

## Water monitoring programme

The group applied successfully to Nga Whenua Rahui in January 2013 to develop a community based water monitoring programme using the Cultural Health Index protocol. This technique was originally designed to allow local communities to assess the cultural and biological health of their catchment and then communicate this information to water managers in a way that can be easily understood by all. The Cultural Health Index is an ideal tool to measure the success of the restoration programme and evaluate the effects of different land uses on Mahinga Kai (food gathering).

- **Workshop organised in February 2013.**

Gail Tipa who designed the protocol was invited in February 2013 to teach the Whanau of Whangawehi how to use the Cultural Health Index technique as a water and cultural monitoring tool. The workshop was a great success with a lot of local Kaitiaki and Kaumatua attending the training.



- **Creation of a training resource (DVD).**

The entire training session was filmed with the intention of using this resource for future trainings. A DVD is available or follow the link : [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPVb\\_O77Uc0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPVb_O77Uc0)

- **Appointment of a Cultural Health Index Coordinator**

Arthur Bowen has been appointed as the new CHI Coordinator. He and his team will be monitoring the Whangawehi Stream 4 times a year. Arrangement with the landowners involved has been made for permission access.



## Funding applications and Public relationship

The Group has been very active in applying to a variety of funding sources and we are still waiting for some of the funders to come back to us. Overall our hard work has been well rewarded so far and we are optimistic. Some well known organisations have decided to support our effort which is quite encouraging (HBRC, DOC, Nga Whenua, Poutiri Ao O Tane, WWF, Wai Maori trust).

Kathleen Mato and Nic Caviale were invited to present the project to two important gatherings in Napier : The HBRC Maori Committee meeting and the Biodiversity Symposium. The last one was organised by Nga Whenua Rahui at EIT in Napier on the 16th of July and was looking at illustrating how iwi, hapū and marae can engage effectively with local government to influence the protection and enhancement of their natural environments. The meeting was well attended with representatives from local iwi, hapu and government level.

These meetings contribute to raise the profile of our group and could lead to more funding in the near future.

The Group has got a webpage hosted on the HBRC website so if you need more information please check it out. <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/Services/Environment/Land/Community>. Updates and latest news are available to the public and funders.

## School project

In July 2013, the catchment coordinator met with Nicky O'Brien, the Principal of Te Mahia School and Philippa Green, the Hawkes Bay



Coordinator for the Enviro School Network with the intention of developing a specific educational project. The Principal is very interested by the Group's vision and gave us some guidelines on how a link could be formalised. The group is currently drafting a project for next year with one focus for each term (term 1 : focus on the catchment and its people; term 2 : focus on the Awa; term 3 : focus on the Whenua (planting project); term 4 : focus on observation (bird watching and fish monitoring) and degustation /taste of sustainably harvested kaimoana.

## Goat Control strategy

Goats are the main threat for our riparian plantings and the Peninsula is well known for its high population of feral goats. The group has been quite proactive in that area and a Consultant was hired by HBRC to develop a strategy that helps tackle the problem under a coordinated approach. The document will be released later on this winter and will be followed by a consultation with the landowners for discussion and approval.

## First conservation project undertaken on Taharoa Trust

- In May 2013 Ken Hunt from Poutiri Ao O Tane gave his final agreement to fund part of 1.7 km of new fence on Taharoa Trust. Pat and Sue O'Brien are thrilled and are looking forward to retiring the riparian margins



of the Whangawehi Stream. “We have been talking about it for a long time but the financial support of the Whangawehi Catchment management Group has been a catalyser”. The fence will be built over the winter with the first plantings starting in July 2014.

The goal will be to establish a total of 22000 native trees on both sides of the stream. The retired area will be covenanted and the farm will benefit from a goat control strategy developed by the WCMG.



- On the 27th of July, a blessing was organised along the Whangawehi stream in order to protect the land and the people involved in further conservation work. Peter Nielson local Kaumatua created a special Karakea for the occasion which gave the owners and members of the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group a lot of confidence for the future.

### What's next :

- The group is currently looking at developing a Cultural assessment of the catchment with a clear focus on identifying spiritual (Wai Tapu) and Archaeological sites. The findings will contribute to enrich and protect local knowledge around what is a significant part of Iwi's tradition and culture.
- In June 2013, Barry Lynch, Soil Scientist at the Hawkes Bay Regional Council came to Tuahuru Marae for a presentation on the impact of the 2011 storm on

soils. This study was based around the use of Infra Red imagery to identify and measure bare soil area all around Hawkes Bay. For the Whangawehi Catchment, the storm increased total bare soil area by 10 ha. The group asked the Soil Scientist if we could get a complete Land Use survey of the catchment before any soil conservation work starts.

- A small group of farmers have started a discussion around a branding project, looking at marketing a farming product certified as being grown under a catchment management plan that will protect the water ways for the next 150 years (multigenerational process).



Whangawehi Catchment Management Group Incorporated  
Tuahuru Marae  
457 East Coast Road  
Mahia Hawkes Bay

Contacts :

Secretary Rae Te Nahu :

Ph:068375537 email : rae.tenahu@xtra.co.nz

Chairperson Tuahuru Marae Kathleen Mato :

Ph: 068375922

email : mato.kathleen@gmail.com

# Whangawehi Catchment Newsletter August 2013



Whangawehi Catchment  
Management Group Incorporated