

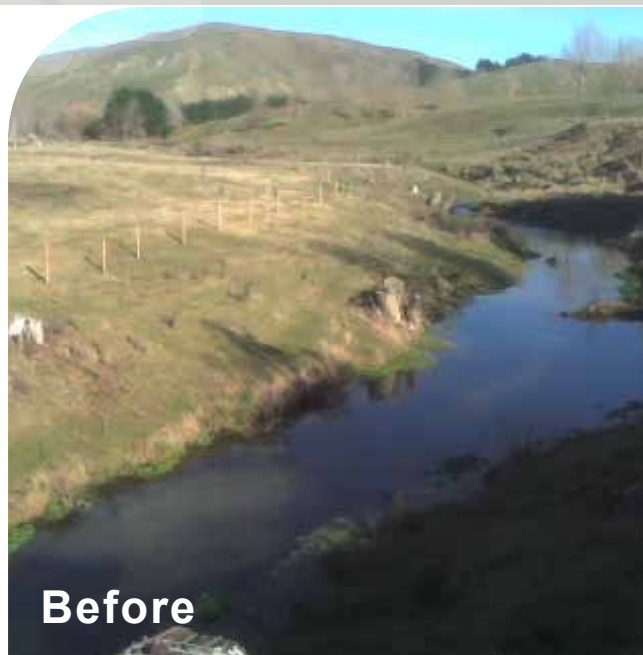
# Maraetōtara Tree Trust



www.Maraetōtaratree Trust.co.nz

2021

ANNUAL UPDATE



**Before**



**After**

Photograph: Pat Turley

Since 2002 the Maraetōtara Tree Trust has planted over 170,000 native trees and flaxes on the banks of the Maraetōtara River. Thank you to all who supported us in this project.



**Richard Stone**  
MTT Chair

## FROM MOANA TO MAUNGA

The 2021 planting season has been very busy for the Maraetōtara Tree Trust.

We have planted over 9000 plants along the banks of the Awa and continue to follow up with infill planting and ensuring that willow regrowth is kept to a minimum.

Our main area of planting has been along the banks that border our Maunga at Kahuranaki. This is a beautiful piece of the river which the Hawke's Bay Regional Council has cleared of willows and assisted landowners in fencing to ensure the plants are protected from livestock incursion.

We have been very fortunate to continue our excellent relationship with Colin Pirire and the team at Habitat Biodiversity and Pest Management Limited. They ensured that the plantings were completed by the end of July which should ensure we have good survival rates. Given the dry conditions we've

experienced over winter, the early planting was very important and continues to show the Trust's active management of the resources our generous sponsors have continued to provide to us.

We have also contracted Te Wai Mauri Trust to plant a smaller number of our plants this season. They are providing work and training opportunities for the Waiohiki community.

The plantings at Kahuranaki create a nice balance with the planting completed at the mouth of the river at Te Awanga the previous season. The residents and volunteers in the Te Awanga area continue to maintain these plantings. An area of natural beauty and habitat for bird and fish life has been created that should be enjoyed for generations to come.

We have continued with our relationship with Te Kura o Mangateretere and Taikura. Their staff and enthusiastic students again came to the river to assist with planting and to learn about the project and the river's importance to the area. We thank the Brathwaite Trust for its ongoing support of the education of students of the Kura about the Awa.

We continue to receive support from our principal sponsors Unison, David Trubridge, Clearview, Turley & Co. and Water Testing Hawke's Bay. We have also received many smaller private donations. You can all be assured that, as all of our trustees are volunteers, every dollar donated is applied directly towards the health and vitality of the Maraetōtara.

I would like to thank all the trustees and our volunteer treasurer Alan Berry.

Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au

Richard Stone | MTT Volunteer Chair since 2020  
Trustee 2014+



Planting in September: Richard Stone (Chair) the writer of this report is second from the left. Other people: Left to Right Hylton McDermott, Warwick Hesketh, Alec Olsen, (Secretary) Alice Anderson (HBRC) and Alan Berry.







Danny Gough Relationships Manager at Unison with Pat Turley MMT Chair 2014-2020

## MTT Unison Partnership

In 2019 Unison and the Maraetōtara Tree Trust entered into an exciting partnership agreement, whereby Unison could actively support and engage with the Maraetōtara Tree Trust to continue the important conservation work to protect, enhance and restore the Maraetōtara River from the top of the Maraetōtara Valley to its outflow into Hawke's Bay at Te Awanga beach.

