

Students dig in to help plant native trees

**KEEP
TE AROHA
BEAUTIFUL**



Article Submitted

A group of 22 year ten students from Te Aroha College have planted 150 native trees on August Street Reserve just off Rewi Street.

Last week's project was the final session of the Taku Wairua programme, which fosters personal development focusing on the four pillars of Well-being: Belonging and Identity, Self-Discovery, Goal Setting and Citizenship.

The program is delivered fortnightly over ten sessions, spanning across two school terms.

It includes two guest speakers, one of which is a high-profile athlete, and a volunteer excursion on the last session as part of the Citizenship pillar.

On September 13, Keep Te Aroha Beautiful (KTAB) member Rien van de Weteringh filled the other guest speaker role to talk about KTAB, their projects and how it is to be a volunteer working in and for the community.

The August Street reserve planting was a follow-up to his presentation and the final session of the programme.

An earlier planting in 2016 at the August Street site was the first community planting facilitated by KTAB and was well established and flourishing.

But last year's record rain and resulting flooding had caused some of the trees to die, so replacement (but also further enhancement) planting was organized with the Te Aroha College students as part of their Taku wairua programme.

After a walk through the rain from Te Aroha College to the August St site the sun broke through and it became a pleasant day.

The 22 students split up in three groups rotating between planting, sport and art activities, the latter applying art designs to bags for the "Kids in Need Waikato" organization who will fill them with Christmas presents destined for children (age 0-17) in need.

The students visibly enjoyed the day which ended with a sausage sizzle and handing out "Taku Wairua" certificates.

BELOW: Rien van de Weteringh supervises students assisting with the planting project.



ABOVE: Taku Wairua programme Te Aroha College students at the August St reserve.

New path helps residents to take a seat



ABOVE: Bowers Concrete donated the concrete to lay a new path at Lawrence House. Photo by Peter Kampenhout.



For some time Lawrence House activities co-ordinator, Lena Watts, had considered the comments of many of her charges that the seat outside their premises was ideal in the summer but alas, difficult to reach.


The answer it would seem was a substantial path leading to the seat but, alas, there was none.

Recalling that concrete company Bowers Bros had in the past been extremely generous with donations of concrete work sparked the notion that a concrete pathway leading to the seat would be ideal for the elderly inmates.

That notion was brought to fulfilment with a further generous donation by Bowers of a delivery of concrete, and a team of willing volunteers on hand on Saturday morning to fashion a very serviceable pathway en-route to the seat.

"We are so grateful to Bowers for this very generous donation and appreciate it immensely," said Lena.

"We are also very grateful to these volunteers who have offered their time and their energy to get this path laid. We cannot express our gratitude enough."



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