



# Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi – Community Climate Response Fund

Projects Summary 2024-25

Front Cover Photo  
Green Bikes Whanganui and Manchester House Feilding

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SERVICE CENTRES	Kairanga Cnr Rongotea and Kairanga-Bunnythorpe Roads Palmerston North	REGIONAL HOUSES	Palmerston North 11-15 Victoria Avenue	DEPOTS	Taihape 243 Wairanu Road Taihape
	Marton 19 Hammon Street		Whanganui 181 Guyton Street		Woodville 116 Vogel Street
	Taumarunui 34 Maata Street				

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# Fund Overview

**The *Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi* | *Community Climate Response Fund (the Fund)*, supporting grass and flax root climate action.**

This is the third year Horizons have funded projects that respond to climate change. We've funded 21 projects across the region. From backyards in Palmerston North to the back blocks of Raetihi, 10,000's of trees and plants are and growing, hundreds of tummies filled with locally grown kai, dozens of houses made more energy-efficient through free expert advice, bikes and appliances fixed rather than dumped — the list goes on. Projects have also brought people together under a common purpose, building connections, friendships and resilience.

Horizons congratulate all those who have been involved in projects on their mahi and achievements. We hope that these projects will enthuse others to act now with our future and future generations in mind.

**“Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi-If we all contribute, the people will thrive”**



# 1 Environment Network Manawatū (Manawatū Food Action Network) – Palmerston North

*Awarded \$16,650*

*Cementing, expanding and supporting of Growing Gardens and Communities*

Hyper-local food production reduces emissions, increases carbon sequestration, and builds community connections and resilience through kai sovereignty. Funding in 2024–25 enabled the further expansion of this ongoing project. The project offers practical support, mentorship, materials, and guidance to install garden beds and fruit trees in the homes of those in Palmerston North who may not otherwise be able to afford them. Ongoing support and mentorship aim to ensure these gardens thrive and continue to provide kai into the future.

In 2024–25, 71 households received gardening advice, garden beds, compost, and seedlings, resulting in:

- 57 fruit trees planted
- 86 gifted planter boxes used as garden beds
- Over 1,000 seedlings planted with participating households
- More than 200 volunteer hours assisted garden installations
- Over 25 cubic metres of compost was gifted for use in māra kai
- Events were offered for participants including crop swaps, information sessions, the Future Living Skills course and a community composting initiative.



# 2 Manchester House Social Services – Manawatū District

Awarded \$5,405.97

*Improving/ Enlarging of Community Garden*

Addressing inequity is a key aspect of kai sovereignty. Since 2023, Manchester House and the Feilding-Oroua Rotary Club have been growing and providing nutritious vegetables year-round for families in need. This project has enabled the expansion of the gardens through the addition of new garden beds, compost bins, and an irrigation system. These have reduced reliance on volunteer availability and increased long-term sustainability of the facebook.

These measures have seen increased production. The garden is producing around 80 kg of produce per week. This boost in supply has met and increase demand from those who can't always afford fresh vegetables, building community resilience and reducing emission reductions by locally grown kai.



Pumpkin patch (irrigation to the left against the fence)



Tunnel House



Raised Garden Beds



Compost Bins

# 3 Whanganui Green Bikes – Whanganui

*Awarded \$10,000*

## *Becoming a Park Tools School*

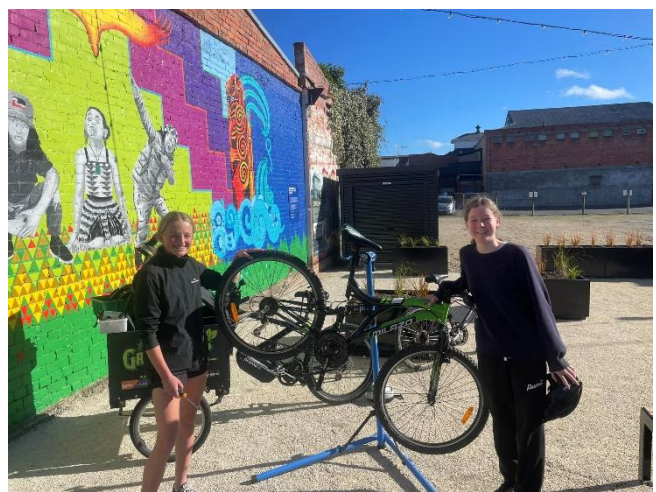
Green Bikes, a Sustainable Wanganui Trust initiative, gives broken bicycles a second chance by saving them from landfill and getting them back on the road. Donated bikes are lovingly restored by skilled mechanics in their newly established, fully equipped workshop on Drews Ave. The workshop also serves as a community space where people of all ages can learn how to repair and care for their bikes. Over the past year, they have hosted 338 participants in these workshops.

