

Kauri Konnect 28

Message from the Chair of the Kauri Dieback Programme's Leadership team

Making the kauri dieback strategy a part of what we do – every day

Welcome to this edition of KauriKonnect. A lot has happened in the last few months.

The single most important event has been the launch of the joint Programme Strategy, *Kia Toitu He Kauri* ('Keep Kauri Standing'), at the end of last year. This lays out the focus of the Kauri Dieback Programme over the next ten years. The Strategy was the culmination of a large amount of work and we can be confident that it reflects the priorities of all the Programme's partners.

The Strategy puts some lines in the sand: outlining what we hope to achieve in the next 10 years and the things we need to do to get there. The overall goal of the Programme is that by 2024, the mauri and integrity of kauri forests has been sustained despite the presence of kauri dieback disease; that the disease is understood, and that tāngata whenua, communities and stakeholders are all active in the management of kauri dieback.

To achieve this we'll need to focus on four key areas: the delivery of effective operations on the part of the programme;

building our knowledge of the disease and developing the tools we need to manage it; engaging with, and enabling, people and communities to take positive action to stop the disease spreading; and managing the Kauri Dieback Programme itself so that continual improvement and collaboration continue to be central to what we do.

Sounds simple, right? Maybe not, but the strategy breaks it all down into 'doable' chunks, and then pulls it all together in a way that makes the kaupapa look ambitious but achievable – which it certainly is.

One of the most important things the Strategy will do is allow all the Programme partners to prioritise the actions that will best achieve the goals we know we need to meet in order to save kauri from kauri dieback disease – in other words, use our limited time and resources where they will make the most difference.

In addition to the launch of the strategy, I also have two other important developments to report on. The first is the signing of agreements with the Tindall and Aotearoa Foundations to create two

new funds, which are aimed at protecting kauri growing on private land, and supporting communities and tāngata whenua to encourage kauri-safe behaviours amongst their networks. You can read more about those funds on page 2.

The other major development is that the Kauri Dieback Programme has now appointed a full-time lead for every workstream – Operations, Planning and Intelligence, and Engagement and Communications – in addition to the pre-existing roles of Programme Manager and Relationships Manager. You can read about the new appointments on page 5. Kauri are far too precious to us all for there to be any option but to succeed. If you haven't already, I strongly encourage you to read **the strategy document**. It already has, and will continue to involve us all, in one way or another.

Kia toitu he kauri
Dr Erik van Eyndhoven
Kauri Dieback Programme Chair



PASS IT ON. Please spread the word by sending this newsletter through your networks via email or print off hardcopies to pass on to those you meet.

Are you new to KauriKonnect? Go to www.kauridieback.co.nz and put in your details at the bottom of the page – you'll never miss a copy again!

Tindall and Aotearoa Foundations helping protect kauri from dieback

The Kauri Dieback Programme is very pleased to announce that a funding agreement between the Programme and the philanthropic Tindall and Aotearoa Foundations has been signed.

The agreement will see a total of \$480,000 worth of funding going to protecting kauri on private land, and to helping community groups enable their communities to protect kauri. It will be spread over the next three financial years, with \$100,000 per annum going to the work to protect trees on private land, and \$60,000 per annum going towards community engagement. Any contributions towards fencing off kauri trees growing on private land will need to be matched by contributions (financial or otherwise) from the landowners.

There will also be provision for the potential installation of cleaning stations.

The agreement was formally launched on 5 June by the Minister of Conservation, Maggie Barry, at a media event at the Twin Kauri north of Tairua on the Coromandel.

The Tindall Foundation is a philanthropic family foundation, set up by Sir Stephen Tindall and his wife, Dame Margaret Tindall. The Foundation is tasked with helping build a stronger, sustainable New Zealand, for the benefit of families, communities and the environment.

The Aotearoa Foundation is an offshoot of the Robertson Foundation, a private foundation established in 1996 by the US-based founder of Tiger Management, Julian H. Robertson, Jr.,

his wife Josie, and their family. It mostly funds projects in the areas of education, environment, and medicine.

