



Kanorau Koiora Taketake - Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant

Project Summary 2025/26

Front Cover Photo
Horizons Regional Council

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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 Kanorau Koiora Taketake - Indigenous Biodiversity Community Fund supports communities to reconnect with, restore, and strengthen indigenous biodiversity across the region.

Its primary focus is empowering whānau, hapū, iwi, landowners, schools, and community groups to lead projects that enhance the health of the taiao and supports connections between nature and people.

Projects funded through Kanorau Koiora Taketake may involve the restoration of a variety of different ecosystems, the protection of native species, or the regeneration of mātauranga Māori through hands-on biodiversity action.

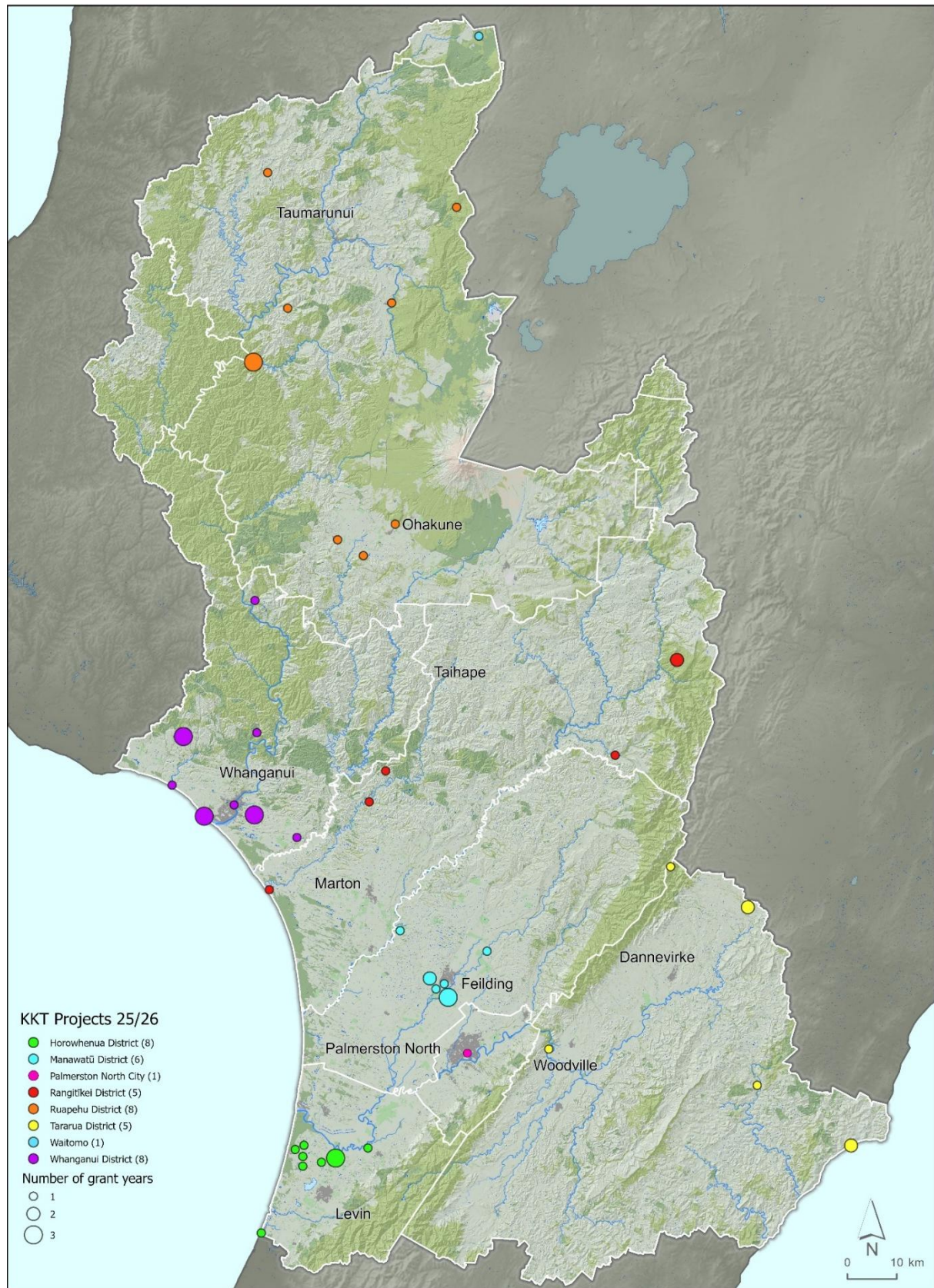
This includes initiatives such as pest plant and animal control, planting, habitat restoration, seed collection, wānanga, and community-led monitoring.

Horizons would like to acknowledge and celebrates all those involved for their dedication, vision, and care. Your mahi ensures that our indigenous biodiversity is not only protected but thrives for generations to come.

“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.”

