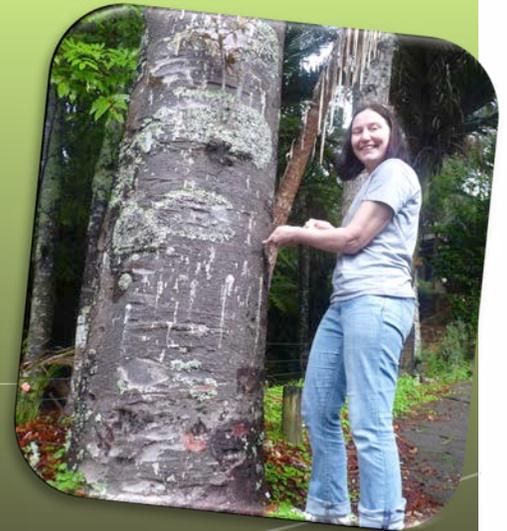


# KAURI RESCUE

July 2017



## Kauri Rescue or Community Control of Kauri Dieback: Tiaki Kauri

..is a two year project funded by the National Science Biological Heritage Challenge, which engages the public in refining tools for the treatment of kauri dieback disease that is decimating northern kauri forests.

## Do You have Kauri on Your Property?

With the pilot phase of the treatment trial now complete, we are focussing our attention on enrolling as many participants as possible for Phase 2 – so others in the community can treat their kauri and contribute to the research. The numerous insights from the pilot group, on what worked well, and what didn't, has helped shape refinements in both the method being used to treat dieback infected kauri, and in the development of the kit provided to all participants. Kauri Rescue is a learning experience for us all and community input and feedback enables us to revisit our activities and refine them into broader more approachable actions. As such, these insights challenge traditional ways of doing things. However, being able to step away from working in relative isolation to share this work with the community enriches the experience and the data. As Lee Hill says "the challenge of trying to explain my own idiosyncratic methods and then hearing how the pilot group created their own has been a particular highlight. The experience pilot group member Ally gained from watching every injector go into her 68 beloved kauri is so invaluable to this project."

The most recent development, has been the production of a video which explains the treatment process. Phase 2 participants will now have a manual and a video to assist them to assess and treat their trees. These resources reassure participants that they are carrying out the process correctly which builds their confidence and strengthens the robustness of the collected data. We wish to thank Martin Heffer at Plant & Food Research for making the video and are excited to see how Phase 2 participants will find it. If you have kauri on your property and would like your trees tested for dieback to enable you to treat any infected trees and participate in the research programme, go to the Kauri Rescue website ([www.kaurirescue.org.nz](http://www.kaurirescue.org.nz)) and fill in the '***I want to treat my kauri***' form. The more people who sign up, the more kauri we can try to save... so get involved NOW.

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*Kaitautoko – community & science working together*

## Kauri Rescue Showcased at Conferences

Project Leader Dr Ian Horner recently attended the *International Meeting on Forest Phytophthora Diseases*, in Sapa, Vietnam. The conference was an excellent opportunity to network with people from around the world who are battling diseases similar to kauri dieback. There are a number of serious *Phytophthora* diseases currently spreading around the globe, some of them causing devastation in natural forests not adapted to their presence. Kauri dieback is just one of these, and we need to be vigilant about new diseases entering New Zealand. At the conference, Ian presented two talks, one on the trials carried out over the past five years using phosphite to control kauri dieback, and another outlining Kauri Rescue. New Zealand is well ahead of most countries in research on treatments such as phosphite.

The Biological Heritage National Science Challenge (NSC), who has funded Kauri Rescue, recently held their 'Crazy & Ambitious' Conference at Te Papa in Wellington. This was an opportunity to showcase some exciting projects currently underway, including Kauri Rescue. It also brought together people from around the world interested in conservation and protection of endangered species and communities with a lot of focus on the 'Predator-Free 2050' project and the financial, scientific and social challenges this will bring.

Two projects at the conference focused on kauri dieback. Ian showcased Kauri Rescue detailing the early stages of our citizen science project, while Monica Girth from the University of Otago presented research into what attracts *Phytophthora* zoospores to kauri roots. This project is exploring possible natural products such as plant extracts that may have a repellent effect. Both talks, will soon be available on the Biological Heritage website ([www.biologicalheritage.nz](http://www.biologicalheritage.nz)).

## Kauri Rescue Showcased at the Titirangi Library



## Join Kauri Rescue

### Become a Phase 2 Participant

If you know or suspect that you have kauri dieback on your residential or rural property in Auckland, Northland or Coromandel, you can join 'Phase 2' of this project NOW. We provide a free assessment of your kauri tree(s) and soil to confirm Kauri Dieback. We can arrange for this to be undertaken at no cost through your Council as only sites with confirmed kauri dieback can be included in the Kauri Rescue trial. You can also ...

- Sign up to receive our newsletter
- Join us on social media
- Become a Kauri Rescue Ambassador

Find out more about all these options for joining Kauri Rescue by visiting the Kauri Rescue website.

