

Annual Review

2018



The Forest
Bridge Trust
'protect, enhance, connect'

Who we are

The Forest Bridge Trust (TFBT) is a farmer-initiated environment trust that supports outstanding land stewardship across the narrowest part of the tail of Maui's fish (the North Island) – from west to east as a bridge of green from the Kaipara to the Pacific Coast.

The Trust's mission is to support farmers and other land owners in the ongoing restoration of their native forests and wildlife, and to protect their rivers, streams and wetlands, all within a productive, profitable and sustainable farming landscape. This is done for the benefit of the wider Auckland and New Zealand communities.

Our Vision

A connected landscape with healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife from the Kaipara Harbour to the Pacific Coast.

Our Mission

Through practical landowner-centred support, enable the protection, enhancement and connection of forest remnants and wetlands.

Contact details

www.theforestbridgetrust.org.nz
admin@theforestbridgetrust.org.nz

FOREWORD

2018 Summary

2018 was a busy year for the Trust. We accomplished many important goals (exceeding expectations in some areas), and set the stage for future development and growth.

See the following page for an overview of our achievements.

What we want to do in 2019

- 25ha hectares of bush remnants and wetlands protected, and land retired from farming
- 2.5 kilometres riparian and bush margin protected from stock
- Stage one of the Eastern Connectivity Project will be undertaken
- Support for 2 existing hubs is maintained and halos of protection around them are grown
- 4 new hubs are supported
- 8 community workshops will be held to enthuse and support people to undertake pest control
- A monitoring programme will be further developed to measure progress with fencing, weed and pest control and volunteer effort.

I would like to thank all the Trustees and the members of the steering committee for their valuable efforts and wonderful commitment and dedication in making The Forest Bridge Trust a reality operating in the community.

Thanks also go to:

Auckland Council
Auckland University
CUEhaven
Department of Conservation
Farmlands
Foundation North
Geographic Business Solutions
Gotcha Traps
Hunting & Fishing
Living Waters
Mataia Restoration Project

MBIE
Ministry for the Environment
Nature Designs
NZ Landcare Trust
Reconnecting Northland
Rodney Local Board
Shane Pienar
Transpower
Waikato University
Whitebait Connection
WWF

Sustainable Business Network – Million Meters stream project

.....and the wonderful schools, landowners and communities who have jumped on board CatchIT Schools and CatchIT Communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Adshead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kevin Adshead
Chairperson
The Forest Bridge Trust



6
Wetland/Forest
remnants fenced



3 new schools participated in
CatchIT programme
=347
new students



\$370,000
Of funding
secured

1
school repeated the
CatchIT programme
for the third time



3
pest control workshops for
parents



10.5kms
/40ha
bush fenced

=5,288m of riparian margin



10
CatchIT Community workshops

4
community
workshops held to
encourage protection
of local covenanted or
public reserves



452
Traps deployed



2,758
Volunteer hours

3
already protected
areas have an
actively maintained
pest control
programme



The Forest
Bridge Trust
'protect, enhance, connect'

2018 REVIEW

This section describes the 2018 Trust activities in more detail.

THEMES

The Forest Bridge Trust's long-term vision is a connected landscape with healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife from the Kaipara Harbour to the Pacific Coast

In 2018 the Trust had three themes; building the bridge, building the community, TFBT capacity and learning.

Building the Bridge

Goal

10 priority wetland and/or forest remnants will be fenced, trapped and monitored. A further 10 already protected areas will be trapped and monitored.

Desired Outcomes for 2018

- 3 priority wetlands/forest remnants fenced and pest control in place
- 3 already protected areas have an actively maintained pest control programme
- An ecological monitoring programme will be further developed to measure progress with fencing, weed and pest control and volunteer effort. This will incorporate landscape wide mapping of fencing projects, photopoints of forest and wetland projects, recording traps and areas under pest control and measuring community engagement.

Outcomes Achieved in 2018

- ✓ 6 wetlands/forest remnants have been fenced
- ✓ 3 already protected areas have an actively maintained pest control programme
- ✓ Work has begun on developing a scope of works for a TFBT monitoring plan. Initial work has begun on collecting baseline data (including photo points, mapping trap and fence locations)

Building the Community

Goal

A community open to change is built in targeted areas to support landowners' commitment to engage.

Desired Outcome by 2018

- 3 new schools are engaged in trapping through the CatchIT schools programme
- 3 pest control workshops are held for parents
- 13 CatchIT community pest control workshops are held
- 3 community workshops are held to enthuse and support people to protect a local covenanted wetland or forest reserve.
- A connectivity map is produced and shared, illustrating landscape scale action
- Trap data will be collected and mapped

Outcomes Achieved in 2018

- ✓ 3 new schools (347 students) were engaged in trapping through the CatchIT Schools programme. One school (30 students) also went through the programme for a second time.
- ✓ 3 pest control workshops were held for parents.
- ✓ 10 CatchIT community workshops on pest control were held
- ✓ 4 community workshops were held to encourage people to protect local covenanted or public reserves
- ✓ Discussions are underway with funding partners to enable the production of a connectivity map for the eastern corridor (Tawharanui to Tamahunga)
- ✓ Trap locations are mapped, and trap catch data captured.

Capacity and Learning

Goal

TFBT improves its practice and contributes to the wider good by targeted engagement with other landscape-scale ecological connectivity initiatives throughout the country and region.