*My strength is not that from myself alone, but from the
strength of many*

Project Summary Map



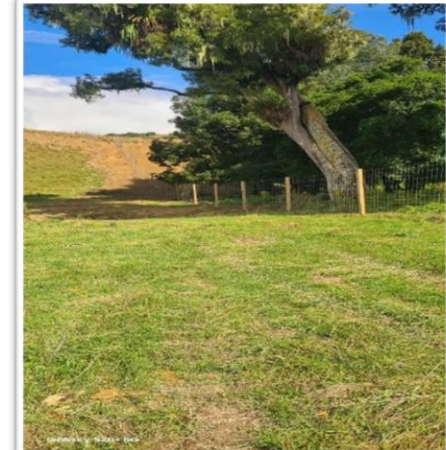
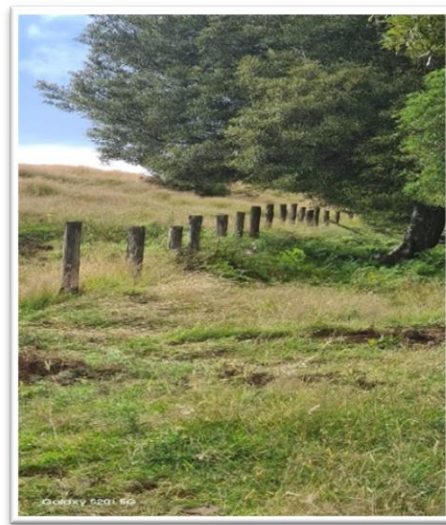
1 Aorangi Whānau Trust – Whanganui

Whenua Ora Project - Awarded \$35,000

In Jerusalem, within the Whanganui River Valley, Aorangi Whānau Trust is working to protect the ngahere through its Whenua Ora Project. With support from Community Biodiversity funding, the Trust has prepared the ground and installed 700 metres of deer fencing, creating an important barrier to reduce deer access and protect native biodiversity.

The fencing is part of a wider restoration story led by the Trust, which also includes pest animal trapping, seed collection and the propagation of native plants. Together, this work is creating opportunities for whānau and the wider community to reconnect with the ngahere and practise kaitiakitanga, including 12 tamariki from Te Kura o Te Wainui a Rua who are learning through hands-on experience.

Looking ahead, the Trust plans to continue this protection by fencing the remaining 3,000 metres of boundary, helping to secure the long-term health of the ngahere for future generations.



2 Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust - Manawatū

Post-planting care and native forest restoration Project– Awarded \$9,000 (Year 2)

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park (AFKP) Trust continues their wetland restoration efforts this year supported by a two-year grant for plant care in the new wetland, covering 2024 to 2026. Additional funding was also secured to enable the planting of 8,900 new plants for the new wetland, significantly expanding on the work they have already achieved.

Regular weed blitzes have been carried out across all planted areas, however a decision not to pause efforts over December and January was a costly learning curve, with weeds choking an estimated 300-400 plants across some of the sites in the wetland. While this represents less than 2% of the overall plants planted in the last two years, it highlighted the importance of consistent seasonal maintenance and provided a clear lesson for both decision makers and on-ground deliverers.

Despite these challenges, the wetland continues to progress well. At a glance, the site appears similar to last year, but closer inspection reveals encouraging ecological shifts. Distinct carex patterns are now emerging across different micro-ecosystems, and a wider range of planted species is becoming visible even through seasonal grass growth. This wetland still has several years of work required to slowly clear more weeds and plant wetland species.



The different colour patterns of plants across the wetland. Makino stream and original forest in the background. Each colour change is different dominant plants based on humps and hollows and wetness levels. Some sites are wet all year, and others become streams and mini lakes in wet weather and during floods.

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park - Manawatū

Phragmites karka control research and development Project – Awarded \$35,000

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park (AFKP) Trust identified Phragmites karka as an issue in late 2019 and has been funded for four years under this grant to manage and investigate this species in the forest and surrounding area. With no proven control techniques available in New Zealand, and none that were suitable for a sensitive wetland forest ecosystem, the Trust stepped into becoming the lead project management and voice for Phragmites karka awareness across the country.

Technical monitoring over the past three years shows that AFKP's trial of the cut-and-inject method for controlling Phragmites karka is proving increasingly effective. There is significant dieback after the 2nd and particularly third year of treatment. Each treatment round is getting quicker and has less regrowth. This trend suggests that, over the coming years, both time and financial investment in P. karka control will continue to decrease, however monitoring in the forest for regrowth should be maintained for many years, as small residual fragments can easily re-establish.

Risk of reinfestation to the forest is still high, with the greatest density upstream of the forest on the Makino. This infestation also contributes to a potential flooding risk. The Horizons River engineer for the area is still including this in his budget and working with Manawatū District Council and directly with delivery contractors. Disposal of cut reeds is critical to avoid any part of the plant regrowing.

Contracted labour for this project was provided by Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata's Mana Taiao team and Green by Nature. Ongoing treatment and management for the forest and new wetlands needs to continue using the current cut and inject method. This theoretically should have resource requirements reducing each year and within three to four years would possibly be at the volume to become part of the regular forest weed management programmes rather than a special project.

