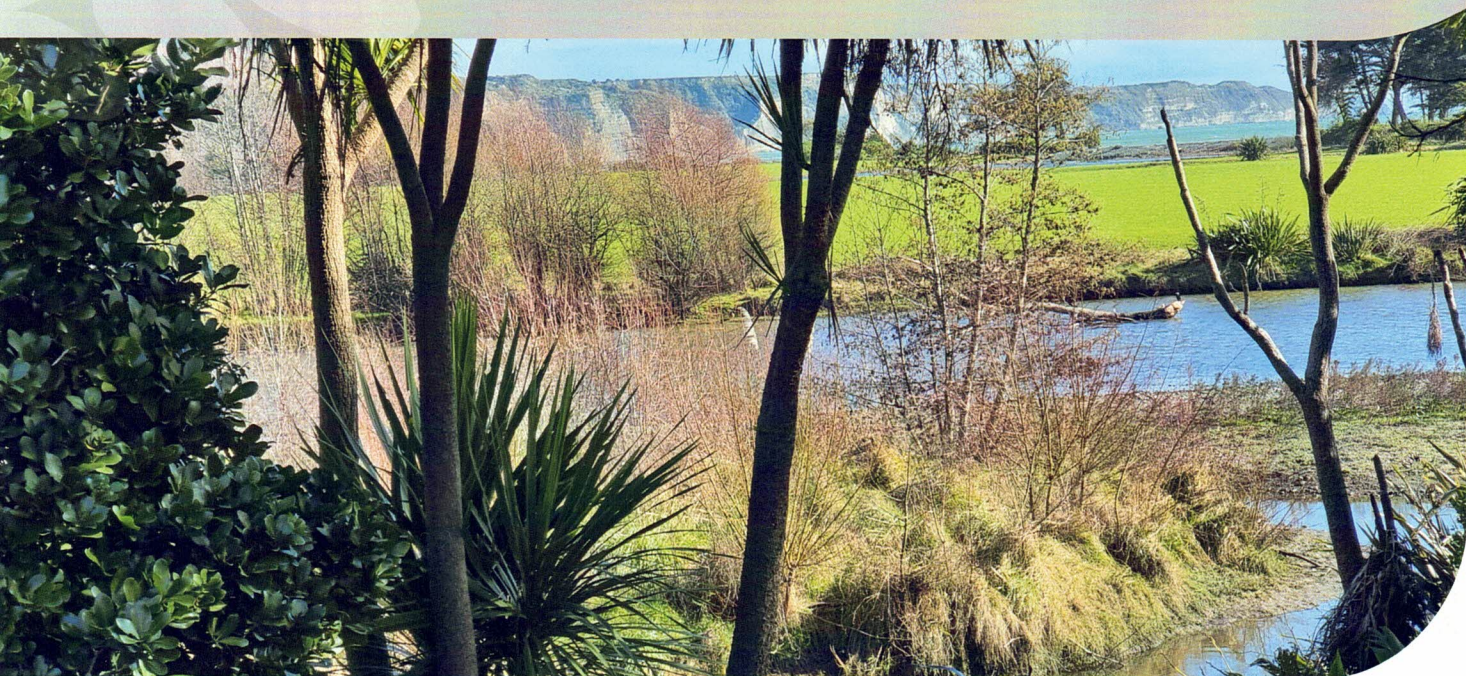


# Maraetōtara Tree Trust

www.Maraetōtaratree trust.co.nz

2022

ANNUAL UPDATE



## *Whatu nga rongaro te tangata toi tu te whenua "As man disappears from sight, the land remains."*

### **Richard Stone** MTT Chair



*It has been a year of incredible achievements and incredible sadness for the Maraetōtara Tree Trust.*

*We have planted 9,000 native trees and flaxes during the year from the Clifton Rd Bridge to Kahuranaki. Thanks to the hard work and organisational skills of our planting manager Willie Murphy we managed to have most of our planting completed in May. This meant that the plants had an opportunity to become established before the frosts arrived.*

