

# Transformations: From the Roots Up

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This paper will describe the development of a project that has been running for 3-4 years in Hamilton. I began my restoration work with Hamilton City Council Community Planting projects as a volunteer. I am now working in partnership with the Parks and Open Spaces team and the local community to help project manage the restoration of an urban open space park area on Wairere Road. This piece of land is located next to Kirikiriroa Marae.

In this paper, I will describe my application of Kaitiakitanga and the values of Te Ao Maori in the development of this project. 'From the Roots Up' is a framework that I use to describe the philosophy of my work. The plan of the project is to restore an open spaced area with native tree plantings conducive to the area over the next ten years. The overall long-term plan is for a mixed Podocarp lowland forest (similar to Jubilee 'Bush' Park and Hillcrest Park bush remnants), dominant with Kahikatea and Pukatea. The planting plan is guided by the ecological plants list from 'Indigenous Vegetation Types of Hamilton City' by Beverley R. Clarkson and Bruce D. Clarkson, from the Centre for Biodiversity and Ecology Research at the University Of Waikato.

I will describe the observations I have made over my time with the project, my learnings and how I incorporate the values of resilience, storytelling and relationship building into my philosophy and restoration practice. My project is about re-strengthening the past and bringing it into the future so that it will endure.