



A network of volunteers prepared to help maintain and enhance the historic and indigenous natural features of the reserve and adjoining slopes.

Coordinator: Bill Trompetter
 233 Whites Line East
 Waiwhetu
 Phone: 569-6909 (home) 022 3632055
 E-mail: b.trompetter@gns.cri.nz



Newsletter Number 13: Xmas 2018

1. *Track maintenance - Working bees*
2. *Pest control - Don Milwood: 12 years maintaining bait and trap lines*
3. *Weed control - (spraying snake feather)*
4. *Haywards Scenic Reserve is identified as a Key Native Ecosystem*
5. *Web development*

1. Track maintenance - Working bees

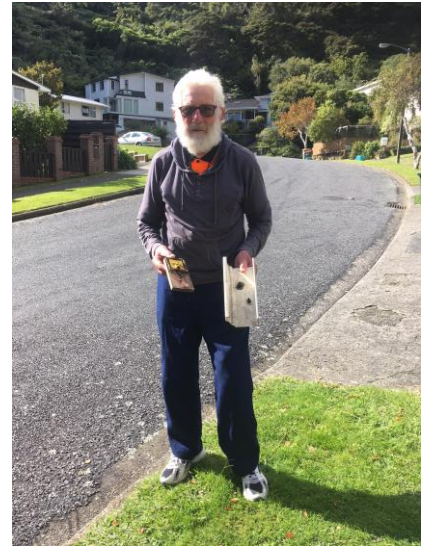
- ❖ **Public working bees:** Between October and November 2017 there were 4 public working bees doing overdue track maintenance. The working bees targeted the Dry Creek Zigzag, Whites Gully, Mawson Ridge, and the Old Farm tracks. These were well attended with 10-30 people, mostly locals but also people from other Lower Hutt suburbs. The two main tasks were re-benching tracks (removing slipped material or growth) and cutting back growth over the tracks. We also had a couple of extra impromptu working bees to the Old Farm track for some extra attention.
- ❖ **Measurement standards laboratory – volunteer day: 28 February** Eleanor Howick (also from MSL) organised a group of 10-15 from her work to clear an overgrown section of track between Griffins ridge and the on-ramp tunnel up the Wainuiomata road. A great effort as can be seen in the photos. This now reconnects the reserve to Wainuiomata Hill Road
- ❖ **Many thanks to those who helped.** Many hands made light work.
- ❖ **There will be 4 more public working bees in Feb-March – details to come soon.**



2. Pest control - Don Milwood: 12 years maintaining bait and trap lines

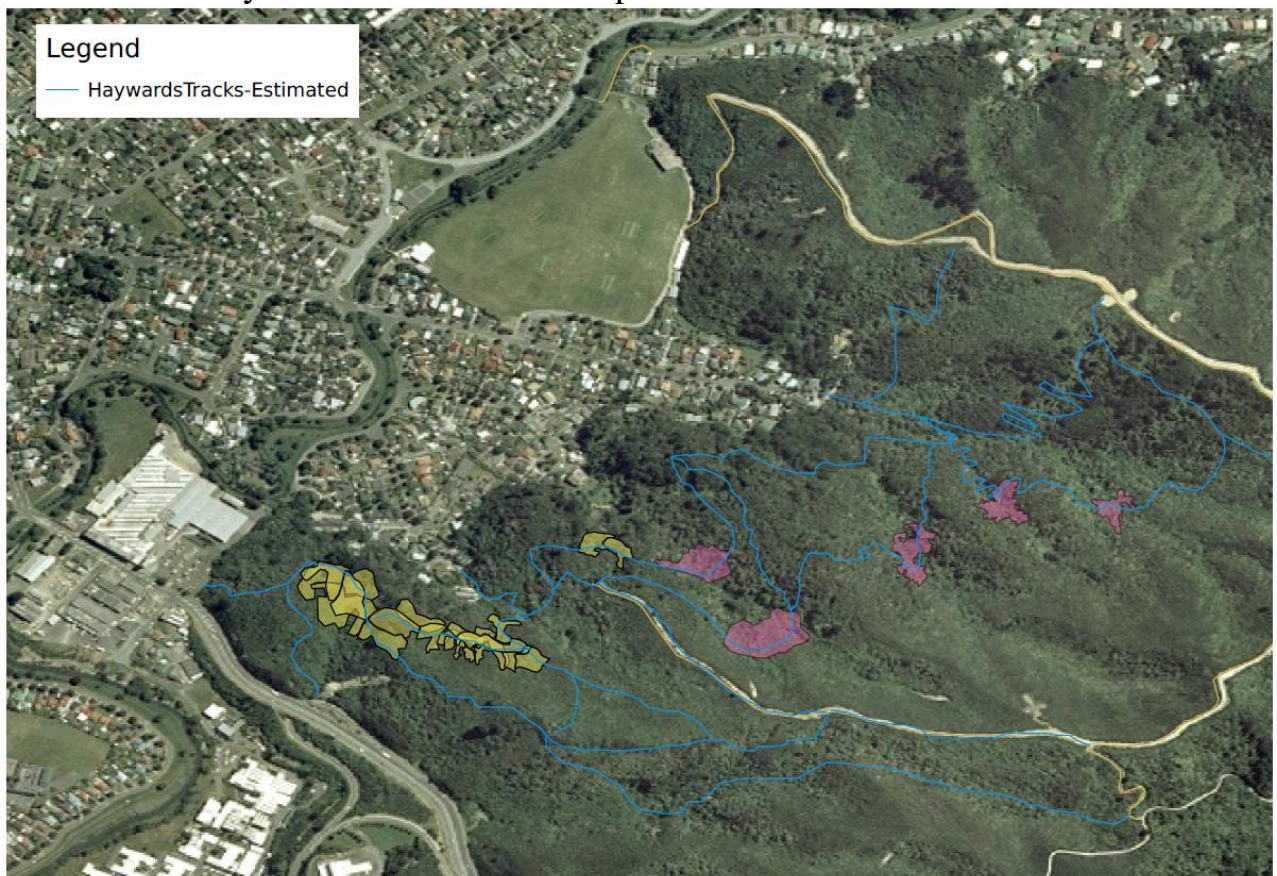
Don Milwood has done a sterling job of maintaining bait and trap lines for over 12 years in our reserve. Don is now stepping down from this activity. Many thanks for doing this activity so well for so long.

