

Restoration update

A lot of work has been done over the past 3 years, thank you all for your support, you can celebrate the fruit of your hard work.

Project update :

- 135 000 native trees planted in 3 years
- 8 km of stream protected
- 42 ha of riparian strip retired and soon covenanted
- 5 ha of native bush blocks fenced off
- 5 debris dams built in the forest, 2 to come
- Construction of a shelter

Our next major challenge will be to carry out the best tree maintenance regime we can, over the next two years.

Community Planting day

Our community planting day (16th of July) was extremely well supported with approximately 60 people turning out to help plant 6 000 trees. Volunteer came as far as San Rafael, California, USA, Wellington, Taradale, Napier, Gisborne, Frasertown, Wairoa, Mahanga, and Mahia. It was beautiful to witness the passion that went into the planting. Thank you all for your time and effort.



Enviro school update

Our Enviro School programme has been quite exciting over the past few months. Te Mahia students went on a 2 day field trip to Napier to visit the Aquarium. The purpose was to learn more about the sea environment and the little blue penguin in particular. They also networked with other like-minded enviroschools to support new learning opportunities. A big thank you to Te Mahia School, Jenny Scothern and parents who have made this special event possible.



Community Awards

Green ribbon (Ministry for the Environment Award)

The Whangawehi Catchment Management Group had the privilege to be selected for the third time at the Green Ribbon Award, a National Award put in place by the Ministry for the Environment. On Tuesday the 8th of June, Pat O'Brien Chairman and Nic Caviale Delzescaux Coordinator attended the evening ceremony at the Beehive in Wellington. Unfortunately, the group didn't win but a lot of good contacts have been made.

Trust Power Community Award

The Whangawehi Catchment Management Group was the runner up in the Heritage and Environment category at the Trust Power Community Award for the Wairoa District. Rae Te Nahu received a certificate and a \$250 prize. Three years ago the group won the Supreme award for the District and it was pleasant to see that the enthusiasm hadn't faded away.

Shelter

In June 2016, a major milestone was completed with the construction of a shelter, a magnificent Marae shaped building erected via donations from Carters, private contributions from land owner Pat and Sue O'Brien and DOC. This shelter will offer a place to rest for those wanting to come and discover the restoration project whether they are trampers walking down the walkway or school students completing environmental work.



Pest Control update:

- Goat control strategy: the scheme is working very well with a combined effort from HBRC, DOC and Nga Whenua Rahui. So far 5000 goats have been culled from the area to the benefits of our native trees.
- Whangawehi pest control programme : the group is now managing 350 traps and receives support from a Pest Control Officer.

Monitoring tools:

Two French Students from the National Institute of Agronomy in Toulouse are doing an internship on a community based Insect monitoring tool. The aim is to better measure the impact of the restoration project on the insect population which constitutes the basis of the new food cycle we have created. The two students are also involved in a bird monitoring survey.

Summer programme :

Guided and thematic walks:

The Whangawehi community and landowners are opening up their gates to share their stories with the wider community. This is a unique opportunity to explore one of the most stunning landscapes of New Zealand. Through a series of guided walks from the Mountain to the sea, you will follow the Whangawehi stream through private forest and farmland, visit the restoration project and touch your imagination with its fascinating cultural history. Steeped in rich spiritual and cultural history, Whangawehi is the home of Rongomaiwahine and the walk will offer a glimpse of how New Zealand used to be.

When:

2016

29 December

2017

January 4, 7, 12, 14, 18

Displays :

2017 Mahia market (9 am to 1 pm)

January 8, 22

2017 Wairoa A&P Show (8.am to 3.pm)

January 21

Updates on Whangawehi.com

Mountain bike ride :

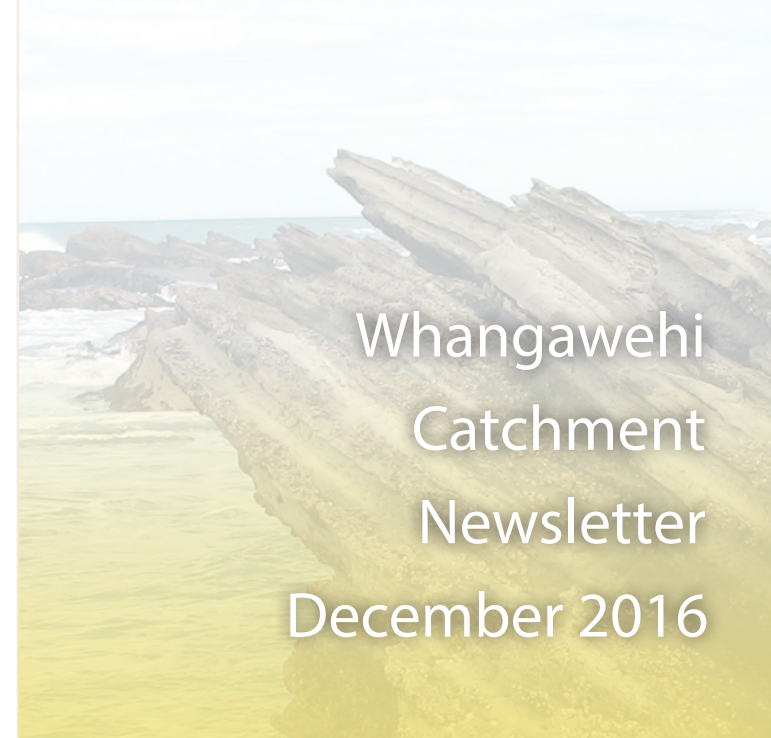
28 January 2017 : Whangawehi ride- 25 km loop over a varied landscape, 4 hours maximum (weather dependent, check whangawehi.com for updates. Postponement date 4 February 2017). \$10 entry covers transport and a donation toward tree planting in the Whangawehi Catchment.



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



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