trustee)

Trustees: Hylton McDermott, Lisl Prendergast, Kapa Toa, Mark Roper, Josh Lynch | **HBRC Representative:** Dean Roughton

Financial Advisor: Alan Berry | **Trust Settlor:** Andy Lowe



Unison Networks enters partnership with Maraetōtara Tree Trust

Hawke's Bay Electricity Distributor, Unison Networks is delighted to have entered a three-year partnership with Maraetōtara Tree Trust.

Named as Lead Partner, Unison has committed to financially supporting the Trust's planting programme through until May 2022. The partnership will also provide an opportunity for the company's employees to get involved in voluntary work at the Maraetōtara River.

Unison Relationship Manager, Danny Gough, says the partnership is closely aligned to Unison's vision – to be leading a sustainable energy future – which has a strong environmental dimension, as well as social and economic dimensions of sustainability.

"We see our sponsorship as a great opportunity for the company and our employees to help give back to the region at an environmentally sustainable level.

"As a company involved in the management of – and directly impacted by – vegetation, we hope that through our partnership with the Trust we can encourage and educate our communities to be safe about planting and maintaining trees near power lines," says Danny.

Unison looks forward to supporting the Trust and seeing it continue to thrive over the next three years.

Danny Gough - Unison Network Relationship Manager

Josh Lynch - New Trustee General Manager - David Trubridge Ltd

David Trubridge Ltd has been a sponsor of the Trust for many years and when Josh was approached to become a Trustee, he already knew a bit about the project.

"I was very honoured to be asked to be a trustee and contribute to such a fantastically well run project" says Josh.

Josh joined the Trust in March 2019 and decided to become the unofficial "digital communicator" for the Trust.

"I saw that I could be of use with marketing and on the digital channels and so set about owning those" he mentions.



MTT Trustees. Absent: M. Roper, L. Prendergast (Photographer)

MTT Supporters & Donors 2016-2019

KEY PARTNERS

Nina EJ Brathwaite Trust
Participating Landowners 2002-19
Hawke's Bay Regional Council 2002-19
Habitat Biodiversity & Pest Management Ltd.

PRIMARY FINANCIAL DONORS

David Trubridge Ltd
Unison Networks
DoC Community Conservation Fund
Hawke's Bay Foundation
Carrie Greenwood & Martin A'Court
Clearview Estate Winery

GIFTED SERVICES

Iona College
Woodford House
Lindisfarne College
Taikura Rudolf Steiner School
MTT Trustees & Officers
Tim Whittaker Photography
Souness Stone Lawyers
TCL | Turley & Co Ltd Valuers
David Trubridge Ltd
The Print House - Havelock North

New Te Awanga Project on the 'Island' near the River Mouth

A combined effort of Hawke's Bay Regional Council and MTT



Rubbish pile - there are about eight of these which will be burnt when dry. Planting will be done on the "Island". The Island will be planted in low growing natives with Harakeke having a special place. Later planting will be undertaken from the bridge to the Island.



Alan Berry, MTT Treasurer and Operations Manager, talking to Angus Gordon the landowner and Hans Rook who has studied inanga for many years.

More about us and Give-a-Little:

- www.maraetotaratreetrust.co.nz
- <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/maraetotara-tree-trust>
- <https://www.instagram.com/maraetotaratreetrust/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/maraetotaratreetrust>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/maraetotara-tree-trust/>

Please "like" and "share" us online!

Please help the trust plant more trees:

The restoration of the Maraetōtara River corridor is dependent on support from our community. Please donate so we can continue improving the water quality and this beautiful habitat. Go to Give-a-Little or use this slip to plant more native trees.



Digger working in late June - all the Willows have gone waiting for low growing flaxes and natives. Some of the flaxes of the Rene Orchiston Collection of 61 cultivars will be planted here. Residents of Kuku Street are very involved with this planting.



Inanga eggs. The Inanga like to lay them in creeping bent and tall fescue (two introduced grasses).

Members of MTT met Hans Rook (ex DOC) and Dan Fake (HBRC) to learn about the significant inanga (whitebait) spawning ground on the lower Maraetōtara. Inanga spawning is very localised and occurs where the saltwater meets the freshwater on a king tide. Protecting and enhancing spawning sites is one of the most effective ways to help inanga populations.

Kotuku (White Heron) at the back of a Kuku Street property. Not frequent visitors but they do come! Planting will be chosen to suit the wildlife and also to be congenial to the inanga who spawn in the river. There are dotterel on the river, brown teal, kereru, tui, bellbirds, pied-stilts - to name but a few! Please assist us with your voluntary labour or a donation.



I WOULD LIKE TO PLANT TREES:

- \$50
- \$100
- \$300
- Other: \$.....

Donation for:

Maraetōtara Tree Trust
 P.O. Box 8928
 Havelock North 4157
 Charity No. CC 23200