



## TRUSTEES' STRATEGY MEETING



*Photos: Jacqui Aimers*

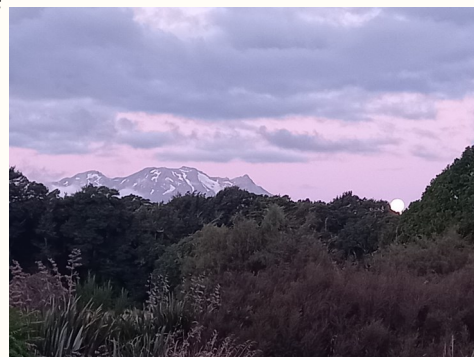
The last weekend in February Tāne's Tree Trust trustees spent a couple of days at Ohakune at the Silvester family holiday residence, to consider the Trust's future programme. Aptly identified as the Ohakune Beech House, the site was once a gravel quarry with a small river along one boundary, great views of Mt Ruapehu and some big, old remnants of black beech forest – Warwick mentioned these were his key criteria and he got them all in one place. The quarry was pretty much overgrown with exotic weeds and like many industrial sites wasn't pretty, but that



didn't faze Warwick or his family. After little more than 20 years the site is a picture, oozes peace and solitude and is a great case study for anyone wanting to restore a natural setting in the most difficult of circumstances. It's a mix of tall native forest, recovering native scrubland and wetlands including a quite extensive pond and a wooden walkway.



The family have built a house designed to merge into the background, but with ample decks to sit amongst the birdlife and the regenerating forest, and of course it sleep lots – most of the Trust anyway. Warwick's favourite tool, a medium sized digger, has ensured even the worst of the weeds such as large crack willow are mostly gone, there is good access through the forest and the house has a splendid front lawn suited to croquet and other lawn sports. Wander around and you will find a small nursery, presently mostly growing Hebe cuttings, a windmill pumping water for the house and garden and a large net of hops – obviously if you are going to sit and contemplate the surroundings you also need something to drink!





# Haloxypop spray trial on tōtara

## – an initial update

In recent years in Northland, there have been a couple of incidents of tōtara tree loss and damage after a releasing spray of the herbicide haloxypop was used.

Haloxypop is a selective systemic herbicide that is applied to control grass weeds in forestry situations. Haloxypop can be used over a wide range of rates, though typically higher rates are needed to control more difficult weedy grasses such as kikuyu and pampas.

To help clarify some safe rates of haloxypop when applying as a releasing spray over tōtara, Tāne's Tree Trust set up a nursery trial in November 2023 at Kauri Park Nursery in Kaiwaka, Northland. Treatment sprays were applied directly to tōtara seedlings (45 seedlings per treatment) as a full coverage wetting spray (nominal 500L/ha) using a knapsack sprayer.

The various treatments were:

1. Control (untreated)
2. Haloxypop 520g/L - one sixth maximum label rate (5 mL/10 L)
3. Haloxypop 520g/L - half label rate (15 mL/10 L)
4. Haloxypop 520g/L - full label rate (30 mL/10 L)
5. Haloxypop 520g/L - Northland field rate (40 mL/10 L)
6. Haloxypop 520g/L - one sixth maximum label rate (5 mL/10 L) + spraying oil 0.5%
7. Haloxypop 520g/L - half label rate (15 mL/10L) + spraying oil 0.5%
8. Haloxypop 520g/L - full label rate (30 mL/10 L) + Terbutylazine 500g/L (550 mL/10 L)



*The tōtara used in the trial - Left, the seedlings at the start when being sprayed. Right, a tray assessed in January.*

Two months on from spraying, an assessment of the health and survival of the tōtara seedlings was done. At this stage all the seedlings are alive. Indeed, Treatments 1-7 all appear undamaged.

However, the tōtara sprayed with the haloxypop and terbutylazine (Treatment 8) is showing signs of spray damage. This treatment was at the full label rates for both these herbicides.

From this result, it would be unwise to use these herbicides mixed together when release spraying tōtara.



*Totara seedling sprayed with Haloxypop and Terbutylazine (Treatment 8) - two months after treatment.*

No damage was seen on the tōtara seedlings sprayed with any other haloxypop treatment.

At this stage, the results suggest there may be some choice as to what rate of haloxypop to use depending on the weeds present.

The addition of spraying oils which can enhance herbicide uptake and improve weedy grass control may also mean there is scope at using reduced haloxypop

herbicide rates up in Northland while still controlling the weeds.

Further work out in the field is needed to confirm these results and a final assessment of this trial will happen in the coming months.

Many thanks to Andrew Wearmouth and the Kauri Park team in Kaiwaka for the tōtara seedlings and their help with the trial.

