

Catchment Group Story

Canterbury/Waitaha | JANUARY 2025



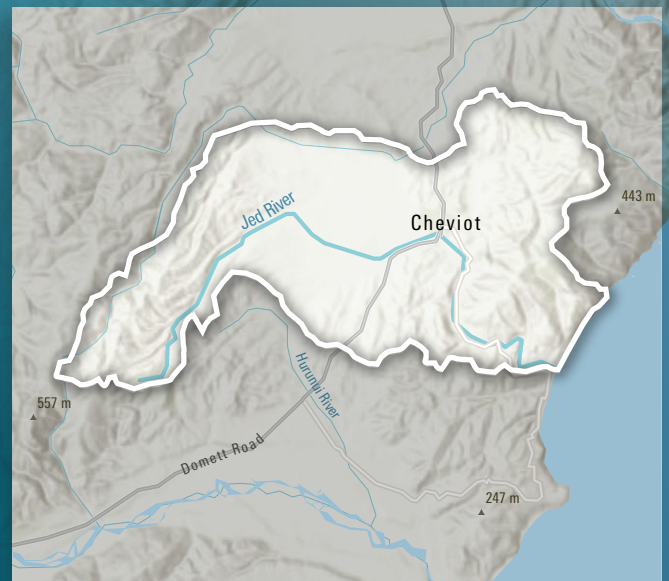
Jed River Catchment Project

Cheviot, Hurunui District, North Canterbury

The Jed River Catchment Project (JRCP), established in 2018, aims to revitalize the local environment and improve catchment health. It's driven by community members, landowners, and rūnanga working together under the Hurunui District Landcare Group (HDLG).

Following a series of community workshops, the common theme that emerged was concern over water quality, particularly due to the signs warning that the Jed was unsafe for swimming. The initial focus centred on Hutchison Reserve and Woolshed Stream (a Jed River tributary) due to their accessibility and visibility.

Since 2023, the 'Wai Connection – Tātai Ki Te Wai' project has supported JRCPs intergenerational mission to enhance the Jed River's health for future generations.

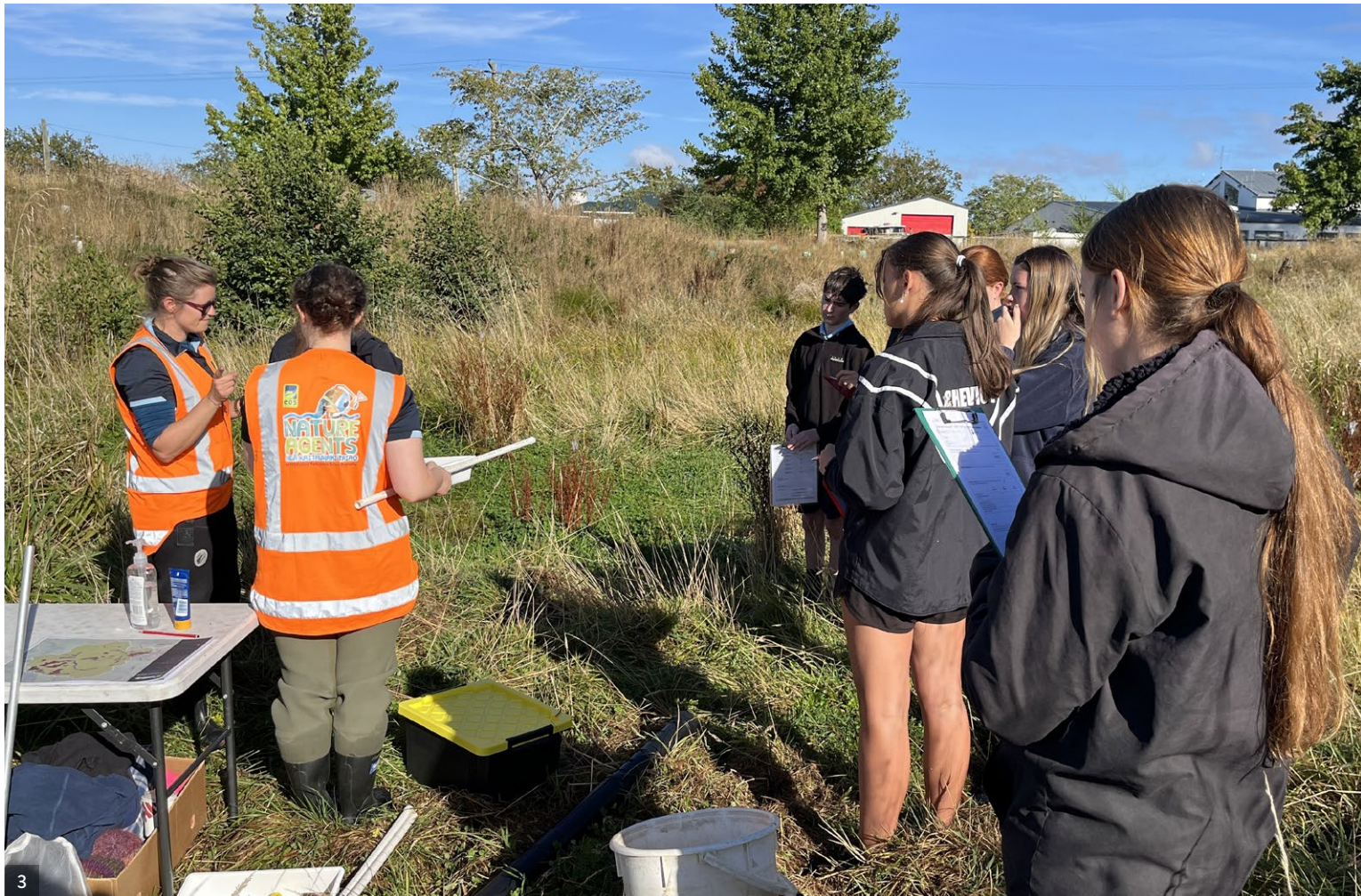




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VISION: The Kōtare/
Kingfisher flies above
a vibrant and healthy
Jed River catchment

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Community Action brings New Life to Jed River



Willow Removal

In 2022, JRCP successfully launched a herbicide-free willow eradication project at Hutchinson Reserve. The approach was developed in collaboration with Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura, and aligns with Te Mana o te Wai and Ngāi Tahu's freshwater priorities.