Unison has a reputation for being actively engaged in the communities it serves. It supports worthy causes that enable communities to prosper. Unison is well underway on its own sustainability journey. The partnership with the Maraetōtara Tree Trust is a fantastic fit for Unison as we continue to move forward as a more environmentally focused and sustainable business.

Our unique partnership also allows Unison staff to be actively involved with the Trust's planting and protection activities along the Maraetōtara River, such as planting and weeding. This provides a direct link back to our environment and provides our team with a sense of doing something tangible that will benefit future generations. The feedback from our people has been extremely positive, and we will continue to expose more Unison people to the activities of the Maraetōtara Tree Trust over the coming months.

Unison is very proud to be associated with the Maraetōtara Tree Trust, and the transformational work it continues to do along our key waterways in Hawke's Bay. We would also like to acknowledge the trustees and numerous volunteers who put countless hours into carrying out this important work. Clean fresh water is something we can no longer take for granted, so we must do all we can to preserve and protect this 'life blood' of our environment. Danny Gough



Alice Anderson has joined MTT as the HBRC representative.

## MTT Trubridge Partnership

David Trubridge Design is an internationally known lighting design studio. The company is driven by a strong environmental responsibility which informs all aspects of design and production. The factory, studio and showroom is based in Whakatu, Hastings and houses a team of 16. The company has been a supporter of the Maraetōtara Tree Trust since 2014 and contributed to over 15 thousand trees being planted. The company's lights can be found all over Hawke's Bay, around Aotearoa and the world! Their commitment to supporting local causes extends beyond our trust to hundreds of community events, schools and kindergartens.



## A tree for all seasons – Ralph's karo

Pittosporum Ralphii

This wonderful native species ticks all the boxes for both conservation and domestic planting. Tolerant of a wide range of soils and altitudes, it occurs naturally throughout Hawke's Bay and the east coast and stretches over to the headwaters of the Whanganui River.

In terms of survivability it has few peers making it an excellent choice for the river restoration work at Maraetōtara.

As a farm and home garden plant its versatility is its strength. An excellent shelter and hedge species, it stands strong in the wind and adapts readily to machine trimming. It can be left to grow naturally feeding the birds with seeds and nectar while developing its nurse crop capabilities for the next generation of forest giant species. For more formal scenes karo can be pruned to produce a standard form with a globe of attractive foliage.

Ralph's karo should not be confused with its close cousin Pittosporum crassifolium, the Coast Karo.

The photo shows typical Ralphii leaf form, plus a cheeky stem of Hebe speciosa.

Alec Olsen



Willie Murphy of Pollen Workshop has joined MTT as Planting Manager.



Get the environment right and you never know who will visit! Flipper of Te Awanga - Thank you Bronwyn Trafford

## The Brathwaite Trust MTT Partnership: Te Awanga Planting

The Brathwaite Trust has assisted the Maraetōtara Tree Trust to provide some great educational opportunities for local schools. This year Mangateretere and Taikura have benefitted from work on the riverbank planting trees. The students from Mangateretere planted trees on the "island" at Te Awanga for the second year in a row followed by a good old sausage sizzle at Lisl Prendergast's place in Kuku St. It was a very cold day on 29 June so we think these young ones did a great job. Big thank you to the Principal Mona Stewart who has been so supportive of this project. It was nice for the students to see how well our 2020 trees have done too. Taikura have had a long association with MTT and again the Trust is very grateful for their hard work.

Lisl Prendergast | MTT Trustee since 2015  
(Newsletter Editor)



Above: Lisl Prendergast Trustee and Mona Stewart Principal of Te Kura o Mangateretere. Planting Day. Same hockey team HGHS late 1960's!! Nga mihi Whaea



Left: Joyce Barry with Alec Olsen Maraetōtara Tree Trust's Secretary



Jevita-Rose Singh-Roberts plants a Kowhai. Well done Jevita-Rose! Azmon Kau'i & Elle-Marie Neilson, planting a tree. Well done girls!



Jan Robinson, Kepa Toa (trustee) and Clare Coyle relaxing after our planting day



Above: Wyllie Nepe & Te Mauritau Peipi planting a tree, Pai rawa atu!




