

# Maraetōtara Tree Trust



www.Maraetotaratreetrust.co.nz

2020

ANNUAL UPDATE

## Te Awanga's Turn at Last!

A drone shot of the Island at Te Awanga taken by Willie Murphy of Pollen Workshop. 2,000 trees planted over three consecutive Sundays in August and 200 Harakeke from the Rene Orchiston Collection for our weavers.

Since 2002 the MTT Trust, all volunteers, has planted over 150,000 native trees and plants. The river is 43 kms long and the aim is to plant, reserve and fence the 86 kms of river bank.



**Richard Stone**  
MTT Chair

### Project Update

My first year as Chairman has been an exciting one for the Maraetōtara Tree Trust (MTT).

We are making fantastic progress towards our vision of creating a corridor of native planting along the entire 43 kilometres for the Maraetōtara River.

The sustained and ongoing commitment from our major sponsors Unison, David Trubridge and Clearview Winery, along with many other supporting sponsors, meant that we planted 7,700 trees and flaxes along the river during the winter of 2019.

Most of our planting was completed by Habitat Biodiversity and Pest Management Limited. A smaller area was planted by the trustees assisted by staff of our commercial sponsors and pupils and parents from Taikura School.

We are very excited to announce a new sponsorship agreement with Water Testing Hawke's Bay.

This sponsorship will allow us to test the water at a number of sites along the river to assess water quality and the benefits of planting over a number of years.

Planting and growing conditions were favourable during winter, spring and into early summer. However, as many of you will recall, we had a very long hot period during late summer and autumn.

We took the unprecedented decision to spend \$3,000 on watering the newly planted trees which would not have been able to survive the drought. Hopefully, this has significantly improved the trees survival rates and we are confident will prove to be money well spent.

The trust's work was awarded the Hastings District Council's Landmark Award recognising the trust's significant contribution to the promotion of the District's image, identity, sense of place and civic pride.

We had land and plants available to plant 10,000 plants including some infilling for previous losses for season 2020.

Unfortunately, one of the landowners was unable to return to New Zealand to oversee

the planting on his land due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Accordingly, we have had to reallocate some plants which had been ordered for this site.

Other landowners and charity organisations assisted us with this, to ensure that we maximise the use of available funding.

We are now looking forward to a great 2021 planting season.

We greatly appreciate the support from the Hawke's Bay community. Remember that every \$5 we can raise means another plant in the ground on the river and a lifelong legacy for the Hawke's Bay Region. All of our trustees are unpaid volunteers. This means we do not have any overheads and can ensure all donations go directly into buying trees and ensuring their survival.

I want to thank my fellow trustees, the outgoing chairman, Pat Turley, who is remaining as a trustee, and our honorary treasurer, Alan Berry who provides all the financial and logistical firepower that makes the trust such a success.

*Richard Stone | MTT Volunteer Chair since 2019  
Trustee 2014+*



Thank you Hawke's Bay Regional Council



## Harvesting Harakeke

This was done in July from the Rene Orchiston Collection, Maraekakaho Road. Muri Whaanga is the Kaitiaki and we have had great assistance from her, Jay Kiu, Clare Coyle, Letitia Waerea and Kepa Toa who is our Kaumatua Trustee at the Maraetōtara Tree Trust. Muri has selected seven functional cultivars (useful to weavers). These are: Tāpoto, Kōhunga, Makaweroa, Raumoa, Hūhīroa, Ngāro and Taeore. These were recently planted.



Above Left: Elaine Guthrie from Taradale planting a Kowhai.

Right: Kepa Toa and Muri Whaanga at the Rene Orchiston Collection Maraekakaho Road harvesting flax in July ready for planting at Te Awanga.

Right: Heather Bell and Alec Olsen planting at Te Awanga on the 9th August. Alec has also built a fence to keep stock away from the new trees. A thank you to Angus Gordon of Clifton Station for his support for this project.



## Targa Rally



Maraetōtara Tree Trust was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to fundraise at the Targa Rally in Hawke's Bay this year. The rally was held on the 3rd and 4th of July. We collected at the start of the first stage from Waimarama on 4th July on a very cold winter's morning.

