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**Trees and Forestry in the Catchment**

**Tree Plantings in the catchment this winter:**

The Motueka Catchment Collective has been fortunate to receive 8000 locally sourced native trees from Trees that Count.  Five thousand of them are to be planted as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Eleven sites have been chosen from a range of sub-catchments (upper to lower) with many different stories (planting up paddocks, restoring wetland areas, expanding on existing native patches, and rebuilding public or private spaces hit by cyclone Gita and last year's flooding). All will be holding a community planting day event open to the public. We would love for you to get involved!

Further details and dates are to follow but it's looking like Martin and Jill Bonny’s event at 297 Tapawera-Baton Road near Tapawera will be the first to take place on Thursday 9th June at 1pm. The project aims to plant up an area so that it can offer better resilience to the rest of the farm during extreme weather events. Martin has many years of experience in planting and maintaining trees so his will be a good one to attend if you'd like to pick up any tips. Some Tapawera Area School students will also be helping and may even hold a sausage sizzle! Keep an eye out on social media and noticeboards as we'll provide more details closer to the time.

Three thousand of the trees are remaining and haven't been allocated yet. If you would like to be considered, please fill in the survey monkey questionnaire in the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8B2RVWV>

as soon as possible please. The site can be part of a private or community project and whilst it would be great for you to hold a public planting event, it is not one of the criteria.  It would be good if those who offered to be a lead for their sub-catchments shared this opportunity with others in their area whom they think might be interested.

If you have any questions, contact Kate on richkate73@gmail.com who together with Annette of NZ Landcare Trust are the main organisers of this planting initiative on behalf of the Collective.

**Forestry group meeting in Shedwood Hall, Tapawera 19th May:**

A big thanks to all those of you who turned out on a Thursday afternoon to the inaugural meeting of the forestry group within the Catchment Collective, and to Peter Lawless who facilitated the meeting and Roger May for his presentation and wonderful maps that he produced. With forestry by area being the biggest productive landuse sector in the catchment, we felt it was important to have a group that is specifically focused on this and the issues and potential improvements that can be made within the sector for better catchment health and our collective longterm wellbeing. We had more than thirty attending with representation from five forestry companies and a diverse range of people with interests in forestry; whether in engaging in it or being impacted by it; with science, government, farming and teaching backgrounds and from throughout the catchment and beyond. It was one of the real bonuses to have such diversity of opinion and strong expertise in the room. In mixed groups we considered the issues from a community/environment perspective, issues from a forestry sector perspective, opportunities to do better, and ideas for next steps. We are working through collating all the inputs and also a good number of people across the board put their hands up to be part of a working group to take this forward which will happen soon. One key first step is identifying actions and resources related to forestry that can go into the preparatory initial phase of the 3yr funding proposal that a core group of the Collective is putting together to submit to MPI by the end of June.

At the lower catchment meeting held earlier in May attended by around 40 people, improvement in good management practices in forestry was identified as the third most important issue for the Collective to address behind planting & revegetation and dealing with weeds & pests, both of which are also linked to forestry. So forestry is right up there. One key issue that was discussed in the forestry meeting, and like many is complex, was the issue of sedimentation and sediment loss into the waterways and bay. Of particular concern was the practice of clear felling and sediment loss in the period when trees have been logged and during storm/flood events.

In the ideas for next steps, several discussion groups emphasised the need to collectively tackle Old Man’s Beard (OMB), the importance of markets for products especially alternative species and gaining knowledge about alternative species to radiata. Overall, there was a strong emphasis on the need for better communications, of acknowledgement of the changes and good practices being done by the sector but also of the need for better relationships and responsibility for environmental costs to be taken onboard. This meeting has been a very good start to what has the potential to improve knowledge sharing and practices in forestry from the smaller woodlots to the bigger plantation areas in the catchment and also to make the forestry sector a stronger member of the catchment community. Since their land is mostly up on the hill slopes, the sector tends to be viewed somewhat separately.

For those of you who might be further interested in sediment and geology, this article <https://www.ruraldelivery.net.nz/posts/OneFortyOne-Forest-Management> provides information on the sediment control activities study being undertaken by OneFortyOne in Donald Creek in collaboration with others, The research is based on moutere gravels land which is not as erodible as others in the catchment, and it is a site where extensive research was undertaken by the Forest Service around 30 years ago.

Besides the plantings that will commence, we plan to have an online presentation on 27th June of experience from working with rivers overseas that have relevance to our Motueka catchment here. More details later and also on the process of developing the funding application to MPI. The two action plan meetings in Tapawera & Motueka in the last six months and meetings such as the forestry one and a recent farmers Tasman Biostrategy online consultation are all providing good information and helping identify priorities of concern and action. Once we have a draft application done, we will be contacting people for comment and further refinement.

Jo Leyland

Co-Convenor