

September 2005

True Colours

Ata Rangi Launches Crimson

When Ata Rangi releases CRIMSON 2004, its 'young vines' Pinot Noir this year, it will be Project Crimson which stands to benefit most – though supporters of this loved and respected New Zealand wine brand might disagree!

Ata Rangi will contribute a percentage of every bottle of CRIMSON sold to Project Crimson, in support of its mission: "To enable pohutukawa and rata to flourish again in their natural habitat as icons in the hearts and minds of all New Zealanders."

And of course, this special Pinot Noir will also help to spread the Project Crimson word, both locally and internationally, a significant benefit for the Trust. Orders for the wine, and the Project Crimson story it carries, are already on their way to Australia and Belgium!



Clive in the field

Clive Paton, founder of Ata Rangi and a pioneer of the Martinborough winemaking community has had a life-long passion for trees. Undoubtedly this was inspired as a boy by his grandfather who steadfastly protected and planted trees in an era when other farmers were determined to fell them.

"We take huge pride in the wines we make" says Clive. "But we also have a great love of the natural environment.

Supporting Project Crimson in its mission to get more rata in the ground is very close to our hearts. We hope CRIMSON will help to make a difference, and that all New Zealanders will benefit."

Ata Rangi ("new beginning" or "dawn sky") was a barren 5-hectare paddock when Clive bought it in 1980. There were no wine makers in the area at the time but he knew it had the basics required for great wine making. His faith in the area paid off.

Twenty five years later, Ata Rangi now produces close to 10,000 cases, almost half of which is exported, mainly to Australia, the EU, USA and Japan. The award-winning main label Ata Rangi Pinot Noir is now widely considered a leading New World example of this challenging grape variety.

While their wine making is renowned nationally and internationally, few people know of the other passion that drives Clive and the Ata Rangi family. Resisting the well-intended advice of the accountant, they bought a 'bush block' almost four years ago, 15 minutes south of the vineyard. The area in native bush is just over 45 hectares and, thanks to Clive, now has a DOC covenant to protect it from ever being grazed or felled in the future.

When Clive isn't making wine (or mountain biking!) he's on the Bush Block tackling the pests and raising native seedlings – many of which have already been planted out.

The most exciting discovery for Clive, for DOC and for Project Crimson, was 'Rata Ridge', high above the bush block which borders the Haurangi Forest Park.

Over 70 mature northern rata, which appear to have survived the widespread burn offs in the area in the late 1880s, continue to thrive there. Clive has

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Crimson

Support Project Crimson and buy CRIMSON 2004 now!

CRIMSON follows the Ata Rangi tradition of quality Pinot Noir. Produced from vines that are generally less than 10 years of age, CRIMSON 2004 is ready for drinking now and within two to three years of the vintage while the sweet, ripe black cherry and plum characters are still fresh and vibrant.

Underpinning this fruit are lovely savoury, gamey, pinot complexities. The striking artwork on the label is by talented Auckland artist Philippa Bentley.

Order on-line www.atarangi.co.nz or fax details to 0800-ATARANGI, and know that each glass you enjoy will support the planting of a rata or pohutukawa tree somewhere in New Zealand!



Protecting Pohutukawa & Rata www.projectcrimson.org.nz



PROJECT CRIMSON FUNDING ROUND 2005

Each year in March the Project Crimson Trustees deliberate over applications for funding that come from people and organisations with one thing in common - the protection of the natural environment, and in particular, the protection of pohutukawa and rata.

We have listed here the successful applicants, their location and what they will be using the funds for. Project Crimson supports a number of other projects which we refer to as "major projects". These are not listed here.

