# **Engagement with the wider community**

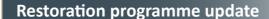
Volunteers put a lot of effort into sharing the information and story of the group to a wider audience.

- In November 2014, a catchment walk was organised as part of Conservation week including a guided tour with a DOC representative, local Kaumatua and Project Coordinator.
- Maori TV released at the same time a documentary as part of the Project Whenua series. This film (available on the blog) raised the profile of the community and showcased the reasons why our group has been so successful.
- In January 2015, the Whangawehi Catchment
   Management Group presented free standing displays at
   the Mahia Market (on two occasions). With the support
   of DOC and Whangawehi volunteers, the group managed
   to reach out to a wider audience. The team received a
   lot of positive feedback from many tourists and batch
   owners. Some of them will be coming back for our winter
   community planting days.



- In February 2015, the WCMG
  appointed a Community
  Engagement Officer: Oha Manuel
  to assist the group in building
  relationships with the local
  community of Mahia and relevant
  organisations. This position is also
  part of the group's succession plan
  which aims at future proofing the
  organisation.
- In March 2015, Kathleen Mato and Rae Te Nahu were invited to the Te Ohu Kaimoana, National Customary Fisheries Conference in Auckland and asked to explain how Iwi can engage positively with agencies in resource management. This invitation demonstrated how significant the project has become and how our template could be transferred to other initiatives.

Oha Manuel



A new fence was built and finished in March 2015
on Pongaroa Station allowing the lower 3 kms of the
Whangawehi Stream to be fenced off. At the same time, the
old conventional fence on Grandy Lake Forest was repaired
and raised up to prevent deer and goats from entering the
planted area.

The survival rate of the 16000 trees established in 2014 is pretty good with an average of 90%.
This is a fantastic achievement considering the very dry summer we have had.

Planting programme: the catchment will be a hive of activity this winter with around 40,000 trees to be established on three different properties.

- Two Community planting days will be held this winter with an overnight on a Marae for those wanting to do more work on Sunday mornings.
  - Taharoa Trust (1637 Mahia East Coast Road): 16 and 17th of May.
  - Pongaroa Station (Whangawehi bridge): 13 and 14th of June.
  - Updates will be given on our blog: Whangawehi.com/ community planting days.

#### **School workshops**



(left) Rae Te Nahu &
Malcolm Smith (DOC)and
(below) Graham Douglas
(Forest Manager - Merrill
& Ring) talk to the Mahia
School children on the
Whangawehi Headwaters
visit

The Environmental school programme started again in January with a new curriculum developed with Te Mahia School.

Earlier this year, the students discovered the head waters of the

Whangawehi Catchment with a walk in the DOC Reserve and a presentation of the Grandy Lake Forests' operation.In March 2015, the students took an active part in a white bait workshop where they learnt more about their habitat and life cycle.

### Water monitoring programme

A new water monitoring programme started in December 2015 with water analysis being undertaken at six sites and looking at measuring Faecal Coliforms, nutrient levels as well as flow, turbity and a wide range of parameters. Temperature loggers and a HOBO logger were displayed in order to record



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a range of data. This programme will continue until the end of 2015 and will help better understand the pressures affecting water quality.

#### Pest programme

Twenty Five traps (DOC 200, Timm and A24) have been installed along the Whangawehi stream in order to protect the newly planted area from top predators. So far a number of pests have been caught including hedgehogs (large numbers), rats and feral cats. These traps are maintained twice a month by the landowners and reports are sent to funders via the trap.org application.



## **Health and Safety:**

The WCMG is upgrading its Health and Safety procedures. With the assistance of the Ministry for the Environment and Nga Whenua Rahui, the group purchased a personal locator beacon. This distress beacon is an electronic transmitter that can be used to alert rescuers where there is no phone coverage.

This device will be used by our water monitoring team and during our community planting days.





Whangawehi Catchment Management Group Incorporated

Tuahuru Marae 457 East Coast Road Mahia Hawkes Bay

Contacts:

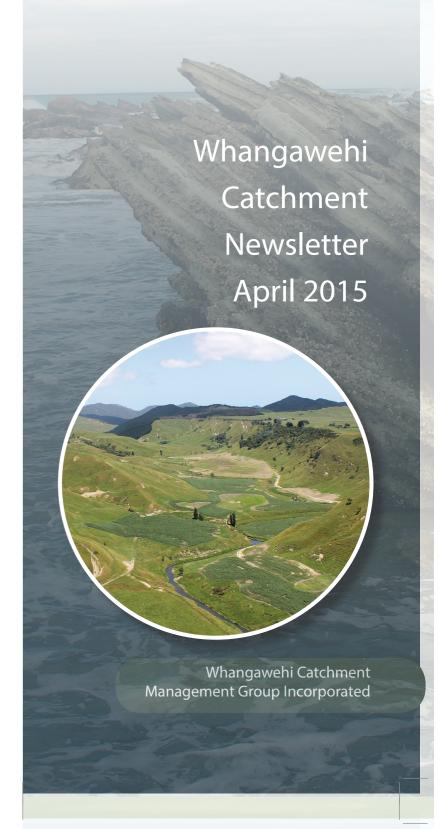
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