



July 2020 Newsletter



Ride the Change in 2020...

Kia Ora friends of Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa,

We hope you are well and are seizing new opportunities in these challenging times. It's clear our world is rapidly changing... so let's make sure we guide it in the right direction - the clean, green and regenerative one!

This last year has been full of many interesting developments for our world, for Aotearoa New Zealand and for us as a team. We've been busy making the most of it, building valuable connections with people around the

country who all wish to share the message of Kaitiakitanga and help bring about much needed change. Kudos to the many amazing, dedicated people who are doing good things - it's truly inspiring.

Over this last year we have thrown ourselves into it and given it our all. Through independent laboratory testing we helped expose the Westport 1080 catastrophe which saw hundreds of dead poisoned animals wash down a river and on to a Westport beach. Along with Clean Green New Zealand we called out the flawed testing methodologies being employed by government labs and brought attention to the climate of duress many scientists operate under in New Zealand. Thank you to those volunteers who helped make this possible and who continue to shed light on these issues.

In November last year we gathered with representatives of various NGOs (Clean Green New Zealand, The Weed Management Advisory, Pesticide Action Network, More Wisdom Trust) to discuss concerns about the serious impact of toxic chemicals and poisons on public health, our environment and wildlife and the creation of a People's Inquiry. A committee was formed from that gathering and we have been steadily developing and planning the Inquiry. [The People's Inquiry 2020 Te Uiuinga a te Tāngata](#) is now underway and accepting submissions from around the country. The Committee is also conducting interviews with survivors of chemical poisoning and other experts to raise awareness around these issues.

Other Links:

[On the verge: a quiet roadside revolution is boosting wildflowers](#)

[Christchurch's council told to massively reduce its spraying programme to protect insects](#)

[Jane Goodall Warns Humanity Will Be 'Finished' After Covid-19 Without Ending 'Absolute Disrespect for Animals and the Environment'](#)

Your support for this Inquiry is not just greatly appreciated, it is instrumental to its success. Please register on the website and share knowledge of the Inquiry with your family, friends and networks. You would be surprised to learn how many people have been impacted through road-side poisons or chemicals in the workplace or at home. We need to make sure people's voices are heard and the harms are no longer ignored.

In February this year we were lucky to have our first ever stall at Waitangi Day. It was a great opportunity to speak to people about our natural world, flora and fauna, native and non-native, and how we can be kaitiaki. People shared their concerns around the current methods of management, the inhumanity and the contamination. We're hoping to be back next year bigger and better - sharing the message with aroha that all creatures great and small deserve respect and that harmful poisons are no longer acceptable (if they ever were!).

Looking to the future, we want to make progress in other areas of our Strategic Plan, particularly the trial and promotion of Natural Verges to Councils throughout New Zealand. Glyphosate needs to go, so we will be joining efforts to make this happen. The New Zealand Soil and Health Association is launching a national campaign on the toxic herbicide and we will be right there with them. The People's Inquiry has already heard from a number of people badly affected by road-side poisons and many others very concerned about its impact and continued use.

Di Maxwell our friend and mentor has been an inspiration to work with over this last year as we found our footing as a Society - as we found our 'brave new voice'. However, Di has had to finish her role as a fellow Trustee, she is still one of our most supportive friends and members. She has other important work that must take priority at this time, including community development work in Kaikohe and focusing on her health. Thank you for being an awesome part of the team Di - your energy and quick wit will be missed!

Changing Trustees is never easy. It's about finding people who can work well together, who genuinely support each other and can focus on shared values. We need people who share our passion for the kaupapa and who can find a role in which they can express their talents and help make a difference.

So this change opens the door for new energy and new people to pick up the challenge. Can we build a movement of people who are REALLY working to restore and protect our environment & care for our wildlife - from the ground up? We know we can. If you share our enthusiasm, we'd like to welcome your nomination to join our Board of Trustees. We are looking for 2-3 people willing to step forward to join Felicity and myself. The basic commitment is listed below and you can get in touch with any questions you have about the roles before our upcoming AGM.

We will be holding our AGM online on Sunday August 2nd 10am-11:30am, and we welcome all our members and friends to join. We will go over the year that's gone and our current work, vision and ideas. We look forward to catching up with you and moving ahead!

Asha & Felicity
Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa

Some of the Basic Info for Trustees

- monthly zoom meeting to further our projects
- input into projects and direction
- approx 1-2 (or more) hours per week
- your own unique energy you bring to the table!
- AGM meeting via zoom
- Timebank (you may claim Time Credits for your work if there is a Time Bank in your area)



Our Vision

Living in harmony with nature. Sustainable living and environmental responsibility through kaitiakitanga, are primary values. We recognise ourselves as an integral part of the natural world and as kaitiaki of all life.



Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa Annual General Meeting 2020

SUNDAY AUGUST 2nd

10am - 11:30am

Online via Zoom Link (to be provided the week of)

Agenda

Welcome

Housekeeping / Financial Statement / The past year

New Trustee Appointments

[Strategic Plan](#) & Goals Review

Introduction to The People's Inquiry 2020

Developing the Natural Verge Project

Feedback from Members

Members Forum - Share a few words on your work, ideas, concerns and ambitions.

This is a **CALL** to you to get connected & get active in Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa. Join us for discussion around our strategic plan as well as your own ideas and ambitions. Are you working on a project that you would like to share with us? Join us on August 2nd 10am-11:30am