The work followed Heritage New Zealand's Accidental Discovery Protocols to protect archaeological sites. Local students gained valuable knowledge from Mana Whenua Nukuroa

Tirikatene-Nash about safeguarding Māori and early European archaeological sites, deepening their connection to the land and its history.

The willows were felled, and stumps were either repurposed for plant protection or used as mulch. Black matting was placed over stumps to prevent regrowth, ensuring long-term effectiveness. Since the work began, the group has seen a noticeable increase in biodiversity and is hopeful that more native bird species will return to the area.



School Engagement

Since the willow removal, more than 3,000 native trees – grown from locally sourced seeds – have been planted. Cheviot Area School students played a key role, helping with planting and decorating plant guards, creating a deeper connection to the land. The planting at Hutchison Reserve is part of a broader effort to establish an ecological corridor from the mountains to the sea. This initiative aims to restore the river's natural health, provide essential habitats for native species, and enhance biodiversity.

Students also took part in the EOS Ecology participatory science program 'Nature Agents' through 'Wai Connection,' where they used scientific inquiry to monitor their local awa. Their involvement fosters a generational approach to environmental stewardship, ensuring long-term care for the ecosystem.



Water Quality Monitoring

In 2024, JRCP secured one year of water quality sampling funding from Environment Canterbury, with the support from the 'Wai Connection' project. This monitoring programme will provide crucial insights into catchment health, to guide the group's future mitigation efforts. Group member and restoration ecologist John Preece worked with 'Wai Connection' to develop a comprehensive water quality monitoring plan.

The plan aligns with the nationally recognised Community-based Monitoring Quality Assurance framework and builds on existing knowledge.



Focus Catchment Map Series

In late 2024, the group received a Focus Catchment Map Series at no cost through 'Wai Connection' support, enhancing their ability to understand and manage their catchment.

Next Steps

Looking ahead, the JRCP remains committed to ongoing water quality monitoring, focusing on assessing catchment health and identifying restoration priorities. The data collected will establish a baseline to track progress and measure the success of future mitigation efforts.

Completing development and planting at Hutchison Reserve remains a key priority.

The group is dedicated to building community relationships that inspire sustainable changes in the Jed River catchment area, ensuring a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

With a 50-year intergenerational goal, the project envisions a future where descendants can once again swim, fish, and drink from the Jed River and its tributaries, complemented by a native plant corridor from headwaters to sea – ki uta ki tai.



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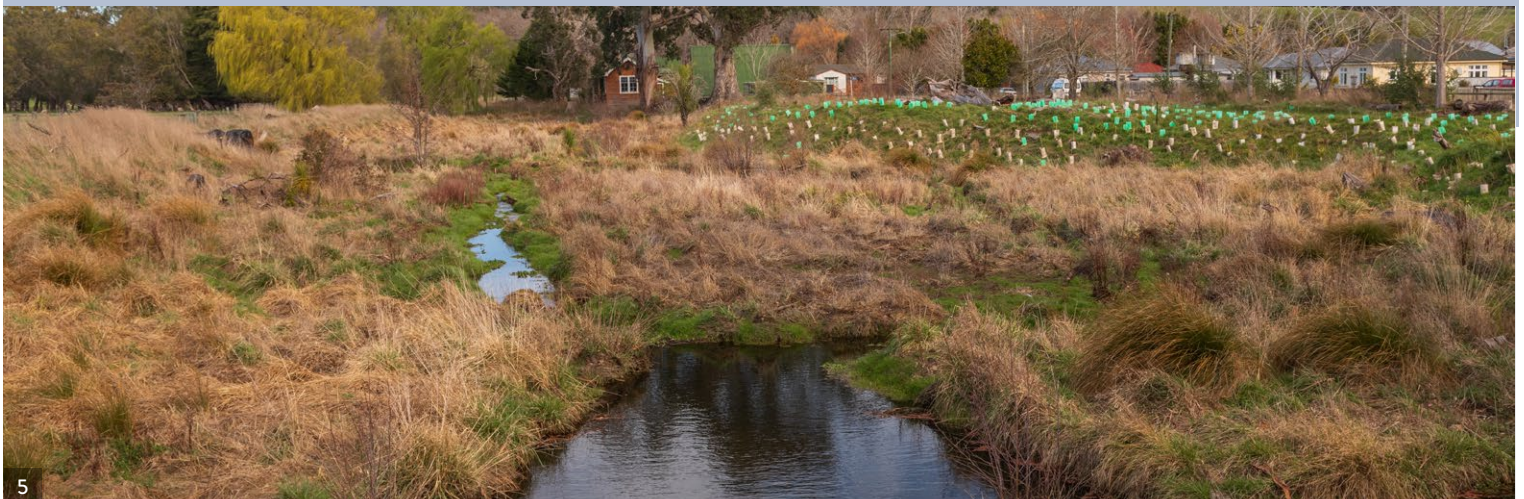
To learn more about the project, or how 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai' is contributing, please contact:

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