Residents in Titirangi are already signing up to join Kauri Rescue after viewing our call to action at the Titirangi Library. If you would like to have a display in your area please contact us at [admin@kaurirescue.org.nz](mailto:admin@kaurirescue.org.nz). Thank you to Titirangi Library for providing this space and to Jeremy Painting for loaning us the framed kauri photo.

## Behind the Scenes Introducing Dr Linley Jesson

*All trial participants data collected will be analysed by Plant & Food Research where it will inform future protocols for phosphite treatment. Below we introduce you to Dr Linley Jesson who is part of the Kauri Rescue Team and is responsible for analysing the data.*



Linley is a statistician at Plant & Food Research in Hawke's Bay. Prior to working with Plant and Food, she was a Professor of Plant Evolutionary Biology at the University of New Brunswick in Canada and a Humboldt Research Fellow at the University of

Marburg in Germany. She has published in diverse areas from the sex life of flowering plants and mosses, to the effect of using wing-tags on birds. Her role in the project is primarily involved in the analysis of the data collected by the participants and the visualisation and interpretation of the results.

## Kauri Rescue in West Auckland and Beyond...

Mels Barton, Kauri Rescue's Waitakere Community Representative has been busy promoting Kauri Rescue at a number of meetings and AGMs to raise awareness about the project. These have included talks at Forest and Bird Waitakere's AGM, South Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers Association's AGM, the University of the Third Age (U3A), Friends of Regional Parks' AGM and at the opening of the Bakers Lane Mural in Glen Eden.

Mels has also been interviewed about the project on Radio Live, 95bFM and Radio New Zealand and there have been articles published in the Fringe (Titirangi) Magazine and the Western Leader where Ian Horner even featured on the front page (see right). Mels was also interviewed for a film documentary being made locally by Robin Kewell and Martin Sercombe. Team member Nick Waipara has also been interviewed on Radio Waatea and on TV One.

## For Your Diary: Thursday, 31 August Kauri Rescue Hui in Titirangi 'Caring for Kauri'

Kauri Rescue will host a public hui in the **Titirangi War Memorial Hall at 7pm on Thursday 31 August 2017** to support people living with kauri trees and enable those who don't have their own kauri to help others keep their trees healthy.

Dr Nick Waipara will give practical advice on how to keep your kauri healthy, whether or not you have kauri dieback disease. Kauri Rescue Ambassadors Ngaire and Peter will also share their experience of treating their own trees with phosphite as part of the Kauri Rescue pilot trial.

Our engagement with community has found that many people are unsure of how to determine if their trees are healthy and even if they are, people are unclear of how to care for their kauri to limit the risk of them being susceptible to dieback disease. This Hui will give you key information and valuable resources on how to care for kauri – your own or your neighbours.



## Reflections from Kauri Rescue's Pilot Trial Participants

As our pilot participants have now finished treating their trees, we asked them to share their experiences. In this issue we look at why they joined the pilot group and what advice they would give others considering treating their trees.

Individuals in the pilot group joined the trial because they were each concerned about dying trees on their property. However, they also valued actively contributing to a science trial and to the wider knowledge about dieback disease and treating trees with phosphite. In addition, participation in the trial gave them confidence to treat their trees, as one participant explained, "I had heard about the treatment with phosphite but I wasn't confident to do it without guidance on concentration and dose."



While another commented, "The team are very supportive and make participation easy."

Group members treated between 5 and 68 trees each, with Ally who treated all 68 of her trees finding out that her property was steeper than she thought, and commenting "I have more dead trees on my property than I realised!" Ally said although the task of treating 68 trees seemed daunting at times, she "just kept chipping away at it and eventually got it done."

Participation in the pilot group had valuable benefits beyond the personal satisfaction of doing something to save kauri, as Ngaire revealed, "I met new friends." Ngaire is keen to spread the word and has been busy promoting the project to her neighbours and at the Village market where her experience of treating the five trees on her property added a personal touch to our conversations with visitors to the Kauri Rescue stand.

Pilot group members are now patiently waiting to assess their trees in six months, as Ally said, "I feel good that I have done something to help generate data for the researchers, and help the trees in my garden fight off the dieback." And what advice do the participants offer to others considering treating their trees...quite simply as one participant said, "Go for it - what have you to lose."

## News in Brief

### Visit Kauri Rescue at the Titirangi Village Market in July



Connecting with community is critical to the success of this project. The Titirangi Village Market has become a key place to meet the community, promote the work of Kauri Rescue and enrol Phase 2 participants. A stand at the June market showed the value of this exposure with locals signing up for soil tests and the newsletter. Pilot trial participant Ngaire shared her valuable experience of treating trees with phosphite with visitors to the stand. Come and see us at the next market on Sunday 30 July from 10-2.

### Kauri Rescue Engages AUT Students



AUT students studying PR and Communications have selected Kauri Rescue for a pro-bono PR campaign from July-October via their student consultancy 'Outside the Square'. We look forward to working with them.