Trees That Count
Te Rahi o Tāne

佛光山
F.G.S.

GROWING A THRIVING **AOTEAROA TOGETHER**

IMPACT REPORT 2023–2025



FO GUANG SHAN BUDDHIST TEMPLE AND TREES THAT COUNT

By funding native trees through VEGRUN, as part of the Three Acts of Goodness and Four Givings (3G4G) programme, Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Temple has made a significant contribution toward native forest regeneration.

The support from your community over the past three years has helped restoration projects across the country make progress toward their aspirations for nature and people — from improving the health of vital wetlands to regenerating places of deep cultural significance.

Students have shared that taking part in VEGRUN gives them an opportunity to do something meaningful for the health of the planet, not just strengthening their connection to nature, but their overall wellbeing, too.

This report expresses our sincere thanks, and shares a snapshot of what your ongoing support, and the action it's inspired among young New Zealanders, has made possible.



IMPACT AT A GLANCE
2023–2025



5,366

Native trees funded 2023 - 2025



9

Projects supported across Aotearoa



1.5

Hectares expected to be restored



1,187

tCO_2e expected to be removed over 50 years

NATIONAL REACH
LOCAL IMPACT



FO GUANG SHAN SUPPORTED PROJECTS
A SNAPSHOT





LOVE OUR WAIHEKE WETLANDS

TĀMAKI MAKAURAU | AUCKLAND

721
Native trees funded by Fo Guang Shan

Love Our Wetlands takes a ‘whole of landscape’ ecological approach. The team works with locals and visitors to restore seven significant wetlands using a weed management plan that is spray-free and uses minimal herbicide. Through this mahi, they are creating vibrant habitats where native species can thrive.

The project's key aims are the long-term ecological restoration of Waiheke Island's threatened wetlands, alongside community-focused outcomes — from engaging volunteers, nurturing local partnerships, and providing ecological education, through to creating employment opportunities for Waiheke Island residents.



TAIEA TE TAIAO ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

WAIKATO

721
Native trees funded by Fo Guang Shan

Taiea te Taiao is working to link two of the Waikato region’s maunga, Maungatautari and Pirongia, via an ecological corridor running along the waterways that flow from them.

The corridor is made of stepping stones which follow cultural sites identified with mana whenua, helping to reconnect the two maunga, enhance native biodiversity, transform iwi connections to the awa (river), and improve water quality.

A Project Coordinator and Mātauranga Māori facilitator work side-by-side to engage the community, while local schools and community members are actively engaged in planting, monitoring, and predator control.



TE WAI PARERA TRUST

MURIHIKU | SOUTHLAND

1,053
Native trees funded by Fo Guang Shan

This project will support the Murihiku whānui (wider community) to enhance the traditional practices of mahinga kai (food gathering) and strengthen connections between people and the land, rooted in tikanga (customs), rangatiratanga (self-determination), and the wisdom of their ancestors.

Through this work, Te Tapu o Tāne and Te Wai Parera Trust, who are leading this project, are striving to build community and climate resilience.

Success means more iwi and hapū connected to Te Pā o Mahika Kai, a culturally and ecologically significant wetland, a stronger sense of belonging and precious taonga species nurtured until they reach maturity.



WHAKATIPU REFORESTATION TRUST PLANTINGS

ŌTAKAU | OTAGO

721
Native trees funded by Fo Guang Shan

The Wakatipu Reforestation Trust is the brainchild of Neill and Barb Simpson, whose hard work on Pigeon and Pig Islands saw the bare and weedy islands become a haven for native birds.

Inspired by this success, Neill and Barb created the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust in 2014, with a vision to restore the native biodiversity of the once bush-clad Wakatipu Basin.

Twelve years later, they've surpassed 100,000 native trees planted, established a community nursery, and trained a team of volunteers integral to everything from seed collection and propagation to planting and maintenance.

LOOKING AHEAD

Native forest regeneration takes collective, long-term work, and we're incredibly grateful for Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Temple's generous and ongoing support.

Your efforts to engage young New Zealanders with the value of environmental stewardship have made a tangible difference for our native ecosystems and the communities that surround them.

We look forward to continuing our special relationship, enabling positive impact for nature and people — felt now, and for generations to come.



Ngā mihi nui

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