*The significant rainfall over winter should further improve our plants' survival rate as their roots will have opportunity to become well established before the dry of summer hits them.*

*Our honorary treasurer Alan Berry has provided an excellent summary and photos of the plantings this year. Alan's financial skills and incredible work ethic have resulted in the trust being in a very strong and well managed financial position.*

*In addition to our planting achievements we were also recognised by the Cawthron Institute as runner up in the New Zealand River Awards in recognition of the most improved river water quality in New Zealand.*

*Our sadness was losing our trustee Pat Turley, our past treasurer Dick Geenty and a founding trustee Martin A'Court.*

*Pat died of a heart attack on Te Mata Peak in August 2022. Pat was the immediate past chairman of the trust and was the driving force behind its growth since 2008 when he joined the trust and particularly from 2014 to 2020 when he was our chairman.*

*Our thoughts are with Pat's family.*

*Martin was based at Kahuranaki and was well placed to support and encourage the trust throughout his time as a trustee. He was always generous with his time and financial support of the trust. He is survived by his wife Caroline Greenwood, who has also been very supportive of the trust, and a wide circle of family and friends.*

*Dick was treasurer of the trust until 2018 when he retired. Although not a trustee Dick was*

*one of the driving forces in the formation of the trust. He is survived by his wife Sue and his three children.*

*Despite our sad losses this year we are determined to continue with the momentum that former trustees have established and finish the project that their vision and hard work began.*

*As I noted (perhaps prophetically) at our annual general meeting*

*Whatu nga rongaro  
te tangata toi tu te whenua*

*As man disappears from sight, the land remains.*

*Richard Stone  
Chairman Maraetōtara  
Tree Trust*

*Right: MTT runner-up in the Cawthron Institute's 2021 NZ River Awards (presented in 2022 due to Covid delays)*







Kua hinga te totara. Kia ora koe Pat mo tou mahi mo tou aroha ki te whenua. Pat's sudden death has been a shock to us all. We will remember him by continuing the work he started. Here he is with an armful of new trees. Always smiling and always generous with his time. Moe mai e hoa.



## Haere atu ra Pat

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of our trustee Patrick Turley. Pat, 58 years old, made a huge contribution in those all too short years. He was the driving force behind the Maraetōtara Tree Trust moving to a professional model that is now recognised as one of the leading conservation trusts in Hawke's Bay.

Pat was taken from us while riding on Te Mata Peak. This is an area that has reaped the benefits of the bird corridor that is being created by the planting of the Maraetōtara River. It is perhaps fitting that he left us amongst the trees and birds he so loved.

Pat became a trustee of the trust in 2008. He was chairman from 2014 until 2020. During this time the trust grew under Pat's indefatigable leadership, to receiving corporate, government and private sponsorship that allowed us to plant up to 10 000 trees a year.

Pat's wife Sue Turley said that Pat always loved his time on the trust and was very proud of what the trust had achieved during his time. Their three children are proud of their father's passion for, and contribution to Maraetōtara Tree Trust.

Pat's family valuation business, Turley and Co provided financial, administrative and moral support throughout Pat's time on the trust.

His family and friends have been very generous in making donations to the trust to remember Pat. We hope to set aside a small area of planting to recognise these donations.

Pat's presence, enthusiasm and Irish storytelling ability will be sorely missed.

As our kaumatua Kepa Toa appropriately put it "Kua hinga he totara i te wao nui a Tane".

