

**Nga Uruora – Kāpiti Project  
Incorporated**

**16th Annual report & statement of  
accounts**

**2012 – 2013**



**Committee and Workers 2012 - 2013**

**Convenor**

Ken Fraser / Blair Badcock

**Secretary**

Blair Badcock / Paul Callister

**Treasurer**

Tony Older

**Auditor**

Michael Ayre

**Committee**

Blair Badcock, Steve Bright, Paul Callister, Ken Fraser,  
Malcolm Garnham, Peter Kentish, John Lancashire, Pete McLaughlin

**Paekakariki Nursery**

**Pukerua Bay Nursery**

**Te Ra Nursery**

Paul Callister, Gay Hay, Vicky Griffin, Peter Martin, Annie Chapman and Rachel Tobin

**Finance and Expenditure Sub-Committee**

Jenni Borren, Malcolm Garnham, Tony Older

**Employment Sub-Committee**

Paul Callister, Malcolm Garnham, Ken Fraser

**Promotions & Membership Sub-Committee**

Philip deWilde, Tony Older

**Conservation Sub-Committee**

Paul Callister, Joe Clarkson, Ken Fraser, Peter Martin, Peter McLaughlin

**Contract Manager**

Steve Bright

**Contract & Hill Workers**

Joe Clarkson, Philip deWilde, Peter Kentish,  
Pete McLaughlin, Tony Older

**Pest Control Team**

Sue Boyde, Paul Callister, Malcolm Garnham,  
Damian Harrison, Rob Hawke, Bill Mansfield, Peter Martin, Pete McLaughlin,  
Vince Waanders

**Administration**

Tony Older

## Appreciation for Support

Our special thanks to the following organisations for their support:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council – Take Care Fund
- Kāpiti Coast District Council and the Paekakariki Community Board
- Greenfleet
- Fujitsu
- World Wildlife Fund
- Walkways Commission
- KiwiRail
- Department of Conservation

During the past year many individuals have helped us doing field work, office work and in many other ways. All this help is greatly appreciated. It is difficult to provide a list of all helpers, but we would like to thank the following:

- Tim Park, Jo Fagan & Mike Ulrich, Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Rob Cross, Kāpiti Coast District Council for advice and support
- Lawrence Silas and Chris Wootton, Kāpiti Coast District Council for support of our field work
- Paekākāriki , Pukerua Bay and Te Ra Schools, staff, parents and students
- Nicola Horwood for work on our website
- Jenni Borren for preparing the accounts and general advice
- Michael Ayre – for auditing our accounts

Our volunteers included Vicky Griffin, Maria Lute, Sue Boyde, Bill Mansfield, Blair Badcock, Peter Martin, Barbara Chalmers, Ted Coates, Peter Rankin, , Jim Harris, Naomi Shephard, Joy de Geus, Jesse Lockhart, Steve Mann, Grant Lees and Pamela Meekings-Stewart. We are also grateful for the on-going support of Carol Reihana of Ngāti Haumia.

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## **1. Introduction to Nga Uruora- Kāpiti Project Inc.**

Nga Uruora Kāpiti Project Inc. was established in 1997 by Fergus Wheeler and the Paekākāriki community to halt and reverse the decline in coastal forest on the Kāpiti – Porirua coast. Our vision is to link the conservation successes on Kāpiti and Mana Islands to the mainland coast, to create a ribbon of native forest to bring back the native birds that used to sing in our trees. Our status as a community group allows us to actively initiate conservation on both public and private land. We believe there is huge potential for community involvement in, and appreciation of, conservation.

### **NUKP's areas**

From south to north we have worked on seven different areas:

- Carrad's farm on Pukerua Bay hills (pockets of remnant native forest)
- The escarpment from Muri Station to Paekākāriki overbridge - our flagship project
- Betty Perkins Reserve (above the Paekākāriki Hill Road)
- A.T. Clarke Reserve (forest below the hairpin on Paekākāriki Hill Road)
- Sanderson's Reserve (opposite Fisherman's Table)
- Ames Street Reserve
- Matai Huka Walkway (plantings above the Raumati escarpment)

Our flagship project is the escarpment. It consists of all the steep ground between SH1 and the farmland at the top of the escarpment, and it stretches from the north end of Pukerua Bay to Paekākāriki overbridge. In the centre of the escarpment a new path, Bob's Track, gives access to the Ecosite which is a large area of remnant native bush. Alongside we have areas which have been planted and irrigated.

