

Catchment Group Story

Canterbury/Waitaha | JANUARY 2025 | Edition 2



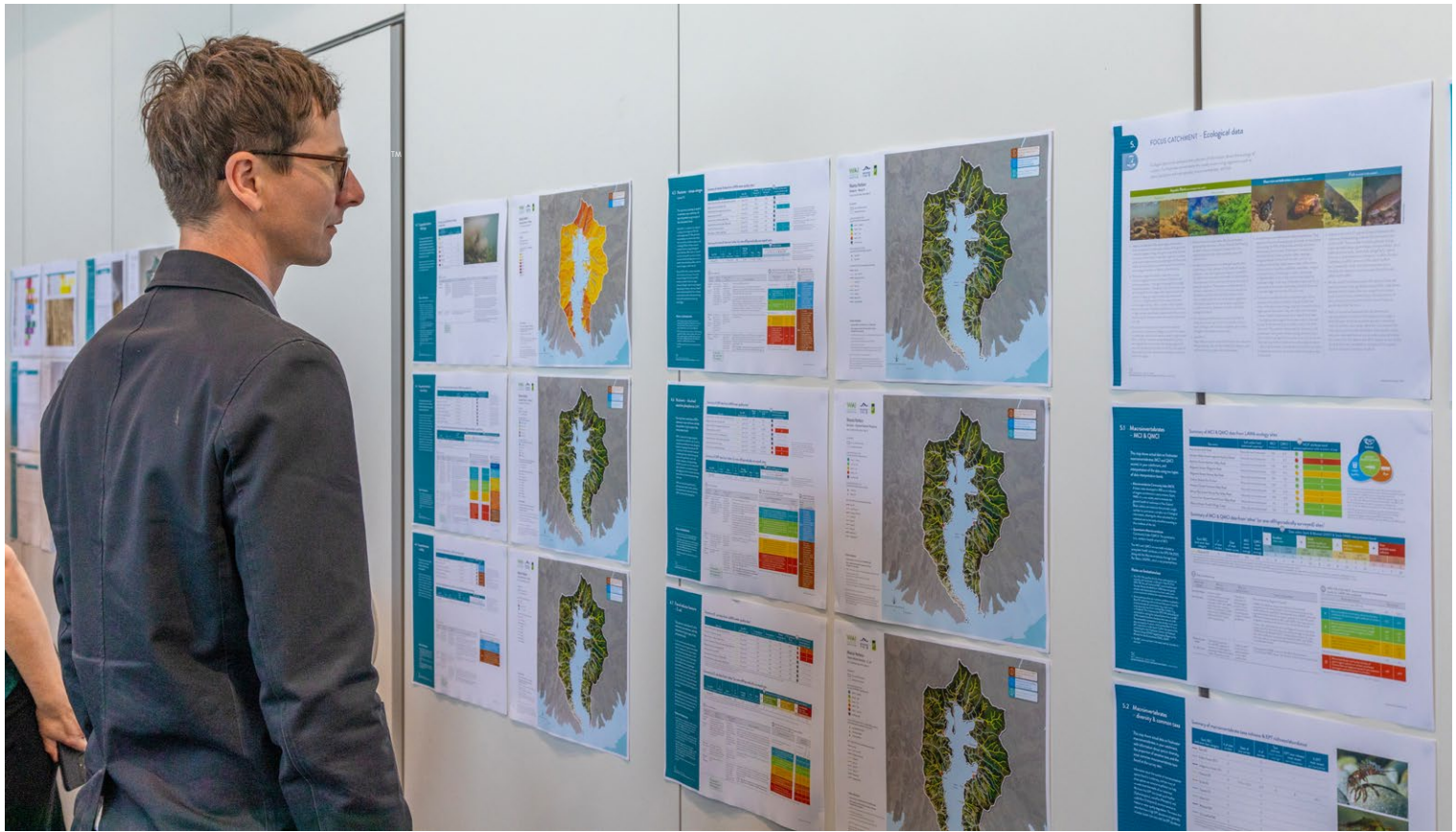
Onuku Rūnanga

Akaroa Harbour Catchment, Banks Peninsula, Canterbury

Onuku Rūnanga is the modern-day representative of the hapū Ngāi Tarewa and Ngāti Irakēhu. Onuku is located on the shores of Akaroa Harbour. The takiwā of Onuku Rūnanga, as defined by the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, is centred on Onuku and the hills and coasts of Akaroa Harbour to the adjoining takiwā of Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata and Wairewa Rūnanga.

The Rūnanga actively engages with various environmental conservation and sustainable development initiatives, working closely with partners like EOS Ecology through the 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai' project. This collaboration demonstrates their commitment to protecting the land, waterways, and ecosystems for future generations. Through their collective efforts, Onuku Rūnanga strive to nurture a harmonious relationship between people and nature – reflecting the values central to Te Ao Māori.





On 8–9 November 2024, Ōnuku Rūnanga hosted their second wānanga for their 'Te Kori a te Kō – Redefining our Sustainable Future' project, at Ōnuku Marae. This wānanga included presentations on the Akaroa Harbour Focus Catchment Map Series (FCMS) 'Our Coastal Environment' (water quality, ecology, and climate), climate change activities, and presenting an exciting proposal to the wider community.



