



Issue #4 – September 2025

Photo by Jo Roberts – Foxton Beach Jan 2024

Papangaio Te Wharangi Manawatū Estuary Newsletter

Kia ora / greetings – welcome to the fourth edition of our community newsletter from the Manawatū Estuary Management Team.

We launched our Management Plan in March. So, what's in the plan and how is it being implemented?

Now that we have officially launched the Papangaio Te Wharangi Manawatū Estuary Management Plan for the Estuary, let's look at how this will be done and whether there is an area of interest you might want to become involved in.

There are 7 activity working groups that implement the protection and restoration of the Estuary – i.e. “The Papangaio Te Wharangi Manawatū Estuary Management Plan”. Each Activity group has a Team Lead. The Team Leads are responsible for driving the activity towards the objectives laid out in Appendix 5 of the plan. The Team Leads report on the outcomes and future planning at each 6 monthly meeting. If the Activity Group cannot achieve a task, it will be escalated to the MEMT secretariate to ensure the task is progressed. It may be either justified why it should not proceed; or an alternative approach found. An alternative approach may include sourcing funding for a person to carry out a task if a volunteer is unavailable, or for resources or expertise needed.

These are equally important and in no particular order:

Flora (Native plants)

The role of this activity group is to optimise habitat to support abundant populations of at risk and threatened species at the Estuary. Initial focus is for at least 10 plant types; with at least two plant types suitable for each of the 3 ecosystems: Estuarine; Xeric and Dune Wetlands. This work has two areas of work: Dune Gardens – every fortnight, early Sunday mornings. and secondly those people who work from home germinating seed and on-growing cuttings.

To volunteer:

- If the Dune Gardens work interest you, Arnim's email is: arnim@actrix.gen.nz .
- If helping other plant growing, please call in to the Wildlife Foxton office Mon, Wed or Thurs mornings – ask for Nola or email: info@wildlifefoxton.nz .

Fauna (Native animals including invertebrates)

The role of this activity group is to optimise habitats to support abundant populations for at least 4 species that are vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered and located at Papangaio – Te Wharangi – Manawatū Estuary. This is a wide range with a lot of work needing to be carried out in surveying invertebrates, and other animals as well as supplementing existing bird surveys.

To volunteer:

- Please call in to the Wildlife Foxton office Mon, Wed or Thurs mornings – ask for Dave or Vai, or email: info@wildlifefoxton.nz .

Pest Plants (Weekly Wednesdays and fortnightly Sundays)

The role of this activity group is to:

1. To reduce or eliminate pest plants to allow native plants to take their place.
2. To ensure that where pest plants are removed suitable native plants are available to replace them before new pest plants take over again.
3. To ensure that once pest plants are eliminated, regular inspections occur to remove any regrowth before it becomes a problem.

Wednesday mornings are in need of physically active people willing and able to chop and weed pest plants. *To volunteer:*

- Please call in to the Wildlife Foxton office Wednesday mornings – ask for Dave and he can take you down to meet Dr. Bob's team or email: info@wildlifefoxton.nz .

The fortnightly Dune Garden work parties also focus on weed removal, including marram grass, and some reinstatement of plants damaged by storm and/or motorised machines in the dunes.

- *To volunteer:* Email Arnim at arnim@actrix.gen.nz .

Pest Animals (our trapping programme - Horizons, Predator Free by Wildlife Foxton)

The role of this activity group is to support a resilient indigenous species population that dominates the area through implementation of the pest animal management plan. Wildlife Foxton Trust has a rapidly growing pest animal trapping programme with already nearly 200 traps in backyards, estuary edges, in Ramsar and farm and coming into Foxton Beach. Work is not for the fainthearted as it requires clearing and cleaning of traps and resetting as well as being able to walk trap lines. This programme is only happening through the strong support of Horizons Regional Council and Predator Free NZ. *To volunteer:*

- Please call in to the Wildlife Foxton office Wednesday mornings – ask for Suzanne and she can take you through what is involved for getting our trap lines checked regularly or email: traps@wildlifefoxton.nz .

Water Quality

The role of this activity group is to achieve a standard of healthy water quality where native species and people can thrive and prosper. Currently the group is working with Horizons to get water quality records in easy-to-understand language for people in the community to understand. They are also looking into the process for notification of contamination events, and the status of the two closed landfills at Foxton and Foxton Beach. *To volunteer:*

- Email Kath
- at kathrynlane201@gmail.com to find out how you can join in.

