

Catchment Group Story

Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau | JANUARY 2025



Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative

Te Kohuroa/Matheson Bay Reserve, Leigh

The Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative aims to collaborate with iwi, organisations, and the wider community to develop a grassroots approach to healing Te Kohuroa's marine ecosystem.

By giving Te Kohuroa a voice — sharing the whakapapa of the bay, its people, and its ecosystem — and integrating traditional ecological management through mātauranga Māori perspectives, we can significantly restore its oranga/wellbeing.

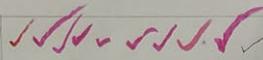
The initiative seeks to develop an inclusive tikanga model that prioritises kaitiakitanga/guardianship as the foundation of its conservation approach. Partnerships with science and conservation groups will strengthen restoration efforts, and support the creation of a long-term, locally led-community programme to enhance the mauri/life force of the bay.



WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE
TE KOHUROA - MATHESON BAY SPACE?



ACCESS TO THE
MOANA



HERITAGE AND HISTORY

✓✓✓✓ would like to know more ✓✓
✓ my family history for me & generations

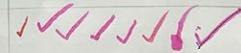
NATURAL BEAUTY



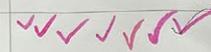
MARINE LIFE



BIRD LIFE



SOCIAL, CULTURAL, COMMUNITY
CONNECTION



STREAM AND WETLAND LIFE

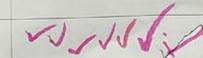


PHOTO CAPTIONS – Front page: 1. Attendees had a great time networking and catching up with fellow community members. Page left: 2. One method used to gather feedback from participants. 3. Tamariki were encouraged to share their thoughts. Back page: 4. Matthew, one of the seven volunteer table hosts, gave a passionate summary of what he heard during the facilitated workshop. 5. Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative community consultation.

In May, the Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative, supported by 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai' and local community members, held a community consultation event to share its vision, and gather feedback to help shape the project's future direction.



Consultation Event Overview

The event was broken into three parts: guest speakers, project displays, and a facilitated feedback workshop.

1. Guest Speakers

Guest speakers included Frances Dickinson, the Project Founder for the Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative, who shared a passionate overview of her experience freediving in Te Kohuroa/Matheson Bay. She talked about the degradation she's seen, which led her to start an inquiry and develop the current project plan.

Dr Kelsey Miller, from the University of Auckland, presented her research on kina barrens and kelp forest restoration, explaining the different methods used to regenerate kelp forests and the surprising tipping points tied to kina barrens.

2. Project Displays

The Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative invited local conservation groups and businesses to showcase their mahi through project displays, which attendees could explore while they enjoyed their lunch. Around 70 attendees took the opportunity to network, chat, and engage with the displays, featuring groups like Pest Free Leigh, The Forest Bridge Trust, Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre, Goat Island Dive & Snorkel, Forest & Bird, Leigh Penguin Project, Leigh School, and 'Wai Connection'.

3. Facilitated Feedback Workshop

The facilitated feedback session was expertly led by Jon Everest and Heidi Borner from Orange Umbrella. Heidi, who is also the Developmental Evaluation Lead for the Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative, worked with the team to organise seven discussion tables.

Each table had a host to guide conversations around specific questions. 'Wai Connection' and local community members volunteered as table hosts, which the Te Kohuroa Rewilding team really appreciated.

Attendees shared their valuable feedback on four key questions. This input was collected and will be summarised by the Te Kohuroa Rewilding team to help refine the project as it moves forward, with an official launch planned for July 2024. They discussed challenges in the marine space and within the community, the underlying causes from both their perspective and Te Kohuroa's, possible responses or solutions, and barriers to progress. This input will be summarised by the Te Kohuroa Rewilding team to guide the project's development.

Key Outcomes

Overall, the community feedback was incredibly positive, showing strong support for the initiative and highlighting some specific concerns that will be taken onboard as the project moves forward.



Community Support and Success

What an impressive event! 'Wai Connection' was in awe of the skills brought by the Te Kohuroa Rewilding team and the amazing community support. Local community members gave up their Saturday to provide home-baking, lend a hand in the kitchen, help with set-up and pack-down, take on the role of table hosts, and bring positive energy to this awesome project. Ka rawe!

Next Steps



The Te Kohuroa Rewilding team will summarize and gather feedback from the event, which has helped inform the ongoing pilot program that launched in September 2024 and runs through June 2025.

‘Wai Connection’ will keep supporting the Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative by adding freshwater and catchment elements to the project and helping to involve the wider community in freshwater education and protection.



To learn more about the Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative, or how ‘Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai’ is supporting them, please contact:

TE KOHUROA REWILDING INITIATIVE

tekohuroarewilding@gmail.com

www.tekohuroarewilding.org

HANA AICKIN | Mountains to Sea

‘Wai Connection’ Catchment Coordinator

hana.a@mountainstosea.org.nz

www.mountainstosea.org.nz

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