Funding allowed Green Bikes to bring the Park Tools School programme to Whanganui Schools. This programme involves teaching repair know-how, inspiring students to embrace sustainability by sharing their knowledge. They have held 51 school Park Tool Sessions, teaching 136 students these skills, as well as repairing 157 bikes and donating 15 bikes for local schools. Getting more children out of cars and onto bikes and giving them the skills to fit and maintain their bikes.

They have grown a passionate volunteer team with over a thousand hours of commitment in the last year and 11 regular volunteers.

Green Bikes have also hosted events including bike decorating workshops and the retro river ride, vintage bike ride, offering the community some family friendly opportunities.

The Trust intends to continue supporting the community with affordable bike options, promoting a sustainable form of transport and keeping broken bikes out of landfill.



## 4 Wildlife Foxtan Trust – Horowhenua District

*Awarded \$3985*

### *Foxtan Beach Rare Plant Restoration Trial*

The Manawatū Estuary is recognised as being an internationally important wetland. Along with taonga bird species like kuaka (godwits), the estuary and surrounding area is also home to rare plants, vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to sea-level rise and extreme weather events.

This project aimed to grow locally eco-sourced rare plants that once were common in the Manawatū estuary and surrounding dunes. As well as re-establishing and increasing populations of rare plants, the project also raised public awareness of climate change impacts on the local environment and how they can help protect it.

Some of these rare species are tricky to grow, others were less abundant than expected making gathering seeds more problematic. Not all the species planned to be grown could be. Despite the challenges along the way, the dedicated team of volunteers managed to grow and plant over 500 rare plants at the estuary.

Plants included:

- Mikoikoi/New Zealand Iris- grown from separated bulbs
- Sand Coprosma-grown from cuttings
- Pīngao/ golden sand sedge-grown from seeds
- Horokaka-Māori Ice Plant

Learnings made through the project will be used for future eco-sourcing work to germinate and propagate native plants for the local environment to increase local biodiversity and build ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change.



# 5 Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust – Ruapehu District

Awarded \$10,000

## *Maara Kai Initiative*

Ngāti Hauā established a maara kai centred on historic fruit-trees planted by tupuna. When the project started, the area and fruit trees were overgrown with blackberry and weeds. Over the space of the year, through hard mahi and commitment, this area was transformed into a vibrant and abundant maara kai brimming with fruit and vegetables. The health of the trees has been improved resulting in better quality and quantities of fruit. These trees are a centre point of a maara classroom initiative, providing whānau with an insight into the history of this whenua and the food stocks that were grown here by tupuna. Kai is being distributed and used for wānanga and other iwi/ marae initiatives, providing locally grown kai for whānau, reducing emissions associated with commercially brought in fruit and vegetables and improving kai security.