Organisation/Individual	NZ Region	Eco Area	Money to be used for
Community Business and Environment Centre	Northland	Aupouri	Propagating and distributing eco-sourced pohutukawa to local community groups
Pukenui School	Northland	Aupouri	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
R & M Hale	Northland	Aupouri	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Kaingaroa School	Northland	Eastern Northland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Oruaiti School	Northland	Western Northland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Plantscape Hokianga	Northland	Western Northland	Propagating and distributing eco-sourced pohutukawa to local groups
C Anderson	Northland	Eastern Northland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Department of Conservation Whangarei	Northland	Eastern Northland	Supporting & managing local community pohutukawa initiatives
J Anlauf	Northland	Eastern Northland	Planting materials
Takou Were Te Mokai			
Landcare	Northland	Eastern Northland	Possum & weed Control
CHH Forests	Kaipara	Kaipara	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Kaipara District Council	Kaipara	Kaipara	Purchase rata
Kaipara District Council	Kaipara	Kaipara	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Muriwai Golf Club (Inc)	Kaipara	Kaipara	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Pouto Topu A Trust	Kaipara	Kaipara	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery / Planting Materials
Project Crimson/CHH Forests/ARC	Kaipara	Kaipara	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery & Fencing
Rapiro Project	Kaipara	Kaipara	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
W Walker	Kaipara	Kaipara	Possum control
Department of Conservation Warkworth	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Orewa College	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Rodney District Council	Auckland	Auckland	Propagating pohutukawa for future planting
Taumata B Whanau & Community Beach			
Care Group	Auckland	Auckland	Weed Control
Waikauri Bay Reserve Limited (Tawharanui)	Auckland	Auckland	Planting materials & weed control
Glen Eden Intermediate School	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
J Bull	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Hendry Reserve Restoration	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery / Planting Materials
Meadowbank School	Auckland	Auckland	Purchase pohutukawa
Auckland Regional Council - Southern Sector	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
C Anderson	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
J Rae	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Motuihe Trust	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Salvation Army, The	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Awhitu Peninsula			
Landcare Group	Auckland	Auckland	Fencing, maintenance, site preparation
Sir Henry Kelliher Charitable Trust	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
D & E Lieskounig	Auckland	Auckland	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
G Pickett	Coromandel	Coromandel	Possum & weed Control
Horuia - Te Ra Trust	Coromandel	Coromandel	Purchase pohutukawa
Paul Barlow Family Trust	Coromandel	Coromandel	Purchase pohutukawa
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society	Coromandel	Coromandel	Planting materials
Te Kouma Farm	Coromandel	Coromandel	Purchase pohutukawa
Thames Coast Protection Society	Coromandel	Coromandel	Possum control
H Lee	Coromandel	Coromandel	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Hikuai-Wharekawa Community Possum Control Scheme	Coromandel	Coromandel	Possum control
Hollister Olives Partnership	Coromandel	Coromandel	Propagating pohutukawa for future planting
J & P Whittles	Coromandel	Coromandel	Possum control
Te Puna Quarry	Bay of Plenty	Northern Volcanic Plateau	Site preparation & propagating pohutukawa for future planting
D Gosling	Bay of Plenty	Whakatane	Propagating and distributing eco-sourced pohutukawa to local community groups
Opotiki District Council	Bay of Plenty	Whakatane	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Whakatane District Council	Bay of Plenty	Whakatane	Pohutukawa from Project Crimson nursery
Waipahihi Botanical Reserve	Bay of Plenty	Central Volcanic Plateau	Purchase rata
Department of Conservation	East Cape	East Cape	Supporting & managing local community pohutukawa initiatives
Paikea-Whitireia Trust	East Cape	East Cape	Purchase pohutukawa
Tuahine Point Ecological Trust	East Cape	East Cape	Purchase pohutukawa
Bushy Park Trust	Manawatu	Manawatu	Fencing
D & P Bowers	Manawatu	Manawatu	Purchase rata
Hospice Wanganui	Manawatu	Manawatu	Purchase rata
Castlecliff Golf Club (Inc)	Manawatu	Manawatu	Purchase rata
T & D Home	Wellington	Pahiatua	Fencing
Ata Rangi Ltd	Wellington	Wairarapa Plains	Planting materials
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society	Wellington	Tararua	Propagating and distributing eco-sourced rata to local community groups
The Friends of the Waikanae River	Wellington	Tararua	Purchase rata
Makara Model School	Wellington	Sounds-Wellington	Purchase rata
Makara Peak Supporters	Wellington	Sounds-Wellington	Purchase rata
Manawa Karioi Society, The	Wellington	Sounds-Wellington	Planting materials
Wellington City Council	Wellington	Sounds-Wellington	Purchase rata
Anatori Holdings	Nelson	North-West Nelson	Propagating rata for future planting
Golden Bay Rata	Nelson	North-West Nelson	Purchase rata
Franz Joseph Waiau Area Office	West Coast	Whataroa	Signage
T & J McElrea	Canterbury	Whitecliffs	Weed & pest control
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society	Canterbury	Canterbury Plains	Propagating and distributing eco-sourced pohutukawa to local community groups
Department of Conservation	Queenstown	Lakes	Purchase rata
Wakatipu Island Reforestation Project	Queenstown	Lakes	Purchase rata & weed control
Kitto Farm Partnership	Otago	Otago Coast	Fencing
St Clair Golf Club Inc	Otago	Otago Coast	Purchase rata

Natural causes likely for plight of southern rata

by Dr Peter Bellingham, forest ecologist at Landcare Research, Lincoln, Canterbury.

Amongst Dr Bellingham's favourite research interests are the effects of natural disturbances on forests, including hurricanes, landslides and floods. He has worked in the Kokatahi Valley in Westland for the past decade.

The demise of vast areas of major canopy trees like southern rata and kamahi through New Zealand rain forests began decades ago and continues to this day. The process, known as "dieback", has affected several hundred hectares, especially in valleys in the steep ranges of Westland. Many believe possums cause dieback because they browse rata and kamahi. However, dieback can occur in forests where there are no possums. It now appears natural factors: the regeneration of rata, natural disturbance, and changes in soil fertility, all contribute as the main causes of dieback. Trapping and poisoning of possums has been conducted for the last four decades to arrest dieback in several Westland valleys, yet it continues.



Skeletons of southern rata trees that died in the 1950s in the Kokatahi Valley, central Westland. They decay very slowly so they are still evident 50 years later.

