



Wildlands

Tauranga News - July 2026

The Tauranga Office takes pride in our team of skilled ecologists and restoration staff. Here are some of our recent projects and achievements.



One of the beautiful river ecosystems Meredith surveyed this summer.

Freshwater Team Projects across Bay of Plenty

Our freshwater team, led by Dr. Meredith Davis, has been very busy!

Summer projects have included monitoring sensitive aquatic ecosystems, relocating fish, and developing river restoration plans. We have also been assisting iwi/hapū with freshwater policy development, alongside continuous consenting and ecological effects assessments.

The summer began with monitoring river habitats across the Bay of Plenty. Monitoring usually includes ecological surveys that focus on the geomorphology, biological communities (e.g., fish, invertebrate, bacterial, and vegetation) and the chemistry of water and sediments.

While similar methods are used to guide the application of the freshwater effects management hierarchy and in impact assessment, routine monitoring is valuable as it enables councils, iwi/hapū, and the community to:

- Document the current state of freshwater ecosystems
- Identify areas for restoration and conservation and measure restoration success
- Help protect biodiversity, mahinga kai, and public health
- Reconnect with local waterways in a wonderful way

Routine monitoring can sometimes be overlooked or underprioritised on projects, so if you would like to implement routine freshwater monitoring, contact Meredith for project development and delivery on 021 241 6892.

Summer closed with Dr. Davis and team relocating indigenous fish, and overseeing the instream works, for a large residential development project in Ōmokoroa. Here the team was joined by Pirirākau Tribal Authority - Kaitiaki ā ahurea (cultural monitors) Marcelle Murphy and Akaroa Motutere.

Dr. Davis and her team are highly experienced with construction projects of all scales, with past work including the Rangiuru Business Park near Te Puke, and Linton Park's Stormwater Reserve Rotorua.

If you have any work that requires a Fish Management Plan and Plan implementation, contact Meredith, 021 241 6892.



Giant bully found in fish surveys west of Whakatāne.



Tuna found in fish surveys in Awakeri.

Local restoration projects

Our Tauranga Restoration Team restoration experts have been undertaking City-wide pest animal control to protect key ecological areas during the latest pest-pulse. Many stoats and weasels have been caught in DOC200 traps, with fresh rabbit being used as the highly successful lure.

Pest plant control has also been undertaken across various projects, including critical maintenance weed control around recent plantings within the Pongakawa Catchment. Happily, the plantings are thriving there following this summer's wet, sunny weather.

Our experts can provide general and specialist advice as well as project management for all kinds of restoration work. Need land retirement advice, wetland or freshwater habitat restoration, or pest plant or animal control – give us a call. No job is too big, or too small. The team understands the complexities of implementing ecological restoration projects and have planted hundreds of thousands of plants and controlled pest plants and animals across a wide variety of sites and scales.

Even if Wildlands didn't prepare your restoration plans, we are still able to bring them to life for you.

Our Team



Dr Meredith Davis

Senior Ecologist Freshwater Ecologist (Tauranga)

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Meredith has a PhD in freshwater and disease ecology from Massey University. She is passionate about river, estuarine, wetland, and lake ecosystems and developing and applying practical solutions for restoring them. She is an expert working at the intersection of human health and ecosystem health and is often consulted regarding *E. coli* remediation at the catchment scale. Meredith has been working on numerous projects with government, iwi/hapū, and industry across the country, including:

- Fish management plans, surveys, and relocation - Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, and Canterbury.
- Assessments of ecological effects – Bay of Plenty, Otago, Canterbury, and Manawātū.
- Policy development and monitoring - Bay of Plenty, Queenstown, and Canterbury.
- Technical and consenting reviews - Taranaki and Wellington.
- Partnership projects with iwi/hapū - Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti-Gisborne, and Manawātū.

Meredith is a skilled project manager and has experience leading large, multi-disciplinary teams.



Emma Ries

Field Ecologist (Tauranga)

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Emma is a Field Ecologist with a BSc, majoring in both Zoology and Ecology from Massey University, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation Biology from Massey University. Emma has worked across a range of environments including wetlands, riparian margins, forests, and coastal dunes, and believes in finding practical solutions to ecological issues.

Emma's environmental management expertise includes flora and fauna species identification, forest monitoring, riparian and dune management, protection lot assessments, pest control operations and ecological restoration.

Emma has experience supervising restoration of indigenous vegetation within over 80 different urban parks and reserves,

as well as coastal dune restoration. Her experience includes, training teams in indigenous and pest plant identification, planning and delivering site-specific restoration approaches, carrying out efficient site assessments and planning work, and working closely and effectively with both Council and Coastcare groups.



Sian Liversage
Restoration Operations Manager
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Sian has a post-graduate diploma in endangered species recovery and is an expert in pest animal control. Sian has previously led operations with the Department of Conservation's Biodiversity team and has overseen a range of predator control initiatives across the country, including work with Predator Free Wellington, and in predator-free environments such as Kāpiti Island.

She maintains high work standards for herself and her team and ensures that projects are practical and cost-effective. She looks for win-wins by working closely with clients and ecologists to identify and provide effective restoration strategies and ecological outcomes.

Sian is a collaborative team player and leads a strong, well balanced restoration team in the Bay of Plenty Region.

Our Services

- Freshwater, terrestrial and marine ecological surveys and assessment.
- Wetland delineation and assessment.
- Assessments of ecological effects and solutions for large and small scale projects
- Ecological restoration and implementation plans.
- Identification of mitigation options.
- Geospatial representation and analysis.
- Plant, bird, lizard, bat, and terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates surveys, assessment, monitoring and salvage.
- Pest animal surveys, and weed impact assessments and management plans.
- UAV surveys for quality ecological data.
- Threatened plant and fauna management.

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REGIONAL OFFICES: Rotorua, Whangārei, Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Wanaka, and Invercargill.