## **2. Convenor's Report 2013**

This year has been a time of significant change for Nga Uruora which, while being difficult, will lead to an organization that is in a strong position to continue with the vision of bringing Kāpiti Island's dawn chorus back to the coast.

Nga Uruora completed a review of its core activities and decided to change the operating model to enable better focus on our vision. Our principal aim was to lighten the administrative load of office bearers and enable us to focus resources on key restoration and conservation activities. The key changes were:

- Nga Uruora will no longer engage in contracting work after 30th June 2013, and
- Nga Uruora will be refocusing its restoration and conservation activities along the escarpment.

This change has been largely completed and we are grateful to the goodwill and hard work of the former contracting team for both the smooth transition and the strong financial position Nga Uruora is currently in.

Following on from this significant change for Nga Uruora, we will go through a deliberate process to identify how to best use our resources in the medium and long term. As indicated elsewhere this may result in a lesser focus on "trees in the ground" and more on activities such as pest control and collaboration with the wider conservation movement on the Kāpiti coast.

We would like to acknowledge the huge amount of work done by Paul Callister, especially planting on the steep slopes above A.T. Clarke Reserve and along the Te Araroa Track. Paul has also been very active in the nurseries, and planning future plantings, not to mention a lot of administrative work connected with the reorganization.

A significant change has been the change of convenor with Ken Fraser stepping down in March 2013. Ken has been a good steward for Nga Uruora over a number of years in what has been a challenging environment. Ken will remain active in Nga Uruora and continue weed spraying, planting and providing strong advocacy for us with the likes of Te Araroa. We would also like to acknowledge the wise counsel given by Blair Badcock in the role of convenor in 2013 through the above changes. The energy and guidance from someone new has been important in the changes.

The construction of the Te Araroa track along the escarpment from Paekākāriki to Pukerua Bay is an exciting development for Nga Uruora. Given that we are experts in escarpment geography, ecology and track construction, we are looking to position Nga Uruora to work with Te Araroa and form a close partnership.

To finish this report on a high note, although it is outside the reporting period, we are very pleased that Nga Uruora was recognised at the community and civic awards dinner for the Kapiti region, as the recipient of not one, but two Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards, winning both the Heritage and Environment category as well as being named the overall regional winner.

The awards are great recognition for a long list of people who have volunteered with Nga Uruora since 1997 and have planted, trapped, sprayed weeds, completed funding applications, kept the minutes and done all the things that keep the organisation going. They are a gracious thank you from the community for the many hours that have been put in by everyone. As a committee and organisation this is a significant award.

**Malcolm Garnham**

### **3. Planting and nurseries**

#### **Planting**

After a number of relatively benign growing seasons, the 2013 summer drought looked like it was going to result in some significant losses amongst our 2012 plantings. We kept some key plants alive by watering, but the drought finally broke and most of our plants quickly rebounded.

The 2013 planting season has come to an end and we finished the season with Pukerua Bay nursery cleared of all suitable stock. This year we have planted nearly 4,000 plants. All the main areas identified in our 2013 planting plan have now been planted. This year we have concentrated on plantings beside the new Te Araroa track and beginning to restore forest in the 'quarry'.

A couple of our plantings were not initially planned. One was at the new lookout on the Te Araroa track. This was a joint venture with members of the Te Araroa Trust. Special thanks are due to Hamish Smith for giving us access across his land. We also undertook a small planting and fence repair job on Pamela Meekings-Stewart's farm.

Through KCDC, Joe Clarkson also organised a planting at Ames Street reserve, drawing on local school children. Alongside our volunteer planting, Nga Uruora Contracting successfully completed planting of the Te Araroa track zig zag steps. Plants were brought in via a culvert under the main road and railway line, a challenging enterprise in itself.

A feature of the 2013 plantings was the introduction or expansion of some rarer plants. These were matai, northern rata, clematis, putaputaweta, pigeonwood, milk tree, nikau, and Veronica (hebe) stricta var macroura. Some of these plants were supplied by other nurseries. We are grateful to Project Crimson for supplying us with 20 northern rata. Queen Elizabeth Park nursery provided us with matai, nikau and clematis. The Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve group

supplied us with cabbage trees. We are also grateful to KCDC for supplying us with seeds and small seedlings to grow the milk tree and macroua hebe.