*Rest in Peace Pat.*

*Right: David Truebridge has been a most loyal supporter of MTT and the Trust is very grateful for his assistance. Many trees have been planted with his company's patronage.*



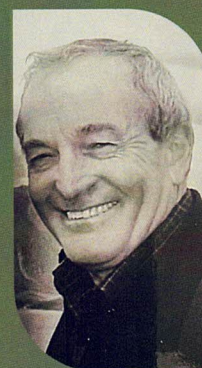
*Below: The trustees of the Brathwaite Trust visit the river this year. Robin Black and Stuart Roper planting a Puriri tree.*



*Above: A picnic at the end of a days planting supported by the Nina EJ Brathwaite Trust.*



**Martin A'Court.**  
A founding Trustee of the MTT was a very hard working Trustee and his contribution can be seen from his beloved Kahuranaki Station to the mouth of the river. Moe mai Martin.  
Rest in Peace.  
Thank you Carrie for your support of the Trust and the use of Duart House for our meetings.



**Dick Geenty was treasurer for the Maraetōtara Tree Trust for over ten years. He was a wonderful colleague and a very important contributor to the work of the Trust. Dick loved the river and was an exceptionally kind person with a passion for the land and the realm of Tane Mahuta. Haere atu ra e hoa.**



Karakia. We always begin and end with a karakia. Kepa Toa is a Trustee and Mona Stewart is the Principal of Mangateretere School.



Kepa Toa & Alec Olsen. A well earned hot dog after our big planting day with Mangateretere School.



# Our thanks to the students from Rudolf Steiner

The Maraetōtara Tree Trust has had a long association with students from the Rudolf Steiner school in Hastings. This goes back at least a decade and was initiated I believe by the school gardener Jenny Speedy.

Each year we would arrange a date and planting site and Jenny would deliver a bus load of keen students, generously and capably supported by teachers and mums and dads. They often came with a bonus of native plants that they had grown themselves. How good is that?

I guess it's no accident that Team Steiner are particularly good at planting trees as it seems to be part of their DNA, and the Trust is very grateful indeed for their efforts.

Thank you students, staff and parents, past and present, for being part of our project to protect and plant the entire Maraetōtara River.



Above: Enthusiastic students of Taikura School Hastings.



A reflective young conservationist.



Mangateretere school students.



Bobby and Chance. We all make new friends working on the river.



Right: Paul Heaps has been a great supporter of the island project. Thank you for all the work you did this year Paul.



Lisl Prendergast and Mona Stewart with our very supportive host Tom Gordon of Clifton Station. We are given access to the island every year which is really appreciated. Tom is an enthusiastic conservationist and very pleased to tautoko our young naturalists.

## Maraetōtara Tree Trust

### PLANTING REPORT 2022

The winter's plantings on the banks of the river are looking fine. Our contractors were able to plant early in the season when the soil was still warm and with the continuing rain that has fallen in the valley since planting, the young trees have got away to a great start. Because we have only limited opportunities to tend the young trees after they have been planted, it is so important that they start growing their root structure immediately, in case a dry summer should follow. This year we have a solid foundation for another really good growing season.

The patchwork of plantings that we have created along the river over the past twenty years is gradually coming together as a seamless corridor of native trees and flaxes along the total riparian strip. In the early days of the trust there was some understandable reluctance on the part of landowners to giving up control of their river verges and their access to the river for livestock watering. Accordingly, we planted on sites where we had landowner goodwill.

But landowner and public attitudes have changed in that time and we now have overwhelming support for our vision of a waterway flanked by securely fenced native plantings along the river's entire length of 43 kilometres. There is plenty more to do but we are satisfied that the mana the project has developed will see us through to our long term objectives.

