



**Wilding Pine
Network**

ADVOCACY
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ADVICE
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ACTION

Annual Report

2020–2021



Annual Report 2020–2021

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Highlights from the year

In this past year, the Wilding Pine Network (formerly the NZ Wilding Conifer Group) has continued to establish itself as an independent advocacy and advisory group. We helped successfully advocate for funding in the government's 2020 Budget, and the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme was allocated \$100 million over four years.

The Wilding Pine Network (WPN) was also successful with its own grant application; we received funding from DOC's Community Fund to run workshops and community meetings and assist us with knowledge transfer.

The Wilding Pine Network has also continued to provide advice to the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme. With the National Programme scaling up significantly to spend its largest annual budget ever (thanks to the 2020 Budget!), the WPN also stepped up to ensure that communities were part of the budget prioritisation. The WPN advised the National Programme on the Community Partnership Project application process and helped advertise and assess applications.

Despite the uncertainty with Covid-19 and holding large events, we successfully ran our 2020 Wilding Conifer Conference in Rotorua. We had almost 140 people attend this three-day conference.

Beyond the conference, we continued to build our information sharing capacity by starting a webinar series about latest wilding research and continuing to write and publish our quarterly newsletter.

Finally, as you may have noticed from our new logo and name on the front page, we have re-branded to be the Wilding Pine Network! Our official name is still the NZ Wilding Conifer Group, but we decided to update our trading name to be more accessible and friendly.

New Branding

In 2019, the NZ Wilding Conifer Group became an incorporated society and therefore officially became an independent legal entity. The Group started working on its brand last year with the design of a logo, but the Group needed to continue this work to clearly show who we are and what we do to our target audiences. We wanted brand recognition with our members as well as community groups who are not yet part of the NZWCG. We also wanted our brand to appeal to the general public as well as Ministers and MPs.

In light of this, the NZWCG has re-branded to be the Wilding Pine Network and we've designed a new logo and website. Our new brand conveys our credibility and expertise in the wilding pine management space, while staying friendly and accessible.



**Wilding Pine
Network**

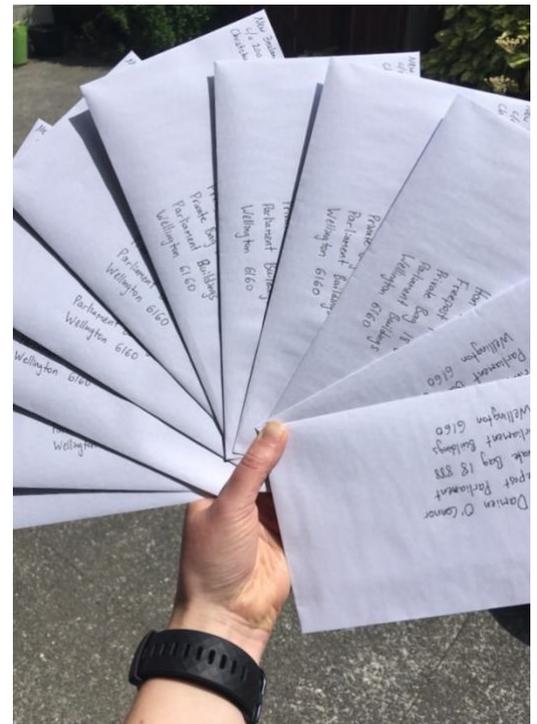
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Advocacy Campaign for funding

The Wilding Pine Network advocated on behalf of communities affected by wilding pine infestations for increased funding for wilding pine management in Budget 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Budget 2020 was expected to be a jobs/ economic recovery budget, so we promoted the National Programme's ability to employ many people in industries affected by the pandemic in the regions. We wrote letters to Ministers, supported community groups and other lobby groups to do the same, and got several articles in the media about the value of wilding pine control.

Our collective approach was successful, and in May 2020, the government announced that it would allocate \$100 million over four years to the National Programme as part of its Jobs for Nature programme.

The National Programme and its partners have scaled up significantly to get more work done on the ground controlling wildings. It's been a very successful year.