Many drivers were very generous with their donations. We raised about \$350.00, with the tour drivers being particularly generous.

We handed out flyers and Kawakawa leaves to bring the drivers good health and explained that they could make health giving tea from it at the end of the day. Kawakawa is one of the most important herbs in traditional Maori medicine. It has been used to treat cuts, wounds and various pains, so seemed appropriate for the drivers!

We thank the Targa Rally for this opportunity and trust that we will be able to continue our association in the future.

Richard Stone | July 2020



Richard Stone Chairperson MTT



Kawakawa handed out to all Targa Rally drivers.



## Thank You Unison for your support.

Unison were incredibly pleased to have become a Principal Partner of the Maraetotara Trust in 2019. With the business determined to become a more sustainable and eco-friendlier organisation, we saw great opportunities and synergies with the work the Trust has been leading along the Maraetōtara river. At Unison, we're committed to helping our communities prosper, and we are excited to be on this journey with the Trust to rejuvenate a special part of Hawke's Bay. Shortly after coming on board in 2019, members of Unison's Commercial team assisted the Trust with some replanting and weeding on the riverbank itself, and we very much look forward to more opportunities in 2020 and beyond.

Danny Gough, Unison Networks Ltd. | August 2020



# Te Awanga Planting

On 23rd and 30th July Kepa Toa, Lisl Prendergast and Clare Coyle met Muri Whaanga at The Maraekakaho Road Harakeke (flax collection) to clean and then harvest flax plants for the "Island" at Te Awanga. Muri is the kaitiaki of this collection which was originally the work of Rene Orchiston of Gisborne. There are 61 cultivars and all of them have names. Muri has selected seven for us that are most used by weavers. We have been careful to plant them in their whanau groups: Tāpoto, Kōhunga, Makaweroa, to name but a few.

On Sunday 2nd August we planted flaxes on the island and then on the 9th August with some sterling work from locals we planted 1000 native trees.

There has been great support from local people: Te Awanga, Haumoana and Clive but further afield too. Willie Murphy has helped us with spacing and design. He has also taken drone shots for us. He is the owner operator at Pollen Workshop at 369 Clifton Road.

There will be two more plantings on 16th and 23rd August with elegant grasses like Carex and trees like Kowhai, Koromiko, Five Finger, Ribbonwood, Lemonwood, Lacebark, Kohuhu etc.

We are very grateful to our digger drivers and hard workers of the Regional Council who created huge piles of willow, which were later disposed of making way for the planting in July/August 2020.

*Lisl Prendergast | MTT Trustee August 2020*



MTT meeting at David Trubridge, Whakatu. We meet in some wonderful locations including an outdoor meeting at Andy Lowe's Shore Plover Sanctuary at Ocean Beach.



Willie Murphy of Pollen Workshop with his daughter Tilly. Willie is a Landscape Architect who has helped this project.



Moo Scotting planting at Te Awanga 9th August 2020. Moo is also involved with Outfoxed/Clifton Cricket Club who are planting four hectares of native trees on the Downs.



On the 9th August approximately 1,000 trees were planted and on 16th August a further 500 plus trees were planted. The last of the trees were planted on the 23rd of August.

## Schools and Conservation

MTT has had great financial support from the Brathwaite Trust as we do educational work with schools. Most recently Kepa Toa and Lisl Prendergast went to speak to Peterhead School and we were to have a visit by the school to the river but COVID19 intervened and the planned trip could not proceed.

Many schools have assisted with planting and it is great to see a huge number of young people assisting planting in August. On 10th September Te Kura o Mangateretere will come and plant on the island. Kepa Toa and Lisl Prendergast are working with the school. Taikura students have been regular planters and the Corrections Department. Good work has been done by them on Adele Mohi's property on Ocean Beach Road. The newly formed Te Wai Mauri Trust from Waiohiki Marae may contribute labour in the future.

