

Okareka mistletoe project planting day



Tree planting in a clearing at Okareka Scenic Reserve. Photo: Elizabeth Miller

On a sunny morning in winter Mike Goodwin of Okareka led a group of local residents supplemented with Forest & Bird and Rotorua Botanical Society members, to plant several hundred small native plants in a clearing in the Okareka Scenic Reserve. Mike and experienced locals had, over some time, cleared an area badly infested with scrambling and woody weeds, leaving a sheltered clearing. By the time planters arrived, plants still in their planter bags were laid out in approximate sites. People just needed to dig a suitable hole, remember to remove the planter bag and tuck the plant into its new home. A couple of children scurried around collecting empty planter bags, and work progressed amazingly quickly. The quota of plants was dealt with in not much more than a couple of hours, to the satisfaction of all.

Sandra Goodwin had prepared an impressive morning tea, around which people stood chatting in the sun. It was a pleasant, useful morning's work. Do try to fit a planting or work day into your schedule from time to time.

Elizabeth Miller