

Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu



Restoration Society Inc

Members

Newsletter Issue 20: June 2009

Website: www.mtpirongia.org.nz

In this issue:

- AGM
- Mangakaraa Project: Extension and Bats
- Northern Rata
- Sponsors Function

please contact Clare St Pierre (☎ 07 8719133 or stpierre@xtra.co.nz) if you'd like to join the crew.

To allow for easy identification, we have decided to name our extensions after the streams that run through them. The three areas so far for our project are:

Mangakaraa	250 ha	Established 2006
Mangaio	100 ha	Established 2008
Mangamauku	120 ha	Current extension

Work is progressing well on an information panel about our project to go in the visitor kiosk at the Grey Rd carpark. It will include a great map of our bait station grid, with a list of sponsors' names and the logos of corporate sponsors. We are grateful to the Southern Trust for funding this for us.

AGM

Thursday July 9th 2009
7-30pm

Pirongia School Activity Centre
100 Beechey Street,
Pirongia

Guest Speaker: Rob Hamill

Book sales to support his mission to Cambodia
All Welcome

Mangakaraa Project Extension

Funding of around \$9,500 is required for the extension work to the south of our present grid, but we already have over \$7,000 committed from DoC and Environment Waikato. So while we are currently seeking \$2,000 from funders, we are confident that the work will proceed in time for spring control.

We have been excited to receive confirmation from DoC that native bat protection will go ahead. This is related to the resource consent for the Te Uku Windfarm to mitigate any adverse effects of that development on bats. Details of exactly what would be involved are still sketchy, but walking transects to monitor for bats, identifying roost trees and trapping for stoats will probably be involved. We are keen to start collecting names of volunteers who would like to be involved in this new aspect of our control work, so



Above: Steve McClunie and Linda Daly with tracking tunnels used to monitor rat populations in our Mangakaraa Project.

Northern Rata Project

Noticing a lack of young rata trees on the maunga has prompted a project to raise seedlings for replanting on Mt Pirongia. We are looking for mature northern rata trees as seed sources – any in the Waikato qualify from an eco-sourcing viewpoint - and people with rope skills who'd like to help with seed collection.