*Lisl Prendergast | MTT Trustee August 2020*



MTT Trustees meeting at David Trubridge Ltd. Whakatu, June 2019: Dean Roughton, Hylton McDermott, Alec Olsen, Lisl Prendergast, Josh Lynch, Alan Berry, Kepa Toa, Pat Turley. Richard Stone our Chair took the photograph. Absent: Mark Roper.

## MTT Governance Group

**Chair:** Richard Stone

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

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

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



## MTT Supporters & Donors 2018-2020

### KEY PARTNERS

Nina EJ Brathwaite Trust

Participating Landowners 2002-20

Hawke's Bay Regional Council 2002-20

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

Taikura Rudolf Steiner School

MTT Trustees & Officers

Souness Stone Lawyers

TCL | Turley & Co Ltd Valuers

David Trubridge Ltd

The Print House - Havelock North

Pollen Workshop, Te Awanga

Water Testing Hawke's Bay



# Water Testing Hawke's Bay

## A new Partner for MTT



The Maraetōtara Tree Trust's newest corporate partner, Water Testing Hawke's Bay, will begin collecting water samples from the river this month (August 2020).

Water samples will be collected

from 10 locations along the Maraetōtara River every month for at least the next 5 years. The water quality monitoring sites have been chosen to highlight any changes in water quality associated with significant inflow volumes from sub-catchment tributary streams. The sites have also been chosen to complement the 2 sample collection locations already monitored by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council as part of their State of the Environment (SOE) reporting.

The collection and analysis of water samples from the Maraetōtara River has been a long-term vision for many members of the Maraetōtara River restoration project team. With the recent partnering of the Maraetōtara Tree Trust with Water Testing Hawke's Bay, this vision has now been realised and in the future will form an integral part of the Maraetōtara River restoration project story. It is hoped of course that positive changes (or differences between sites) in water quality become evident over time, and that some of these improvements may be attributable to the extensive fencing and restoration work undertaken by the Maraetōtara Tree Trust.

Mark Roper | Trustee

## Our Journey

### Report from our Treasurer and Project Planner Alan Berry.

When seven local citizens set off in 2002

with their vision of clearing the Maraetōtara River and planting its entire 43 kilometres in native trees and shrubs, little did they realise the enormity of the undertaking that lay ahead of them. But here we are in 2020 with 150,000 native trees planted along the river's banks and "only" another 100,000 in front of us to complete the project - perhaps another ten years' work for our team of trustees and our dedicated community and commercial supporters.

The nature of the project has however evolved as time has passed and rather than just planting trees for the sake of trees we have become increasingly involved in protecting and enhancing the bio-diversity



Alan Berry MTT Treasurer and Pat Turley formerly Chair of MTT.

## 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.

### I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE:

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

### To:

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

# The Top Award

## MTT Won the Hastings Landmarks Trust Jeremy Dwyer Award for Excellence for the Maraetōtara River Regeneration project.



within the river itself. The waterway is home to a multitude of different life forms and we are so pleased that our trees have also helped to preserve the habitat of the river-life by reducing livestock intrusion and nutrient runoff into their river. Lisl Prendergast has in this issue told us about the trust's work at the mouth of the river at Te Awanga. One of the bio-diversity objectives of the Te Awanga plantings has been to protect the prolific inanga (whitebait) spawning areas along the banks of the Maraetōtara just before it enters the sea.

But all of this comes at a cost. Over the past five seasons the trust has planted 60,000 native trees along the riverbank but we have paid out more than \$250,000 for the purchase of plants and for contract work on site preparation, planting and aftercare that the trustees and their supporters could not manage on their own. We have been able to achieve this only with the assistance of governmental agencies, our commercial sponsors, community trusts and our many supporters in the community. They share our vision and the Maraetōtara Tree Trust is making that vision happen.

There is still a great deal of work to do along the length of the river but the journey is so rewarding.

Alan Berry | Treasurer and Project Planner

## More about us and Give-a-Little:

[www.maraetotaratreetrust.co.nz](http://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/>

Maraetotara  
Tree Trust



An Investment in the Future Since 2002