

# Uretara Estuary Managers



Newsletter #

## November 2004

Hi friends

Apart from keeping our bait stations loaded, there have been some other activities:

Karene, assisted by Andrew, Brian and Rosalie mounted a display attached to the Environment BOP trailer at the Fruits of Katikati Festival. Six couples or individuals staffed the display over the two days. Great interest was shown. The children were very taken by Environment BOP's stuffed pests.

A competition identifying pest paw prints was arranged and more than 60 entries were received. Brian said although the competition looked easy, they had to check 16 entries (out of about 60) before they found the winners. A bird song identification competition was not held in the end. Brian donated bird photographs - which were framed - as prizes.

Following the festival, on Monday morning, the display was set up in the KK Advertiser window, to be there for a fortnight. Karene and David deserve our thanks for a great display, also Lawrie and Walter Stahel for their support.

Some members have been providing transport and supervision for College Year 10 (fourth form) students who have been going to Wilks' bush and monitoring and laying bait stations. Reports are that the children are well behaved, well prepared and a pleasure to be with. The programme continues for two more weeks so if anyone else would like the 90-minute excursion, contact Andrew.

Moat of you know that a few weeks ago a working bee planted trees and shrubs near the end of Park Road to help control erosion. A few shrubs were also planted in front of Nobles', a few near Smiths' jetty and a few by the bridge. In the next few days Andrew and Jack will be planting 100 flax plants near the end of the point.

We made moves some time ago to map bird food sources in our area. Would those interested in walking round noting down suitable trees, please contact Rosalie.

Some of you may be monitoring birds along the walkway. Keep up the good work. Royce and Betty have already noted something new: grey warblers appear to be nesting in front of their house, a few houses before the reserve at the point.

A few weeks ago four members visited the Waikaraka Estuary and were most impressed with the results of extensive mangrove clearance over several years. Walking almost the length of the estuary was a pleasant stroll with lots to look at, from mud to crabs, whelks, little flounder and sea grass, in sequence, as we moved from the head of the estuary and from the newer to the older clearings. Certainly, getting rid of the mangroves transforms to mudflats from dead to teeming with life. Rosalie is looking forward to taking a group on the same walk. A tentative date is Monday 22 November when the tide is right. Meet at 9.30 at her place.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 20 November, 9am at Smiths'.