



## Summer Newsletter 2021

*"We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity."* Edward O. Wilson

### Kia ora,

Welcome to our Summer newsletter. And what a summer it has been – almost like four seasons in one. But, the biodiversity initiatives never stop and we are pleased to update you on some of the projects out there and opportunities for communities to get involved. If you are keen to lend a hand or know what's happening in your area, check out our 'Biodiversity Events in HB' calendar (more details below) on our website or tell us what you are up to.

### Biodiversity Hawke's Bay launches contestable fund

We are excited to launch our first contestable fund for biodiversity-focused projects in the region.

The fund will give between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to applications with high biodiversity value, and those that engage or educate communities in biodiversity restoration, which may include management, protection, and information.

Biodiversity Hawke's Bay sees real value in working in partnership with community groups and land occupiers in protecting and enhancing our local biodiversity.



Last year, we supported four projects including deer fencing Little Bush, a chronically threatened ecosystem, in partnership with Forest and Bird and Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Applications for the fund close on February 28, 2021, and successful applicants will be notified in April. We encourage any groups who have a project that fits the bill to click on the links below for the application form and more information:

[Biodiversity Hawke's Bay Grant - Application Form](#)

[Biodiversity Hawke's Bay Grant - Terms and Conditions, Criteria and Guidelines](#)

## New Biodiversity Community Facilitator



Biodiversity Hawke's Bay is pleased to welcome Dr Belinda Sleight to the team. Belinda will come on board as Biodiversity Community Facilitator on January 25.

Belinda will play an important role in reaching out to those in the community engaging in biodiversity related projects, supporting those efforts and removing barriers for the community to contribute to enhancing biodiversity in the region.

She will identify, support, and actively connect the various community biodiversity projects.

Before taking on this new role, Belinda was the Director for the University of Waikato's operations in Hawke's Bay. That role, jointly funded by the Napier City Council, linked the University's research and teaching expertise with projects and education opportunities across Napier and Hawkes Bay generally.

Belinda has a PhD in Plant Pathology and has worked in managerial roles in Government sector and private businesses that conduct research or are implementing research results as new products or improved productivity.

She has also previously been involved in health, project managing sector-wide innovation programmes.

## Lottery environment funding

Got a worthy environmental or biodiversity cause that needs funding? Well, keep this date in mind – March 3, 2021 is when the first 2021 Lottery Environment and Heritage funding round closes. A decision on what funding is approved will be made at a meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

[More details](#)



## What is happening in Hawke's Bay?

- Want to share your biodiversity / conservation event?
- Keen to learn what is happening in the region and where you can help out?

As the Biodiversity Hub in Hawke's Bay, we are keen to bring together a calendar of events / work that is happening in the region so we can work together to grow and enhance biodiversity in Hawke's Bay.

If you would like to add your event, planting day, workshop or anything else to the calendar then please email the details and link through to [info@biodiversityhb.nz](mailto:info@biodiversityhb.nz)

Check out the calendar by clicking on the **Biodiversity Events in HB** button on the home page of our website – [www.biodiversityhb.org](http://www.biodiversityhb.org)

## Community Corner

We are keen to acknowledge, share, and celebrate all the amazing work that is happening in our communities to grow and enhance biodiversity in Hawke's Bay.

### EIT's treasure - Ōtātara Outdoor Learning Centre



Situated just below the Ōtātara Pā on EIT'S Taradale campus is Ōtātara Outdoor Learning Centre (OOLC), a shining example of how education can enhance sustainability and biodiversity.

The OOLC was officially opened late last year, but its impact on schools and local communities even before that has been immense.

The centre is an innovative collaboration between EIT, local indigenous hapū (Ngāti Pārau), central and local government agencies (Te Papa Atawhai / Department of Conservation, Hawke's Bay (HB) Regional Council), and local environmental groups that include Predator Free HB, and EnviroSchools. It is funded by the Air New Zealand Environment Trust.