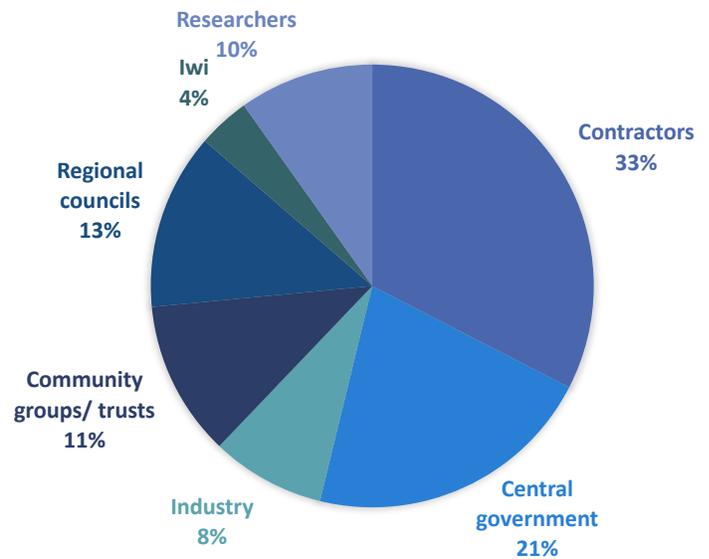


Letters to Ministers from the NZ Wilding Conifer Group.

The 2020 Wilding Conifer Conference

We held our 2020 Wilding Conifer Conference in Rotorua on 25-27 November. Even with the Covid-19 pandemic, this conference was our biggest yet, with about almost 140 attendees representing 58 different organisations. The conference opened with a pōhiri welcoming us onto Tangatarua Marae and to Toi Ohomai. We next had a session on fire hazard of wilding pines, with presentations from Veronica Clifford from Scion and Steve Palmer from Environment Canterbury. After an update from the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, we finished the day with a panel discussion on the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry when we discussed the gaps in these regulations.

REPRESENTATION AT 2020 WILDING CONIFER CONFERENCE



The morning of our second day of the conference started with the keynote address from Paul Warbrick, Chair of the Ruawahia 2B Trust, who shared the history of Tarawera and its significance for Ngāti Rangitihi as well as the importance of their wilding pine control on the maunga. We followed Paul's address with a panel discussion on iwi-led wilding pine control and heard about iwi representatives' perspectives on wilding pine management. We next heard updates from the latest science on wildings, including wind modelling research and post-control monitoring. We finished the conference's second day with a discussion about post-control restoration opportunities and then held the NZ Wilding Conifer Group's AGM.

For our field trip on the third day, we went up Tarawera in a rare opportunity to learn about the maunga and its history. We also were able to assist with wilding pine control on the maunga ourselves by pulling up wilding seedlings.



Information Sharing

This year, the Wilding Pine Network has expanded its role in information sharing by starting a monthly webinar series, running workshops and community meetings, and writing a quarterly newsletter. We started the Wildings Webinar series in July 2020 and have since run nine webinars. Most of the webinars have featured updates from the latest science on wildings, but we also have had webinars about community groups and converting exotic pine forests to native forests. In total, we have had over 1,000 attendees watch the live and recorded webinars.

With support from the DOC Community Fund grant, we have run two workshops and one community meeting. We have also assisted with running two more community meetings. The workshops were about a prediction tool which forecasts the impacts of wilding pines as they spread. The tool calculates the averted benefits of control by removing wildings and their impacts. The community meetings have been aimed at raising awareness of wilding pines in local communities and facilitating a discussion about the future of control as well as seed sources in the landscape.

Finally, we have continued to write and send out our quarterly newsletters, featuring latest news from the NZWCG/ WPN as well as information about control techniques and science.



Exploring wilding infestations around Queenstown after the workshop in April.

Connecting with Community Groups

A core function of the Wilding Pine Network is connecting with and supporting community groups. Covid-19 disrupted our ability to travel safely and visit all community groups that we know about across the country, but we were still able to travel to visit some groups through the workshops and meetings which we organised. Throughout the year, the coordinator visited six groups in person, and all groups were communicated with via phone calls, online meetings, and emails.

For the 2021-22 financial year, the coordinator is planning to visit more groups in person, although this will depend on the safety and ability to travel.