Some of the most beautiful stretches of the Maraetōtara River are unfortunately seldom seen by the public. One of those is the reach of the river behind Kahuranaki, where we have planted 11,000 native trees and flaxes over the past two seasons. Where once livestock were able to freely access the river the riparian strip is now securely fenced and planted. We are so fortunate that our landowners on the river have been fully supportive of the trust's work and have readily given up the use of their land and their access to stock water. The Regional Council have always played a major part in our river restoration programme and

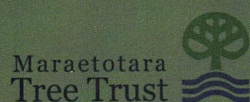
## MTT Governance Group

**Chair:** Richard Stone

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

**Trustees:** Hylton McDermott, Lisl Prendergast, Kepa Toa, Mark Roper, Josh Lynch | **HBRC Representative:** Alice Anderson

**Trust Settlor:** Andy Lowe



An Investment in the Future Since 2002

## MTT Supporters & Donors 2018-2022

### 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  
Clean Planet

### 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





has assisted in retiring the riverbank from farming on sites such as this by contributing towards the cost of both the fencing and the provision of alternative stock watering systems.

And further downstream at the river mouth itself we have continued our urban plantings, again assisted by pupils from Te Kura o Mangateretere.



It is great to have the kids join us each year, not so much to just plant trees but more importantly to develop an appreciation of the river, the trees, the water creatures, the birds and the environment whose future will lie in the hands of this generation. Our friends at the Brathwaite Trust cover the cost of the bus and the other expenses relating to our educational programme.



In the trust's early days we did a lot of the planting

ourselves, with help from a number of governmental work schemes. But these are no longer available and with the increase in our plant numbers we have needed to turn to contractors for professional tree planting services. We are very fortunate to have the support of two local firms who are as passionate as we are about getting native trees in the ground. People who know their trade and can provide the young plants with the greatest opportunity to thrive in what can be a harsh environment. We could not manage without the support of Colin Pirie of Habitat Biodiversity and Pest Management Limited and Guy Morris of GB Morris Landscaping Limited. In early autumn our contractors prepare the riverbank for planting, plant the trees about the end of May and then release the young plants from competing grass in late spring, all under the overall direction by our planting manager Willie Murphy.

One of our prime objectives is to improve the quality of the water in the Maraetōtara but to measure progress we need to know what is actually happening in the river. We are very fortunate to have the generous

support of Water Testing Hawke's Bay, who carry out regular testing of the water for us. They are looking at the amount of dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus, at the clarity of the water and at the population of little creatures that live in the river. We know it will take time to turn around years of water degradation but we believe that we are finally starting to see signs of improvement. It can only get better as the benefits of those twenty years of planting trees along the riverbank become more apparent.

Although we do this job for other reasons, it is always nice to receive community acknowledgement of the Trust's efforts. We were therefore very encouraged to be awarded runner-up status in the Cawthron Institute's 2021 New Zealand River Awards, presented earlier this year in recognition of the most improved water quality in New Zealand rivers. With the award there also came a monetary prize, sufficient to allow us to plant another 500 trees this winter.

Many individual people contribute through our Givealittle page, while others support organisations such as Project Crimson and Trees that Count, which channel public donations into local environmental projects. Just recently we were very pleased to host a visit by Emma Giesen, the Project Crimson Marketplace Manager. Emma came out to the river with trustees Alec Olsen and Hylton McDermott to have a look at some of the young trees we had just planted this winter with generous help from Trees that Count.

We have planted 9,000 trees and flaxes beside the river this year and are now well into planning for 2023, when we expect to plant a similar number. Another ten years and the end of this wonderful project should be in sight. It would never have happened though without the shared vision of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, our partners in the restoration of the Maraetōtara River. We are forever indebted to the Council for their continuing support.

The trustees can manage the planting but we are totally dependent on the community for the funding that makes it all possible. We are therefore so grateful for the support received from our friends at Unison Networks, David Trubridge Design, Clearview Winery, Clean Planet, the Nina EJ Brathwaite Trust, Project Crimson, the One Billion Trees Fund and the many individual citizens and local charitable trusts who support us financially. In addition, we have many businesses who support us with services, such as our long term friends Turley & Co, Souness Stone and Willy Murphy's Pollen Workshop.

We thank them all and are determined to deliver on their support.

Alan Berry  
Treasurer & Project Planner



## 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 Givealittle or use this slip.

### I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE:

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



## More about us and Givealittle:

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

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

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