Sir Stephen says it is critically important to our environment that we address the issue of kauri dieback.

“Kauri are a national treasure and an iconic part of our landscape. Unless we take urgent action to stop the spread of this deadly disease, kauri trees could be completely wiped out. We are very pleased to support this initiative.”

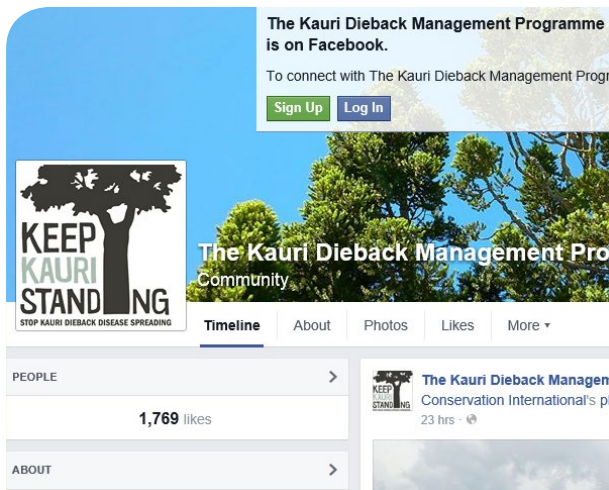
And Julian Robertson explains his support for the battle to save kauri with this simple question: “What would New Zealand be without its kauri trees?”



Sir Stephen Tindall, whose family supports the Tindall Foundation. Photo: Kaan Hiini.

Share the love... share the likes!

We have a Facebook page to share the word about kauri dieback in communities online. Please check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/TheKauriDiebackManagementProgramme>, ‘like’ our page and share it through your networks.



DOC Kauri Dieback Recreation Project

To ramp up the protection of kauri forests on public conservation land the Department of Conservation has been allocated \$10.73 million in capital funding for kauri dieback work.

The funding is to be used over three years to protect kauri on DOC-administered conservation land from kauri dieback being spread by people using DOC's tracks. Another \$10.9 million of funding has been allocated to maintain the infrastructure, to ensure the facilities can be managed long-term.

The main goal is to ensure our recreation facilities protect kauri roots (not stress them or constrain them), and that visitors to DOC's tracks are not spreading the disease by inadvertently moving soil around with them.

Over the three years of the Project you will get to see:

- » Approximately 100 kilometres of track upgraded to remove mud (the presence of which greatly increases the chances of kauri dieback being spread) from kauri forest tracks. This will ensure more than 400km of track remains open for visitor use.
- » Construction of approximately five kilometres of new boardwalks, to keep visitors off the root systems of our most iconic trees.
- » The installation of around 300 new and more effective hygiene stations at track entrances and exits to ensure kauri dieback does not spread within or between forests.

We will be upgrading approximately 30 popular tracks this financial year, adapting our approaches and responses as our knowledge of the disease improves. The tracks upgraded this year will be the ones that have high recreation and ancient kauri values, and that offer the opportunity to successfully minimise the risk of spreading kauri dieback. Construction will begin in the drier summer months.

We are not able to upgrade all 765 kilometres of track and we expect a proportion of those tracks that pose a higher risk, are less popular, and which would be more expensive to upgrade, will ultimately need to be closed. Closures of areas, and alternative management techniques will be identified through a prioritisation process and involve conversations with the public and iwi over the coming months.

We want to ensure we're using the joint knowledge of the Kauri Dieback Programme, tāngata whenua, staff and communities as we build a prioritisation programme.

A key priority for the joint agency Programme is to engage with and enable communities to join the fight. Upgrading our tracks on DOC-administered land is but one way of ensuring our kauri forests are protected. Behaviour change in kauri forests is a big factor in ensuring the success of minimising the spread of kauri dieback and is also a focus of DOC's work this financial year, in conjunction with the Kauri Dieback Programme's efforts. 🌱



Phytophthora expert enlisted in fight against kauri dieback

In mid-May, Professor Everett Hansen (right), the former head of forest pathology at Oregon State University, visited New Zealand. During his time here he was able to review the Kauri Dieback Programme's science work.

