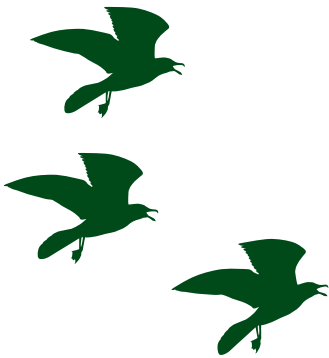




Waiheke Island – More than Just Vineyards and Beaches...

Most people think of Waiheke Island as a place for the weekend, unaware that some marvellous conservation work is going on. A huge area of land at Matiatia (when the ferry docks look right) have, over the past 15 years, converted from eroding pasture into stunning native bush.

It is an example of what can be done with lots of hard work, volunteers, and the generosity of donors who help pay the part-time worker who plants and keeps weeds (and rats) at bay. A Charitable Trust was set up on the death of the founder (Don Chapple), to continue his work. The land is owned by 'Forest & Bird' NZ. The reserve is being replanted in mixed broad-leaf and gymnosperm species. Quite a few species have been planted that are rare or uncommon (or not present) in western Waiheke. The vision of the restoration programme is to restore the whole ecotone sequence from ridge top through freshwater wetland to the sea.



Part of this vision is to recreate kahikatea forest with pukatea, tree fern and ti kouka along the wetland margins on the adjacent private property. The work involves a heavy commitment to eradication of introduced plants. For more information or to make a donation contact Friends of Te Atawhai Trust by email jessica@infotool.com