



CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Kia Ora. The Whangāhau Catchment Group deserve their honour as this year's Supreme Winner of the Green Ribbon Awards.

They didn't form the group or start the work six years ago looking for recognition. They simply saw a job to do, rolled up their sleeves and got on with it.

Look at Whangāhau now - fenced waterways, 42 hectares planted in native trees, native bush protected - the aquatic life and water quality is improving, so huge congratulations to all involved.

There is a lot to be said for taking action. Start with the problem, have a plan of what you want to achieve, and at least a sense of how you're going to get there, then get on with it.

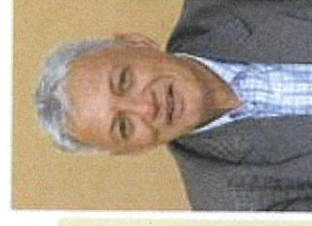
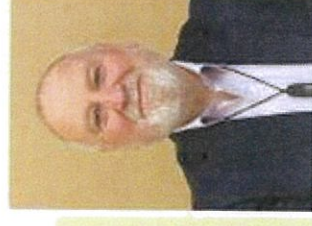
While our Joint Planning Committee doesn't have the opportunity or mandate to be so directly involved, our partnership of Tāngata Whenua and Pakeha exists to deliver plans and policies that enhance the state of the region's natural resources.

The Heretaunga Plains project called TANK (Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri estuary, Ngaruroro and Karamū) will recommend options to us for a new Plan to manage the area where 85% of Hawke's Bay people live, work and play. It's a massive project to fix the land use issues that transform pristine waterways near the ranges to sediment-rich outflows at the coast.

Through this process and the many committed stakeholders helping us, we hope to improve oxygen levels, lower water temperatures, sediment and nutrient levels, and reduce stormwater contaminants. This is not for recognition, but to fix long-term issues.

Kia Kaha!

Rex Graham and Toio Waaka co-chair the region's Joint Planning Committee, which looks after Hawke's Bay's natural environment.



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