Professor Hansen spent two days of his trip familiarising himself with kauri, and with the Programme. Planning and Intelligence Lead Travis Ashcroft, along with other members of the P & I team, took him to both the Waipoua Forest and the Trounson Kauri Park.

Travis says Professor Hansen enjoyed his trip, and that the Professor thought the Programme's past and future research is focused on the right areas. Professor Hansen also gave the Programme some ideas which Travis says may be helpful in the future. The Professor commented that while the Kauri Dieback Programme faces many of the same issues as other *Phytophthora* programmes around the world, having to deal with a *Phytophthora* in the natural environment – rather than, for instance, an orchard environment – makes the Programme's job that much more challenging and complex.

The main purpose of Professor Hansen's visit to New Zealand was to review aspects of the Healthy Trees Healthy Future programme (HTHF), which the Kauri Dieback Programme supports. His trip also provided an opportunity to review the work of the Planning and Intelligence workstream.

HTHF is a six-year collaborative programme designed



to address the biosecurity threats posed by three *Phytophthora* species that target three different hosts. These are commonly known as red needle cast, which affects radiata pine; crown rot, which affects apple trees, and of course kauri dieback. The Programme has representatives on the HTHF's Project Overview Committee, its Technical Advisory Group, and informs its Māori engagement work.

During his career, Professor Hansen has done considerable research into the biology and management of forest tree diseases; the population biology of forest fungi; and the ecology, taxonomy and phylogenetics (patterns of relationships between and the evolutionary history of) different *Phytophthora*. Until November 2014, Professor Hansen was the regional chair of an International Union of Forest Research Organizations working party on *Phytophthora* in forest and natural ecosystems.

For more background on Professor Hansen: <http://bpp.oregonstate.edu/hansen>


Exploring kauri dieback ... from inside the classroom

In late May, another kauri dieback 'virtual fieldtrip' took a couple of thousand school-age children deep into the heart of the kaurilands.

The youngsters saw for themselves how vital kauri are to the ecosystems of the Upper North Island, as they were introduced to some of the plants and animals that live on and around kauri. They saw a kauri that's being killed by kauri dieback, and had the symptoms explained. They also saw a soil sample being taken

from beneath a kauri tree in a forest in Coromandel, and then followed it through to a laboratory in Auckland to get the results of the test. On the way they stopped at the Hunua Ranges to explore the forest there, and learnt why cleaning footwear and equipment is vital to keeping forests safe from the disease.

Of course a trip of this sort and scale could only be attempted in the digital age. The students were brought there and back with the use of a raft of technologies. They were able to access video diary entries – compiled by LEARNZ Field Trip Teacher Andrew Penny – leading up to, during, and after the trip. Students were also able to take part in live question and answer sessions with Kauri Dieback Programme members, including some science staff. And after the tour they were able to watch a video that wrapped up all they had seen on the way.

The trips were supported by the Ministry of Education, education resources provider LEARNZ, and the Kauri Dieback Programme. They were designed to work in with the national curriculum. Teachers are able to register for field trips on behalf of their classrooms for free by going to www.learnz.org.nz. This year's field trip, as well as another produced last year, can be found under 'Field Trips/Kauri - A Taonga Under Threat.' 



Symposium presents multiple perspectives on kauri dieback

The second Kauri Dieback Symposium was held in February at the Copthorne Resort on the Hokianga Harbour.


While the event was co-hosted by the crown research institute Scion (the Kauri Dieback Programme was the other co-host), the symposium was by no means only about the science of kauri dieback.

The line up included educators, artists, partner agency staff, tourism operators, and experts in matauranga Māori and cultural health indicators, as well as Programme staff and scientists from the crown research institutes the Programme has partnered with. With 24 speakers in all, the schedule was packed.

Field trips were led into the nearby Waipoua forest the next day. Naturally, these trips took in Tāne Mahuta, the largest kauri alive.

The potential use of phosphite to keep infected trees alive for longer was a subject keenly discussed over the weekend, with a range of opinions on the merits of its use.

