

# Iwi, hapū and community nursery network.

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Prepared by: URU Whakaaro Ltd with Kaipātiki Project for Auckland Council.

## Overview

Iwi, hapū & community nursery network began from a need for community nurseries to work collectively- to know who was growing what, and where, and to support one another in how to grow native plants, start/ manage native plant nurseries. The overarching goal to increase bio-diversity across the Auckland Region.

## Objectives

To create a place where schools, iwi, hapū, and community nursery staff & volunteers can share their story. To exchange and support one another on how to grow natives, to facilitate events and workshops.

## Key events undertaken

Nursery visits – 6  
Workshops – 7  
Nursery Network survey – sent out to 41 nurseries  
Advisory and support – ongoing including two new nurseries in planning.

## NURSERY VISITS:

Visits were held with Iwi and community based nurseries, managers and staff;  
Participating nurseries included: Maunga Whau Nursery, Ngā Uri o Hau Native Nursery Nursery, Kaipātiki Project, Ōkahu Rākau- nursery – Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei , Te Tauroa – nursery- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Takararo Native Plant Nursery, Devonport Community Gardens staff and volunteers, and Waitōtara Sustainable and Resilient Living.

Nursery visits:

February

- Waitōtara Sustainable and Resilient Living nursery visit, Upper Waiwera  
<https://www.facebook.com/waitotarasr/> 23/02/21

March

- Ngā Uri o Hau Native nursery <https://www.ngauriohaunativenursery.com/>
- Ōkahu Rākau, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Native Bush Care and Nursery & Kaipātiki Project nursery visit – Held at Pourewa Reserve. <https://ngatiwhatuaorakei.com/whenua-toi/okahu-rakau-2/> 29/03/21

April

- Maunga Whau Nursery
- Takararo Native Plant Nursery - Devonport community nursery visit, Devonport.  
<https://www.facebook.com/restoringtakarungahauraki/> 13/04/21
- Waiheke- Piritahi Marae – Nursery

May

- Kaipara nursery 26/05/21



Waitōtara Sustainable & Resilient Living nursery



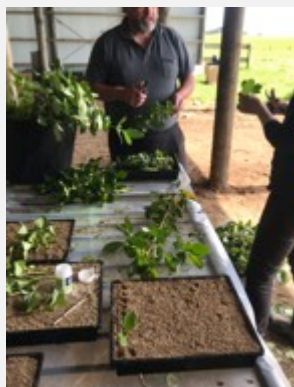
Ōkahu Rākau – Nursery- Pourewa

Waitōtara Sustainable & Resilient Living nursery visit to establish what support is need and organise a workshop in Upper Waiwera in upcoming months.

## Workshops

### Workshops:

- February Nursery workshop with Te Tauroa - Nursery set up volunteer quality assurance potting (x2)
- 10/03/21 Nursery workshop with Te Tauroa - @ at Kaipātiki Project.
- 12/04/21 Ōkahu Rākau Insitu nursery & epiphytes workshop, Whenua Rangatira.
- 21/04/21 Takararo Native Plant Nursery - Design Workshop, Devonport.
- 04/02/21 and 15/05/21 Nursery Management workshop, Waitōtara Sustainable and Resilient Living



Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki –with URU Whakaaro & Kaipātiki Project collaborative space

A series of workshops for Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki have been held on Motutapu from November through to February 2021 to upskill staff and volunteers in propagation, seed collection, cuttings, potting on, nursery construction and production planning. The most recent hosted at Kaipātiki on seed collection, seed saving. Attendees included nursery manager for Te Tauroa and URU Whakaaro staff.





Kaipātiki Project staff visit – Ōkahu Rākau nursery 29/03/21

Nursery visit to Ōkahu Rākau nursery, Pourewa, Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei nursery staff met with Kaipātiki Project and URU Whakaaro. Participants were shown around the nursery and gardens by Ōkahu Rākau nursery manager discussing large scale iwi nursery management issues and opportunities.



Ōkahu Rākau: Insitu nursery & epiphytes workshop 12/04/21

An insitu nursery- epiphyte workshop on Whenua Rangatira with key staff from Ōkahu Rākau Native Bush Care and Nursery. Looking at past translocations undertaken by NOW 15 year, 10 years and 6 years in age for salvaged plants from developments across tāmaki such as the northern busway in Takapuna and Lichen Translocation projects. Key focus being on host tree requirement.



Takararo Native Plant Nursery- existing and new site. 13/04/21

Potential site for Piritahi Nursery – Waiheke

Evolving nurseries, relocations and new developments have been undertaken by no less than 8 nurseries in the last year. One such nursery is Takararo in April URU Whakaaro & Wyatt Dooley from Ōkahu Rākau Nursery met with staff & volunteers from Takararo native plant nursery, and staff from Biosecurity Solutions. Attendees

toured the native plant nursery, then visited the new shade house, and site for new nursery at Ngataranga Park, finishing with a hīkoi around Kawerau Reserve where we and nursery volunteers discussed priorities for restoration of the wetland area. The following week we undertook a design workshop with key staff/ volunteers leading the project.



Ngataranga Community Nursery Design Workshop 21/04/21

#### **Waitōtara Sustainable and Resilient Living -**

The first 4<sup>th</sup> March via Zoom during lockdown period and the second 15<sup>th</sup> May. Topics included planning for small nurseries, seed collection systems, tracking for production schedules, and bio-security issues/ prevention management.