[Visit the OOLC Facebook page](#)

## Student's videos a hit



A personal interest and investment in environmental issues and sustainability has motivated an EIT student to produce a series of videos highlighting biodiversity in Hawke's Bay.

Susanna Gray, who is studying a Bachelor of Creative Practice majoring in Screen Production, chose Biodiversity Hawke's Bay as her focus for a community project she had to complete as part of her studies.

She produced three videos; one with Dr Mike Lusk, who leads Friends of Te Mata Park, a volunteer group that focuses on planting natives and weed control within the park; another with Biodiversity Hawke's Bay Trust Board Chair Charles Daugherty; as well as one on how to plant a native Kakabeak.

[Read more](#)

[To see Susanna's videos, go to our Facebook page](#)

## Cape To City's rural land survey

A report on a survey of landholder perceptions of predator control in the Cape to City Region has been released by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

It shows that the majority (87%) of surveyed landholders were supportive of control efforts because of benefits to native biodiversity and economic benefits from reduction in toxoplasmosis from control of feral cats. Here is a summary of the findings and the report itself.

[Rural landholder survey](#)

## Biodiversity in the vineyards



A Hawke's Bay Vineyard owner has found a novel way to introduce biodiversity, by taking out a row of vines and replacing it with a corridor of indigenous species.

Xan Harding, Hawke's Bay Winegrowers Association vice-chairman, retrofitted a 350 by two-metre strip three years ago on his Maraekakaho Road property as a way of encouraging native birds, insects and herpetofauna (skinks and geckos) back into the area.

[Read the full story on Hawke's Bay App](#)

## Calendar a boost to biodiversity



Thanks to Marie Taylor, the founder of Plant Hawke's Bay, proceeds from the 2021 edition of her annual calendar have gone to the work being done by Biodiversity Hawke's Bay. Marie, a recent Queen's Service Medal (QSM) recipient, has spent the best part of her life devoted to protecting the country's native flora and fauna in a variety of roles. Her calendars have become a staple for the Hawke's Bay plant community.

## Te Mata Park named as one of world's ten best parks



Te Mata Park has been named as one of the ten best parks in the world. The Park has been awarded the highly coveted Top Ten Green Flag international award for 2020.

The Green Flag Award is an international award, signifying a park or green space of the highest integrity, judged by green space expert volunteers across several criteria.

These criteria include safety of the space and encouragement of healthy lifestyle, cleanliness and maintenance, environmental management, biodiversity and heritage, community involvement, projects and achievements, and welcoming accessibility for all. Such a high international honour is received with great pride by the community and all those involved with the Park. The park is a three-time winner of the Green Flag Community Award.

[Read more](#)

## Cape Sanctuary on Country Calendar

One of Hawke's Bay's best examples of predator control and preservation of biodiversity, Cape Sanctuary, recently featured on TVNZ's Country Calendar. Congratulations to Andy and Liz Lowe and their team, including all the volunteers, for the marvellous work they do.

[Watch Country Calendar episode featuring Cape Sanctuary](#)



  
**Ka kite anō**  
**Biodiversity Hawke's Bay**

## Thank You

*"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart". Elizabeth Andrew*

A big thank you to all the volunteers that do so much to support and enhance the environment, biodiversity, and Biodiversity Hawke's Bay. The volunteer Board and Management Committee members, the trappers at Predator Free Urban Hawke's Bay or the hundreds of volunteers who look after and nurture our green spaces throughout the region.... the list goes on. – *Thank You!!!*

## How to contact Biodiversity HB

We now have our own dedicated PO Box, so in addition to the following ways of contacting us, please send any snail mail to:

*Biodiversity HB, PO Box 246, Napier 4140*

E: [info@biodiversityhb.nz](mailto:info@biodiversityhb.nz)

M: 027 231 9367

F: [www.facebook.com/BiodiversityHB/](https://www.facebook.com/BiodiversityHB/)

W: [www.biodiversityhb.org](http://www.biodiversityhb.org)

L: [Linkedin](#)