

# NurseryNews

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

SPRING 2022

## Has the rain stopped?

After an unbelievably wet winter (including hailstorms) we are at last creeping into spring. The plants can tip the water out of their gumboots and get on with a bit of growing in the (slightly and erratic) warmer weather.



Rain, hail and even some snow!

At the Nursery we will soon be able to move the podocarps up to Shadehouse #17, which has been refurbished (see below). Once the ground and the

benches have been done, it will be ready to go. This will be the long-stay shadehouse for slow-growing plants.

Shadehouse #7, beside the garage and very exposed to the wind, also has new shade cloth. Chris has done virtually all the work on the two shadehouses, through rain and shine.

Peter is putting down more mesh on the walkways, which are inclined to be slippery and dangerous in the damp weather.

We're still a bit down on stock due to Covid-19 interruptions over the past couple of years, so we're working on building back up to pre-Covid levels. The Council is encouraging us to increase the number of specialty plants we grow, plants that can't easily be handled by other nurseries.

This year we sent out about 7,000 plants to local projects.

## Kaka corner



Mr and Mrs Kaka were showing signs of setting up house in the roof, but it has now gone quiet. We're monitoring the situation.



## RECYCLING AT THE NURSERY

In the summer newsletter back in January we mentioned the Mitre 10 Pot Recycle project. In their recent newsletter they have announced that by the end of October they will hit a huge milestone – 1 million plant and seedling pots recycled through their stores.



That equates to about 19 tonnes of plastic diverted from landfills around the country. In operation for less than 12 months, Pot Recycle has been a real hit. Find out more at

<https://www.mitre10.co.nz/potrecycling>

<https://www.mitre10.co.nz/news/pot-recycle-milestone>



Work on the shadehouse #17 is now complete, the old framing covered in new cloth with new, more wind-resistant fixings.

For further information contact Richard ([fbnurserywn@gmail.com](mailto:fbnurserywn@gmail.com)) or Gary ([mistletoe1957@gmail.com](mailto:mistletoe1957@gmail.com))

## The annual F&B committee visit

On Sunday 9 October Richard and Gary acted as guides for a group from F&B, showing them around the Nursery. It's a good opportunity to introduce new officials to a Wellington project. By the sound of it the day went well.

█ Thank you for taking the time to show our new committee and rōpū members and National Office folk around your project sites. I really appreciate your taking the time to explain your projects to new committee members. Every year I get to enjoy walking round the sites and seeing the changes that are happening from all the work you've done – and every year I learn something new about every project!

Thanks too to Gary and Richard for putting the kettle on and providing a welcome cuppa. Thanks also to Gary for having the idea in 2016 that led to us having our first such tour of project sites in November that year – and in the years since. We have always been fortunate in having reasonable weather and this year was no exception.

Many of the tour members have emailed to say how much they enjoyed the day, so it seems to have gone pretty well. Thank you all for making the day a success once again. █

*Ken New, F&B branch committee*

## Looking for something to do?

**Water, wind and wood – music in the Garden**

Sunday 20 November

█ 11:00am – 12:30pm

Join the guides on a musical tour of the Botanic Garden, listening to music and discussing the plants that are used to make musical instruments.

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2022/water-wind-and-wood-music-in-the-garden/wellington?>

## News from our Wainuiomata branch

The standing-out areas will again be extended this year to meet the demand for plants. The offer of wooden box surrounds to hold plants in the standing-out area has been made by Forest & Bird Pauatahanui plant nursery as they are downsizing. These will be ideal for us.

The Nursery has partnered with Wainuiomata Marae to supply plants for their new project of forming a tiny forest for their land.

The concept is from Japan whereby a forest is planted densely with three to four trees per square metre over an area the size of a tennis court. It is said to be a concentrated form of carbon capture. This tree planting methodology was started by Dr Akira Miyawaki and is becoming increasingly popular worldwide.

<https://earthwatch.org.uk/component/k2/witney-tiny-forest>



**Above:** This is newly planted raupo at the Waiu wetland. They need protection from rabbits and deer, hence the netting. This is the most successful propagation attempt of this species.

**Left:** The potting-up bench in sunny Wainuiomata.

**EMAIL LIST HOUSEKEEPING.** If you no longer wish to receive emails from the Nursery, do let Richard know: [fbnurserywn@gmail.com](mailto:fbnurserywn@gmail.com)

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