



PLANTING DAY REPORT 2026

Puni School
with NZ Steel & Ventia
and Sandra Kimmond



Together, we grew and planted 920 native plants!

Thank you for your commitment to environmental education in action!
Together, by growing and planting native trees we are actively involved in protecting
and restoring a more resilient environment.





PLANTING DAY SUMMARY:

24 Jul 2026 at 55 Gordon Francis Dr, Perata

Puni students recently took part in the 2026 Trees for Survival planting day, visiting the Kimmond property in Paerata to plant a hillside alongside a natural wetland. The students arrived full of energy and eager to get started. After a health and safety briefing, we made our way to the planting site, carefully navigating the slippery slope. Before planting began, we discussed the importance of native trees, with students confidently sharing their knowledge of natural regeneration, biodiversity, and protecting our waterways.

Following a quick planting demonstration, it was time to get to work! We were fortunate to have the support of a fantastic team of parent helpers, who encouraged and motivated the students throughout the day. A special thank you goes to Quentin, who kept the planting moving at pace by drilling what seemed like an endless number of holes with the auger.

By lunchtime, we had planted an incredible 920 native trees, shrubs, and grasses—a remarkable achievement and a true team effort.

Our hard work was rewarded with a delicious barbecue lunch, generously provided by Sandra and her friends and family. Thank you for your wonderful hospitality. Well done, Puni School! It was a fantastic day of learning, teamwork, and environmental stewardship. We were especially proud of the way our students looked after their visitors from China, making them feel welcome and ensuring they enjoyed the experience as much as we did.

The native plants established today will improve water quality, help stabilise the soil, and create valuable habitat for native wildlife for generations to come. We look forward to watching this special area flourish in the years ahead.

TfS Facilitator: Karen

Teacher: Corrina De-Arth

41 Students

2 School Staff

12 Parents, Landowners, Others







400 x Mānuka

(Leptospermum scoparium)

Manuka is great for restoration projects as it is common through NZ, hardy and tolerant of a range of habitats from wetlands to dry slopes. It is a good nursery crop, food source for birds and insects and honey produced from its flowers has strong antibacterial qualities.



80 x Karamū

(Coprosma robusta)

Common throughout NZ and easily recognized by its bright orange ripe fruit. This bushy shrub grows to 6m tall and provides food for birds in winter. It easily self-seeds which makes it a great plant for many restoration projects.



140 x Tī Kōuka

(Cabbage Tree / Cordyline australis)

One of our most iconic native plants. Ti Kouka trees prefer open wet areas and swamps, and their large taproot helps stop soil erosion. Flowers are enjoyed by insects and birds. It has the fastest growing root system over 5 years than any other species. It belongs to the lily family.



100 x Hebe

(Koromiko/ Veronica species)

There are many different native hebe varieties, they often have abundant flowers which attract many native insect species who are fond of its nectar and pollen.



100 x Harakeke

(Flax / Phormium tenax)

Found throughout NZ, flax grows well in a wide range of habitats but favours wetlands and open riversides. Its flower stalks can grow up to 4m tall and tui and bellbird are especially fond of the nectar.



100 x Upokotangata

(Giant Umbrella Sedge / Cyperus ustulatus)

Abundant throughout NZ, it grows well in damp open areas like stream sides or wetlands where it makes great nesting habitat for aquatic birds. Growing up to 2m tall dark brown seed heads makes it easy to identify.



What is Trees for Survival Charitable Trust?

Trees for Survival Charitable Trust is a Rotary initiated project now supporting over 250 schools and local communities across Aotearoa New Zealand to grow and plant native trees along waterways and on environmentally at-risk sites.

Through action based learning, our environmental education programme provides the opportunity for school communities to have a positive impact protecting and restoring their local environment.

Trees for Survival Donation & Membership

From \$7.00 you can support the growing and planting of a native plant in NZ by a school running our programme. For donation options visit us at www.tfsnz.org.nz/donate-a-tree

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