

SANATORIUM RESERVE RESTORATION

Newsletter update - September 2020



Firstly, we would like to acknowledge that it has been some time since a newsletter was put together and we would like to thank you for your continued support for the restoration project.

Although the world is facing uncertain times, we have been lucky enough to be able to continue work at the Sanatorium Reserve without it being affected too much by COVID-19 Alert Levels.

Here's what's been happening in and around the reserve:

We are now in year three of the five-year project and there has been plenty achieved to date.

Weed control

- Spraying and mulching of pest plants, bamboo especially, over the three-year period has been successful. The continued management of grow-back has resulted in a significant reduction in pest plant species within the reserve.
- Removal of some eucalyptus, wattles and pines near tracks and essential infrastructure. Some pines in bush areas are in the process of removal.

Photos above: Pest plant removal between January and July 2020.

Photo below: new information panels along the Puarenga trail



Cleaning up

- The storage yard within the reserve (behind the Waste Water Treatment Plant) has been cleared, flattened and covered with soil in preparation for native planting.
- Keep an eye out for the opportunity to help with clean-up days as we come into summer.

Reserve maintenance

- Installation of two geothermal fences by Department of Conservation. The fences will protect the birds in the sanctuary area as well as keep visitors safely on the walking path.
- Designs and costings underway to replace current boardwalks and bridges with new structures.

Pest control

- Pest animal control has begun in the reserve and Wildland Consultants are working with Mokoia Intermediate as part of the school's environmental learning programme.

Bat monitoring

- A tree management plan has been received from restoration contractors Wildland Consultants Limited. This plan includes how we will manage trees in the future to ensure we retain long-tailed bat habitat.
- Following the discovery of bats in Sanatorium Reserve, bat monitoring is now part of Council's ecological evaluation in other reserves when planning tree management.

Sharing the story

- We have installed storyboards telling the story of Sanatorium Reserve, its native flora and fauna and its history. The storyboards are situated along the Puarenga walking track to give visitors a better understanding of why the reserve is so important to the people of Rotorua.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency - Te Ngae Road Stage 1 upgrades

As part of the upgrades to Te Ngae Road the entrance to Whakarewarewa Club Rooms has been removed from Te Ngae/Sala intersection. All vehicles accessing the club must now enter via Puarenga Park.

The existing pedestrian underpass at the Puarenga Bridge is also part of the stage 1 upgrades. Plans for what that will look like will be shared with the community in coming months.

You may have seen that the old BMX track at the edge of the reserve has been removed. A new purpose-built BMX track, Te Papa o Te Kauri, is now open at Waipa and the old track needed to be demolished to avoid deterioration and safety issues. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's contractor Downer levelled the existing track and structures and will be using the site for around 18 months as a safe place to store their construction equipment and materials.

Watermain and stormwater infrastructure upgrades

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's contractors are working on Council's behalf to upgrade drinking water and stormwater infrastructure near the Puarenga Bridge. Council has taken the opportunity to upgrade the infrastructure in this area while the road works are underway.