Desired outcome by 2018

- TFBT representatives will share the TFBT story and learnings with other landscape-scale ecological connectivity initiatives when appropriate
- TFBT will continue to look for opportunities to work with and share resources with other landscape scale initiatives in the Auckland region
- TFBT representatives will attend 2 conferences or regional/national sharing initiatives

Outcomes Achieved in 2018

- ✓ TFBT representatives gave presentations to Colville Harbour Care, the Auckland Council biodiversity team, Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Assn (MERRA) and at the regional Festival
- ✓ TFBT continues to network with the other landscape scale projects within the Auckland region. This has included input into group thinking on regional policies and strategies.
- ✓ TFBT representatives attended 5 conferences/national sharing initiatives

GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

Governance and Operations has four main components: the Trust itself; work of the trustees; communication and promotion of the Trust; and partnerships and funders.

The Trust

Outcomes for 2018

- ✓ Policies have been reviewed for H&S and communications
- ✓ Policies for managing conflict of interest and biosecurity have been developed and policies for fundraising and volunteering have been drafted
- ✓ The criteria used for selecting properties for TFBT support has also been reviewed
- ✓ The Trust's area of interest was reviewed and enlarged to include the South Head peninsula

Work of the Trustees

Outcomes for 2018

- ✓ Trustees contracted the services of a Manager in 2018

Communication and Promotion

Outcomes for 2018

- ✓ A newsletter was created and distributed to all CatchIT Schools trap recipients. It is intended that this will be used as a template for newsletters to other audiences

- ✓ One landowner meeting was held to report back to and seek input into the TFBT annual work programme
- ✓ A landowner meeting was held in the Eastern corridor to seek input into the TFBT work programme for this area.
- ✓ The CatchIT Schools programme won the Schools Award in the inaugural Auckland Council Mayoral Awards. The programme was also a finalist in the NZ Biosecurity Awards.

Partnerships and Funders

The Forest Bridge Trust has proven capable of securing funding. Our strengths in this area are due to our:

- professionalism
- strategic focus
- proven skills (particularly in delivery of projects)
- our strategic focus aligns well to current political topics. i.e pest free
- proven capabilities at reporting results

Outcomes for 2018

- ✓ \$370 000 of funding was secured in 2018. This included funding from several new sources
- ✓ A partnership has been developed with Waikato University to create an app for the collection of trap catch data

LEARNINGS and REFLECTIONS

During 2018 the Trust undertook many new activities and projects. Below are some of learnings and reflections from along the way:

Hubs

Three hubs were identified, each focussing on a protected reserve with significant ecological features and strategic importance in the landscape.

For two of these hubs (Dunns and Logues) an initial meeting was held to connect with the community and ask what they wanted. This was followed with a training workshop for the trapline volunteers.

The third hub has essentially involved liaison with the landowner for the Hoteo Gorge project at this stage – 2019 aiming to expand the project to neighbours

Learnings

- Having an open meeting then training workshop, then trapline walk through worked well as a tactic.
- We learnt that these places have a deep connection to the local people.
- Good numbers of people emerged for traplines. Publicity worked -for both we used mail drop flyers to advertise and local word of mouth websites
- It was good to hold the training workshop close to the reserve (both were on volunteers properties)
- Having a community driver (as at Logues) makes it easier to coordinate people, data, traps etc
- Landowner agreements plus volunteer H&S sign off for projects is important as it ensures all parties know what their responsibilities are and that's recorded in writing.
- Things to consider for next year; ongoing communication with volunteers? Data collation? Widening the hub?

CatchIT Schools

As we prove the success of the CatchIT Schools programme, the opportunity to grow and expand our work is vast. Examples include the opportunity to move the programme into secondary schools, and the repeated pleas for us to re-run CatchIT Schools in primary schools. However we need to remain focused on our strategy and be mindful of capacity.

We have also become aware of the need to tailor the CatchIT Schools programme to different audiences. In particular when working in an urban vs rural school.

2019

At the end of 2018 the Trust undertook a review of its long term strategy. This section of the report provides highlights of the planned activities for 2019 as per the revised strategic plan.

Within the revised strategic plan the Trust has two themes: building the bridge and building TFBT capacity and opportunity.

Priority Actions for 2019 within these two themes are:

- 25ha hectares of bush remnants and wetlands protected, and land retired from farming
- 2.5 kilometres riparian and bush margin protected from stock
- Stage one of the Eastern Connectivity Project will be undertaken
- Support for 2 existing hubs is maintained and halos of protection around them are grown

- 4 new hubs are supported
- 8 community workshops will be held to enthuse and support people to undertake pest control
- A monitoring programme will be further developed to measure progress with fencing, weed and pest control and volunteer effort.

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Auckland Council
 Auckland University
 CUEhaven
 Department of Conservation
 Farm and Lifestyle Centre - Warkworth
 Farmlands
 Fonterra/Department of Conservation - Living Waters
 Foundation North
 Geographic Business Solutions
 Gotcha Traps
 Hunting & Fishing
 Mataia Restoration Project
 MBIE
 Ministry for the Environment - Community Environment Fund
 Nature Designs
 NZ Landcare Trust
 Reconnecting Northland
 Rodney Local Board
 Shane Pienar
 Sustainable Business Network – Million Meters stream project
 Transpower
 Waikato University
 Whitebait Connection
 WWF
and the wonderful schools, landowners and communities who have jumped on board.

FINANCIALS

Current financial reports for The Forest Bridge Trust can be found on the Charities Commission website - www.charities.govt.nz