

A fantastic summer activities programme:



The Whangawehi Team has been busy organising “a series of summer community activities” to share the restoration story with the wider community. Activities included four successful guided walks, displays at both the Mahia Market and Wairoa A & P show and a well-supported mountain bike ride to finish of their summer activities.

These events created the opportunity to invite potential volunteers to our community planting days planned for the 9th and 16th of July 2016



A new Signatory

Three new signatories officially joined the restoration programme by signing the group’s Memorandum of Understanding. We welcome Len Symes from Hautaaroa Station, Mike and Michelle McNabb from Kinikini Station and Ross Mear and Kelvin Hale from Moemotu Station. We are looking forward to working with them in the future.



Restoration update

In February, the Ministry for The Environment gave us the approval to continue our restoration effort on Homestead farm and the Taharoa Trust.

- Grandy Lake Forest : a new fence will be built on both sides of the river (3 km in total) and will allow the retirement of 10 ha of riparian margins. This two year project will require 36 000 native trees. Once completed, 7 km of river will have been fenced off and planted.
- Taharoa : 5 ha of bush block located in the Mangatupae sub catchment will be fenced off, retired and connected to the retired Whangawehi strip. This is also a two year project requiring 6 000 native trees. Following recommendations provided by our cultural survey, a whare will be erected along the river and offer some shelter to our volunteers working in the catchment.

Pest control :



With assistance from the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council, the WCMG has been selected as a pilot project to trial 25 wireless traps. These traps send a signal to a hub located on a high point in the catchment every time a pest

is caught. The data is then sent to a web base application. This technology added to the new long lasting baits/lures (which last up to twelve months) could potentially change the face of pest control in the future by significantly reducing maintenance costs, especially in very difficult and rugged terrain.



School programme :



Jenny Scothern and whanau have been busy working with Te Mahia school. Students have been involved in the development of a waiata for the Whangawehi river and are looking at integrating the song into their kapahaka choreography. They will perform their creation during the up and coming Kapahaka festival hosted by Te Mahia school. It is amazing to feel whanau connection to the land and river via a waiata.

- The Maara Kai workshop organised at Ruawharo Marae was a real success. Local Kuia Sophie Dodd shared her passion and knowledge of traditional food preparation using a bull kelp steam bag. Chef Shaun Gaskin made a demonstration on how to make a delicious warm caramelised onion dip. The pupils also learnt about nutritious dense food and balanced diets.



Awards- Communication :

The group was honoured by Rae Te Nahu who featured in Te Kaea on Maori TV as part of the Kiwi bank New Zealander of the year Award. Well done Rae.

Another member honoured the Group, Arthur Bowen was interviewed by the Clean Water Tour and features on one of their films. Arthur was also presented a Prime Ministers Excellence Award, celebrating outstanding delivery of education at a secondary school level to Gisborne Boys High School. The Board of Trustees presented Arthur with this award for the contribution he makes to this High School. Congratulations.

Bird life thriving:

Hans Rook, Bird and Wetland expert came to assess the wetlands located on the Taharoa Trust and gave recommendations on how to enhance and attract more bird life. Hans was impressed by the quality of the habitat and wouldn't be surprised if the endangered Bittern was already a current dweller. The rare Fern Bird or Mātātā was observed which gave us a great sense of satisfaction. Pest control and water level management will be critical in the enhancement of this magnificent wetland ecosystem (30 ha).



Water monitoring :

Arthur Bowen has carried out water and fish monitoring over the summer period. Arthur was pleasantly surprised to observe an increase in White Bait population. The Eel monitoring programme shows that the Short Fin eel population which used to be quite limited in the main Whangawehi stream is increasing. Arthur also observed an increase number in elvers. The creek is now closing down with a lot of overhanging vegetation and overgrown banks. The tissue sample analysis carried out in the estuary didn't detect any anomalies in terms of heavy metals and hydro carbonates.



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

Contacts :
Secretary: Rae Te Nahu
Ph:068375537 email : rae.tenahu@xtra.co.nz
Group Leader: Kathleen Mato
Ph: 068375922
email : mato.kathleen@gmail.com
Blog: Whangawehi.com

Whangawehi Catchment Newsletter April 2016



Whangawehi Catchment
Management Group Incorporated