

PROJECT WHENUA

REAL LIFE SCIENCE. REAL LIFE PEOPLE.

Māori Television: Tuesday 8pm – from October 14



A juvenile tuatara from Takapourewa (Episode 1, Takapourewa)

Project Whenua is a brand new environmental science series for Māori Television, put together by the team that brought you Project Mātauranga. Taking a fresh look at the 'hands on' science that's happening out in the catchments, rivers and forests of Aotearoa, the series is focused on innovative environmental projects that utilize Māori knowledge and concepts.

We look at these kaupapa in detail, showcasing the science behind them, as our field reporter, environmental scientist, Tuaiwa Darcel Rickard, walks the viewer through the processes and discusses the ins and outs with the kaimahi involved.

Each episode of **Project Whenua** is focused on a different project, company or community group that employs a Māori world view in a unique way, to the benefit of their community and the taiao.

Over 13 episodes we take the audience around Aotearoa, on an incredible journey to explore genuinely innovative environmental projects. From an island in the Cook Strait that is home to more than 90% of the world's tuatara population, to an 'ecological island' right in the heart of the Waikato that features the world's longest predator-proof fence, to a restoration project on one of Ngāi Tahu's most important mahinga kai.

We look into a Rotorua marae's plan to go off-the-grid, visit Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei as they look at ways to filter the water in one of Auckland City's busy bays, and follow a small but dedicated roopū of kaimahi on Matakana Island as they



Tuaiwa Darcel Rickard and Nessie Kuka of the Matakana Island Environmental Group (Episode 4)

work on restoring the wetlands, whilst also still dealing with the after effects of the Rena grounding off their coastline.

Project Whenua showcases not only those who work behind-the-scenes, but gives a starring role to the landscapes of Aotearoa – our rolling hills, beautiful sunsets, native forests and shorelines.

Series Premier, Tuesday 14 October, 8pm

PROJECT WHENUA EPISODE SYNOPSIS

Episode 1: Takapourewa

14th October, 2014

Takapourewa, or Stephen's Island, lies at the top of the Marlborough Sounds, and is home to over 30,000 tuatara. We take a trip to meet these unique reptiles, their Ngāti Koata kaitiaki, and see the mahi being done to ensure their survival.

Ngati Koata, Te Papa Atawhai



Episode 2: Environmental Sentinels

21st October, 2014

Project Kaitiaki is a revolutionary Gisborne-based voluntary water monitoring project that uses species such as tuna and shellfish as environmental sentinels. By monitoring the health of these species, the quality of the water in the area can also be assessed.

Te Runanga o Turanganui-a-Kiwa, Te Wananga o Aotearoa



Episode 3: Manawa Honey New Zealand

28th October, 2014

Ngāi Tūhoe have been gathering honey from the forests in Ruatāhuna for over a century. A new venture from the Tūhoe Tuawhenua Trust is hoping honey production will bring mahi, money and honey to this isolated community.

Tuhoe Tuawhenua Trust, Manawa Honey NZ



Episode 4: Matakana Island Environmental Group

4th November, 2014

The Matakana Island Environmental Group plays a vital role in the restoration of wetlands, estuaries and coastline habitats on this small island off the Tauranga Harbour. Driven by the hau kainga, the group have big goals in their sights.

Matakana Island Environmental Group



Episode 5: Maurea Islands Restoration

11th November, 2014

We look at a 2 year project spearheaded by Waikato-Tainui, aimed at developing new techniques for eradicating invasive pest plants on two river islands in the Waikato River. On one island they'll use standard herbicides, on the other an innovative trial using native plants to out-compete the pests.



Waikato Raupatu River Trust

Episode 6: Whakaora te Waihora

18th November, 2014

Waihora is the fourth largest lake in Aotearoa, and also one of its most polluted. Whakaora te Waihora is a large-scale restoration project, and we visit the hau kainga as they work with NIWA to replace karepo seed beds that used to grow in the lake.



Te Taumutu Runanga, NIWA

Episode 7: Whangawehi Catchment

25th November, 2014

Three marae, local and regional councils, other agencies and a private company are now on board the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group, all working towards fixing water quality issues along the Whangawehi River.



Whangawehi Catchment Management Group

Episode 8: East Otago Taiapure

2nd December, 2014

22 kilometres of coastline in East Otago has been designated a taiapure since 2001, a way to allow the tangata whenua to manage the commercial and recreational fisheries in the area, after depleting kaimoana stocks had raised concerns amongst the iwi and community.

East Otago Taiapure Management Committee



Episode 9: Waikawa Fishing Company

9th December, 2014

The Waikawa Fishing Company is a Māori-owned fishing business that has been running out of Te Tau Ihu for over 30 years. In order to stay ahead of the game, this whānau is investing in their future, and that of their mokopuna, through research into innovative, sustainable fishing methods.

Waikawa Fishing Company, Cawthron Institute



Episode 10: Kearoa Marae's Micro Hydro

16th December, 2014

By installing a micro-hydro unit on the Pokaitu stream that runs at the back of Kearoa Marae, Ngāti Kea Ngāti Tuara are now generating their own power. We visit this marae just outside Rotorua to find out about their plans for self-sufficiency.

Te Runanga o Ngāti Kea Ngāti Tuara, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust



Episode 11: New Developments in Pest Control

23rd December, 2014

Possums are huge pests in our forests, and have had huge impact upon our native species. While the use of 1080 in aerial drops is effective, these are also controversial. We visit two sites around NZ which are trialling 'Spitfires', a targeted, innovative method of pest control.

Lincoln University, Connovation



Episode 12: Restoration of Ōkahu Bay

30th December, 2014

Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei are trialling an innovative project to clean up Ōkahu Bay. Decades of increased pollution, siltation, construction and discharge into the bay have diminished the mauri of this significant site, but mussel reefs may offer a solution.

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Ōkahu Rākau



Episode 13: Maungatautari – Sanctuary Mountain 6th January, 2015

Maungatautari is home to the largest ecological restoration project in Aotearoa, and aims to restore the lush and vibrant forest that once grew there, filling the air with birdsong. 47 kilometres of fencing is just one of the tools being used to achieve this.



Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust

If you'd like to find out more about the series and the upcoming episodes, follow us on our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectWhenua>