

Community planting on Okepuha Station

A big thank you to all the volunteers who came to support the Whangawehi planting on Okepuha Station. The weather was challenging but overall, we established 5 500 trees in 5 hours. Richard Coop organized a very generous barbecue to make sure all our volunteers had enough energy to complete the task! Okepuha Station retired 14 ha of riparian margin and will establish 25 000 native trees during winter 2017.



Green Ribbon Award

On the 10th of June, the WCMG was awarded two significant awards at Parliament in Wellington. The group won the Award in the "Caring for our water category" and the Supreme Award for 2017. Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment explained "the WCMG is a powerful model of what is possible". HBRC Chairman Rex Graham said "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"



Water and fish monitoring

On the 8th of May 2017, HBRC undertook a fish monitoring survey on the Whangawehi stream (on Taharoa Trust).

Arthur Bowen, Cultural Health Index Coordinator, noticed a high number in small eels with an increasing number of short fin eels. He also reported that an uncommon fish in Hawkes Bay, the Crane bully was found also.

Another good news was the demonstration by HBRC that the work done had improved significantly the recreational status of the stream (by 15%).



Funders gathering

On the 10th of April 2017, Whangawehi sponsors gathered at Tuahuru Marae to celebrate the work done along the Whangawehi stream. After 4 years of work, the group wanted to thank the different organizations involved and show them the fruit of their investments.

Rex Graham, new Chairman of the Hawkes Bay regional Council was extremely supportive and impressed by the work done and saw a template that could be transferred to other groups. All our visitors were impressed and realized how committed the people of Mahia are in terms of restoring their environment.



School update :

Te Mahia students have been busy with 6 workshops delivered since the beginning of the year. Some of the highlights are the “harvest and Master chef cook off” where students learnt how to harvest sustainably kaimoana and cook it. The other highlight was the completion of a waiata on the Whangawehi river. Well done to Te Mahia school.



Summer Programme 2018:

- Guided walks : 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th of January 2018
- Mahia Market : 7th and 14th of January 2018
- Wairoa A&P Show : January 2018 (date to be confirmed)

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