

# Pukerua Bay Community Food Forest

## *Fifty Year Plan*

**7 February 2015 (DRAFT)**

### **Location**

We wish to start with an area measuring approximately 3500 m<sup>2</sup> in the eastern-most part of Muri Reserve, as indicated in Figure 1.

### **Management**

The Pukerua Bay Community Food Forest will be wholly managed by a committee of the Pukerua Bay Residents' Association, which will be formed to meet the very long-term development and sustainability goals required for such a project, and to manage and budget for the establishment and maintenance of the area. The RA will plan and develop the food forest garden according to input from the local community, and in accordance with sustainable and scientifically sound horticultural best practices, including permaculture and proven organic methods. The RA garden committee will be expected therefore to work in collaboration with, and fulfil the wishes of, the wider Pukerua Bay community, and the Pukerua Bay Residents' Association (Inc.) will be the entity responsible for the maintenance of the area.

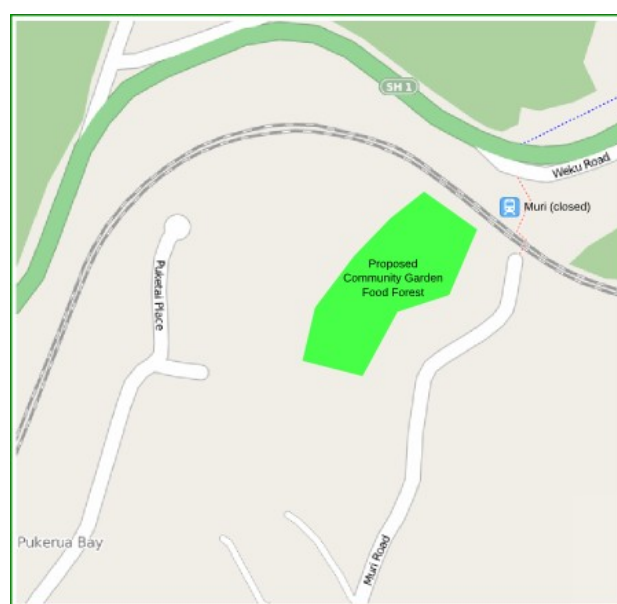


Figure 1: Map of the community garden site in the Muri Reserve.

### **First Two Years**

We aim to establish the required infrastructure (gated access-way, composting bank, mulch heap, water tank, toolshed, etc.) and the shelter tree plantings in the first 12 months. This will involve the purchase of local trade services and labour, and plants and other goods and supplies from local nurseries and other sources.

In the second year we aim to complete the contour swales that are crucial to moisture retention and soil recuperation. This will greatly help with soil fertility and increase the productivity of the crop plantings. We also aim to establish the first allotment beds for communal annual plantings, and the nursery trees for the first food forest cluster.

## **Year 3–10**

We plan to add every subsequent year at least one additional food forest cluster, depending on available local resources, seedlings and workforce. By this time there will be ongoing work to support the trees as they grow to maturity.

We hope to provide educational opportunities for local schools, for the benefit of environmental education generally, but also as a means to co-opt local engagement and grow enthusiasm through the involvement of the children (and their parents!) and teachers.

Additional infrastructure (seed bank, public barbecue cooking area, walkways) is possible if the community so wishes and funding permits.

## **Year 10–20 and beyond**

A properly designed and managed perennial layered food forest garden will take at least 20 years to reach peak productivity, but once established will persist and flourish, with minimal intervention, for longer than the lifespans of any of the initial organisers involved. Some food forests in Europe and Africa are hundreds, if not thousands, of years old<sup>1</sup>). For this reason, it is very important for the project to remain anchored to the community. This phase will require careful stewardship not only of the trees and companion plantings in the forest garden, but also of the interested stakeholders. To this end, we plan from the outset to involve the local school, the children and their teachers and parents, provide and sustain educational opportunities and materials, and to collaborate with other similar organisations (e.g. conservation societies, nurseries, seed-banks, produce markets). Once established, there will be tourism and other marketing and fund-raising opportunities to pursue and capitalise on.

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<sup>1</sup> Lawton, G. "The 2000 year-old food forest." Permaculture Magazine, 2003.  
<http://www.permaculture.co.uk/videos/2000-year-old-food-forest>

## An aspirational future for the Pukerua Bay community

	Social	Political	Economic	Actions	Time-line
<b>Short term</b>	Provide good documentation of processes.	Encourage engagement and empower the local community.	Purchases from local sources, tradesmen and nurseries.	Supply all materials and works locally wherever possible.	Next 12-24 months
<b>Medium term</b>	Increased local engagement and participation.		Continued involvement of local businesses and markets.	Involve local people in establishing and maintaining the food forest.	5 years
<b>Long term</b>	Production can help reduce the cost of living and further increase local participation and independence.	Provide an exemplar of sustainable practice, provide educational opportunities for local schools.	Continued involvement of local businesses and markets.	Collaborate with local schools' environmental education programmes.	15-25 years
<b>Aspirational</b>	Plentiful produce to benefit the Pukerua Bay community. Provides an inspiration to establish more food forests.	Galvanise local empowerment and independence. Promote sustainability and environmental stewardship.	All food is locally grown and consumed, greatly strengthening and sustaining the local economy.	Establish food forests in every community.	25-50 years