**- David Horgan**

For further information on this current trial, contact Tāne's Tree Trust Trustee: David Horgan, via the TTT office - [office@tanestrees.org.nz](mailto:office@tanestrees.org.nz)



# TTT AGM and Field Trip at Ohakune

4th - 5th November 2023



Photos: Wayne O'Keefe

The decision to hold the 2023 AGM at Ohakune was promoted as a site where isolated stands of massive rimu, matai and beech may be found despite the enormous logging industry on the Waimarino plain in the early part of last century. Added to this we were aware of the many attempts to replace some of these logged stands with a wide variety of exotic species, which might provide some sites and even insights into our current research programme on transitioning from exotic to native forest. The field trip on Saturday was designed to illustrate that potential.

While we had planned to cater for 20-30 attendees, the 60 that registered and the 70 that turned up stretched our resources but highlighted our resourcefulness. A bus and six cars arrived at our first stop Erua, to look across the railway reserve at a marvellous example of podocarp regeneration. The latest Taupo eruption c.232 CE, although minute (cf. the previous enormous Oruanui eruption), was sufficient to decimate much of the central plateau. While beech pollen underlies the ash layers of the Erua area the current remnant forest is almost exclusively podocarp, which of course would be bird spread. It was Cockayne in 1908 who first made special mention of these podocarp forests and goes on to observe and note with the prescience he was famous for, the widespread distribution of pumice ash, and he correctly postulated, quite emphatically, that it originated from the



bottom of lake Taupo and that it has had an alarming effect on the forest vegetation.

Our return to Ohakune for a break further demonstrated our resourcefulness when some 40 espresso coffees were served in good time.

Packed lunches were distributed, and we set off for Rangataua forest. This is a block of logged native forest adjoining the National Park just east of Ohakune. It is interesting to us, as trial plantings of exotic and some native species were made following logging and this provides another site where transitioning may be studied.



We then looked at the 'other end' of the forestry industry. Vaughan Kearns at Ruapehu Sawmills in Raetihi gave us a tour of his mill. Vaughan and his team provide a comprehensive range of specialty timbers such as cypress, macrocarpa, redwood, eucalypt, totara and cedar. We were shown an operating large breakdown saw from the past and then the modern day, computer driven, bandsaw operation.



While we were in the area, we took a quick trip to Carina's Native Nursery in Raetihi. Carina provides eco-sourced native plants to local councils, iwi, and homeowners.

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The business end of the AGM was conducted in the *ball room* of Kings Hotel where many of our team were accommodated. The detailed reports of projects and our financial situation was circulated, and our Chairman Peter Berg summarised a very successful year of advocacy and research on native forest restoration. All trustee members indicated willingness to remain on the board and were duly retained.



First thing on Sunday most of us visited the Rimu Walk reserve on the edge of the National Park which is a superb example of forest similar to that which we saw at a distance at Erua. We were encouraged to walk silently through this example of what used to cover the whole of the Waimarino plain. Towering matai and rimu with a rich understory of shrubs and ferns, showed the efficient use of trapping and poisoning.

A smaller group was also able to visit the Liley property way down the Retaruke road to see reafforestation work on steep hill country.



And of course, no visit to Ohakune is complete without a visit to the famous Chocolate Éclair Shop. Or two visits, if the eclairs prove too tempting...

Another successful year for TTT in which we were greatly encouraged by the large attendance and interest shown by our membership.

## Remembering Jaap



Many TTT members will have known Jaap van Dorsser, who died last year aged 92. Jaap, along with his late wife Sue, spent years restoring the riparian vegetation along the Awahou Stream, and many of us have visited Jaap and Sue's place on field trips and other events.

A springtime celebration of Jaap's life was held last October, a fitting tribute to the man who was always happiest in the company of trees.

The following obituary appeared in Rotorua's Daily Post.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/rotorua-daily-post/news/jaap-van-dorsser-obituary-rotorua-springtime-celebration-a-fitting-tribute-for-nature-lover/JKSESPSJRRG6LIS6ESNFZ72OQE/>

You can also revisit the video capturing the amazing mahi of Jaap and the Awahou Care Group -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hY40SG0vm78&t=2s>



*Restored native forest at Awahou Stream, Rotorua. When restoration of the nine hectares began in January 1994, led by Jaap and Sue van Dorsser, the riparian area was overgrown with blackberry and full of rubbish - it had been used as a dump for many years. Photo - Jacqui Aimers.*

**DONATIONS:** A note from the Treasurer - all members should be aware that all donations (but not subscriptions), are eligible for a 33.33% tax rebate on your income tax. If required, we can send you a receipt of donation for you to submit to IRD with your tax return.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Membership renewal notices are sent out annually on April 1st via email or post. Members can access all resources at [www.tanestrees.org/resources](http://www.tanestrees.org/resources). If you need to update your contact details, simply email us at [office@tanestrees.org.nz](mailto:office@tanestrees.org.nz)