The Te Araroa track now takes walkers to the top of the escarpment. Here walkers pass through some of Nga Uruora's earliest plantings. It is very pleasing to see plants thriving in such a tough environment. Equally, visiting the fenced-off areas on Carrad's farm at Pukerua Bay demonstrates the success of early Nga Uruora planting on these sites.

We aim to continue planting in 2014. Our key areas of planting in the shorter term are likely to be a continuation of re-forestation of the quarry and Te Araroa related planting. However, at this stage we are continuing to scale back our efforts to match the availability of volunteers. Like many restoration groups we are now finding it harder to attract volunteers to help with our planting programmes.

As part of our overall review of long term strategies for Nga Uruora we are reviewing the longer term aims of our planting program. A real unknown in the longer term is what will happen should we gain more land to manage through the sale of Perkin's farm. This could greatly affect our ideas about planting and related nursery production.

### **Nurseries**

This season we produced all our plants through a mixture of home-based production and through the Pukerua Bay School nursery. While we no longer use the Paekakariki School nursery, we stored some excess plants there over the summer period. A small team hand watered the plants over this period. It is pleasing to see school gardens now making use of the shade house.

GWC have agreed to supply space for us at the QE park nursery. With a grant from KCDC and GWC the area has been cleared. More funding is needed to level the site and pay for construction of the nursery bays. Currently our aim is to complete building the nursery facilities in time for the 2014/15 growing season.

We have plants to produce about 1,500 trees in the 2013/2014 growing season for direct Nga Uruora-related planting. We also aim to grow a further 1,500 plants for Te Araroa related plantings.

Our nursery production has relied on a very small group of dedicated volunteers. We are especially grateful to the support of teachers and students at Pukerua Bay School. Thanks again to the GWC Take Carefund which allows us to purchase potting mix.

## **4. Weed control**

Weed control activities have been reduced during the year due to very tight cash flow. Apart from track clearing and spraying no weed control was done at the Ecosite or terraces. German ivy was controlled on the Ho Chi Minh by pulling and spraying with special attention to any plants south of our bush barrier. Tradescantia was also sprayed in AT Clarke gully, around the Hairpin Bend and above the depot. An attempt was made to eradicate cape ivy from the quarry - a lot was cleared but patches have shown up recently. Cape ivy will be an ongoing problem until no further plants exist at the quarry. Periwinkle at the south end of the quarry was sprayed several times with the intention of removing it from both sides of the track. This has not been very successful and a lot more work is needed. Another project was to remove the blackberry at Car Wreck Gully which was only partially achieved and will require repeated visits.

## **5. Pest control**

Volunteers continued to undertake pest control. We have been concentrating on four main areas. These are the Paekākāriki end of the escarpment, the Ecosite, protected sites on Carrads farm and covenanted blocks on Pamela Meekings-Stewart's farm. The pests we have been

targeting are possums and mustelids. We are grateful to GWC for supplying baits for our possum control. GWC are increasing their level of possum control in our district and that should assist our own efforts.

We have moved the storage of baits from Paekākāriki School to Whareroa Farm. We are grateful to Rob Stone of the Department of Conservation and Anne Evans of the Guardians of Whareroa farm for allowing us to use the facilities at Whareroa farm.

We are exploring increasing the number of mustelid traps. One option being explored is to contract MENZ Shed members in Waikanae and Wellington to build trap boxes. Bill Mansfield has agreed to lead a review of our pest control aims and strategies.

## **6. Tracks**

With the generous support of the New Zealand Walking Commission and KCDC, over the last year Nga Uruora has constructed what is now known as the “Kohekohe Loop Track”. This track has been built primarily with volunteer labour through a regular Tuesday working bee. We have been blessed with good weather almost every Tuesday morning since work commenced in September last year. We plan to officially open the track in spring. In winter we also held a working bee to undertake maintenance work on Bob’s track. This is primarily an access track for restoration work in our Ecosite.

During the year good progress was made constructing the Te Araroa track from Paekākāriki overbridge to Muri Station. The track is finished from the overbridge to the highest point – the “Lookout”. Two swing bridges have been built across the gullies, and the track from Pamela Meekings-Stewart’s property to the first swing bridge is almost complete. The plan is to build the remaining sections during the coming summer with a possible completion date in mid-2014.

