

# Kopua Habitat Restoration Newsletter 1st April 2023



For the first time Kopua Associates, Kopua Whānau and A Rocha combined for a joint working bee. We were able to weed, plant flax, undertake 5 minute bird count surveys, remove dead trees from the wetland, and also to release trees planted last Matariki. (Above—all involved except our cooks)



Helen and Hazel

(Left) This was our shared lunch which was also a celebration of the Wellington A Rocha's ten years of transforming a grass area into tall healthy native bush.

The next working bee will be at Kings Birthday on June 5th (Monday) we will prepare the ground for planting another 700 trees at Matariki. Matariki is on July 14th (Friday). We will also need to release trees, pot native trees from walkways, attend to Spanish broom and oil walkway signage etc etc

## Vision 2222

In two hundred years' time it would be great for people then to see what Mark Twain saw of Kopua from the train window in November 1895. His diary records,

*"A perfect summer day: cool breeze, brilliant sky, rich vegetation. We saw wonderfully dense and beautiful forests, tumultuously piled skyward...sometimes these towering upheavals were festooned and garlanded with vine-cables. And cocooned in another sort of vine of a delicate cobwebby texture, "supplejack" I think. Tree ferns everywhere -a stem fifteen feet high, with a graceful chalice of fern-fronds sprouting from its top-a lovely forest ornament. There was a ten foot reed with a flowing suit of what looked like yellow hair hanging from its upper end.."*





Above is the area in February 2022 and below is the area as we left it after the working bee. In the picture below. What is not seen below ,are the 100,s of small native trees that are growing well.

700 more trees will be planted around the large tree on the right at Matariki 14th July 2023



(Left) Gregg , Samuel and Steve talk with Lou Hagger (QE2 Trust Rep, (Centre) . Terry and Helen are listening and Anthony is seated at the back for a well earned rest.

It was such a productive day with abundant bird song and Cistercian hospitality. Thanks to all involved. Please register with Mike at [stonem@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stonem@xtra.co.nz) to assist at a working bee in the future.