



NEWS AND EVENTS FROM AROUND OUR REGION: JUNE 2017

FIND OUT MORE AT: WWW.HBRC.GOVT.NZ • 0800 108 838  HBREGIONALCOUNCIL



Whangawehi Winners!



Congratulations to Whangawehi Catchment Group - 2017 Green Ribbon Supreme Award Winners.

The award was announced on 8 June by Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith and Associate Conservation Minister Nicky Wagner. The Whangawehi Catchment Management Group was thrilled to win the Caring for Our Water Award, then were completely overwhelmed when they were announced as the Supreme Winner.

HBRC Chairman Rex Graham says, "I'm absolutely delighted for them and it could not go to a more deserving group. Their success is due to an active community driving a project that all of us can get behind. It's a model for the future."

Over the past six years, the group has fenced off the waterway, planted 42 hectares of native trees, retired 5

hectares of native bush, and designed debris dams to capture silt. The result: increased schools of whitebait, more long fin eels and a 15% increase in the recreational status of the water quality. Hawke's Bay Regional Council is involved in the group and supports a project manager.

"This Supreme Award for a community-led waterway clean-up is important as it signals what is needed across thousands of rivers and streams across New Zealand. The Whangawehi Catchment Management Group is a powerful model of what is possible," said Minister for the Environment, Dr Smith.

The Whangawehi Group has regular planting days that volunteers can join - discover more at whangawehi.nz