

Tanera Gully Monthly Report

Ākūhata | August 2022

Hours worked

Total hours worked	117
Weeding and releasing	44
Planting	37
Trapping	13
Admin	2
Other/prep work <i>Moving plants to site, painting stakes etc</i>	21

The breakdown of hours is a rough estimate. From 1 September we are trialling a new Google form to capture hours. This will give us a more accurate breakdowns of where hours are spent and what type of work was performed.

Nigel spent a large portion of his hours continuing work on Mortimer slope. Unfortunately, a working bee planned on the White's bank for the last weekend of the month was postponed as the site is very slippery after a lot of rain.

We held three successful working bees. Two of these focussed on the slope below the lizard pad alongside the Epuni Street steps doing weeding (particularly ivy, tradescantia and climbing dock), making mulch, and planting Kahikatea, Nikau, Lancewood, Tree Fuchsia, and a variety of small shrubs.

Work also continued on the slope between the upper lawns doing weeding and some planting. We approached from the top down to meet with the work that's been happening from the bottom up, managing to clear the area of a lot of weeds including broom, wattle, and gorse.

Weeds

Adam Sive from WCC inspected the site behind the council housing and got a WCC weed team back to weed eat the area, knocking down the grass and the masses of flowering onion weed so the new plantings will get off to a good start.

Slips

There was a very large slip on the Mortimer slope after the heavy rains. It was fortunate we hadn't been able to have a working bee earlier as those new plantings, planned where the slip occurred, would have been lost. There is a lot of mud on the valley floor, smothering plantings from several years ago.

Shed update

Alterations to the shed door have been made and we plan to move tools there after the first working bee in September (see photos below). We are also hoping they will add a ramp soon so we can easily store the wheelbarrow there.

Trapping

Total catches	31
Rats	12
Mice	19

Notes of interest

Putangitangi/Paradise Shelducks were seen flying over the park at the working bee on 14 August – a rare sighting of them around the park. They are possibly from nearby Zealandia.

Julia showed Henry Morse (from California) through Pumphouse slope, an area planted by WCC after removing mature pine trees there in 2007 caused the bank to slip. WCC then planted natives to stabilize the slope, which are now forming a good canopy. Unfortunately, Karo was included then, a tree we are now trying to eliminate. Henry is doing his PhD on early restoration plantings in the lower North Island and would like to include a transect on Pumphouse slope.



Figure 1 NZ Birds Online

Photos



Shed progress thanks to WCC



Area between Epuni St steps and houses that has been cleared of weeds



The large slip on Mortimer slope



Plantings of Kahikatea, Nikau, Lancewood, Tree Fuchsia and small shrubs near the Epuni St steps