

Epiphyte Planting Trial Wellington City Council

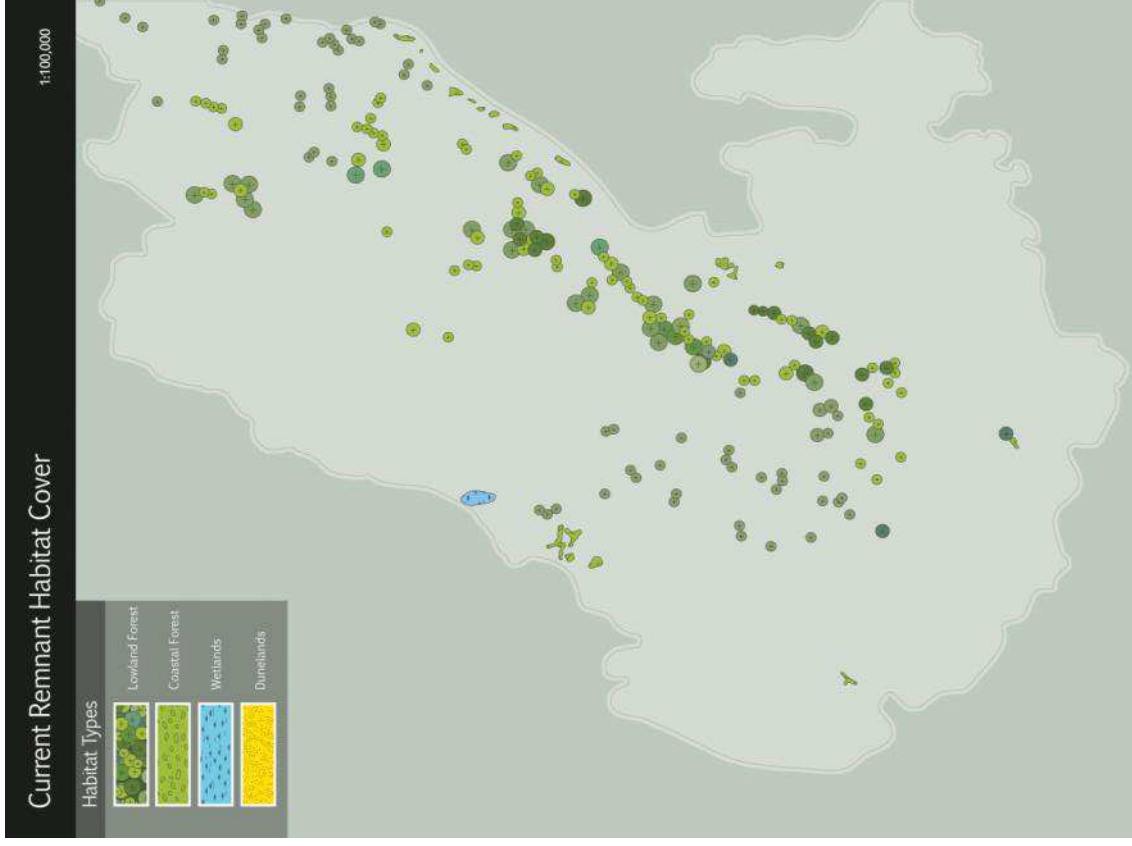
