



Greenfund - Kiwis helping Kiwis

NZMCA members love picking up a shovel and getting involved, and together with the thousands of dollars contributed to projects across the country, their combined force is having a significant, positive impact on some of New Zealand's most fragile ecosystems. The NZMCA's Greenfund provides much-needed funding for grassroots environmental and conservation projects nationwide.

Promoting the sustainable protection of our natural environment is a key strategic goal for the NZMCA. "The NZMCA has always had a strong focus on community, of coming together and supporting each other," says NZMCA National Manager – Property and Policy, James Imlach.

From planting projects to pathway restorations, the Greenfund is all about giving back to the communities and environments that our members travel through, stay in, and enjoy being a part of.

"These are the sort of projects that are run by volunteers who are involved because they love their community. Often, they just need a bit of a leg up financially, as well as a few extra hands to help make inroads with clearing, planting, and whatever else needs to be done," says James.

“The Greenfund is a great way for members to do exactly that – to lend a hand where it's needed and enjoy each other's company while they help make a positive difference to the environment and the community around it.”

James Imlach, NZMCA National Manager
- Property and Policy.

Taupo Swamp Restoration Project - Porirua

Clearing weeds, planting trees, and managing pests isn't everyone's idea of a fun weekend. But for the volunteers at Friends of Taupo Swamp and Catchment (FOTSC), it's been a labour of love.

Taupo Swamp is one of the few wetlands in the Wellington ecological district where the vegetation is largely indigenous. It is also home to native fish, birds, and insects. But exotic weeds including blackberry, willow, gorse, and Darwin's barberry threaten the swamp's unique native plant communities. It's thanks to the ongoing efforts and advocacy of FOTSC that this special wetland has been lovingly protected and enhanced.

The swamp is adjacent to the Plimmerton NZMCA Park and has received funding from the Greenfund over several years.

“We've always had really good support from the NZMCA. Being able to access the Greenfund each year for planting, along with the help from volunteers, has made a real difference.”

Bill McAuley - FOTSC Chair



Local and NZMCA Volunteers mucking in

"When we started clearing four years ago, we began with the site closest to the NZMCA park," says Bill. "The native trees have become established quite quickly, so not only is there a visual benefit, but they also provide a windbreak along the park boundary."

Since FOTSC began, the group has planted around 10,000 native trees, flaxes, toi toi, and other plants

that support the swamp's ecosystem, many of which are paid for through the \$2,000 Greenfund they've received each year for the past three years.

The project has also had the support of many NZMCA member volunteers. "They enjoy working together on a local project that's really worthwhile," says Bill.

Rod Thompson, who is a past NZMCA Wellington Area chairperson and current main custodian of the Plimmerton Park, says it's been great to see the

transformation of the swamp over the years. "FOTSC rely on donations and funding for trees and help from volunteers, so the fact that the Greenfund is helping support that is a huge plus.

"Our members love travelling to see green trees, blue water, and the beauty of nature. And that's what the goal of the Greenfund is – to help protect those very things. It's a great way to connect the club and the community with an opportunity to get involved in doing something positive."

Timona Park Pathway Project

Located in Motorhome Friendly Feilding, Timona Park sits alongside Oroua River and is a popular spot for sports, picnics, swimming, and family walks.

A project to clear exotic vegetation from around the riverbanks, plant native seedlings, and improve the cycle and walkway paths was initiated in 2019 by the local council.

"Timona Park is primarily a sports park, but it also serves the community in a number of other ways," says Manawatu District Council Parks and Property Support Contractor, Peter Shore. "Because the park sits on the edge of the Oroua River it has a great connection to the town with really neat walkway systems around it."

NZMCA member and past Manawhenua Area chair, Alan McKenna says the project helped improve the freedom camping area along the riverside. "The area was quite barren, so as part of the project we put the call out to local NZMCA members to help with planting natives along the riverbank. We had about 45 members turn up and the results outstripped all expectation!"

Peter says he allowed 1,000 plants for the morning's planting. "By about 10am the volunteers had planted them all and wanted more, so we ended up planting a couple of thousand. The volunteers were so industrious, so well organised, and so positive. Once the planting was done, we

threw some sausages on the BBQ and everyone was able to stand back and look at what has been achieved.

“ Like most councils, we get budgets allocated every year, but the Greenfund allowed us to do a little bit more and help the park to achieve some of its potential. I'd recommend other councils consider applying for the Greenfund without any hesitation. The benefits are huge, not just for the environment but for the wider community as well. ”

Peter Shaw - Manawatu District Council Parks and Property Support Contractor

Tell us about your project

If some extra funding and more hands to help out would make a difference to your project, partner with us. The Greenfund is available for environmental, or conservation focused projects being undertaken by not-for-profit community groups/incorporated societies, NZMCA area committees, local authorities, and government departments such as the Department of Conservation.

Find out more at nzmca.org.nz/greenfund



Local and NZMCA volunteers with their spades at the ready