

Catchment Group Story

Northland/Te Tai Tokerau | JULY 2024



Kaitiaki Whangaroa

Whangaroa Harbour Catchment, Whangaroa

Vision for the Catchment

In 2018, Kaitiaki Whangaroa created a vision with the Whangaroa community, highlighting the need for drinkable, swimmable, and biodiverse waterways. This was with an undrinkable town water supply, unfenced waterways with high *E. coli* levels, and no kāeo (freshwater mussels) in the Kāeo River.

Journey & Achievements

In the last three years, Kaitiaki Whangaroa has conducted a 'Know Your Waterway' project in the Whangaroa area, including water testing and restoration projects, supporting catchment groups, and raising the community's awareness and understanding. Up to six groups are developing, and they connect transparently with an interested and growing wider community.





PHOTO CAPTIONS – Front page: Whangaroa Harbour, Pekapeka Bay, Northland. © iStock. This page: 1 & 2. Kaitiaki Whangaroa undertaking community based freshwater monitoring (CBFM) with Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust (MTSCT). 3 & 4. Kaitiaki Whangaroa carrying out water quality monitoring. 5 & 6. Kaitiaki Whangaroa hui held at Ngati ruamahue Marae – May 2024. Back page: 7. Kaitiaki Whangaroa and tamaki identifying freshwater macroinvertebrates during water quality monitoring. 8 & 9. Kaitiaki Whangaroa undertaking Community-based Freshwater Monitoring (CBFM) with MTSCT.

Engaging & Educating Our Community

Over the past few years, Kaitiaki Whangaroa has undertaken two freshwater monitoring training workshops for mana whenua/citizen monitors and received a Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK), which is currently used by local groups and schools.



SHMAK training involves educating participants on how to use the Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit effectively. It includes hands-on sessions on measuring water quality, identifying aquatic life, and assessing habitat conditions. The training aims to equip community members with the skills and knowledge needed to conduct accurate and consistent stream health assessments.



Kaitiaki Whangaroa has also organised a series of educational events for the **Puanga Matariki Festival**, including:

- » pingao planting
- » kite making
- » night walks in the ngahere.



Other events have included information sharing days, bird monitoring training, and networking hui for environmental groups working within the rohe of Whangaroa.

Collaborative Efforts & Future Goals

Initial Introduction Hui

An initial introduction hui between 'Wai Connection' and Kaitiaki Whangaroa members took place in Whangaroa to introduce the 'Wai Connection' project's support pathways and gain background information on Kaitiaki Whangaroa's work to date and aspirations moving forward.



Facilitated Hui at Wainui Bay

This took place at the Ngatirumahue Marae in May 2024. It was open to the wider Whangaroa community. The hui was organised by Kaitiaki Whangaroa and facilitated by 'Wai Connection'.

The day's purpose was to identify what the Whangaroa community and hapū want to achieve for freshwater restoration around the Whangaroa Harbour and coastline. At the end of this hui, a need for ongoing wānanga was identified in order to engage and involve more people, and further define goals.



The support we receive from 'Wai Connection' has enabled this success in a number of ways, including planning, training, project design, coordination and management, and professional expertise that makes our work credible as citizen scientists, and environmental advocates.

THOMAS HAWTIN – Chairperson
Kaitiaki Whangaroa Association Inc.



We thank 'Wai Connection', as well as their umbrella organisation Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, for prioritising the health of the environment, its natural resources and native flora and fauna.

ROBYN TAUROA
Kaitiaki Whangaroa member



Next Steps



Kaitiaki Whangaroa

Kaitiaki Whangaroa will be holding ongoing wānanga for the wider community and hapū to get input to the future direction and priorities for freshwater restoration in the Whangaroa area.

Kaitiaki Whangaroa are also organising a ‘Whangaroa Hui Taiao’ in July 2024 as an opportunity for local groups working in the environment to come together and promote their projects and its benefits to local whānau and community members who are wanting to help!

‘Wai Connection’

A Regional Needs Assessment at the initial introduction wānanga identified the following opportunities for support from ‘Wai Connection’:

- » Facilitated session(s) to understand what Kaitiaki Whangaroa has achieved since founding. What was successful? What could be improved and how? Identify goals that will form the basis of a restoration project plan.
- » A theoretical workshop aimed at increasing knowledge around freshwater ecology, to understand links between biotic and abiotic components, and responses to detrimental human activities.
- » A freshwater monitoring plan.
- » SHMAK workshop(s) aligned with training needs identified in the monitoring plan.
- » Īnanga spawning habitat training days.
- » Completion of the Focus Catchment Map Series for all waterways flowing into the Whangaroa Harbour, which will allow easier promotion of these waterways and their wellbeing.

To learn more about Kaitiaki Whangaroa, or how ‘Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai’ is supporting them, please contact:

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