

Catchment Group Story

Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau | DECEMBER 2024



Wai Manawa Catchment Coalition

Wai Manawa/Little Shoal Bay, Waitematā Harbour

The Wai Manawa Catchment Coalition is made up of community members from:

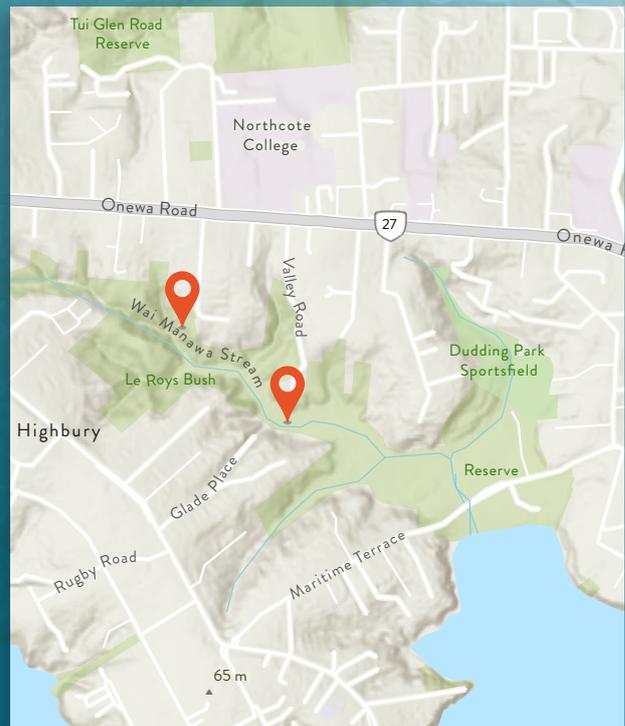
- » Friends of Le Roys Bush
- » Pest Free Kaipātiki
- » teachers from Birkenhead Primary & Northcote College
- » other passionate, dedicated individuals.

The members' interests vary, with key focuses ranging from slip stabilisation and track remediation, coastal inundation, and water quality – to pest plant and animal control.

The group's goals include:

- » growing their volunteer base
- » tackling the slips that have affected the Le Roys Bush walking tracks/Wai Manawa stream.

To spark more interest in volunteering, 'Wai Connection – Tātai Ki Te Wai' are running community engagement events throughout 2024 and 2025.





From the Water to the Bush on a Kayaking Adventure

Wai Manawa Paddle Day

SATURDAY, 1 JUNE 2024: The Wai Manawa Catchment Coalition hosted a vibrant Paddle Day at Little Shoal Bay, recognising it as a fantastic way to engage the community in catchment activities. Alongside an exciting kayaking adventure, 60 participants were treated to a guided walk through Le Roys Bush, offering a chance to explore the diverse freshwater flora and fauna the catchment has to offer.



Kayaking Adventure

The kayaking component of the event was supported by 'Wai Connection' and the Kaipātiki Local Board, with coordination by Experiencing Marine Reserves and kayaks supplied by Auckland Sea Kayaks. Guided by expert instructors, participants explored the manawa/mangroves, encountering native birdlife such as kāruhiruhi/pied shags and matuku moana/white-faced herons.

During their paddle, the group was also shown areas along the Little Shoal Bay coast where slips have caused significant sedimentation, and damage to property, providing a clear demonstration of the environmental challenges faced by the region.



Guided Walk Experience

The guided walk provided a great opportunity to promote volunteerism to locals, as many hundreds of volunteer hours of pest weed mahi, and native plantings have been undertaken by Friends of Le Roys Bush throughout the past decades. It was a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate this amazing group of volunteers.

The group was led upstream from the manawa to the raupō-dominated wetland, where they were informed this is where the team hopes to find evidence of īnanga spawning activity. Further up, a flowing stream could be seen, with bountiful native vegetation, including carex grasses, tī kōuka/cabbage trees, harakeke, nīkau kiekie, and even many mighty kauri trees.

There was also a chance to get involved in measuring the water clarity, and dissolved oxygen concentrations of the awa, showcasing community-based freshwater monitoring methods. At the uppermost part of the walk, severe slips which have cut off access to the beautiful cascading waterfall, and contributed to sediment loading of the stream, were pointed out.

Everyone delighted in catching shrimp from the awa, and learning how surveying freshwater creatures can indicate stream health.



Community Efforts & Advocacy

Local groups, including Pest Free Kaipātiki, are working hard to address the issue of landslips and sedimentation in the area. Their commitment to raising awareness and supporting slip stabilisation initiatives is an essential part of maintaining the health and sustainability of Little Shoal Bay for the benefit of the community, and the local ecosystem. Interested community members can find valuable resources and learn more about slip stabilisation efforts by visiting Pest Free Kaipātiki's dedicated online resource at www.pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz/slip-stabilisation.

PHOTO CAPTIONS – Front page: 1. Participants line up to start their adventure in Little Shoal Bay. **Page left:** 2. The group being shown around the manawa/mangroves. 3. Kayaking in Little Shoal Bay. 4. Participants gathering for the all-important safety briefing. 5. The usual hangout spots for īnanga and banded kōkopu were peered into along the way. 6. Whānau looking at the abundance of freshwater shrimp caught from the awa. 7. One of our valued 'Wai Connection' Catchment Coordinators supporting the large group of walkers. **Back page:** 8. A helpful tamarii assists with the clarity tube to assess water clarity. 9. Participants walking up from the lowest end of the catchment to enter Le Roys Bush. 10. The group listening to one of our valued volunteers.

Next Steps



The Wai Manawa Catchment Coalition members each have wonderful aspirations for their awa.

They're excited to continue the year with enthusiasm, building towards achieving their goals. Local schools are also getting more involved in catchment activities.



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

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FRIENDS OF LE ROYS BUSH

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