Dune Protection

The role of this activity group is to work with other activity groups to identify and implement protection, rehabilitation, maintenance and development for the dunes. Also to plan and implement protection from vehicle impacts, walker impacts and erosion. *To volunteer:*

- Email Grant at: grant@purdie.org.nz

Community Engagement

The role of this activity group is to have effective communication channels to all interested parties, including hapū of Ngāti Raukawa to ensure support is garnered and collaboration opportunities available. This includes strong engagement with schools and establishing high National visibility of the Estuary as a Ramsar site. Currently this group works alongside Wildlife Foxton Trust volunteers create this quarterly newsletter you are reading. We are looking for an editor/producer to liaise with all the groups for newsletters items to create. We are also looking for a social media whiz to promote the estuary and the work of the volunteers.

To volunteer:

- Email Nola at info@wildlifefoxton.nz .

Make contact to find out more about the mahi they have going on.

Many hands make light work!

Read about the plan here: <https://www.metrust.org.nz/management-plan>

Preserving our Dunes

The dunes protect our township from flooding from the sea during storms, and from flooding in the estuary.

Activities that cause erosion of the dunes are endangering our properties and houses.

We reported on this in the front-page article of our last newsletter, view at www.metrust.org.nz/newsletters.

Sadly, there are people who disregard the signs and take their vehicles into the area south of the motor camp and then ride or drive in the dune areas.

That disturbs the dune surfaces and badly affects the plants that are doing their best to hold the dunes in place and grow dunes where they were previously damaged.

There was a well-publicised example in July, where a car transporter turned up laden with off-road recreational vehicles, which we are told then drove extensively through the dunes, leaving lots of evidence of their passing. This was reported in the Horowhenua Chronicle on 24/7/2025, see it on www.metrust.org.nz under the Management Plan page.

Horowhenua District Council is keen to react to events like that, and ask people to call their contact centre 06 366 0999 or email enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz with details including date and time, what you actually saw, and if possible photos – if it is safe to do so.

It's only by working together that we can hope to preserve our dunes. And our township.

Problem with a pest Animal?

Pest animals covered are Possum, feral cats and magpie. Assistance is available during Wildlife Foxton Trusts hours. Outside of those hours Horizons Regional Council has a dedicated person that can help. Phone 09-522-800.

Let's join with Pūkoro Miramira Shorebird Centre in voting for our own resident Ngutu Pare Wrybill – Bird of the Year 2025!



Voting goes live on 15th September so you will need to go to: <https://www.birdoftheyear.org.nz/> and find the Wrybill picture. Click on the bird then a button pops up to say “click here to vote for me”. The click “submit” – most important step!

This tiny bird is tactical, fluffy and highly skilled - fighting for their survival on the braided rivers and tidal mudflats of the South Island from attacking sky and ground forces, flooding and four wheelers.

They are mainly winter visitors in the Estuary with larger populations carrying on flying further up to Pūkoro Miramira and Manukau for winter.



Trapping

Thursday 28th August saw 52 larger DoC200/DoC250 pest traps get set up on bordering farmland coming into Foxton Beach – the start of a barrier line. This means total traps now out nearly number 200, with Predator free NZ funding providing for a further 60 backyard traps to be built later this year.

The newsletter has brought a trapping coordinator to Wildlife Foxton Trust. Suzanne is spending her Wednesday mornings getting existing trap lines and location data all set up under the Papangaio Te Wharangi Manawatū Estuary Project on Trap NZ. We expect to have trapping numbers reported in the next newsletter onwards.

What's on!

Volunteer Opportunities

We have a range of tasks that need a commitment of a couple of hours each week (predator control, social media, newsletter, litter, newsletter delivery) – so come see us! Stop in to Wildlife Foxton Trust: Open Mon 9am – 4pm; Wed 9am - 4pm; Thur 9am - 1pm @ 207 Seabury Avenue, Foxton Beach.

What's happening on a regular basis that people can join as they are available:

Dune Garden work:

Details on MET website:

www.metrust.org.nz

Sunday morning fortnightly

Pest Plant removal:

Wednesday morning (weather permitting)

9am till noon; End of Pinewood Road FB,

– Wattle removal (wear boots)

Save Our River Trust (SORT) along with Horizons Enviro Schools, BUPA Retirement Village (who are sponsors of the Junior Landcare Legacy Project), NZ Landcare Trust and Manawatū College Students will be planting 420 trees beside the Piriharakeke Walkway in Foxton. Happening Thursday 18th September 10am to 1pm with some yummy food in the middle. Contact Tania on email: Tania.Bramley@landcare.org.nz if interested to help – wheelbarrows definitely helpful as once planting done then maintenance of previous plantings is always needed!

Manawatū Estuary Trust “Welcome to the Birds”

Saturday 27th September 12.30pm at Dawick Street viewing platform, Foxton Beach.



metrust.org.nz



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LISTINGS

75
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IN
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MONTH