Aerial Restoration in Action

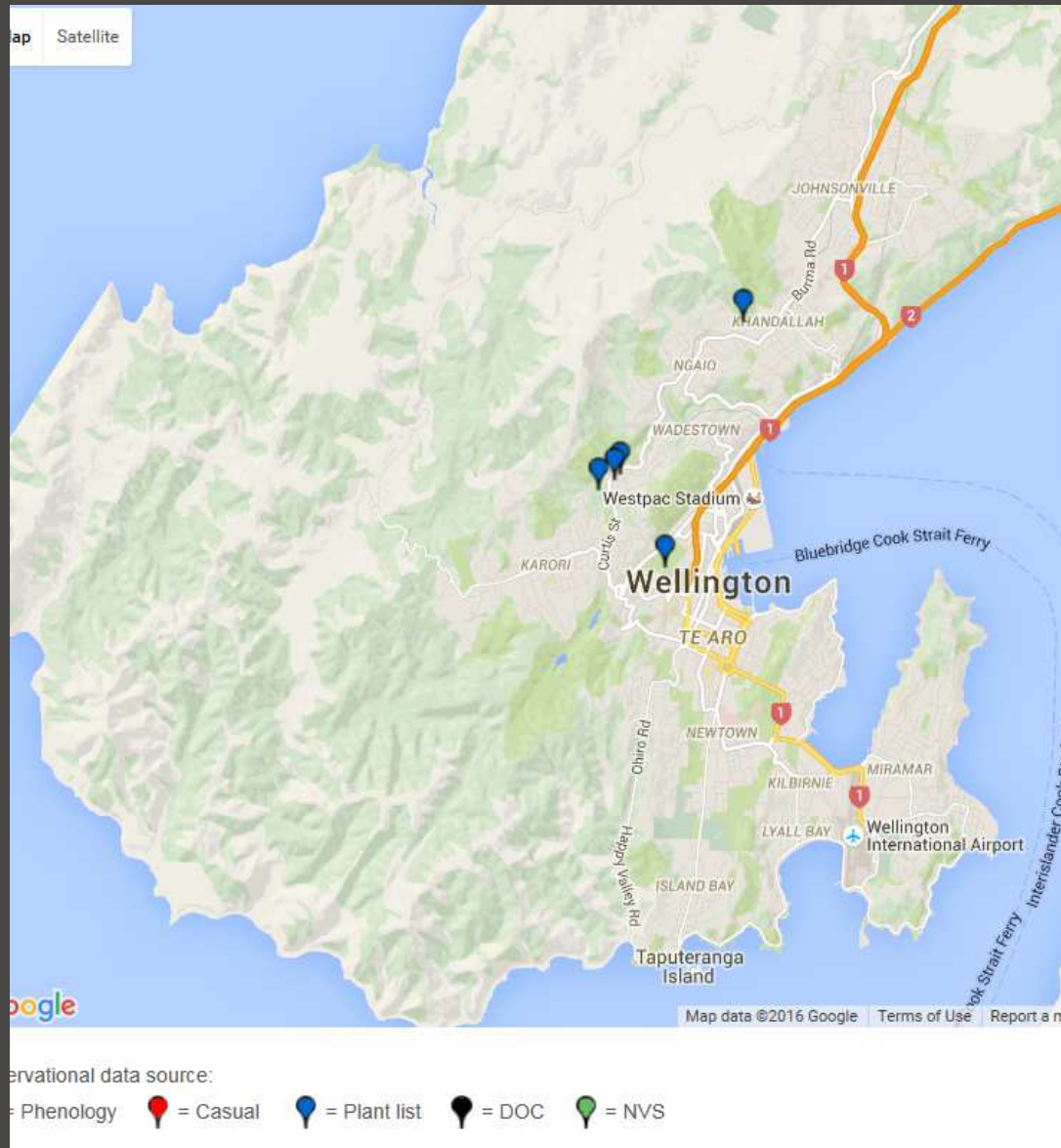
Anita Benbrook – Restoration Technical Advisor

