



Covid-19 Level 3 Update

Kia ora koutou,

We hope you are all well and that lockdown life in your bubbles has not been too difficult. We have certainly been blessed with some wonderful weather this autumn. We hope you have been making the most of it to complete the treatment or reassessment of your kauri trees.

We thought we should give you an update on our activities and what will be possible for us to do under Alert Level 3.

Funding Suspended

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 Auckland Council has to revisit its financial planning and that has involved the suspension of all new contracts “indefinitely”. Our contract with Council had expired at the end of February and we were in the process of negotiating a new one when Covid struck. So as of 1 March we have no funding whatsoever for Kauri Rescue.

We have been invited to make a funding proposal to the Biological Heritage National Science Challenge’s Ngā Rākau Taketake: Saving our Iconic Trees workstream. We have also made an application to the Department of Conservation’s Community Fund. We are very grateful for these opportunities and are keeping our fingers crossed that they are able help us fill the gap until Auckland Council are able to continue to support our ongoing programme.

If you’d like to read the latest news from the Biological Heritage National Science Challenge’s Ngā Rākau Taketake: Saving our Iconic Trees team you can do so here:

<https://mailchi.mp/e08c5927c9c7/ng-rkau-taketake-apr-newsletter-4056065?e=5032847226>

Kauri Rescue is currently contributing to the Mobilising for Action project.



Level 3 Activity

We were hoping to be able to reconnect at a safe distance with our participants during Level 3 and give you the support you need to complete work on your properties. However without any funding the only work we are able to do will be on a voluntary basis and therefore low key.

If you have completed the work and finished with your kit we would like to retrieve it so we can service the equipment over winter and get it ready for redeployment next spring. Please let Mels know on mels@kaurirescue.org.nz or 021 213 7779 if you can return your kit and she will organise a contactless collection time with you.

We apologise to all those landowners who are waiting for a kit, but we will be unable to issue and demonstrate any new kits under Level 3 and until we get some funding secured to take the project forward. We thank you for your patience, but with winter approaching it is likely that this work will now have to wait until next spring.

Auckland Council has also suspended all fieldwork, so no sampling of properties is taking place at the moment. Again, our apologies to landowners who are waiting for this work to be done.



Colleen Pilcher from Te Henga, Waitakere reassessing her 312 trees that were treated with phosphite a year ago. Photo: Mels Barton

Completing your Treatment / Reassessment

If you have either a treatment or a reassessment kit and you have trees that need treating or reassessing we urge you to use this good weather to get as much done as possible before winter sets in. Once the ground gets wet you won't be able to do this work again until next spring. Kauri have suffered with the prolonged drought this summer and this will not have helped their chances of survival, so we advise you to treat your trees before winter if you can and not leave them until next spring, to give them the best chance to fight the disease.

We are particularly keen for those participants with reassessment kits to complete the reassessment of their trees as soon as possible and upload the data to our database. Once we have some funding secured we want to analyse all the data that has been collected over the last 3 years before the next field season so we can see what progress we are making together. If anyone needs some help or advice to get this work completed please contact Mels.

We will be contacting everyone who is due for a reassessment again over the next few days to see if you want a kit delivered (contactless of course) so that you can make the most of the good weather while it lasts.

Thanks for your ongoing support for our project and we hope to get back in touch with better news very soon.

Ngā mihi maioha
The Kauri Rescue Team