



PO Box 339  
Wanaka 9343  
New Zealand

[www.tekakano.org.nz](http://www.tekakano.org.nz)

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

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### **MOU WAHO ISLAND FLOURISHING**

It is a mere 30-minute boat ride from Wanaka but Mou Waho Island feels like a land before time where birdsong greets your ears and native wildlife run free. The island is one of two inland freshwater reserves in Lake Wanaka and each year, Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust and Eco Wanaka Adventures jointly organise a planting day on the island as part of an on-going native habitat restoration project.

This year's planting held on July 3<sup>rd</sup> saw 135 native plants put in the ground by a team of 25 enthusiastic local and international volunteers. These native plants have been eco-sourced and grown at Te Kākano's own community nursery and have since enjoyed more than 95% survival rate on the island.

The project was initially funded by Edgewater Resort in 2007 and is kept going by donations collected by Eco Wanaka Adventures for the project. Department of Conservation has given Eco Wanaka Adventures the sole authority to manage the native habitat restoration on the island and Te Kākano has been partnering the project since its inception.

Both parties hope to be able to continue holding a big planting day on the island annually and are looking to secure sponsors for the event moving forward.

**ENDS.**