

Robert McLean

Robert was nominated for his life's service to the conservation of biodiversity in Pōrangahau and beyond and has been a conservation trailblazer since his youth. For decades he has worked tirelessly and voluntarily, advocating, and achieving protection for our native flora & fauna, predator trapping, collecting seeds for eco sourcing, (including from the 850-year-old Tautane rata and 650-year-old Ropiha rata), growing, gifting and planting native seedlings (including the Whangaehu riverbanks) and generously sharing his knowledge. Rob's passion for community spirit and native bird/bush restoration within our catchment is hugely admired.

- He was only 20 when his whanau gifted Te Ana/McLean's Bush Scenic Reserve to DOC to have it retired, fenced & protected at his request.
- He has also helped to set up 3 QEII covenants along the Whangaehu cliffs.
- He has been instrumental in the eradication of possums from the Whangaehu district and more recently, cats and rats.
- Rob has been involved with Wainui Rātā, a volunteer group that preserves and propagates the few remaining Northern Rātā in the Wimbledon-Whangaehu district.
- He actively seeks to protect other coastal lowland podocarp 'motu' that were within land recently purchased by forestry companies.