Southern rata's tiny wind-dispersed seeds seldom colonise litter on the forest floor. Instead they colonise bare surfaces such as landslides and floodplains. Mass regeneration of rata can occur when many bare surfaces arise, especially after earthquakes. Between these events, high rainfall causes landslides that provide more sites for rata to colonise. Thus, most valleys contain rata stands of many ages, from seedlings to dying trees. Even in the Kokatahi Valley in central Westland, where dieback is conspicuous, 30 years of forest measurement show some rata regeneration that offsets death of canopy trees elsewhere.

Older rata stands are more prone to dieback. A likely reason for this is that the soils on which young stands up to 100 years old grow, have the most available nutrients. The very high rainfall, up to 11 m per year, causes rapid depletion of soil nutrients so their capacity to maintain tall forests declines with time. Low nutrient supply to tree crowns results in their becoming sparse and prone to damage by wind, fungi and other agents, including possums. Comparing several Westland valleys, dieback occurs independently of when possums colonised and irrespective of whether or not there has been possum control. Dieback is scarcely apparent in stable, very infertile granite areas but is pronounced in unstable, more fertile schist valleys.

Matt McGlone and Janet Wilmshurst, of Landcare Research, have documented the history of the southernmost rata forests on the Auckland Islands, where there are no possums. From pollen preserved in peaty soils, they found two episodes of dieback of rata during the last 4000 years. Shrubby thickets replaced the dead canopy trees, as they do in Westland. Soil saturation is a likely cause but certainly not possums. We're currently looking at pollen evidence from Westland valleys to discover whether dieback occurred before possums invaded.

So, do possums have no effects? Through browsing they probably hasten the demise of aging rata trees. It is likely they have browsed kotukutuku, the tree fuchsia, to local extinction. Possums are also predators on birds like kereru that disperse seeds of other trees in these forests such as miro. It, too, may be lost from future forests. Thus there are compelling reasons to control possums. However, there is much we still do not know about Westland's rain forests, the effects of possums, and the long term prospects for southern rata.



High rainfall, earthquakes and unstable schist bedrock result in many landslides on steep slopes in the Kokatahi Valley, central Westland. Southern rata colonises landslides and floodplains in this valley.

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taken hundreds of cuttings
from this remote area. They're
now growing in a nursery until
they're strong enough to plant
back out.

"We've been aware of and have
admired the work of Project
Crimson for many years" says
Clive. "The idea for CRIMSON
evolved from that, and from
the joy we get from our rata
trees and plantings, combined
with the crimson colour of the
wine we love to produce. It all
just fell into place, and we were
delighted as the Project Crimson
team and their sponsors when all
parties gave the concept such an
enthusiastic thumbs-up!"

CRIMSON is the start of an ongoing
Ata Rangi commitment to
Project Crimson.



Lucy explores the Bush Block

Pōhutukawa & Rātā:

New Zealand's Iron-hearted Trees

BY PHILIP SIMPSON – best-selling author of *Dancing Leaves*

PUB DATE Mid-November 2005

\$59.99 Paperback; \$99.99 Hardback

Pōhutukawa and rātā trees are among New Zealand's most beloved national icons, symbolising summer, nationhood and our unique natural environment. *Pōhutukawa & Rātā: New Zealand's Iron-hearted Trees* celebrates these unique trees – their place in the natural world, their importance to Māori, their role in symbolism, art, and design, and their many remarkable uses – as well as the threat they face today. Containing a wealth of new research, this book really does contain everything you ever wanted to know about pōhutukawa and rātā, generously illustrated in full colour with over 400 photographs, diagrams, maps and New Zealand artworks.

Te Papa Press, proudly supported by Project Crimson, brings you *Pōhutukawa & Rātā: New Zealand's Iron-hearted Trees*. Place orders with your local bookstore now.



MURIWAI PLANTING 2005

Project Crimson Trust, Carter Holt Harvey Forests and the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) launched the 2005 planting season on Arbor Day, Sunday 5th June at the Muriwai Regional Park in west Auckland.

Project Crimson Chair Devon Mclean, Trustee Panu Raea and Treasurer Debra Fleischhacker were among the 40 volunteers helping out with members of their families.

The sun shone for most of the time it took to plant 350 ecologically-sourced pōhutukawa supplied by Project Crimson and 650 flax grown in the ARC nursery. The volunteers, including Muriwai locals and people from southern, eastern and central Auckland, got the trees in the ground very quickly.

Pupils and teachers from local schools put mulch (supplied by CHH Forests) around the newly planted trees, as well as planting a variety of other native plants later on in the week.

This planting and protection project is in its fifth year and is a collaboration between the three organisations, local schools and residents. The aim is to see the areas known as the Village Green and Five Mile Strip blooming crimson in years to come.

Project Crimson Tees \$20 only.

Send a cheque with your order to Project Crimson,
PO Box 301-027, Albany, Auckland.



0304 Black
Bloom, Womens
(S, M, L)



0405 Black
Bloom, Womens
(10,12),
Childrens
(2,4,6,8,10,12)



0404 Black Bloom,
Black, Mens
(S,L,XL,2XL,3XL)



0405 Red Flag,
(also available in white)
Mens (S,M,L,XL),
Womens (10,12,14),
Children (4,6,8,10)