

NurseryNews

AN UPDATE FROM THE FOREST & BIRD NATIVE PLANT
RESTORATION PROJECT (HIGHBURY & WAINUIOMATA)

SUMMER 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024 and **thank you** for all your hard work in 2023

2,761*

voluntary hours
were worked at the
Nursery during
2023 and a total of
7,754 plants were
distributed.



* Of course this doesn't include many hours put in by Richard, Gary, Peter and others at the admin level.

Out with 2023, in with 2024

Volunteer hours were back up in 2023. We welcomed quite a few new volunteers, including some cheerful, bright youngsters, which is always good news. They come with smart phones at the ready so all questions at tea time are answered immediately, like "What sort of skink is that?", "What bird is on the \$20 note?", "Is it chlorine that you smell at swimming pools?", "What is the correct pronunciation of 'scone'?".

Summer 2024 is looking like being very dry with domestic watering restrictions in Wellington taking effect towards the end of January.

The Wellington water restrictions for Level 2 do not affect the Nursery, but we have moved stock to more shady locations and closed off some of the sprinklers.

If we go to Level 4, we will only be allowed to water the plants by hand and at Level 5, no watering will be allowed.



The F&B open day

On a sunny Sunday morning in spring the Nursery, along with other Forest & Bird projects, was open for visitors to come and check out the work we do. A small but interested group of people came to the event and were shown around by Richard.

Want some shadecloth?

As a result of renovations at the Nursery, there's quite a bit of shadecloth that is no longer needed. There is one virtually complete shadehouse cover, one almost complete shadehouse, plus a lot of other pieces. The cloth is useful for windbreaks, protecting young trees, and any number of other tasks. If you want some, speak to Richard (address below) and he'll tell you where to find it. Whatever is left will be taken to the tip.



Richard marking the newly-covered shadehouse out of 10.

For further information contact Richard (fbnurserywn@gmail.com) or Gary (mistletoe1957@gmail.com)

News from Wainuiomata



Top: The standing out area has been expanded to accommodate the potted seedlings.

Above: These two growing stands have been donated by the Pauatahanui Reserve. One will be used as a seedling propagation area. A frame will be erected and covered with shade cloth.

Right: Willow herb *Epilobium ciliatum* is the scourge weed of the nursery at Wainuiomata. The long pods split to release wind-blown seeds. It is very invasive and difficult to control with herbicide so hand weeding is the only way to go.

FREE PLANTS!

The nursery has about **50 Coprosma foetidissima** plants which are probably hybrids because the leaves have no smell when crushed. They will be composted unless someone comes to rescue them! Contact Richard: fbnurserywn@gmail.com

Looking for something to do?

Wainuiomata Water Walk. One of the best examples of lowland broadleaf forest in the lower North Island.

Sunday 18 February 2024 ■ 9am ■ Wainuiomata Regional Park ■ Gate entrance: 10 Whitcher Grove

Duration: 4 hours ■ Cost: Free – bookings required
■ Book soon – trips fill up fast ■ Go to link below for details.

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/events-and-meetings/wainuiomata-water-walk-3/>

The shed

Hats off to Marilyn, who single-handedly spring-cleaned the shed. What a transformation!



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Plants aren't the only thing in a nursery

There are a lot of critters at the Nursery – some are just passing through, others are trying to settle in, some have to be dealt with, others can be left alone. For example ...



Above: A northern grass skink having fun in the potting mix.

Top left: The appropriately named nursery web spider spotted in the nikaus, scurrying to take her eggs to a safer place.

Left: This pretty owl moth caterpillar was released back into the wild.

Bottom left: One of many leaf roller caterpillars infesting the toru.

Below: Our old friends, the quails, walking the bounds.





RECYCLING AT THE NURSERY

A note from Angus about the plastic recycling

It's great that some of our plastics are recycled. For now it's only **type 2** and **type 5** and these must be sorted by type to be recycled and they must be clean (plastic products are not made out of food!).

Our collections [of plastics] are sorted and, if necessary, cleaned by one of the Sustainability Trust volunteers. This avoids having batches rejected which would then have to be dumped in the landfill.

To illustrate the problem, the photo shows what was in the **type 5** box in October: only half the contents were both **type 5** and clean. There is also room for improvement with the **type 2** box and the metal lids.



Please put your recycling in the correct box and make sure it is clean. If you can't read the number, ask someone else if they can.

Unnumbered lids are just rubbish as they are **type 4**. For now all we can do is put them in our own rubbish bins.

What to do with black plastic

Thousands of bags are returned to the Nursery after each winter planting season. They are diligently sorted by the two weekend bag ladies. But many of them are torn and unusable. What happens to them?



They are taken home by Rachel, one of the bag ladies, hand washed, dried (above) and taken to the soft plastic recycling bin at a supermarket. Good job, bag lady.

Here they go (left) – off to become park benches, posts, wheel stops or planks for raised garden beds.

Check out www.futurepost.co.nz

HAPPY RECYCLING 2024

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