During 2018 a group from Massey university did a study to assess anti-coagulant based rodent control in Wellington. They only managed to catch 2 rats in our reserve using 30 traps over 3 weeks. They were disappointed with their catch – clearly Don has been doing a great job keeping the rat population down.



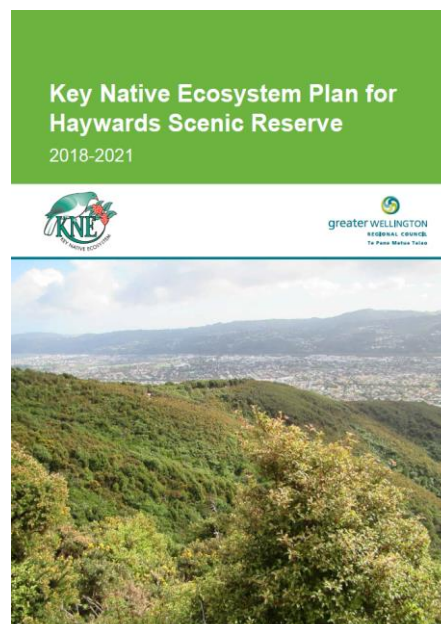
3. Weed control (spraying snake feather):

Hamish Trolove, Alex Bridger and Bill Trompetter are continuing to spray snake feather from Whites Line East fire break to Griffins ridge with support from HCC. This summer GWRC are spraying north of Whites Line East towards the new TeWhiti riser track. The picture below shows the locations we sprayed last summer. Ideally, we would like a few more volunteers to help with spraying.
– contact Bill if you would like/could help.



4. Key Native Eco system:

- ❖ GWRC have identified the Haywards Scenic reserve as a Key Native Ecosystem. In their well-prepared report/assessment, they highlight the significance of the plant and wildlife diversity in our reserve. Highlighting:
 - ✓ Ecological values
 - ✓ The key threats
- ❖ The report can be downloaded from:
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-publications/Key-Native-Ecosystem-Plan-for-Haywards-Scenic-Reserve-20182021.pdf>



Within the KNE site, more than 100 plant species have been recorded, including 40 species of trees and shrubs, 20 species of fern, 8 climbers and 6 orchid species⁹. The KNE site contains a sizable area of podocarp-broadleaf forest consistent with the original MF20 and WF8 forest types immediately south of the Te Whiti Firebreak¹⁰ where large rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*), hard beech (*Fuscospora truncata*) and puketea emerge above a canopy of tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*), hīnau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*) and māhoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*). This area is considered to have the highest ecological value within the KNE site given its mature status and species present. Other flora of note in this area includes rengarenga lily (*Arthropodium cirratum*), kōtukutuku (*Fuchsia excorticata*) and tōtara (*Podocarpus totara*).

The New Zealand falcon (kārearea; *Falco novaeseelandiae*) is thought to be breeding locally, with regular reports of pairs sighted within the KNE site provided by local residents¹². Bellbird (*Anthornis melanura*), whitehead (*Mohoua albicilla*) and other common indigenous forest birds such as fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*), tūī (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*), silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*), kererū (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*), grey warbler (*Gerygone igata*), and morepork (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) are present within the KNE site¹³. The KNE site supports reptile species including the barking gecko (*Naultinus punctatus*) and ngahere gecko (*Mokopirirakau* “southern North Island”)¹⁴ and has a high diversity of native land snails. Fifty-seven species of land snail have been recorded in the Haywards Scenic Reserve KNE site with micro snails especially numerous¹⁵.

5. Web information needs updating

- ❖ Our website is very kindly hosted and managed by local resident James Cross.
- ❖ The information on the website needs updating. We are **looking for a volunteer** to help update information for this website. eg to include information about the:
 - Key Native Ecosystem (plant and wildlife diversity from GWRC report)
 - Volunteering projects (track maintenance, weed control)
 - Reserve activities.
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- ❖ Please contact Bill to discuss

Bill Trompetter
Group Co-ordinator