## 6 Woven Rivers Trust – Whanganui District

Awarded \$8954.00

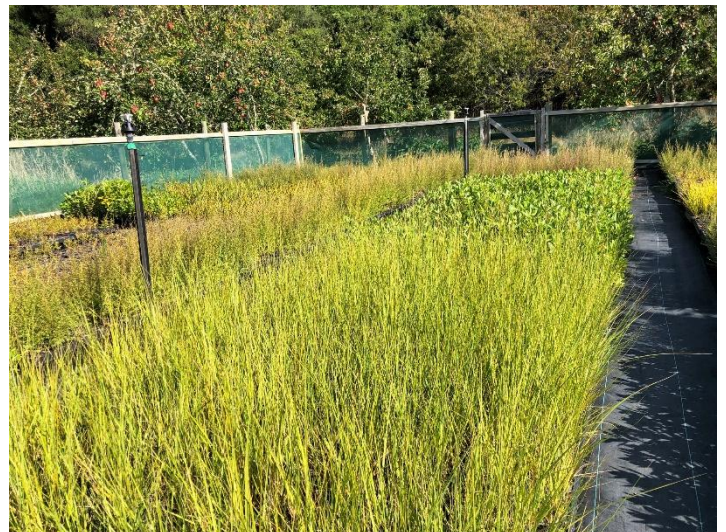
### *Native seedlings stand out area*

Woven Rivers Trust in Whanganui have been operating a native plant nursery at Pīwaiwaka Farm since 2021. The 72ha farm is located in an area known as Papaiti. The Tauararoa Stream flows through the farm into Te Awa Tupua, (The Whanganui River).

The primary function of the nursery is to propagate plants from eco-sourced seed on site for reforestation. Funding allowed for a third stand-out area to be built. A stand-out area allows native plant seedlings that have been propagated time to become acclimatised prior to being planted, meaning a higher success rate for survival. All seedlings propagated are destined for planting in the Whanganui River catchment, which will have significant long term beneficial impacts upon the health of the river.

The stand-out area has already been utilised. Looking ahead, as well as regenerating ngahere at the farm and in the wider Whanganui River catchment, trees will sequester an estimated 20,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over their life span. That's equivalent to 4,150 diesel Ford Rangers driving 20,000km each, about an average year's travel.

Pīwaiwaka farm also host hands-on learning experiences for schools, community groups, and whānau, helping to build knowledge, connection, and practical skills and the long-term goal of providing a regional hub for climate-focused education, resilience and wellbeing.



## 7 The Trustees of the Moutoa Māori Reservation and the Rānana Māori Committee – Whanganui District

*Awarded \$15,000 over the 2022-25 financial years*

*Moutoa Island Restoration Project (video equipment)*

Moutoa Island is wāhi tapu, a Māori reservation located in the Whanganui River. Funding for videography is part of a broader Moutoa Island Restoration Project. Videography aimed to:

- Physically monitor the impact of climate change extremes on Moutoa Island, a key site.
- Create hapū-based indicators for measuring climate change extremes on Moutoa Island; and
- Create a hapū-based process for climate change adaptivity through cultural mapping of Moutoa Island.

Unfortunately, monitoring equipment was tampered with and damaged. That has impacted sequential time-lapse recording. Despite that setback, other ways to develop understanding of climate change impacts that make sense to rōpū participants have been investigated. Alternative ways to view and understand data have been developed by a Dartmouth College student for Te Morehu Whenua to utilise drones and ArcGIS processing. Rangatahi and tamariki have been involved in geospatial mapping using those tools.

This project is ongoing. The insights and learnings made will be applied to create a hapū-based process for climate change adaptivity through cultural mapping of Moutoa Island.



## 8 Taurerewa Trust- Ruapehu District

*Awarded \$15,000 over the 2022-24 financial year*

### *Papatupu Revitalisation Project*

Restoring ngahere so indigenous species have suitable habitat is key aspect of building environmental resilience to the changing climate. The kaupapa of this project was regenerating and restoring Papatupu by replanting native rākau and encouraging the return of indigenous species. Papatupu is one of the few land blocks at Makakahi where ngahere predominates. The project aims to enhance and build on the existing ngahere, to breathe life back into spaces once rich with biodiversity and cultural significance.

Papatupu is an isolated location, creating challenges to get trees on site. The project took longer than expected as planting windows shut when weather didn't play ball. Wet slippery papa tracks with steep down offs meant on some occasions it simply wasn't safe to do the mahi.

Plants have been transported on site and are due for planting in November 2025. All those young trees need protection from browsers like possums and deer. Prior to planting, a pest management plan has been implemented.

The project marks the beginning of a vision to restore, protect and reconnect with papatupu for current and future generations.





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REGIONAL COUNCIL



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