

Catchment Group Stories

Tasman/Aorere | JULY 2024



Te Tai o Aorere

Community/Catchment Groups

Three local community groups operating in the area include:

Otuwhero Wetland Trust

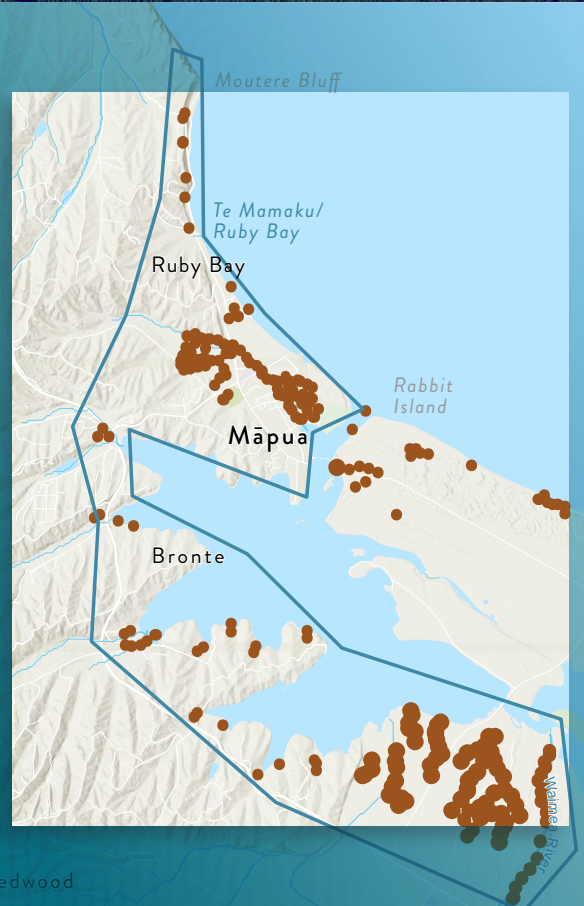
The Otuwhero Valley has a high diversity of landscapes and ecosystems, with streams, estuary, alluvial flats, and hills combining to produce an area high in conservation values. It's a stronghold for banded rail and fernbird, and hosts an important īnanga/whitebait spawning area. The restoration area encompasses approximately 10 hectares of sedgeland, and 25 hectares of alluvial flats, through which the Otuwhero Stream flows.

Māpua Wildlife Corridors

A group that aim to create bird corridors in Māpua to enhance habitat connectivity and support native species' movement and biodiversity.

Waimea Inlet Forum Groups

A collaborative forum for stakeholders and community groups to protect and manage the Waimea Inlet's ecological and cultural values.





Inanga eggs © EOS Ecology



We're still fizzing from your workshop!

*exclaimed **Lou Gallagher, Māpua Wildlife Corridors**, capturing the excitement and positive impact generated by these sessions. The project has set the stage for continued community engagement and action in protecting the precious inanga and their habitats.*



Pearl Creek inanga spawning site

Īnanga Spawning Sites in Your Backyard!



Sparking Enthusiasm for Īnanga Conservation

Under the 'Wai Connection' project, in collaboration with **NZ Landcare Trust**, the **Tasman Bay Guardians** recently conducted a series of five dynamic, two-hour workshops across the Tasman Region. These workshops aimed to spark enthusiasm and deepen understanding of beloved Īnanga species in Aotearoa. They also served as a platform to share both historical and recent knowledge on Īnanga spawning survey sites gathered through the team's surveys during the 2020–24 spawning seasons.



Addressing Community Needs

The initiative sought to address community needs by supporting established groups like the **Otuwhero Wetland Trust**, **Māpua Wildlife Corridors**, and the **Waimea Inlet Forum Groups**. By highlighting the life cycle, spawning habitats, and protection of Īnanga, the workshops aimed to raise awareness about our waterways. This was especially important because Īnanga spawning sites, often located near human habitation, are particularly vulnerable. This concern is encapsulated in the slogan, 'Īnanga spawning sites in your backyard!'



Mapping Potential Spawning Areas

With the help of the Tasman District Council's GIS team, detailed maps were created to identify potential spawning areas based on elevation and saltwater influence within targeted catchments. These maps were disseminated through flyers and targeted letterbox drops to landowners and residents near likely spawning sites, enhancing the potential for community action.



Positive Community Response

The response to the workshops was overwhelmingly positive. Participants were eager to learn about the Īnanga life cycle, how to identify spawning sites, and practical methods for protecting and restoring these areas. Despite their familiarity with the species, many people were unaware of these critical aspects. The project's guiding principle, 'tell me, and I will likely forget, show me, and I might remember, involve me, and I will understand,' proved effective in fostering community involvement and understanding.



Building Community Support for Environmental Efforts

The workshops not only brought communities and neighbours together but also sparked new support for existing environmental groups. This synergy was evident in the invigorating discussions about local waterways and the renewed interest in local environmental stewardship. Encouraged by the success, the Tasman Bay Guardians plan to extend these workshops to other areas, such as urban Motueka and Tākaka, to engage even more locals and landowners.

Community groups are now engaged in predator control when eggs are present at the sites.



Further Information

To learn more about the catchment/community groups featured in this story, or how 'Wai Connection – Taitai Ki Te Wai' is supporting them in the Tasman/Aorere region, please contact:

MONIQUE PATTERSON | Tasman Bay Guardians
'Wai Connection' Catchment Coordinator/Connector
monique@mountainstosea.org.nz

 www.tasmanbayguardians.org.nz

All images © Tasman Bay Guardians, unless otherwise stated

