

Lake Mangakaware

Sunday, June 25 Organised by Susan Emmitt

Led by Murray Davies

It was rather a wet day but the hardy souls of the Bot. Soc. continued on their trip around Lake Mangakaware under the guidance of Murray Davies. A few were rather late, namely us, having missed the turning onto a Paper Road opposite Anderson/Oakshott Road intersection.



Starting out clad with rain gear. New plantings in foreground

Mangakaware is a peat lake managed by Waipa District Council.

Murray explained that the aim of the Lake Mangakaware Care group was to return the lake and margins to a natural state and provide public access to the site. Activities have included weed control, pest control, planting and silt traps. The parties involved in the restoration programme, started in 2014, are the Waipa District Council and the Hamilton Fish and Game.

It was easy to see the devastation of the lake over the years and the already turn around with knowledge, care and planting. There were lots of exotic peat tolerant woody trees and shrubs e.g willows, cherry trees, swamp cypress, oaks and alders. Weeds abounded. Many species were listed, gorse, blackberry and the yellow flag iris were very common.



Yellow Flag iris: *Iris pseudacorus*



Gorse: *Ulex europaeus*



Sprayed Salix species

The lake has declined in condition in recent years. One of the aims is to improve water quality of the inflowing catchment area. Sediment traps have been installed on the inflowing drains to remove suspended solids and nutrients from water entering the lake. It is hoped this will enhance the biodiversity and create a much healthier lake system. The silt traps consist of a series of alternating deep and shallow sections. The deep sections will be periodically de-sludged. This material will be utilised in elevating walkways through the reserve.



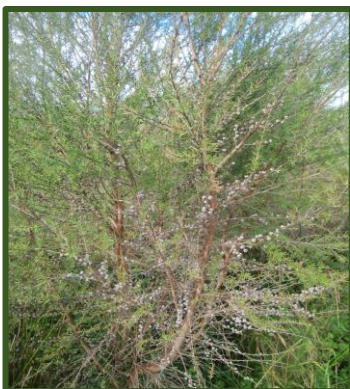
Murray explaining about Silt traps



Sediment traps will have a combined volume of 12,404 cubic metres. Waipa District Council has also installed a weir on the lake outlet to maintain minimum lake levels.

Most likely grand kahikateas stood beside this lake and it is easy to see many remnants of past forests.

Community and volunteers have been engaged in ongoing planting especially in the riparian margins. Kahikatea, Cordyline, Manuka, Flax interspersed with other native species, Coprosma, and Plagianthus were all seen recently planted and growing well.



Healthy Manuka trees



Ancient Kahikatea log

The lake has significant Maori historical value. Three prehistoric sites of previous habitation have been discovered. In 1969 an archaeological dig found a pa site and the floor of a whare was uncovered exposing a natural fireplace.

It was another great outing and a realisation that we still have a way to go to preserve our native environment. At least there is more of an awareness now and progress in the right direction. It will be interesting to visit again in the future to see the progress and the growth of our flora and fauna.



The keen botanists botanising.

