

Wildlife Corridors in Māpua Meeting on 23 March from 9 to 11 am

Higgs Reserve is a forest and wetland reserve that connects the Waimea Inlet with Dominion Flats. It is yet another example of a broken corridor where fish and birds could move freely between the sea and inland forests before roads were built. Now bordered by State Highway 60 and Mapua Drive and partly having been used as a highway construction site, it is gradually being recovered by local volunteers to a coastal forest and wildlife sanctuary.

For wildlife, crossing our highways and roads is often impossible. This means that many species who would normally survive by using both side of the corridor are declining both here in Māpua and around the world. Galaxiids (freshwater native fish) such as the giant kōkopu can live for up to 20 years. Kōkopu can be seen along streambeds during dark hours with a flashlight, especially during the full moon. They need shaded freshwater pools for staying cool and eating bugs. Īnanga, another galaxiid species needs access to saltwater marshes (such as those at Higgs Reserve) to lay their eggs in early autumn.

Come along to our March gathering of the **Wildlife Corridors** where the **Tasman Bay Guardians** and the **Friends of Higgs Reserve** will be talking about **Giant kōkopu and Īnanga** lifecycles and TDC efforts to install fish ladders under Mapua Drive. Our hope is that at least some of these species will be able to make the journey from the safety of the streambed to their saltwater spawning grounds and for the young to return.

Vehicle parking is available on both sides of the road. Please take care on this high- speed road. Volunteers will be onsite on Mapua Drive to help us safely cross Māpua Drive. The big silver sculpture (with its amazing Māpua School children's fish art) will be our meeting point.

Lou Gallagher, Māpua Wildlife Corridors