#### **Presentations**

1. Upper Harbour Ecology Network UHEN, there are a series of small nurseries both official (Kaipātiki Project nursery at Hobsonville and Herald Island Nursery and back yard nurseries supporting and plant sitting. This group has undertaken a survey that better aligns with the needs of their network to be shared with the wider network. One of the challenges highlighted was the expense of individual back yard nurseries to pay for potting mix - April 2021
2. Pest Liason Group PLG- monthly meeting. May 2021 there was positive feed back from the audience with enquiries to nurseries within working areas and advise sort regarding establishing more nurseries.



## Nursery Network Hui – May 2021



Nursery network hui, Hosted by Takararo Native Plant Nursery -Restoring Takarunga Hauraki.

The recent nursery network hui brought together 28 staff and volunteers from across the nursery network, with representatives from schools, iwi, hapū, community and private nurseries and Auckland Council staff. Native plant nursery managers, key staff and propagation volunteers got together to share, catch up on biosecurity issues, biodiversity opportunities- who's growing what, seed sourcing, banking, and AK threatened species. An opportunity to discuss native plant nursery aspirations, and how we can develop support, continue communication and education for nurseries.

## Working Issues

While volunteer programmes were strong in some nurseries, others voiced a need for more support and advocacy for nursery staff and successional planning for capacity development. The general consensus was that workshops for ie soils, seed saving, eco-sourced seed collection and seed banking aligned with the maramataka was needed, as well as nursery management, hygiene and data collection processes.

Some nursery staff had to travel a distance to attend the hui, in note of this, we acknowledge the importance of resourcing and support for those nurseries to be able to attend such events. Smaller nursery network hubs in the different ecological regions would also be helpful.

A shared communication channel is needed to share success stories and to make visible what other nurseries in the network were doing. Smaller nurseries needed more support for access to resources, was suggested that there was a way to trade/ support one another in some way.

Time for research is sometimes an issue and to save time it was suggested that there was shared communication hub where standardised information was shared eg pest management, bio security, health and safety issues.

How people were recording what is being grown, where was discussed. Need to have a template shared with the network to record/ track where plants were being sourced, grown, and then planted out- in hard copy and digital. Various seed banks are being started up, and being continued- there is a need to record what is being stored, where, and shared so that the network can request access if needed, and to develop more resilient shared seed banking systems.

A request for seed guide including seed collection protocols was needed by many- this is being developed- needs collective support and will be shared with the network.



Concern was raised around successional planning and ideas were talked about for paid internships where the 'kaitiaki team' could rotate around different restoration nurseries, projects and sites.

## Health & Safety

A need for knowledge sharing around health and safety was raised especially amongst smaller backyard nurseries.

## Survey

Purpose of the survey: to support exchange of knowledge between nurseries and to connect and share common aspirations and challenges. To gain a better understanding of how various nurseries operate and to decipher what is being grown and where in order to collectively support native forest restoration across the Auckland Region. The survey was sent out to over 40 nurseries, the results are still coming in and findings are being gathered, highlights have been affirming the wealth of experience and knowledge held within the network, and willingness to share this with others. Similar challenges that have been identified are also focal points for many of the nurseries, eg developing capacity, training and education with opportunities for qualifications, financial stability, sustainable practise, time management, sustainable management of resources, seed collection processes being some examples. Overall the network would like to learn more about growing, and propogation of more diverse varieties, increase cultural knowledge and tikanga, including narratives and medicinal aspects, and ways to support and increase educational aspirations, and successional planning. The survey is a good way to gather this information in order to identify common aspirations, so that the network can find ways to collectively support these.

## Monitoring, Reporting & Learnings

By bringing together a number of nursery practitioners, we were able to discuss common aspirations and needs for support, highlighted is diversity in scale and operational processes between nurseries. Nursery managers and staff have shared that although they may not have the capacity or knowledge at the beginning, they felt supported and confident that they could achieve their goals with the help of the more experienced practitioners within the network. The main highlight was access to knowledge sharing that the network enables- allowing the reciprocal nature of tuākana, teina relationships to operate across the network.

Just over half of all nurseries attended the 1 day network hui, some of whom travelled a considerable distance to support and discuss general issues around nursery operations, challenges, and goals. The collective decided that there was a need to continue this support. All were willing to continue the dialogue, and to support upcoming workshops and hui.

Participants voiced the need for a network like this, especially for the knowledge and guidance around seed collection, and seed banking and protocols around this. Future success is dependant on the continued sharing, communication and support between nurseries. The desire to develop skills around growing, and seed collection, as well as developing nurseries, capability of staff and volunteers to enable the work to be done well. All nurseries were excited about the opportunity to collaborate.

## What's Now Possible & Next Steps

### Next steps:

1. To create a shared platform for communication and knowledge exchange between nurseries; managers & volunteers.
2. To organise and schedule a series of workshops for the network- topics to be determined from the needs of nursery staff and volunteers. Enabling knowledge exchange between nursery practitioners.
3. To keep a database of nurseries involved in the network- to grow & develop the capacity within the network, and to encourage others to participate & contribute towards overarching goals.
4. To determine from survey data who is growing what, and where. From this data, to be able to decipher how we can work collaboratively to grow & supply plants (for biodiversity) within restorations projects across the Auckland Region.

