

Engagement with the wider community:

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- 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.



Mahia Sunday Market-goers visiting the display tent.

- 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.



Oha Manuel

- 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.

Restoration programme update

- 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, turbidity and a wide range of parameters. Temperature loggers and a HOBO logger were displayed in order to record

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Arthur Bowen and Kathy Newton carry out water turbidity testing.

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.



Graham Douglas (Forest Manager - Merrill & Ring) resets the DOC 2000 trap. Feral cats are often caught.

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.



The GPS Personal Locator Beacon



Whangawehi Catchment Management Group Incorporated
 Tuahuru Marae
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