



Newsletter

# PEOPLE CITIES NATURE

December 2022

## PROGRAMME MANAGER MESSAGE

Dr Rachel Nepia



Meri Kirihimete to our People, Cities & Nature whanau. As we come to the end of the year we are grateful for the support of our research partners from various local and regional councils and community groups. They are the people with boots on the ground, making a difference in New Zealand's Cities and their work is essential for our wellbeing as New Zealanders and for the sustainable future we are building.

This year we have focused on building our team – recruiting keen students and post-docs, and building our programme infrastructure to help us in our mission to create more functional and

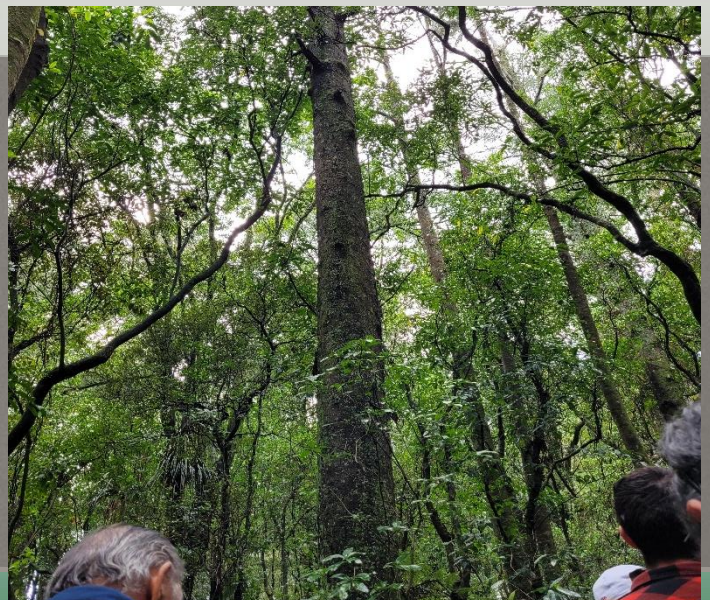
biodiverse cities in Aotearoa. Our researchers have been busy connecting with our programme partners, and getting set up for a busy fieldwork season, and I have been busy developing tools to make our research accessible and digestible for councils, community and restoration practitioners.

As we look forward to 2023 we are excited for new data to start flowing in, for our wānanga series to continue, and for our new recruits to join the team.

We wish you all the best for a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We hope you find time to enjoy a greenspace near you this Christmas.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Ngā Pou Tuata o Kirikiriroa – maramataka and matauranga wananga in Kirikiriroa, Hamilton
- O Tatou Ngāhere conference organized by Tane's Tree Trust
- Bruce Clarkson elected to regional council





# O Tātou Ngāhere Conference

Between 26th to 27th of October 2022 People, Cities and Nature sponsored 'O Tātou Ngāhere' conference at Te Papa Museum in Wellington. This conference was organised by Tane's Tree Trust and Pure Advantage and was based on the theme of

'Regenerating our landscape with native forest'. The conference sold out of in-person registrations and had a large online attendance.

A highlight of the conference was participation from New Zealand high schools in a rangatahi panel. The panel included high school students, university students, and young professionals, and discussed leading issues related to native ngāhere, including how to get people involved in restoring and protecting native biodiversity. Several panel participants highlighted the need to have native biodiversity in cities because that is where most people will find their connection to nature.

Our sponsorship of the conference allowed us to create a display in the Amokura Theatre which was available to a large audience. Our display included a summary booklet that was available for distribution, our Gardenstar backyard assessment tool, a weta hotel, a tracking tunnel and cards, and a rock pile and lizard monitoring tool.



## Ngā Pou Tuata o Kirikiriroa Wānanga

In September People Cities Nature hosted a wānanga with Ngāti Wairere at the Waikato Resettlement Centre next to Claudelands Bush. The wānanga was focused on maramataka and mātauranga relevant to Ngāti Wairere and was the first of a series of four seasonal workshops.

The event began with a hiko through Te Papanui (Claudelands Bush) where Wiremu Puke introduced the history of Te Papanui. The vegetation here is a remnant of kahikatea forest with a canopy of kahikatea and pukatea with titoki, mahoe and tawa interspersed. It was historically an important source of kai and other resources for Ngati Wairere. Wiremu said "These are Kahikatea are 500 years old. They were here with our ancestors... If only these trees could talk. The stories they could tell."

Ngati Wairere kaumatua participated in a question-and-answer session which highlighted the resilience of Ngati Wairere and their connection to nature.

A presentation by Wiremu Puke on traditional use of local resources was followed by a demonstration of the use of authentic stone adze for carving. Wiremu supervised participants handling the carving tools and contributing to the creation of a waka kereru. Piripi Lambert also gave a presentation on maramataka, highlighting the whakapapa of the moon, stars and all living things. One participant said "When you consider that everything has a whakapapa it makes biodiversity and restoring nature even more valuable".

Participants appreciated the way that whakapapa and maramataka gave them new understanding and connection to the whenua. As one rangatahi said "It gave me new eyes".

## New Recruits

We have welcomed some new recruits to the People Cities Nature team. Dr Kasey Kiesewetter is a post-doctoral fellow joining us from the University of Miami. Dr Kiesewetter (pictured right, top) has worked on exploring microbial ecology and its role in conservation biology and will be joining the team under Research Aim 1.3.

PhD student Stella Brachmann (pictured right, middle) joins us this month from Universitat Greifswald in Germany. She will be co-supervised by Dr Andrew Barnes and Dr Kiri Joy Wallace working on Research Aim 1.3.

MSc student Poppy Romera (pictured right, bottom) is also joining the Research Aim 1.3 team under the supervision of Dr Kiri Joy Wallace and Dr Andrew Barnes.



## Regional Council Appointment

In a recent election, Bruce Clarkson, our People Cities Nature programme leader, was elected as a councillor in the Waikato Regional Council. Bruce has worked with the council as an advisor in the past, and recognised a need for more action, particularly on environmental issues. This was a large factor in his decision to run for council. In October Bruce was elected to council and voted in as the deputy chairman.

Bruce indicated in his candidate's statement "I will use my skills and expertise to help us take a more collaborative, evidence-based approach to the many challenges that lie ahead. Our focus needs to be on ensuring that we do not compromise the inheritance and wellbeing of future generations."

Bruce will continue his leadership of the People Cities Nature programme but will reduce his teaching load at the University to make room in his schedule for his new responsibilities with the Waikato Regional Council. We look forward to seeing how Bruce can help to move forward momentum on making cities in the Waikato region biodiversity refuges.



## Early Career Impact Seed Grant

People, Cities & Nature researcher Craig Liddicoat has been awarded a \$10k (AUD) Early Career Impact Seed Grant from Flinders University. Dr Liddicoat will use the funding to pursue research aligned with the People, Cities & Nature project 'Restore health promoting soil biodiversity', to investigate understudied leaf litter/organic layer microbiomes.

The funding is administered by Flinders University, Australia, and provides an opportunity for early career researchers to develop skills in research leadership and student supervision, and foster collaborative partnerships.

### IN THE NEWS

New Zealand Herald (October 2022): **Local elections 2022: Pamela Storey is new regional council chairwoman, Bruce Clarkson is deputy.** <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/waikato-news/news/local-elections-2022-pamela-storey-is-new-regional-council-chairwoman-bruce-clarkson-is-deputy/EWNX7MEOLZIS4QVJXY2EJSOG4U/>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**31 December 2022:** Entries for our GardenStar competition close. Visit [www.peoplecitiesnature.co.nz/tools](http://www.peoplecitiesnature.co.nz/tools) to download the GardenStar tool, assess your backyard, and upload your score on the website to see how your garden stacks up and to get your chance to win a \$100 Mitre10 voucher.

**23 February 2023:** Ngā Pou Tuata ō Kirikiroa wānanga - the second of a four-wānanga series based in Hamilton on the topic of maramataka and mātauranga in restoration

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Robinson, J.; Breed, A.; Camargo, A.; Redvers, N.; Breed, M. Biodiversity and Human Health: A Scoping Review and Case Studies on Underrepresented Linkages. Preprints 2022, 2022100275 (doi: 10.20944/preprints202210.0275.v1).

Lepczyk, C.A., Duffy, D.C., Bird, D.M. et al. A science-based policy for managing free-roaming cats. Biol Invasions 24, 3693–3701 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02888-2>

Daria A. Erastova, Kristal E. Cain, Josie A. Galbraith, Yolanda van Heezik & Margaret C. Stanley (2022) Season and sugar concentration affect bird behaviour at urban sugar-water feeders, Emu - Austral Ornithology, DOI: 10.1080/01584197.2022.2132961

Miller KF, Wilson DJ, Hartley S, Innes JG, Fitzgerald NB, Miller P, van Heezik Y. Invasive Urban Mammalian Predators: Distribution and Multi-Scale Habitat Selection. Biology. 2022; 11(10):1527. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biology11101527>

Mackenzie, H.R., Latham, M.C., Anderson, D.P. et al. Detection parameters for managing invasive rats in urban environments. Sci Rep 12, 16520 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-20677-8>



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