



# Waiora Stream Study

*Waiora* is a Maori word that means the purest form of water, the source of life and wellbeing. It describes water not only as we can see and feel it, but also its quality and health. Water has many different dimensions and uses. It is a resource, a place to play, and is essential for spiritual renewal. Care and celebration of our water resources is one of the most important tasks we have as guardians of this land.

## Programme Overview

**Introduction:** The Waiora programme aims to encourage positive involvement in environmental issues by providing opportunities for schools to investigate and plan action for the environment. Using an action oriented approach, based on learning in the environment, for the environment and about the environment.

### Our Objectives for your class:

- Learn about the way rivers and people depend on each other through activities linked to the national curriculum.
- Enjoy a positive, fun experience on the banks of a local stream.
- See and touch a stream, discover its physical make up and the life it supports
- Take part in monitoring and streamside restoration projects.

**Experience:** Taking part in Waiora offers your class the opportunity for a guided stream visit. The programme investigates water quality issues, aquatic habitats and the impacts of land management.

We will tailor your visit to suit your class' needs and supply all the necessary equipment. The visit can include work in the following three areas:

1. Habitat Assessment
2. Measuring the physical attributes of the stream:
  - Water Flow
  - Stream cross-section
  - Clarity
  - Temperature
3. Biological indicators of stream health (invertebrate diversity and identification).

The Waiora programme takes approximately 2 hours at the stream. Ideally a class size of about 30 is ideal, being split into four smaller groups.

Plenty of parent and teacher help is also required.