



Rootella Trial - Ātiu Creek

Thanks to a donation from Roots, Shoots & Fruits we were able to add some good fungi to our Restoring Ātiu Creek Ecology (RACE) project. Supported by the volunteers who helped grow these plants and delicately applied the Rootella Mycorrhizal Fungi to 50% of restoration plants.

All images included are from the Tank Spur 2024 site

Who we are

CVNZ is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's leading volunteer conservation organisations.

Our kaupapa is to inspire change in our communities by connecting people to nature through volunteering, training, education and employment.

We run projects across Aotearoa New Zealand, ranging from large-scale catchment protection and restoration planting to community connection and employment programmes.

Our goal is to have large-scale impacts on biodiversity restoration, the health of our rivers, wetlands, and oceans, and climate resilience across Aotearoa.

With offices in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, Ōtautahi Christchurch, and Te Tai Poutini West Coast, CVNZ engages thousands of volunteers and participants annually.

We know that volunteering and being outdoors improves your physical and mental wellbeing.

We empower the people of Aotearoa to become kaitiaki for nature in their communities.

Together, we can restore our wild places and protect our precious native ecosystems.

Ātiu Creek Regional Park, Auckland

At 843Ha in size, Ātiu Creek is one of Auckland Council's largest regional parks. It is situated on the Eastern side of the Kaipara Harbour on the remote Taporapora Peninsula. For 15 years, in partnership with Auckland Council and endorsement from Te Uri o Hau, CVNZ has been working to restore this beautiful space.

As the largest harbour in the southern hemisphere, the Kaipara has great ecological, economic and cultural significance. The main driver for this restoration project is to reduce the 200,000 tons of sediment flowing into the Kaipara Harbour each year. This sedimentation is highly detrimental to the precious ecosystems that underpin these ecologic, economic and cultural values.

By retiring and planting up old pasture, overland flow paths/waterways and wetlands within the park, CVNZ are reducing the flow of sediment into the harbour. Our plants are eco sourced from within the park and grown in our onsite nursery by volunteers.

We are also creating new food and habitat for our native creatures, including threatened species like weweia (New Zealand Dabchick) and pāteke (Brown Teal), as well as protecting rare and ancient stands of coastal ngahere within the park.

Method & Observations

50 percent of the plants were inoculated to have an obvious side by side comparison in the nursery.

2,419 Plants inoculated total of various native species.

In the nursery we applied the Rootella as instructed when transferring plants from their seedlings trays or pots into their next stage, a variety of pot sizes were used.

Once applied we marked the tray these plants were in with orange paint pen, allowing us to track it through the nursery and make periodic observations.

Once the plants were mature enough to be planted we had volunteers and various team leaders deliver a handful of events.

These plants were planted across two planting sites on Ātiu Creek Regional Park, upon planting we can no longer track which plants have and have not been inoculated.

For our monitoring as these are small sites, we have opted for the Tane's Tree Trust Walk through Method and we have the sites registered on Tane's Tree Trust site.

Predator Control on the regional park is done by Auckland Council.

- 80% survival rate on the Tank Spur site
- 90% on Roadside
- Most of the loss came down to rabbit browsing
- Ātiu Site – Photos of the Tank Spur site
- Generally comments from planters were extremely positive regarding root health.