Wellington City Council

Trial Planting of two species

- **Pittosporum cornifolium**
 - Reduced in numbers in Wellington City
 - Sparse populations in surrounding Forest Parks in wider Wellington Region
 - **Astelia hastata syn Colleospermum hastatum**
 - Few epiphytic clumps outside of Otari – Wiltons Bush
 - **Investigating ways of re establishing these species**
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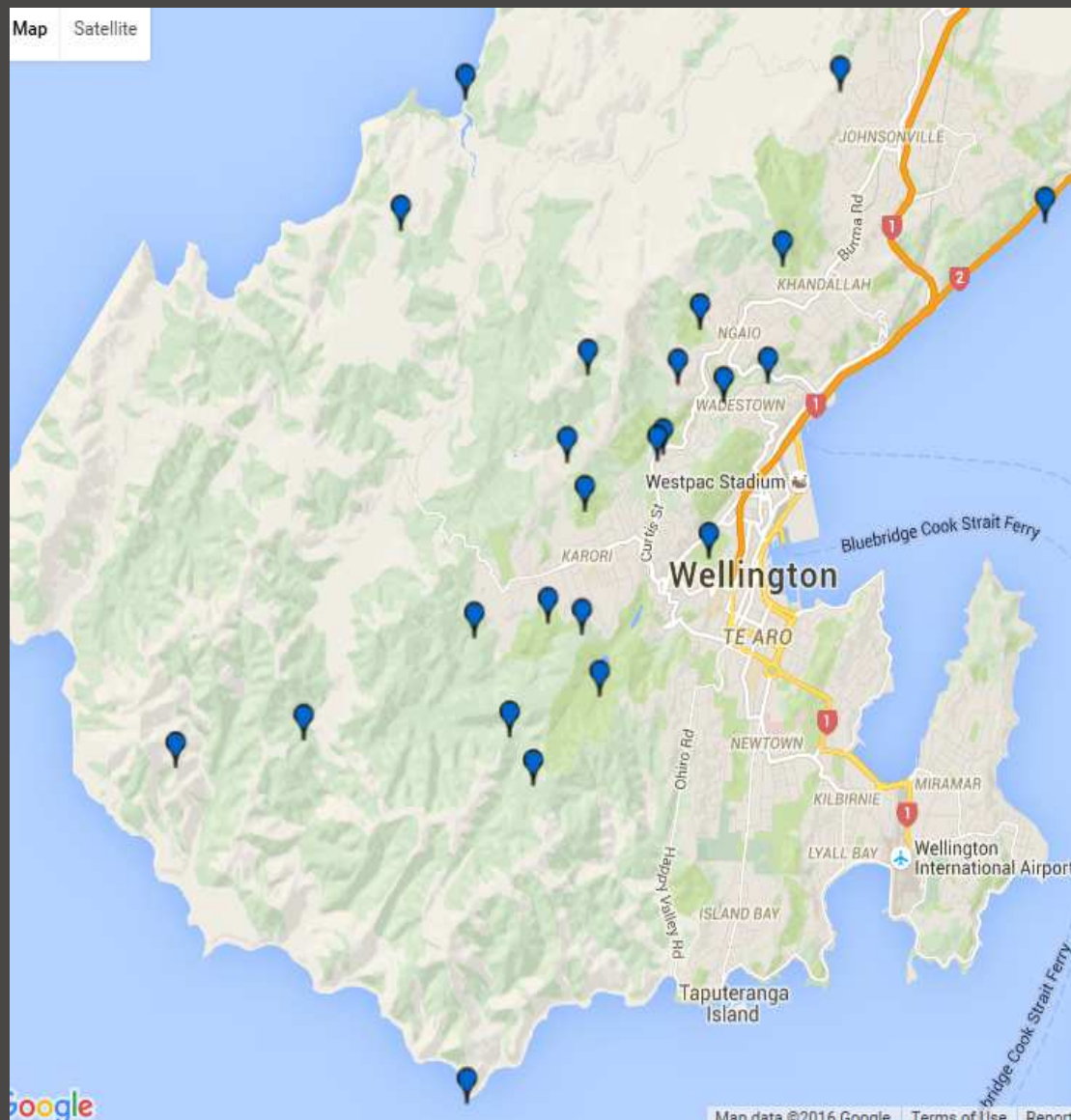




Pittosporum cornifolium distribution Wellington

Based off plant
lists, NZPCN site

Few WELT
vouchers



Astelia hastata distribution Wellington

Based off plant
lists, NZPCN site

Site selection

- **Remnant forest area**
- **Suitable host trees**
- **Existing clumps of Astelia**
- **Sites close together for ease of monitoring**
- **Sites that faced south**

Methodology

- **Arborists – two for safety**
- **Recorded details from ground**
- **GPS trees**
- **Permanent tags for trees,**
- **Drew pictures of trees, positions planted**
- **Used bucket to get materials up and down**



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Pittosporum cornifolium

- **Seed collected off several plants in old rimu at Otari – Wilton's Bush**
- **Seed collected in 2013**
- **Germinated in 2 months**
- **Planted out as pb 2**





Where to plant

- Dry material at base of the clump
- Inserted within the clump
- North/ South facing



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Astelia hastata

- **Grown from seed at Berhampore Nursery**
- **Took 7 months to germinate, fresh seed**
- **Taken 6 years to be big enough to plant out**
- **Planted out as pb 1 1/2**
- **Planted into rotting stumps, forks, hollows**

Planted in fork, used propagation
tape to hold them in place





Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Results 9 months later

- **Planted total of 15 *Pittosporum cornifolium* and 13 *Astelia hastata*, 13 July 2015**
- **Been extremely dry summer**
- **Expectation was limited success**
- **Pleasantly surprised when re visited in March**

Results 11/4/16

- **Survival was very high**
- **9 P. cornifoliums - growing well in foliage of existing clumps**
- **Failed in the base of the clumps**
- **11 Astelias survived**
- **Starting to accumulate leaf detritus**





Conclusions

- Place where leaf litter can accumulate
- Where any moisture will run down branches
- Smaller bag size possibly be better, especially for *P. cornifolium*s, probably tubes
- South facing higher success rate
- Labour intensive
- Still early days





Thanks to;

William Melville

**The climbers and
planters;**

Warren, Josh & Denim

**Berhampore Nursery
staff - Astelias**

**Rewi – for growing the
*P. cornifoliums***