

# Nursery News

AUTUMN/WINTER 2019

AN UPDATE FROM THE FOREST & BIRD (WELLINGTON BRANCH)  
NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION PROJECT

## The Move

In July 2018 Zealandia notified us that our Nursery location was no longer their preferred parcel for redevelopment and, after negotiation with us on making a small change to the MoU, withdrew the notice to leave, guaranteeing our tenure for three years.

With our formal application to Wellington City Council almost completed, we decided to continue with the process and forwarded the application to them. We are grateful to WCC staff who were very helpful at all points during the application procedure.

Our application, however, was turned down so we will not be moving the Nursery in the foreseeable future. WCC has said that they'll keep us in mind if anything else should become available.



## Home improvements

The new arrangement with Zealandia means we can change the way we use the land. The current plan is to rotate the shade houses on the drive and to move the compost bin back up the drive, making deliveries of compost easier. At recent sessions, Project Compost Bin got going. Chris, Peter, and young Hugo (who is volunteering at the Nursery as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award work) rolled up their sleeves somehow got the bin, in parts, up to the new site in time for the next delivery of compost.



Bottoms up! The dedicated plant-sourcing team, Hawkins Hill, early February.



## Distributions

We have distributed very close to **9000** plants to **19 groups** this year. We feel this is pretty good given the disruption we have had in the planning cycle during the past twelve months.

For further information contact Chris ([chris@kriss.nz](mailto:chris@kriss.nz)) or Gary ([mistletoe57@gmail.com](mailto:mistletoe57@gmail.com))

**WHERE OUR PLANTS GO****Stuart Park Restoration Project**

**Three years ago John Hornblow reported on this project, which is a reserve on the southern headland of Titahi Bay and onshore from predator-free Mana Island. Here is an update.**

For a number of years, the reserve had been leased out to the local pony club but was being overtaken by gorse when they left.

In 2014 just one ngaio and one taupata were growing in the gorse and the entrance was being overgrown. Something had to be done.

One freezing winter's day a group of friends cut back the gorse round the entrance and made tracks through the ridges of the gorse. That year, they planted the tracks with ngaio seedlings. Thanks to the nitrogen fixed by the gorse, they were over 2 metres high in under than two years.

They have tackled a new site each year, planting the exposed headland and establishing a wetland of swamp flax and cabbage tree in a gully.

Rather than applying for funding, John has grown all the common coastal species, such as

flax, manuka and tauhinu, in a home nursery, producing over 1000 plants a year.

The more difficult and slower growing species have been supplied by us, the Forest and Bird Native Plant Restoration Project, with additional rata from Project Crimson.

In six years, a mixture of coastal varieties and trees totalling over 8000 have been planted, as well as 1000 plants in the wetland. A total funding of \$1100 from the local council has been supplemented by a community award.

This year things are taking off in the gullies with five fingers now 2 metres tall. The site is so exposed, however, that plants such as mingimingi are still only ankle high after five years of norwesters and wind-shorn manuka is a metre wide, but only knee high!

