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July 2014

Whangawehi Catchment Management Group represent Wairoa District at National Community Awards

A group made up of landowners, tangata whenua and agencies all interested in protecting the Whangawehi River represented the Wairoa District at the 2013 Trustpower National Community Awards.

This event was held on 21 - 23 March 2014 in the Invercargill and Southland districts. The Whangawehi Catchment Management Group won the honour to represent the Wairoa District at the National Community Awards by taking home the Supreme Award at the 2013 Trustpower Wairoa Community Awards in November 2013.

The Whangawehi Catchment Management Group's work includes a substantial number of projects – from an archaeological and spiritual survey of the catchment, to securing funding to help landowners with their restoration work, establishing a goat control strategy to protect future plantings and training 15 local people to monitor their waterways.

And it doesn't stop there. This voluntary group has secured funding for a local coordinator and a team of field assistants to conduct fish and water surveys over three years, as well as funding for 22,500 plants and a fence to help protect part of this special area too.



From left: Nicolas Caviale-Delzescaux, Kathleen Mato and Wairoa District Mayor Craig Little.

This group is ensuring that knowledge gained from this project is shared through presentations and seminars and a programme at Te Mahia School which will see a different environmental focus introduced each term, like kaimoana and fresh water monitoring, planting work and weaving.

At the Trustpower National Community Awards, the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group was represented by Kathleen Mato and Nicolas Caviale-Delzescaux and they were accompanied by Wairoa District Mayor Craig Little and his wife Jan. The Whangawehi Catchment Management Group was joined by 24 other voluntary groups and organisations from around New Zealand at the Trustpower National Community Awards.

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