

Restoring Auckland City's local parks the volunteer way.

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As a Volunteer and Biodiversity Coordinator for Auckland Council Local Parks I have think outside the box most of the time. I deal with a wide range of people and a vast variety of landscapes. My role involves project such as planting from large areas such as Mangemangeroa Reserve where we plant up to 5000 plants in the season to plantings with school groups that may only be 100 plants in a small stream side reserve. Other projects may include helping organise large scale clean-ups where we spend time scoping access points and plotting maps. Then on the other scale providing rubbish bags and gloves for small community clean-ups. My role deals with a large area of south Auckland with my area ranging from Howick and Mangere in my northern boundary to the far reaches of the Awhitu Peninsula in the west to Clevedon and Kawakawa bay in the east. So travel between groups takes up a large portion of my time. My poster displays some of the challenges I have faced in the first year in my role, the interesting variety of people I deal with and the buzz they and I get out of restoring Auckland's local parks and reserves. The variety of spaces I have to plant in or clean-up, dealing with largely urban areas and the challenges this presents.

About myself, I have had 20 years' experience in the zoo industry working with native fauna including hand raising kokako, working with Hochstetter's frogs, translocations and numerous speaking roles both nationally and internationally. In 2013 I returned to study and gained a Social Science degree in Geography and Environmental planning. I began working at Auckland Council in 2015 where I now work with volunteer groups helping restore biodiversity in Auckland's local parks.