

## Potential Beef & Lamb project

In November 2018, Suzanne Keeling and William MacMillan came to meet with the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group in regards to a research project. Beef and Lambs current research projects are based around 5 key themes; the concept of regenerative farming and what it means to the farming community, forage systems for the Hill Country, a new land use classification system, community engagement looking at different ways of linking the hill country and farming community & branding.

Pat indicated that the concept of having this type of research project on the peninsula was really positive.



## Grandy Lake Forest sign the WCMG Covenant

The entire riparian zone at Whangawehi is now completely covenanted. That's 65 ha in total over 4 estates. On the 5th December 2018, Ken Osborn signed the Whangawehi Conservation Management Agreement. A big thank you to Ken and the new Forest Manager Lindsay Robinson for embracing our Kaupapa. This document will give confidence to our sponsors that the investment they have made will now be protected for 25 years.

## The Mangatupae project gets underway

Locals Pat O'Brien and Farm Manager Josh Rofe were happy to have Trevor Telfort back (our local earth moving contractor) on Taharoa Trust to blade the new fence line for the Mangatupae restoration project. The Mangatupae stream is a highly erodible short and steep catchment. The lower reaches have been already retired but the upper catchment was a challenging section.



In order to retire the stream, Pat had to retire a substantial amount of land (15 ha). The stream exclusion includes the retirement of an existing bush block of 5 ha. The steep land that will remain grazed by stock is currently being planted with native trees used as soil conservation trees. The work done will be used to showcase best practise in a steep hill country environment.

A crowd funding campaign with Million Meters will start soon so check out their website and donate: <https://millionmetres.org.nz/>

## Yearly Insect Monitoring shows positive result

In early November 2018, Janice Edwards and Pat O'Brien laid out our insect traps as part of the yearly WCMG insect monitoring programme. This year we have observed an increase in the number of families captured. It is encouraging to see that the young forest growing along the river is now increasing the local biodiversity providing a food source for all sorts of creatures. A big thank you to Janice for this



very laborious task of counting large numbers of very tiny bugs. The information provided is extremely valuable as it demonstrates the beneficial change generated by the project overtime

## Mahia Pest Free update

The Whakatipu Mahia project team have been busily preparing and planning for the on ground work starting on Onenui Station. The final operation plan has been signed off and two new predator control assistants, Michaela King-Peters (Maungaharuru Tangitū) and Kaya Cooper (Rongomaiwahine Iwi) recently came on board.



## Hawkes Bay Trail Run

Jamie and Rachel from Hawkes Bay Trail Run visited the Whangawehi to meet with landowners and discover the unlimited possibilities available in terms of tracks and run options. The catchment offers a balanced variety of contours amongst farmland, forestry and coastal cliffs. These sceneries are unique and are one of the best in Hawkes Bay. Keep the trail run in mind and when the dates are organized we will let you know. A big thank you to our landowners who have opened their gates and offered their time and support to this event. The WCMG is continuing to raise awareness around the importance of protecting our waterways. The run will showcase what farmers can do when working alongside Marae, school and agencies. Participants will be encouraged to join the team for our upcoming planting weekends.



## Whangawehi walkway is going ahead

On Thursday 13th February 2019, Sir Michael Fay, owner of Pongaroa Station agreed to work with the New Zealand Access Commission to create (along with other landowners) the first official walkway in the catchment. Michael Fay joins Pat & Sue O'Brien who signed on in 2017.

On Wednesday the 20th of March 2019, Ken Osborn, Managing Director for Grandy Lake Forest, signed the letter of intent allowing the walkway project to progress in the forest. This is a great news. A big thank you to Ken and Lindsay Robinson, new Forest Manager for Grandy Lake Forest for allowing the Whangawehi walkway to proceed.

A meeting was held with the NZ Access Commission to prepare the next step which will be the survey of the route in order to create an easement.



## Visit to Mangaharuru

On Saturday 16th of February, several members of the WCMG including Sophie Dodd, Rae Te Nahu and Toria Te Nahu attended a blessing ceremony organised by Mangaharuru Tangitu Trust in Tutira. The day went extremely well with the unveiling of a Pou Whenua and the blessing of a funeral site for birds. The WCMG attended a similar event in 2015. It was good to see the project progressing well with birds returning to the colony. Maybe one day, a similar project could take place in the catchment.

## Winter activities

### Awards celebration :

You are all invited to celebrate with the WCMG community the victory of the International Asia Pacific River Awards.



BYO at the Mokotahi hall, Mahia – 5/03/2019 6pm

### Winter plantings :

- Taharoa Trust : 1637 Mahia East Coast Road : Date : 4th of May, 9 am start

### Trail run :

- Hawkes Bay Trail Run : come along for a wonderful run experience. Date: To be confirmed



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# Whangawehi Catchment Newsletter March 2019

