

Catchment Group Story

Northland/Te Tai Tokerau | NOVEMBER 2024



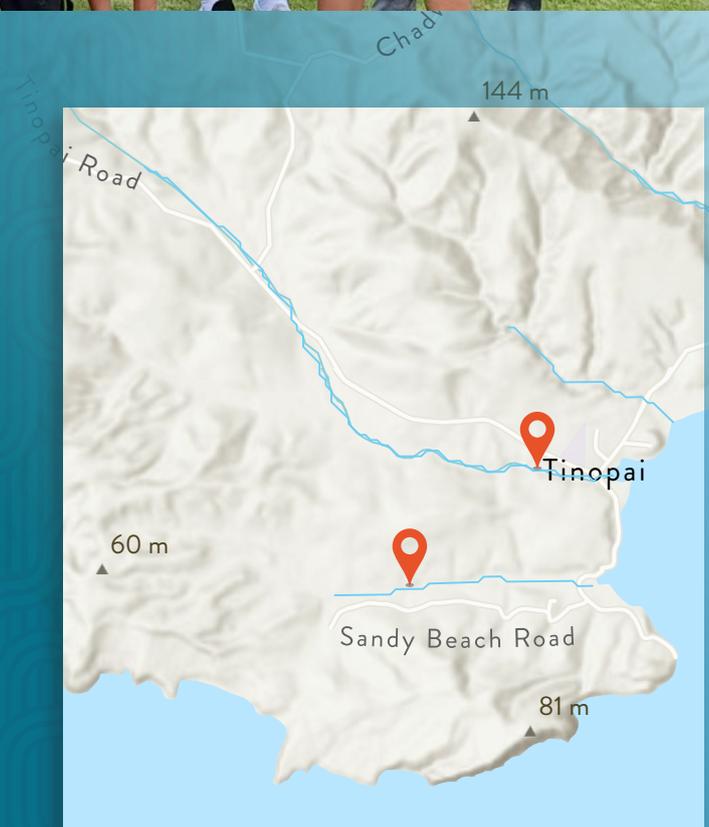
Tinopai Resource Management Unit

Te Kahakaha Stream, Kaipara Harbour Catchment, Whangaroa

Tinopai Resource Management Unit (RMU) began in 2016 after realising a holistic approach was needed to prevent the cumulative degradation suffered by the Coastal Marine Area and Kaipara Harbour, which adversely affects Kaipara moana, tangata whenua and the Tinopai community.

‘Wai Connection – Tata Ki Te Wai’ has been supporting Tinopai RMU to achieve their aspirations of restoring their waterways by planting to reduce the impact of sediment, and conducting water quality monitoring.

Tinopai RMU is working alongside Tinopai School students to carry out water quality monitoring, and the school principal, Maree Rossiter, is keen to get the kids involved with the community, and encourage them to be kaitiaki of their whenua.





The 'Wai Connection' freshwater monitoring programme has allowed mana whenua to engage with the Tinopai School and the tamariki so that we can show the next generations possible future career options in kaitiakitanga.

MINA HENARE – Tinopai RMU



PHOTO CAPTIONS – Front page: 1. CBFM training with a SHMAK provided by Northland Regional Council Enviroschools to Tinopai School. **Page left: 2.** CBFM training – working out the clarity averages in the field. **3.** Water sample taken from the Upper reaches of Stage 2 Puapua Creek. **4.** Kaumatua Mikaera Miru watching over the water testing process. **5.** Kaumatua Mikaera Miru helping tamariki with testing water clarity. **Page right: 2.** Tamariki from Tinopai School testing water clarity. **Back page: 7.** The science – phosphate testing with Tinopai RMU and Tinopai School. **7.** Tamariki from Tinopai School carrying out water testing.

Restoring Te Kahaka Stream & Puapua Creek Wetlands



Community Planting

In his capacity as Te Uri o Hau Trustee, Mikaera Miru instigated the replanting of Puapua Creek wetland in 2013 in conjunction with the landowner Mr Liangren and the Tinopai School. Tinopai RMU took over the planting programme in 2016 and has planted native trees in the wetland on a yearly basis.

More recently, Tinopai RMU has planted a few thousand trees along Puapua Creek in 2022, alongside Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) – Stage 1. This was a community day where they had the school and local community members join to collectively help plant out the creek. Tinopai RMU have secured the planting of Stage 2, being the property above Stage 1, with the consent of the Liangren Family Trust. They plan to continue their planting efforts over the next few years, and 'Wai Connection' will be supporting them with their aspirations.



Community Partnerships

Tinopai RMU has good relationships with the landowners at each site, and are determined to continue with this mahi. Their approach is built on mutual respect and shared environmental goals, working closely with local landowners like the Liangren Family Trust to ensure sustainable restoration of the Puapua Creek ecosystem. By fostering strong community connections and a collective commitment to environmental stewardship, Tinopai RMU demonstrates how collaborative efforts can make a meaningful difference in local conservation work.



Water Quality Monitoring

Tinopai RMU started their monthly water quality testing in April 2024 with the help of Tinopai School students, the principal, and a volunteer. The monitoring is taking place in Stage 2, and will provide crucial scientific insights into the environmental restoration efforts. By engaging local students and community members in this important work, they're not only collecting valuable data, but also educating the next generation about environmental monitoring and stream health.

They will carry out ongoing monitoring of Puapua Creek and Te Kahakaha Stream – focusing on key water quality indicators that are of most concern being:

- » nitrates
- » phosphates
- » *e. coli*
- » water clarity.

The outcomes of these monthly tests will be able to record any positive results from the wetland replanting in Stage 2, into the future this provides a scientific baseline for tracking environmental improvements from restoration efforts.



Next Steps



'Wai Connection' will continue to support Tinopai RMU and the school with monthly water quality monitoring until the group feels they can do it on their own. Tinopai RMU members will be attending a funding workshop being organised by 'Wai Connection', which will provide information on where to source the funding required to meet the groups objectives, and how to write an effective funding application.

Tinopai RMU have secured a verbal agreement from NZ Forestry Management to protect a larger wetland found at Takaokao Creek (also known as Parry Road Wetland). This wetland is a level 1 Wetland and in the top 150 wetlands notified by Northland Regional Council as a significant natural area and of National Importance. Tinopai RMU instigated a pest control programme but this was halted due to the kaitiaki obtaining paid work.

It's Tinopai RMU's intention to:

- » re-institute the pest control programme first initiated in 2017
- » working with NZ Forestry Management and the landowner to establish a 10-metre-plus riparian margin for native tree planting
- » creating paid mahi for kaitiaki to prepare the site, plant the trees and maintain the site.

To learn more about the Tinopai RMU, or how 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai' is supporting them, please contact:

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