

25/01/2017

Whangawehi Catchment Management Group
457 Mahia East Coast Road
Mahia 4198
Hawkes Bay

Attn: Nic Caviale

Dear Nic,

Thank you for the opportunity to join one of the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group's guided walks this summer.

We enjoyed the walk from the dramatic ridge overlooking Poverty Bay and Hawkes Bay, through the entire catchment of Whangawehi Stream to the estuary and coast very much. And, we are inspired by the project to protect and enhance the water quality, soil conservation and natural environments of the entire catchment, which includes many landowners and a diverse range of land uses – private forest plantations, DoC Scenic reserve, remnant bush patches in tributaries, sheep and cattle farming, Wairoa District Council reserves etc.

In the Gisborne region, there is the potential for a similar opportunity with the Wharekopae Stream and catchment, a much enjoyed area including the Rere falls, rockslide and champagne pools, within a catchment of a diversity of land uses. In this example, there is also the opportunity for a walking track within the catchment.

As a walking group, we are keen to support initiatives to enhance public access within areas of interest in New Zealand. We support the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group's proposal for the currently guided walk (with permission granted from the landowners on agreed dates) to become accessible to the public as an established walking track or walkway. We think that, along with the DoC Kinikini Reserve, such a walking track would be well used by local and regional residents, as well as visitors to the area, and would provide an opportunity for ongoing education about stream and bush restoration, and sustainable land use in a way which is accessible to everyone.

Best wishes for the achievement of the goals of your Group.

Gillian Ward, President, Gisborne Canoe and Tramping Club

Kiaora Nicolas

I am SO impressed with the achievements of the Whangawehi Organisation at Mahia. For years nothing changed and only the beaches were accessible. It's awesome now and promises much for the future if you continue at this rate.

My first awareness was when your group organised the MTB fun ride from the Marina in Mahia, up the Kinikini Road to shortly before the DOC Kinikini Track. From there we went on a wonderful cross country downhill bike ride through the forest and out along the grasslands, following the river, which ended up at the mouth of the Whangawehi River at the sea. Me and my friend cycled the whole way, but were very impressed with the supply of a bus up the gravel road to the track start and picking up again at the track end on the road at Whangawehi river mouth. The bus made the MTB ride, totally user friendly and safe, available for all the family. AND it was organised to the last detail with lots of back up and tail end Charlies to look after us all. There were even photos taken of us all!

My second experience was going on a guided walk on the Whangawehi Track. I was told lots of fascinating facts about the area and local culture was explained. It was all very interesting and informal. The guides kept us all onboard, keen to learn more, for the duration of the walk. The pest control systems being put into place are first class and I have shared some of their pest control devices and advice with friends. I was very impressed with the whare; built to give shelter to walkers and bikers

I wish you all the best for your future projects - if anyone can make a positive change to this world, then that is your organisation.

My local group, The Women's Native Tree Project Trust, have donated trees to the Whangawehi Trust and are very happy to give more, as they have not only succeeded in planting the right trees in the right place, but have continued to look after the trees to ensure their survival.

I strongly feel that this group have achieved more than any other group I have been associated with or are aware of. And they have planned an achievable dream of making Mahia pest free.

Ka Kite Ano
Katrina Hughes

Hi Nicolas,
The fifth family are keen mountain bikers and believe there is a real shortage of formal MTB tracks in the mahia region, so we support a track being made on the Whangawehi catchment area.
This would not only be a great asset for locals, but would make a great day trip for tourists.
Regards
Simon Firth

To whom it may concern, I fully support the WMBG in the construction of future pathways and community based incentives. I think it would provide a great asset to this area which is lacking in these kind of facilities.

Kind Regards,

Hi, the whangawehi walkway cycleway could be a wonderful asset for mahia. Good luck!
Kind regards Ric