

Everyday Sustainability

Protecting Nature

Our biodiversity and natural environment are a unique and essential part of who we are and how we live. Protecting and enhancing nature is not only better for the health and wellbeing of the planet, but it's also better for the health and well-being of ourselves.



Right here in the Waikato we have lots of amazing organisations doing different things to regenerate nature. From tourism businesses like Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari whose sole purpose is around conservation, to many others who are incorporating it into what they do.

Hairy Feet

Set on a private working farm near Waitomo, Hairy Feet offer scenic film location tours. Dedicated areas of the farm have been closed to farm livestock allowing native bush to regenerate and flourish. This natural habitat is now home to a variety of wildlife including rare native bird species like Falcon and Kereru and even longtail bats. To help this biodiversity thrive, the team at Hairy Feet have an ongoing programme of pest control to minimise introduced predators. The tours offered at Hairy Feet also provide guests an immersive experience of regenerative farming practices and an incredible natural environment.

Claudelands

Claudelands is an award-winning events venue located in Kirikiriroa Hamilton, and they've implemented some really cool initiatives to help nature flourish at their inner-city site. An area of the grounds has been designated as a wild meadow. Not mowing the grass and allowing the vegetation to grow creates a safe and appealing habitat for insects and pollinators. And complementing the meadow there are also onsite beehives which not only support the bee population but produce amazing honey that is gifted to clients and visitors to the venue.

Waitomo Adventures

Waitomo Adventures are one of New Zealand's leading providers of blackwater rafting and cave abseiling adventures. When the business first began, all the cave sites were surrounded by bare farmland. Thanks to the enthusiasm and support of the landowners and an ongoing programme of planting, approximately 50 hectares of land is now covered in lush native forest. The vegetation is a really effective and beautiful way of protecting the underlying caves and also acts as a vertical riparian planting system that filters sediment and nutrients out of rain water run-off before it reaches the underground waterways. And if that wasn't enough of a win, the bush is home to a diverse range of native insects and birds and the trees also have an amazing ability to sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

When it comes to sustainability, it doesn't matter where you start or how small that start is, just take that first step and you will be amazed at how good it feels and how easily it becomes an everyday part of your business.