

Te Aratia walkway update

- On the 14th of October 2020, the carpentry section of EIT started the construction of a waharoa at the entrance of the Whangawehi walkway. Under the leadership of EIT Tutor and local Master Builder Will Keruru, 14 students have



used this community project as a case study in their curriculum. The walkway offers a great opportunity for the Whangawehi Catchment Group to partner with tertiary institutes like EIT to offer real scenario training opportunities. The partnership will be extended in February 2020 with the beginning of a 15-week environmental management course allowing students to obtain a NZ Certificate in Primary Industry Operational skills level 3.

- On the 6th of November 2020, Rex Graham Chair of the Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Cr Hinewai Ormsby, Councillor for HBRC and Cameron Osmond Region Manager for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment came to visit the restoration project. The trip started at the entrance of the Whangawehi walkway and finished on Taharoa Trust. The day went well and was a good opportunity for the WCMG team to advocate for the up and coming work and develop relationships.



- On the 7th of December 2020, Reta Pohe, local Minister blessed the workers and the machineries that will be involved in the construction of the Te Aratia walkway. Reta shared with the ropu his connection with the river and his pleasure to be able to contribute with his own skills to this fantastic community project.



- Mid December 2020, Archaeologist Kevin Jones was on site to make sure the construction of the walkway was undertaken in accordance with the management plan approved by Heritage New Zealand. Several culverts have been already installed along the brand new track. A big thank you to Bevan Parker, Farm Manager on Pongaroa Station for being accommodating and allowing some fences to be shifted in order to save time and money. The track is now formed on 500 m approximately, but we ask the public to respect the NO ENTRY sign at the entrance for health and safety reasons.

Restoration update on Pongaroa Station

Pongaroa Station Farm Manager, Bevan Parker just finished a large-scale restoration project with the retirement and establishment of 16,000 plants in 3 gully systems flowing into the Whangawehi stream. The farm is committed to enhance the Whangawehi Catchment and retires every year marginal land for biodiversity and erosion control. The momentum is not stopping there, next year's restoration project is quite ambitious and will look at enhancing the front part of the property.



Jobs for Nature

On the 14th of September 2020, the WCMG was officially made the recipient of a government scheme initiated to stimulate the economy post COVID 19. After several days of work on Health and Safety, the WCMG was allowed to induct 6 FTE. Through the scheme, 6 FTE have been funded for an initial duration of 8 weeks. Since then, the scheme has been extended. The group carries out environmental work in Mahia with a focus on the Whangawehi catchment. All staff have



followed a series of training to be able to carry out their work. Well done to the Sustainable Business Network team for their ongoing support.

Haere ra Kathleen

In November 2020, the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group was saddened by the loss of Group's founder and Leader Kathleen Mato.

Kathleen initiated the group in 2010 when Wairoa District Council was looking at upgrading the septic system in Mahia Beach. Kathleen and Pera Edwards saw an opportunity to work collaboratively with agencies to future proof the Whangawehi river and leverage a full size restoration project. Kathleen was extremely dedicated to Mahia. She was involved in several Committees and gave a lot of her time to make sure the Taio was taken care of. She will be missed by us all but her legacy will continue to thrive thanks to her ability to bring around to the project genuine and passionate people.



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