

Catchment Group Story

Canterbury/Waitaha | JUNE 2024



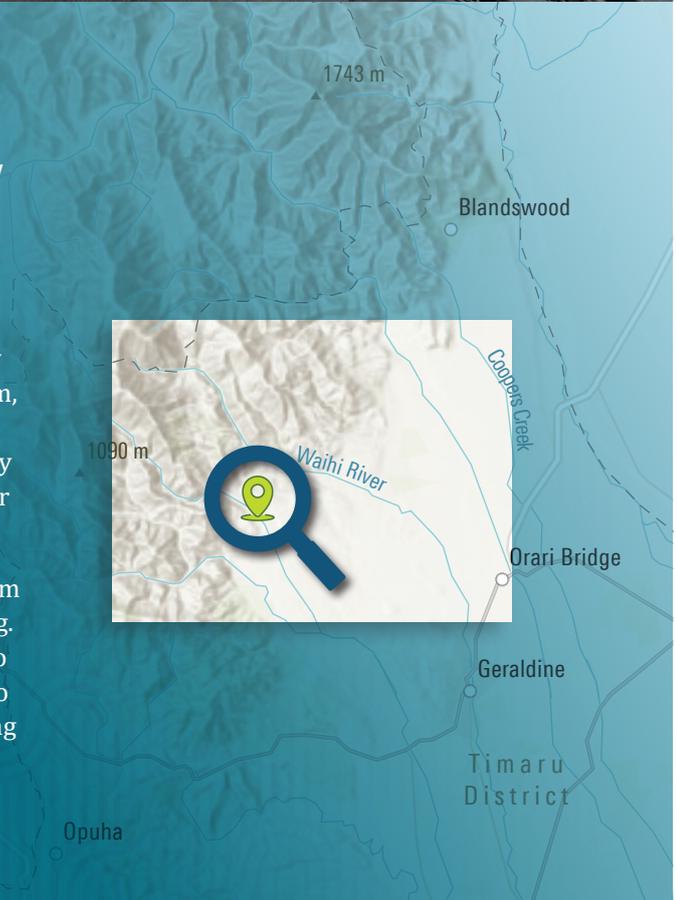
Te Moana River Rally

Hae Hae Te Moana River North Branch, Woodbury, South Canterbury

Our story with Te Moana began in February 2024, when our EOS Ecology 'Wai Connection' team went for a walk along the Hae Hae Te Moana River North Branch with landowner Tracey McKay. There isn't much water quality data available about this waterway, and as at the start of 2024, there was no local catchment group.

During our walk, we were thrilled to find an abundance of highly sensitive macroinvertebrate indicator species living in the stream, including green stonefly nymphs (*Stenoperla*). We agreed this would be an amazing location to use to help bring the community together to connect with their waterway...and the Te Moana River Rally was born.

In preparation for the Te Moana River Rally, our EOS Ecology team returned to Woodbury in March to take eDNA samples for testing. Some local community members came along, and learned how to take active eDNA samples – so we had six replicates to send off to Wilderlab for analysis. The data obtained from that eDNA training session helped shed more light on the ecology of the Hae Hae Te Moana River North Branch, and went on to become the basis for our educational messages at the Te Moana River Rally.





Being able to tap into the expertise of the 'Wai Connection' freshwater ecologists was awesome – their enthusiasm to share knowledge was infectious. We are fortunate to live in a community that is really engaged in environmental matters, so having a community education day at the river seemed logical.

TRACEY MCKAY – Landowner



The Te Moana River Rally was a great example of what Catchment Groups are about; people who are connected to their land and waterways, using local knowledge to improve decision making, monitoring progress, and encouraging change by learning from each other.

DANETTE McKEOWN
Living Landscapes South Canterbury



TE MOANA River Rally

- On 14 April 2024, EOS Ecology led an event at the McKays' property in Woodbury. We had multiple aims, including:
- » engage the local community with their awa through discovering some of the freshwater creatures that call it home
 - » connect local groups working in the water quality space with each other
 - » gauge local interest in forming a catchment group for the Hae Hae Te Moana North Branch.



Participants discovered how healthy the awa is through learning about freshwater ecology in a macroinvertebrate sampling workshop, stream health assessment, and riparian planting. We also presented the results of our earlier eDNA sampling round, and discussed how this can complement other methods to understand freshwater catchments. While our EOS Ecology team could cover the freshwater ecology side of things, the River Rally was also supported by Environment Canterbury, Living Landscapes South Canterbury, Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa (Arowhenua Native Nursery) – adding depth to the amount and breadth of learning opportunities available on the day.



The success of the event was largely due to the landowners, Tracey and Andy McKay. Their vision made this event possible, and they brought all the right people together on the day. Community groups need champions, and we think the Te Moana is in safe hands.



The collage features several key documents:

- TE MOANA Survey Results:** A poster summarizing macroinvertebrate species found in the Hae Hae Te Moana River North Branch. It includes a checklist to tick off what's found in kick nets, fyke nets & Gee's minnow traps.
- TE MOANA River Rally:** A poster for the main event on Saturday 13 April, from 9-11:30am at 536 Four Peaks Road, Woodbury. It includes a dress code of gumboots and contact information for Tracey at moanadown@farmside.co.nz.
- Backup Day:** A poster for Sunday 14 April, also from 9-11:30am at the same location.
- Checklist:** A detailed checklist for the survey, listing various species and their status (e.g., 'Seen', 'Not seen').



Next Steps

The River Rally was just the first step of many to come for the Te Moana community in Woodbury. It was a great day, bringing over 60 community members together to learn about stream health, monitoring and ecology. Many attendees on the day expressed interest in forming a catchment group or river care group based around Te Moana.

We look forward to continuing to support them through 'Wai Connection' where we can.



Key groups involved in this River Rally – EOS Ecology, our land management team, landowners and community groups – worked collaboratively to share information and expertise with our local community in a relaxed and interactive way. The day also sparked future engagement opportunities for all those involved, showing the benefit of working together towards common goals.

NICKY REDDECLIFFE
Environment Canterbury



To learn more about the Te Moana wider project, or how 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai' is contributing, please contact:

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