The relationship between the type of *Phytophthora* that causes kauri dieback and other *Phytophthora* from around the world was another topic explored in some depth.

The challenges of managing kauri dieback disease in the Coromandel – something no one had needed to consider until its discovery there last year – was the subject of a talk given by the Coromandel Kauri Dieback Forum. 



New faces in the Kauri Dieback Programme

The Kauri Dieback Programme is currently transitioning from an establishment phase to a delivery phase. As part of that, several new appointments were made late last year and early this year to lead the Programme's work.

» **Lynn McIlveen** was reappointed as the Programme Manager of the Kauri Dieback Management Programme in September.

» **Kim Brown** is the new Operations Lead. Kim has taken over from John Beachman. Previously she worked for Auckland City. Kim can be contacted at kim.brown@mpi.govt.nz.

» **Travis Ashcroft** is the new Planning and Intelligence Lead. Travis has taken over from DOC's Chris Green, and is on a year's secondment from the Ministry for Primary Industries. He can be contacted at travis.ashcroft@mpi.govt.nz.

» **Jay Harkness** is the new Engagement and Communications Lead. Jay has come from the national conservation organisation Forest & Bird. He takes over from

Debbie Caterer, who was on short-term secondment from within MPI. Jay can be contacted at jay.harkness@mpi.govt.nz.

» Travis, Kim and Jay work out of the Programme's home office, in the Ministry for Primary Industries' building in Avondale, Auckland.

» **Ian Mitchell** has been reappointed as Relationship Manager. As before, he can be contacted at imitchell@doc.govt.nz.

» The Programme owes a debt of gratitude to **Chris Green, John Beachman, and Debbie Caterer** for all the work they've put into the Programme. We're delighted that Chris will be staying on with the Programme, as a member of the Planning and Intelligence team. And of course, **Waitangi Wood**, a long-standing member of the Programme, will continue to act as Lead of the Tāngata Whenua Roopu.



Kim Brown



Travis Ashcroft



Jay Harkness



Ian Mitchell



Winner: Peter Beaver.

Putting kauri in a new light

The winners of the Rakau Rangatira/Kauri Dieback Photo Competition were announced at a special ceremony at the Arataki Visitors' Centre in the Waitakere Ranges in February.

The overall winner was Peter Beaver, with his extreme close up of some kauri seedlings.

The runner up was Margaret Penney, and the third prize winner was Tony Bayly – who must have waited a long time to get such fantastic light for his shot (or perhaps he happened along at just the right moment?).

Congratulations to all the winners! The three winning shots are reproduced here. 🌲



Second: Margaret Penney.



Third: Tony Bayly.

The Kauri Dieback Programme thanks the following partners for their support

If you'd like to help spread the word about kauri dieback to your customers, staff and networks then please contact Ian Mitchell on **029 894 0773** or email imitchell@doc.govt.nz.

Coopers Creek

Coopers Creek 'Lone Kauri' brand is an iconic Kiwi wine that has lent its support to the Kauri Dieback Programme. In an innovative messaging alliance, every Lone Kauri bottle helps raise awareness of kauri dieback and what we can all do to stop its spread. They are distributed throughout the Upper North Island and into Asian markets. We feature on their website and Facebook pages and promotional material at tastings, events and point of sale is also helping to spread the word. Cheers Coopers Creek!



Soar Print

As an environmentally sustainable printer, Soar Print are putting their money where their mouth is by providing a generous printing sponsorship to the Kauri Dieback Programme. We're proud to join their portfolio of community programmes which help good things happen.



Bivouac

Thanks Bivouac for getting the kauri dieback message to all your intrepid outdoorsy customers on your Facebook page. We really appreciate you letting us use your communication channels to raise awareness and encourage kauri-safe behaviours in the forest.



SHARE THE NEWS. Got a story to share on kauri dieback? Spread the word in *KauriKonnnect*. Contact jay.harkness@mpi.govt.nz to pass on any news, updates or articles and photos. If we all contribute we'll make this newsletter even more relevant and interesting!