The first day of the wānanga focused on the current state of Akaroa Harbour, through the EOS Ecology FCMS, presentations on regional council data, and climate data, the proposed sub-catchment management and climate adaptation plans, and the development of a shared vision for the project. The day included whānau, community representatives, potential sub-catchment champions, regional and city council, NIWA, Christchurch District Health Board (DHB), Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, and EOS Ecology.

Activities:



- » Presentation of EOS science interpretation to attendees through the Akaroa Harbour FCMS.
- » Tom Brough (NIWA) presented on Akaroa Harbour's ecology and climate modelling, and Melanie Burns (Environment Canterbury) sharing water quality data for 'Our Coastal Environment'.
- » A Christchurch DHB session on climate change impacts to health, food resources, and community needs as part of the Climate Change Impacts Challenge.
- » A presentation by Debbie Tikao (Ōnuku Rūnanga) on the Proposed Sub-catchment Management and Climate Adaptation Project, focusing on a shared vision.

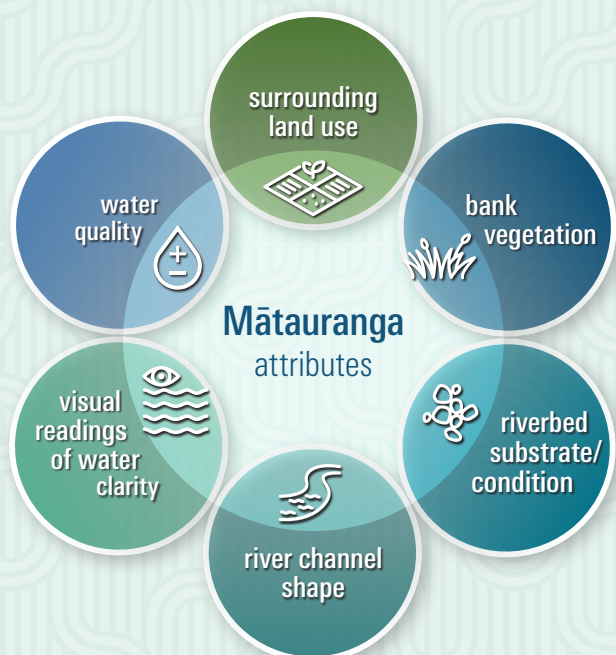


On day two, EOS Ecology 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai' team members ran stream surveys alongside Environment Canterbury staff Channell Thoms (Mātauranga Putaiao Senior Advisor), and Chris Meijer (Freshwater Ecologist). Participants were split into two groups to sample three streams in Akaroa Harbour – Te Awaiti Stream, Takamatua Stream and Wainui Stream.

Groups were taken through catchment context and taught **mainstream science monitoring** techniques such as:

- » freshwater invertebrate sampling
- » water quality monitoring – including visual water clarity, water temperature, and pH

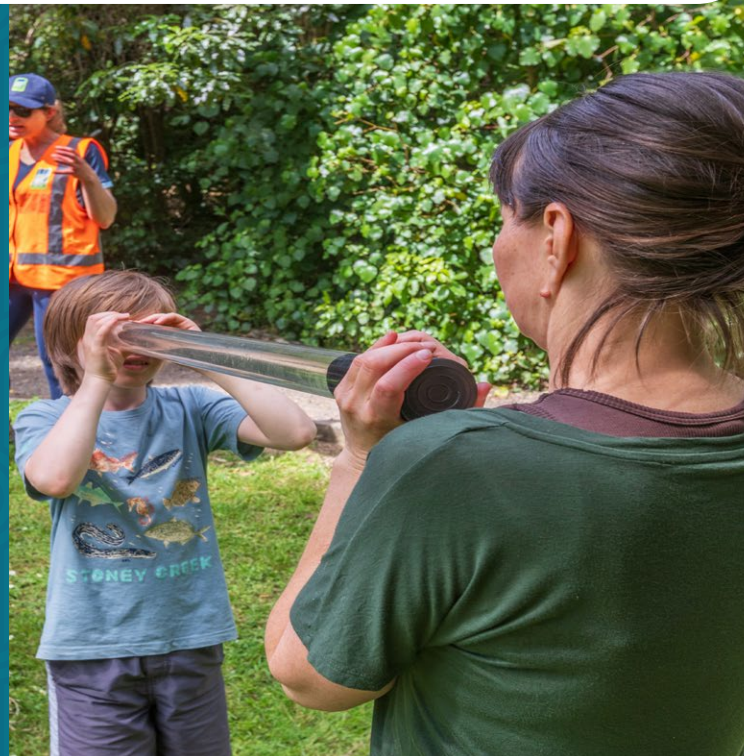
Mātauranga attributes were measured according to the health and abundance of ika/fish, rakau/plants and manu/birds, followed by a stream cultural health assessment, which included:



Next Steps

The wānanga was the second of its type to showcase Ōnuku Rūnanga's aspirational vision for the health of Akaroa Harbour, with the continued outreach and collective visions of the local community. It built upon prior knowledge from the first wānanga in January 2024, launched the proposed sub-catchment management and climate adaptation plans with the hope of getting local community members as subcatchment champions and to develop a shared vision for the project.

This project is mana whenua-led, incorporating community insights and leveraging stakeholder expertise.



Find out more about 'Te Kori a te Kō – Redefining our Sustainable Future' online at:

- » www.onuku.nz/2024/01/31/onuku-climate-change-wananga
- » www.onuku.nz/te-kori-a-te-ko

To learn more about the Ōnuku Rūnanga wider project, 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai' is contributing to, please contact:



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