

# Uretara Estuary Managers



Newsletter #

May 2008

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> a small bulldozer with very wide tracks successfully made its way onto a very muddy part of the estuary near the Lively Lane jetty, and was driven off again. Environment Bay of Plenty had previously trialled it successfully at Waikaraka Estuary but brought it here for a second trial because this is considered the muddiest estuary.

I understand Environment Bay of Plenty will trial other machines and it also has to seek a resource consent to remove mangroves by machine but it is pressing ahead as fast as possible to make machine removal a reality.

For this reason our committee has decided to stop clearing mangroves but to concentrate on tidying up what we've done. We plan to hold three working bees in May:

- May 3 1-3pm
- May 17 1-3pm
- May 31 10-12am.

We will meet at the jetty near the end of Lively Lane. As usual a hot drink and scones etc will be served afterwards.

We will:

- Stack the mangroves that Alan cut along the inner boundary of our legal clearing area, and any other un-stacked mangroves.
- Use brush cutters to cut stumps, seedlings and propagules level to the ground where we have already cleared.
- Burn heaps of dry mangroves (conditions permitting).
- Use double-edged push hoes or our hands to cut or pull scattered seedlings. UEM has ten push hoes or you may prefer to bring your own. This is the lowest priority task as many of these seedlings disappear through the winter.

If machine clearing is delayed for a long time we may our restart our clearing programme, but it is our fervent hope that our future working bees will be restricted to controlling seedling regrowth. If that is so, a party is called for!

As you probably read in the *Katikati Advertiser* we have received a grant from the Ministry of the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund for \$49,000. We are seeking the required partner to work with us continuing the stream restoration programme in our catchment. We hope this will be the first of a three-year programme to complete restoration of the Boyd and Quarry Streams. We will keep you informed on progress on this major project.

In the meantime volunteers continue to maintain bait stations round the Yeoman and Uretara Walkways and round the new wetland; weed control continues on the

plantings along the Uretara Walkway near Levely Lane and sowing, pricking out and potting up continues at our plant nursery at Lexham Park. And our chairman, Graham Sparling continues to make submissions on plans and policies relating to our concerns.

For more information: Graham Sparling 549 4622 or Rosalie Smith 549 2422

28 May 2008