

Environment Committee update from DOC

New interim Operations Manager Toni Twyford, filling in till mid-October

DOC office: carpark, landscaping needs to be finish, still getting things to run smoothly in the office

Conservation Week planting day – DOC office Okiwi 12th September

Craig Mabey – Raoul Island – Mechanic for 2 weeks left on the 12th September

Open Day at Okiwi Station – date TBC

Volunteering Days with OPC Trident College planting natives around the new office

Wharf to Wharf – We are working with the organising committee and our focus is kauri dieback to prevent the spread of the disease by the event participants. There will be a new cleaning station just past the hut and a more thorough cleaning station at the Whangaparapara end of the Forest Road. We have 3 rangers coming from Warkworth to help with the cleaning stations. There will also be information for the participants about kauri dieback.

Bring Back Kokako project – the meeting went well, Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Trust Board, they lead the project, Noelene Ngawaka is the manager. Ecologist Ian Flux done the feasibility study spent 2 days up in Te Paparahi with Niki Wii scoping out areas where there could be possible sites to start their plan for rat monitoring – DOC will be supporting and giving advice where needed.

DOC will be doing another trip out to Mokohinau Islands in October for rat monitoring, this is done once every 6 months.

Rec/visitor/Historic

Kauri Die Back Recreation Project has started – the successful tender Aotea Contractors Nick Yates + 2 others have started on the upgrade to Bushes Beach Track putting in the new board walk - this track is open.

The next track to be closed for an upgrade Is Palmers track until further notice Signage will be at the Hot springs track notifying all that Palmers Track is closed.

The Forest Road has just been assessed and there are a couple of new areas of infection and potential infection. Around Kaiaraara Hut and off the road towards the Whangaparapara end.

Biodiversity

Weed control – contract reviewing sites for this year's weed control

Re: assessing rabbit control - PCL

Okiwi Settlement want to do pest control around Okiwi Basin, DOC has been asked if they could help in anyway – Cat traps etc.

Starting the Wilding pine control – Wairahi, Okiwi Spit Mabeys and Kiwiriki

Working with Jeremy Warden for using his rodent dog at Mokohinau Island

Finished the annual report for Pateke on GBI