

Rebellion takes root on Waiheke

Members of Extinction Rebellion Waiheke joined forces to plant 21 pōhutukawa alongside 30 native grasses on Saturday. Dog walkers Brad Roe-buck-Ward and Chris Hammond stopped to help out as the group planted trees at Owahanake Reserve and on council land bordering the urupā on Tui Road.

"The trees will help with coastal erosion in these low-lying areas that are prone to storm damage, they provide us with oxygen, and they're home for native birds," says Robyn Bailey, one of Extinction Rebellion Waiheke's founding members.

"It's lovely that members of the public stopped to help - this is an issue that affects all of us."

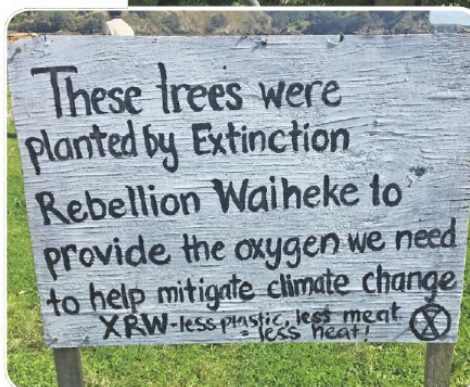
Extinction Rebellion Waiheke (XRW) launched in June as part of an international movement which began in London to encourage peaceful local action in light of climate change.

"We've got 10 years to get our act together to limit temperature rise," says Susan Barker, a local gardener who sourced the trees and gained council approval to plant them.

"After that, we'll start seeing massive social and environmental effects, such as crop failure due to extreme weather, insurance companies refusing to insure coastal properties due to sea-level rise and storm damage, and unprecedented loss of animal, plant



Above, members of Extinction Rebellion Waiheke: Julie Douglas, Susan Barker, Harriet Crampton, Jane Foster, Robyn Bailey, Jill Jackson, Sarah Morrison and Kim Wesney. Left, the sign installed at Owahanake by the group.



and ultimately human life. The point of this planting is that we, as individuals, must all radically and immediately reduce our emissions and create more opportunities for carbon absorption."

Extinction Rebellion Waiheke supports Greta Thunberg's Schools Strike for Climate action. "The next one of these takes place between midday and 3pm

on Friday 27 September," says Robyn.

"Adults and wider whānau are encouraged to take part this time. There will be a march up Queen Street, and local action from Waiheke High School will be advertised in the *Gulf News* closer to the date. We encourage everyone to take a couple of hours out of their day to support a cause that literally could save our futures."

To get involved in future local environmental initiatives, visit Extinction Rebellion Waiheke on Facebook. •



P 09 372 2954
F @daisychainfloristwaiheke
E flowers@daisychainfloristwaiheke.com
W www.daisychainfloristwaiheke.com
8a Miami Avenue, Surfdale, Waiheke Island

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www.greenacreswaiheke.co.nz info@greenacreswaiheke.co.nz