

Autumn 08

In Habitats



NATURAL HABITATS
LANDSCAPES

Commercial Landscapes
Residential Landscapes

Commercial Garden Care
Residential Garden Care

Landscape Design
Resorts and Golf Courses

Public Landscapes
Environmental Repairs

Swimming Pools
Tree Care

The Caped Crusaders

Harsh, steep and exposed, inhabited by hungry sheep and rabbits. Perfect.

The perfect location for a major project by Natural Habitats, working with New York-based master planners Nelson Byrd Woltz Architects to develop, detail, vegetate and build the landscape at "The Farm."

The infinity pool at "The Farm"

Welcome to In Habitats!

The more observant among you may notice subtle changes to our newsletter, including a new name – a name we think better reflects the full scope of our business.

Our particular interest this time centres on two gardens, both of which are entered in this year's NZ Institute of Landscape Architects awards.

They demonstrate just some of the variety of the work we do. However, you don't need to own a large sheep station, a luxury lodge or a Victorian homestead to experience the difference that skilled, thoughtful landscaping can achieve.

Over the past year we have worked on numerous projects, no two the same. Each has the special stamp of their owners, and of Natural Habitats.

We love working with you, our clients, to create wonderful natural habitats - and look forward to more adventures in landscaping to come.

All the best

Graham.



Graham Cleary

Inside

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Dramatic landscape at "The Farm" integrating pasture, woodland and native forest



Rural charm at the lodge



Swimming pool and cabana



Water trough at "The Farm"

The Caped Crusaders (from page 1)

"The Farm" is the new luxury lodge at Cape Kidnappers, an eight iron from the Cape Kidnappers golf course and short gannet flight from the renowned colony.

Designer Mark Read and his team of up to 25 lived locally for much of the past 18 months to create a "romanticised adaptation and extension of the surrounding landscape".

This involved repeating and extending the landscape's three main existing characteristics – pasture, pine woodland and native forest.

Regenerating native species such as manuka and kanuka were supplemented by a range of other natives, including pohutukawa and titoki. This, in turn, was complemented by pine woodlands, olives, fruit trees and herbs in courtyards as well as swathes of native grasses, wild flowers and wild lavender.

Mark says perhaps the greatest thrill has been to be part of a broader environmental project on the property. A nine kilometre-long predator proof fence protects Cape Kidnappers, and is resulting in the return of myriad plant, animal and bird species (including re-introducing Kiwi to the area).

"This work enriches both landscape and life on a major scale. It has been an incredibly fulfilling project, and I hope many of our clients and friends are able to visit at some point so they can experience its beauty."



Something old, something new.....

“Whenever I wander through my garden, I feel inspired and completely uplifted.”

So says the owner of ‘Woodcroft’, following a major relandscaping and development project.

Built and planted by Auckland forefather John Kinder more than 130 years ago, the challenge was to fuse a new guest house, tennis court, putting green and extensive landscape gardens and entertainment areas with the existing Victorian homestead and setting.

“Our client was utterly committed to the essence of this wonderful place, carrying the Victorian influence and homestead features through all the redevelopment,” designer Mark Read says.

A centrepiece of the garden is a waterfall and pond, crossed by a traditionally-styled stone bridge. Basalt stone has been beautifully

crafted to create the elegant staircase, paving, retaining walls, fireplace, and façade of the new guest house. Ornamental features include an array of finely ornate solid steel gates and impressive gas flares.

At the base of the master staircase lies a period compass mosaic, inlaid into the stonework. Handmade and painstakingly installed, it adds an enchanting aura and sense of adventure to the garden.

Inspiration for the new planting came from the blend of New Zealand native bush and subtropical species that were collected by Kinder en route to the new colony.

“The mixture of plants is itself an entire chapter in the history of Woodcroft,” Mark says.

“Inspiration for the new planting came from the blend of New Zealand native bush and subtropical species that were collected by Kinder en route to the new colony.”



Pavilion entry court – Period compass mosaic



New olde worlde - the bridge



Natural waterfall



Gordon McMahon – man of the moment!

Major new appointment

Natural Habitats just keeps on growing, and we're delighted to welcome Gordon McMahon to the role of general manager.

Expect even more precision in Natural Habitats' services in future, given that Gordon served with the New Zealand army for more than a decade, rising to the rank of Major. In that role Gordon says his landscaping experience consisted of moving small hillsides with high powered artillery, and he is looking forward to the more subtle form of landscaping practised by Natural Habitats.

Gordon joins Natural Habitats from NZX-listed Allied Workforce, where he was Northern Region General Manager. Prior to this he had four years as general manager of Tasman Industries and two as Logistics Manager for Raeco (NZ) Ltd.

Welcome back

Senior landscape architect Debbie Tikao has joined the team once again.

Many of you may remember her as Debbie Upton when she worked for Natural Habitats from 1996 - 2000. Debbie specialises in commercial and urban design, master planning, environmental design and landscape assessment. She has spent the last two years at home with her two girls, Amiria and Matakaea and was previously



Debbie Tikao with her team of landscape architects Sam Parkes and Jenny Wood.

with Boffa Miskell for four years. If you'd like to contact Debbie email her on debbie.tikao@naturalhabitats.co.nz or call **09 970 3488**.

Plenty of growth in the Bay

We've opened a new office in Tauranga to meet the growing demand for Natural Habitats' full range of services in the Bay of Plenty.

Andre Hansen is relocating family, wheelbarrow and tools to run our operations in this fast-growing area. A key project in the Bay is preparing the way for a new retirement village in Katikati. Our Tree Care team has been clearing the site and Howard Saunders has been doing an archaeological assessment of the

site with local Iwi. We're also busy in the area working with major clients Universal Homes and AMP.

If you would like Natural Habitats on your job in the Bay of Plenty, we'd love to talk with you. Please call Andre on **(07) 542 0487** or email andre@naturalhabitats.co.nz.

We're singing from the treetops

Do your trees need trimming, clearing away from powerlines, 'crowning', removing, or relocating? Our new tree care service is ready and waiting.

From a single tree to a small forest, Natural Habitats Tree Care Services, led by head arborist Kane Green, is passionate about enhancing trees to enhance your environment.

Give us a call on **(09) 970 3488** or email treecare@naturalhabitats.co.nz. We'd love to hear from you – and your trees will love you for it.