



Annual report – 2020

Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust



Summary of Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust

Our vision

New Zealand communities are more connected with their land.

Our mission

To inspire community native habitat restoration through propagation, education and hands-on participation.

The people

- 7 Trustees: Andrew Gawith (Treasurer), Anna Hiatt, Ben Taylor (Chair), Carrie Williams, Emma Conyngham, Murray Walker, Nick Mills
- 1 advisor: Arne Cleland (botanical expertise)
- 2 contractors: Kris Vollebregt, Nursery Manager, and Loran Verpillot, Trust Administrator
- 600 volunteers/supporters in our database, many of whom come to our nursery and planting sessions
- National, regional and local stakeholders
 - Department of Conservation, Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC), Ministry for the Environment (MfE), Central Lakes Trust, Otago Community Trust, Longview Environmental Trust
 - Albert Town Community Association, Hāwea Community Association, Friends of Bullock Creek, Otago Fish & Game, Protect our Winters, Otago Forest & Bird, WAI Wānaka
 - Wanaka Primary School, Mount Aspiring College, pre-schools
 - Donors and supporters: individuals, local businesses

Key Milestones to date

- 2007 Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust is established
- 2008 The nursery is created
The Trust obtains charitable status
Sargood Bequest fully supports Te Kākano
- 2009 First project underway at Waterfall Creek, funding secured from MfE and QLDC
- 2010 First tourism partnership achieved with Eco Wanaka Adventures for ongoing planting project of Mou Wahou island
- 2011 Regional funding obtained so Roys Bay West planting project starts
- 2012 Glendhu Bay project starts in partnership with Ridgeline Adventures
First project at Lake Hāwea with Hāwea Community Association
Norman Creek and Penrith Wetlands projects begin
- 2013 Supreme Winner in the Trust Power Heritage and Environment Awards
- 2014 Diamond Lake project in partnership with DOC starts
Albert Town Lagoon project starts with QLDC and Albert Town Community Association
- 2016 Two local habitat restoration trusts formed from The Seed: Mokihi Trust in Cromwell and the Haehaeata Ecological Railhead Trust in Clyde.
Design for the nursery expansion completed. Entered into a partnership with Otago Fish and Game for the Bullock Creek project.
Commenced a programme with Mt Aspiring College for Roys Bay East.
- 2017 QLDC grants consent for the nursery expansion
Weka Block planting project commences with funding and irrigation support from a local supporter.
Supreme Winner in the Trust Power Heritage and Environment Awards
- 2018 10th anniversary of the nursery – celebration time!
Lake Wanaka Water project commences with Te Kākano in charge of the riparian planting
Finalist in the prestigious River Story Award and Winner of the Community New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Award
- 2019 Record numbers of volunteers at planting sessions and or plants grown at our nursery
Start of the physical expansion of the nursery
- 2020 Andrew Penniket retires from the Nursery Manager role after more than 10 years of hard work and dedication to the Trust.
Covid-19 challenges everyone and stops all our activities for 4 weeks

2020 achievements

The Trust

We:

- planted 4,017 native plants with the community and about 5,000 riparian plants with WAI Wanaka, as part of the Lake Wanaka Water project.
- had some nursery visits from local schools and visited 2 schools to talk about habitat restoration to the students.
- organised and hosted a hui/gathering with the other local reforestation/restoration Trusts (Mokihi Trust, Haehaeata Ecological Railhead Trust and Wakatipu Reforestation Trust) to continue our collaboration and create more synergies between us.
- maintained the good relationship with our stakeholders and partners with regular meetings.
- secured a 3 year grant from the DOC Community Fund.
- reviewed our strategic plan to take into account the changing world and expectations from the community.
- purchased a trailer thanks to the financial support of the Olive & Graham West Charitable Trust. The trailer is used to transport plants and tools during the planting season. We have also been able to lend it to other local organisations who needed it.
- welcomed Kris Vollebregt as the new Nursery Manager and fare-welled our long standing Nursery Manager
- recorded 2,888 hours of volunteering time over 10 months (January to October 2020)
- received 8 in kind donations from local cafes to support our planting sessions
- planted at new sites: Eely Point – living memorial to honour local members of the New Zealand Defence Force, Point with no name – thanks to the generosity of a local family



Planting at Eely Point - Laying the stone with the plaque



Hui - Gathering with the 3 other local reforestation trusts

The Nursery

We:

- completed the physical expansion of the nursery, thanks to the support of several Trusts (Sargood Bequest, Otago Community Trust, Central Lakes Trust, Longview Environmental Trust) and some donations. We also automated the irrigation system making the watering a lot more efficient and easier to manage. Consequently to the expansion, we re-organised the nursery and improved our processes.
- progressed our requirements for Stage 2 of the nursery expansion thanks to the creation of a sub-committee.
- counted 9,444 native plants at our last stocktake.
- adapted the working condition at the nursery to allow volunteers to come to the nursery during alert level 2
- continued to manage our growing volunteer base and welcomed many new volunteers, especially after the lockdown.



Morning tea at the nursery with social distance – level 2



New bays for pots & other nursery equipment

What's ahead - goals for 2021

- To secure enough funding to continue our activities and cover the costs of our 2 part-time contractors
- Increase Nursery output to 10K plants per year within 5 years
- Scope & define Phase 2 Nursery expansion with funding and delivery to follow
- Continue to welcome new volunteers to our activities
- Deepen the volunteer resource and organise some “lunch & learn” sessions to up skill our volunteers
- Organise some Bioblitz with WAI Wanaka and measure the biodiversity at some of our planting sites.
- Widen educational scope and strategy
- Measure and increase community awareness of the role and activities of Te Kākano
- Develop & nurture partnerships for funding
- Support joint projects aligned to our mission
- Review our annual strategic plan

In conclusion

Te Kākano is still growing and achieving a lot. More than ever planting native trees is part of a solution to the environmental issues we are facing. The more people we involve the greater will be the awareness of how fragile our environment and native habitats are. We also give people the opportunity to feel they are able to make a difference to the future.

This year, we faced important changes: our Nursery Manager, Andrew Penniket, who had been involved with Te Kākano for more than 10 years, stepped down. Kris Vollebregt became our new Nursery Manager. Some of our Trustees have also stepped down and we welcomed new Trustees. Some of our local sponsors were unable to support us this year as their business was greatly affected by the change in the tourism industry. Fortunately, we were able to resume our activities when the country was in alert level 2, we were therefore able to plant native plants with the community and almost reach our goals.

Te Kākano is strong and made of passionate and dedicated people who spend a lot of time and energy to fulfill the mission to inspire community native habitat restoration through propagation, education and hands-on participation.

We are grateful for all the support we receive from the community and our funders.