The advent of the track has enormously improved access for NUKP’s planting and weed control activities. In the 2013 planting season we have carried out plantings at the “Lookout”, around the zig-zag steps, and at the quarry. We have also been able to start serious weed control at the quarry. We have an agreement-in-principle with Te Araroa to plant trees alongside the track to enhance the scenery and stabilise the track for a period of five years. The plan is to have regular NUKP / Te Araroa meetings.

## **7. ‘Grow Pāekakariki**

‘Grow Paekakariki’ is a loose coalition of individuals endeavouring to bring much of the former Perkin’s farm into public ownership. Nga Uruora supports this campaign and members have been involved in various capacities. Getting some of this land into reserve would be a good outcome, but would present some major challenges for our group.

## **8. Nga Uruora contracting**

This is my third and final AGM report for Nga Uruora as Contracts manager.

Over the past year the contracts arm of NUKP has again expanded the number of reserves that we were called upon to control pest plants, thus increasing the hours worked and our turnover. So by maintaining an honest profit the contributions for NUKP also I believe have increased. We have however remained with only two primary clients (KCDC and GWRC) who we are grateful for support. We have, however, received additional contracts from Te Araroa, with aiding in the construction of the Te Araroa walkway from Paekākāriki to Pukerua Bay. This has supplied an interesting variety to our roles over the last year.

Over the last year it had become apparent that managing the contracting arm of NUKP had become an increasing drain on the committee who, without the aid of an employment sub-committee to deal with issues relating to contracts, were spending a disproportionate amount of time and energy discussing contract related issues. Issues like a pay review (initially

requested in March 2012) were not actioned, employment contracts lapsed creating uncertainty as to the employment status of the contracts team. The very lumpy nature of cash flow from contracts (which by their very nature are seasonal) was not previously factored into the committees planning of proposed expenditure (thus as Contracts profits increasingly became the primary source of income for NUKP) cash flow forecasting became an uncertainty which was hard to manage when the desire to deal to pest plants 'now' was ever present.

The 2012 /13 Committee moved to address these issues. It was also recognized that continuing to operate a significant commercial operation within an incorporated society was going to be challenging. Following a process of consultation between the Committee and the Contracting Crew, options for the structure of the 'contracts arm' going forward were developed. These included a number of options including operating as a stand-alone business under NUKP Inc or contracts forming their own entity and operating as a business separate from NUKP Inc. After many discussions it was mutually agreed that as of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 Nga Uruora Kapiti Project would no longer have a contracting entity. Thus Nga Uruora Contracting Ltd (NUCC) and Joe Clarkson are now operating and ably supplying consultation and conservation services to the region.

This has been a difficult process with many hard decisions having had to be made by all concerned for progress and resolutions to be made. I personally have no doubt that all the members who were part of the contract crew (who have a combined experience and invested energy in Nga Uruora measured in decades) will continue to volunteer their time, energy, experience and knowledge into helping Nga Uruora continue into the future.

Steve Bright - NUKP Contracts manager 2010 to 2013

The committee would like to specifically acknowledge and thank Steve Bright, Joe Clarkson, Pete McLaughlin, Tony Older and Philip de Wilde for the way this significant change has been managed. This transition for Nga Uruora- Kapiti Project Inc has been well managed and your hard work has left the organisation well placed financially for the future.

## 9. Promotion and membership

Given the limited resources promotion and membership unfortunately dropped down the priority list in 2012. However we are pleased to be able to report there has been some real activity under the guidance of Maria Lute, but building on the good work of the previous promotions and membership committee, this includes:

- Nga Uruora website - this has been “reactivated” with help from Nicola Horwood and Grant Lees.
- Facebook - also reactivated and being updated
- Twitter – find us at [@NgaUruora1](#). We are using this to expand our reach and push communications about our plantings and any other planned events.
- Mailchimp - using this for newsletters and to send out a reminder email about membership renewal. It’s a professional (free) package which allows quite granular tracking and monitoring of our subscribers. Our current subscriber database is now on Mailchimp

We have a recorded support base of 207 supporters. Since our July newsletter calling for membership renewal, we have been steadily receiving subscriptions and donations. Engaging people from Pukerua Bay and surrounding areas to become active in some local events is a priority.

## **10. Financial report**

The financial report is on the following pages. Please note it is a different format to previous years as the income and costs associated with contracts have been separately identified.