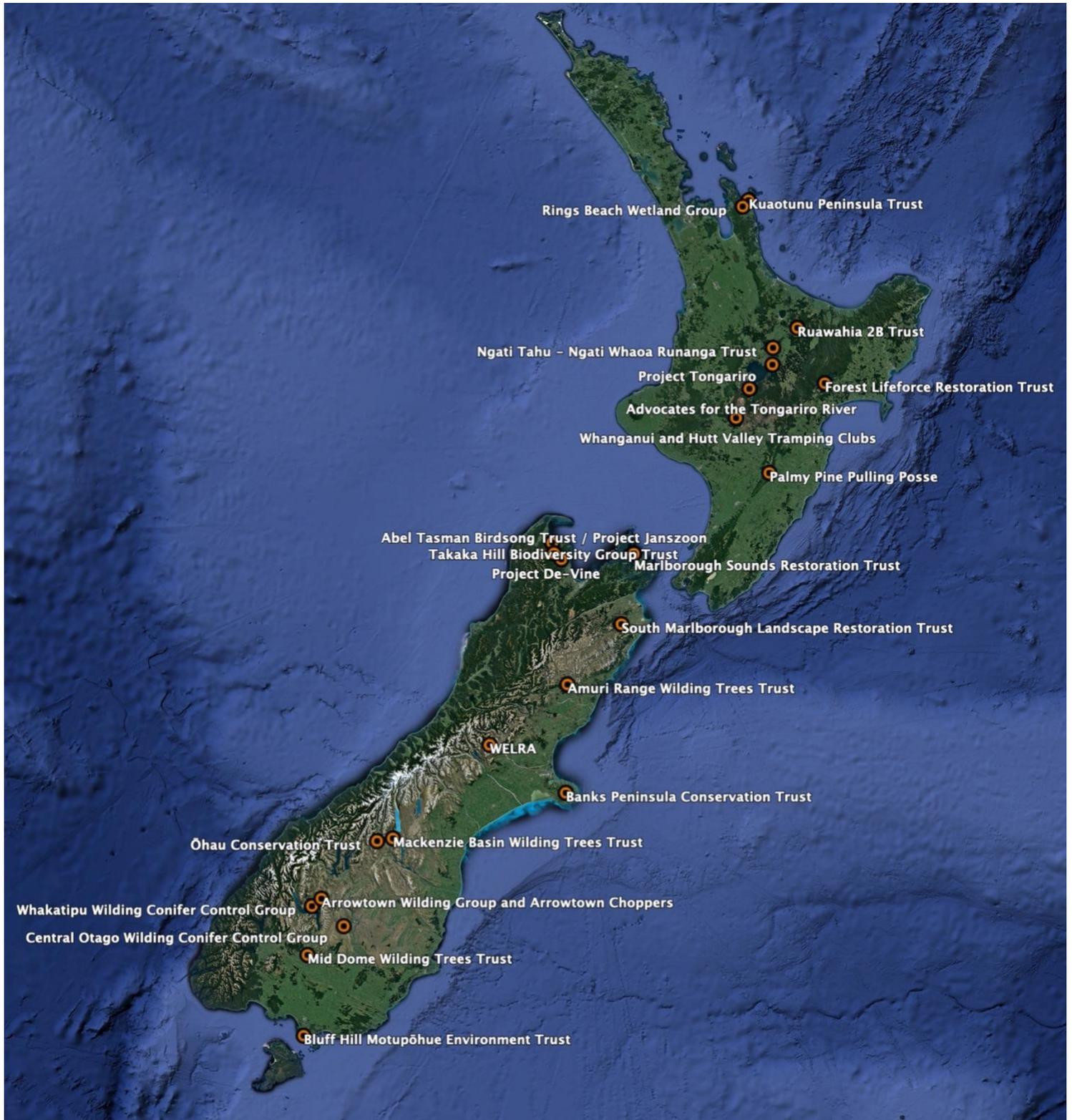


Financial Summary (July 2020–June 2021)

INCOME	2021 \$
Annual Subscription Fees from members	38,300
Conference contributions	41,146.03
DOC Community Fund Grant – Year 1	20,375
Contribution from MPI for Coordinator/ provision of advice to National Programme	40,000
Interest	8.55
Total income	139,829.58
EXPENSES	
Accounting fees (XERO subscription)	367.50
Bank fees	16.35
Email and domain subscriptions	417.70
National Conference	34,183.64
NZ Geographic article – travel for Dave Hansford and Rowan Sprague	4,876.68
Branding	10,000
Expense Reimbursements – Chair travel	322.78
Expense Reimbursements – Coordinator travel	1,774.39
Catering for Management Committee meeting	296.52
DOC Community Fund expenses	10,745.34
Coordinator services	24,750
Total expenses	87,750.90
Net surplus/(loss)	52,078.68

We underspent in 2020-21 and have carried these projects over to the 2021-22 financial year.

Appendix: Map of Community Group Locations



These are the locations of all the community groups which we work with and know are involved in wilding control. If you are aware of any other groups, please get in touch with our coordinator, Rowan Sprague, at rowan@nzwildingconifergroup.org.