

Ball Bay Reserve community planting day



A big thankyou is extended to all of the community members that came and contributed to the planting day on Sunday morning, 6th June, at Ball Bay Reserve. It was an unpredictable morning, with the clouds constantly threatening to open up, however they held off until the very end and we were able to get approximately 450 native trees in the ground. We kicked off at 9am, and the last tree was in the ground by 12 midday, by which time we were all thoroughly covered in mud and deserving the cuppa that awaited.

David Biggs and his team are responsible for the wonderful clearing job at the site. All of the trees were felled and then chipped directly back onto the ground. The benefits of this method were evident in: the lack of pioneer weed species present; the moisture retained in the soil underneath the mulch; and by the amount of worms that were working away to break down the organic matter. The natural regeneration that was already taking place on the site was astounding. Pungas, Two-Frond Fern and Sias Backbone were just a few of the species that had taken hold once the cattle had been excluded from the area. With the addition of 21 other native and endemic species, this little area should be a hub of life and diversity in a few years to come.

Once again, thankyou, thankyou, thankyou to our volunteers, of which we had about 50 over the course of the morning! We couldn't have achieved what we did without your perseverance and enthusiasm. Thankyou to David and his team; to National Parks and Mark Scott for the propagation of the trees; to Bear & co. for the sturdy fence that will protect this precious ecosystem; and to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications for their funding and support.

Our next planting will take place on Sunday 20th June, at Bumboras Reserve. This planting aims to rehabilitate the riparian zone (the creek area) and to help stabilise and reduce erosion on the slope by the boardwalk. We'll kick off at 9am again, everyone is welcome!





Lilli-unna King
Environmental Project Officer
10th June 2021