## Te Wai Mauri Partnership

Te Wai Mauri: MTT has a new partnership with Te Wai Mauri. This Trust has done great work planting on the river. Te Wai Mauri does planting for the Kaitiaki Rangers. This group is deeply committed to protection of te taiao. Kaitiakitanga of Te Ao Maori is central to all the Trust undertakes.

### Poroporoake

Dean Roughton Haere atu ra Dean. Kia ora koe mo tou Kaitiakitanga. Rest in Peace. Dean was HBRC's representative on the Trust.

## 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: Alice Anderson  
Financial Advisor: Alan Berry | Trust Settlor: Andy Lowe



## MTT Supporters & Donors 2018-2021

### KEY PARTNERS

Nina EJ Brathwaite Trust  
Participating Landowners 2002-21  
Hawke's Bay Regional Council 2002-21  
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



# Planting Action Alan Berry

Planting a few trees along a riverbank can't be that hard, can it? Just dig some holes, stick the plants in, scrape in some soil, stamp around them and the job is done.

No. It doesn't quite work like that. The Maraetōtara Tree Trust has been planting trees and flaxes on the banks of the Maraetōtara for nineteen years now, about 170,000 of them so far! Thirty eight kilometres of riparian strip along the riverbank are now fenced off to exclude stock and planted in native trees and flaxes. But planting that many trees, about 10,000 a year, requires a lot of planning, a lot of organising and a lot of hard work.

The original band of seven trustees set off on this journey in 2002 with the objective of clearing the entire river of encroaching willows, fencing the banks to keep stock out of the water and then planting the riparian strip in the native plants and trees that had originally thrived in the valley. Some of the river was already in native bush or in reserves, such as the Maraetōtara Falls Reserve and the Maraetōtara Gorge Scenic Reserve further upstream but that still left the trust with thirty kilometres of river, sixty kilometres of riverbank, to clear, fence and plant.

None of this would have been possible without the huge support of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. The Maraetōtara River Restoration Project is a joint effort between the trust and the Council. The Council takes out the willows and helps the farmers with the cost of fencing the riparian strip. The Maraetōtara Tree Trust then comes in and prepares the land for planting, plants the trees and looks after them until they are big enough to look after themselves.

In a typical year, the areas to be planted have been decided several years prior. For a start, this has meant convincing landowners that the future of their river depends on them giving up the use of a strip of land for the greater good. For the good of the river, for the creatures that live in that river, for the birdlife that thrives among the native bush species that we are planting and for the Hawke's Bay community at large. This was a difficult story to sell for a start but not anymore. Our landowners in the valley are now totally supportive of the trust's vision

of a clean, free-flowing, tree lined river, supporting a diverse range of water creatures and birdlife.

Having lined up the land we then need to find the money. The trust spends about \$60,000 a year on the project and that means a lot of fundraising. The trustees are all volunteers and our budget for administration is really miserable, to ensure that the maximum cash can be spent on what we do – which is planting trees. We receive some support from national resources but most of our funding comes from within Hawke's Bay, from our very generous business sponsors, from local trusts and from citizens who just like what we are doing.

Once the cash is in sight we order the plants we will need for the season's plantings. Then we arrange the contractors who will be doing the major part of the planting work for us. Every year several schools, employees of sponsor businesses and supporters from the community turn out to help us plant trees but the job is so huge that most of the planting must be entrusted to local contractors. They go out to the river in early autumn to spray spots on the riverbank, to reduce early competition from grass and weeds. The nurseries deliver the plants in May or June and the contract gangs then take the plants out to the river, dig 10,000 holes and very carefully position the plants along the riverbank in a way that both maximises their chances of survival and provides the greatest benefit to the river: flaxes near the water's edge as they do not mind the occasional flood; species that can handle dry conditions on the hot eastern side of the river; tall trees on the western side to shade the river and provide cool water for the creatures who live in there. The contractors come back again in the early summer and cut back the competing grass if that is necessary to give the plants a good start. We even water the young trees in times of drought and do everything we can to ensure that they survive their formative years.

And next year, we do it all again. We still have 22 kilometres of riverbank to plant but the project has momentum and with the continued support of the community we will succeed.

*Alan Berry - Treasurer and project planner.*



**Alec Olsen and Hylton McDermott planting at the river in September**

## 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: \$.....



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

[www.Maraetotaratreetrust.co.nz](http://www.Maraetotaratreetrust.co.nz)

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/Maraetotara-tree-trust>

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