



# Educate for Nature

NURTURING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



**WHAKATIPU**  
REFORESTATION TRUST





The Whakatipu Reforestation Trust was established with a vision to protect and restore native biodiversity in the Whakatipu Basin through revegetation projects, collaboration, education and advocacy.





# What we do



## Community Planting Days

Each spring and autumn volunteers join us in planting at our keystone sites and community led planting sites. Our Keystone Sites are:

- Whitechapel Reserve
- Lake Hayes South
- Slope Hill
- Feehly Hill / Bush Creek
- Peace Park
- Earnslaw Slipway



## Jean Malpas Community Nursery

Our community nursery is the heart of our operations. Each year we propagate approximately 10,000 native plants from eco-sourced seeds, to support reforestation efforts in the Whakatipu Basin.



## Educate for Nature Programme

We develop and deliver educational programmes that inspire our community to practice stewardship of the natural environment. We seek to empower participants to take on environmental challenges, both locally and globally.

Since 2015, we have grown and planted over **50,000** plants on public land, and recorded over **20,000** volunteer hours.





# The challenge

Since the arrival of humans in the Whakatipu Basin, the natural landscape has been dramatically altered, and only pockets of remnant plant communities remain. Our challenge is to help restore and re-establish these original eco-systems, by reforesting large self-sustaining areas, including:

- Kowhai-rich dry woodlands
- Beech forest
- Wetlands & riparian margins

Restoring the health and biodiversity of these ecosystems will increase the natural habitat of our native birds, lizards and invertebrates, helping to achieve a deafening dawn chorus (waraki).

The health of our natural environment also underpins personal wellbeing through connection to nature, and by supporting community participation to achieve a common goal.

**Education is the key**  
to meeting these challenges.





# Nurturing our future guardians



Globally, we face unprecedented environmental challenges. It is critical to provide our young people with the knowledge and skills to face these challenges.

Our education programmes provide participants with hands-on experiential learning enabling them to 'think globally and act locally' in protecting the living environment.

By creating a spark in young people to protect, nurture and restore their local environment, we will empower them to become the future **guardians / kaitiaki** of Aotearoa.







# Educate for Nature Schools

There are over 3,500 school children across Whakatipu and our goal is to give every one of them an opportunity to learn about and engage in protecting and restoring our landscape.

## Our Active Learning Cycle includes:

- **Nursery based learning:**
  - natural & cultural history
  - plant identification
  - propagation & potting techniques
  - nursery operations
- **Walk amongst the trees:**
  - field trip to Bob's Cove
  - plant identification activities
  - nurturing well being through listening & connecting
  - experiencing what it could be like once again
- **School revegetation projects:**
  - develop planting lists
  - site planning & preparation
  - maintenance planning
  - planting day support
  - site monitoring

“Thank you  
for inspiring our  
tamariki to be kaitiaki of  
our natural treasures!”





# Educate for Nature Adults

Our adult programmes are run through our Nursery:

- **Hands on learning through volunteer sessions**
  - plant identification
  - propagation & potting techniques
  - nursery operations
- **Lunch & Learn - bite sized environmental learning**
  - guest speakers from diverse backgrounds
  - varying, locally relevant environmental topics

“There’s always something new and interesting to learn at the nursery... from cleaning and preparing eco-sourced seed, preparing and planting cuttings or pricking out seedlings. Every day is different and it’s very rewarding.”







# Educate for Nature

## Community Groups

Our community support programme empowers neighbourhood groups with skills and knowledge to establish native plant corridors on nearby public land.

**Whakatipu Reforestation Trust mentors community groups so they can:**

- select plant species that will thrive in their local area
- prepare their site prior to planting to provide the best possible growing environment
- protect plants from predators and invasive weeds
- maintain their site until it becomes self-sustaining

Community groups are also supported with post-planting site visits and annual monitoring.

“WRT have supplied us with 1,550 natives since 2016, providing guidance and support along the way. Thanks to our community’s ongoing efforts, our plants are thriving and native birds are returning.”

**Alpine Retreat Community**





# We need your support

Whakatipu Reforestation Trust is entirely funded by community grants and donations, and supported by our generous community volunteers.

To continue to develop and deliver our Educate for Nature programmes, we need to secure a minimum of **30 sponsors each year**.

**Each sponsor contributes \$1000** which directly funds our Educate for Nature programmes, including:

- Schools
- Adults
- Community Groups

Will you partner  
with us to help us  
**achieve our vision?**



## Your contribution

Your support will enable us to provide relevant education programmes to help us, as a community, meet the challenges of protecting and restoring the biodiversity of the Whakatipu Basin.

In addition to partnering with a fantastic purpose, with proven results, we will also provide our sponsors with:

- An annual private nursery sunset tour with update by WRT Chairman & Trustees
- Logo placement on our website and facebook recognition of your contribution
- Regular updates emailed to your company







## Get in touch

To discuss partnering with  
Educate for Nature please contact:

**Karen O'Donahoo**, Operations Manager

E [volunteer@wrtqt.org.nz](mailto:volunteer@wrtqt.org.nz)

## Current partners

Thank you to the following organisations for their early support for Educate for Nature...











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