Note there are still a lot of characteristics to understand to continue to improve control techniques, but a much more robust approach is now in place because of this work.



Before and after cut and fill treatment. May 2023 (L); June 2026 (R)

3 Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park - Manawatū

New Wetland development planting 2025 Project – Awarded \$14,000

The new wetland development is primarily delivered by Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata's Mana Taiao team under contract. A senior biodiversity person from Green by Nature oversees the wetland and directs the day-by-day work project and other staff only work alongside Ngati Kauwhata team.

Through this year 2025 to 2026, 8900 new plants were planted in the new wetland. 140 of those plants were replacements for plants damaged by the Manawatu District Council roading team when they used the new wetland as access to repair the foundations of the road bridge on Awahuri Road. Newly planted mainly carex species and fast-growing trees were damaged by constantly being crushed under big trucks and diggers.

The surprising part of this is that some of the very crushed carex that had been planted less than a year have survived and are re-establishing themselves in the new spillways where heavy machinery had the highest level of movement.

The remaining plants were spread into existing planted areas and used to extend the overall planting. Plants were added to existing planted areas where we knew species were not available over the first two years of the wetland development. They basically balance some species in different ecosystems.

There are only around 3000-4000 plants ordered for the 2026 winter planting. This will give more time to focus on plant care until the first year's planting is almost big enough to manage themselves.



Photo spillway near Awahuri Road, the road seven months after Horizons used for main access to bridge for repair. The crushed carex is reviving.

4 Blue Duck Station - Ruapehu

Whio protection and expansion Project – Awarded \$15,652 (Year 3)

This is the third and final year of funding for Blue Duck Station. They had an ageing infrastructure of pest animal control traps comprised primarily of double-set DOC200s dating back to 2010 during the set-up of the Kia Whārite collaborative project.

The traps have been and continue to be subject to normal wear and tear, stock interference, and damage or loss due to the dynamic landscape. Over time, these traps have fallen into disrepair and are systematically being replaced with brand DOC200 boxes and trap mechanisms. While some investment had been made over the past years to remediate the damage to the trapping infrastructure, approximately 40% of the original trap network was out of service at the start of this grant. The goal of this project was to restore the primary pest control network of DOC200 traps to full service and to expand the network using refurbished traps into other critical whio habitat.

This third tranche of traps was used to restore three historic trap lines which had fallen into disrepair: F, B (to National Park boundary), and D (back half). Additionally, a new trap network was installed in the Oruru valley (previously unprotected). All traps were deployed by February 2026 and are now part of the project's normal trapping regime three historic trap lines, which had fallen into disrepair and were also used to create additional trap lines, were set around wetland restoration areas.



5 Bushy Park Tarapuruhi Forest Sanctuary - Whanganui

Hihi Project – Awarded \$7,000 (Year 3)

These hihi birds are nationally endangered and are only present across eight sites across Aotearoa. All of which are either offshore islands or Mainland Predator Fenced Sanctuaries. They were reintroduced here in 2013, with a top-up of 10 further hihi in 2018. The current population is at about 50 birds, though the number of females is low.

Monitoring of hihi is time-consuming and specialised, as they tend to feed high in the forest, and females are especially elusive. Under this project funding, we have been able to complete our annual pre- and post-breeding season surveys of hihi. This is our best estimate of the population and enables some extra banding time to ensure as many of the population are banded, including any chicks fledged from natural nests.

Hihi breeding results improved this season, with 22 chicks fledged and banded, strengthening recruitment after recent concern about the population decline. Six additional natural nests were found and are not included in the fledgling data. We provided, checked, and treated a total of 48 nest boxes this season. Supplementary feeders were supplied at nest boxes once eggs were laid or incubation began, supporting breeding adults and contributing to stronger fledgling outcomes. 158.3 L of sugar water was consumed by the Hihi in the last year.

Ongoing Hihi research continued for 3–4 months during the breeding season, with overseas students staying on site to collect data and write reports. Bird banding training is building in-house capability, which will reduce reliance on external support and improve continuity for future Hihi monitoring. Post-breeding survey to be undertaken this month – no results yet. Our Forest Sanctuary Manager started internal training to provide an in-house bird bander for our Hihi work.



6 Castlecliff Coast Care - Whanganui

Dune Restoration Project – Awarded \$7,550 (Year 3)

Since 2007, supported by the Community and many generous sponsors, Coast Care members and volunteers have been working to appropriately rehabilitate the dune ecology, provide stability to the dunes and, by education and demonstration, enhance the community's value of our coastal dunes.

The previous winter required a major effort to plant 10,000 fore dune sand binder plants. In addition to the 4,000 plants Coast Care bought, WDC had 6,000 plants, but the preparation at the North Mole had not proceeded, so Coast Care took these plants on too. So, a much smaller planting program was undertaken in 2025/26 to ease pressure on volunteers, and because with 44,000 plants now in place the project was almost completed.

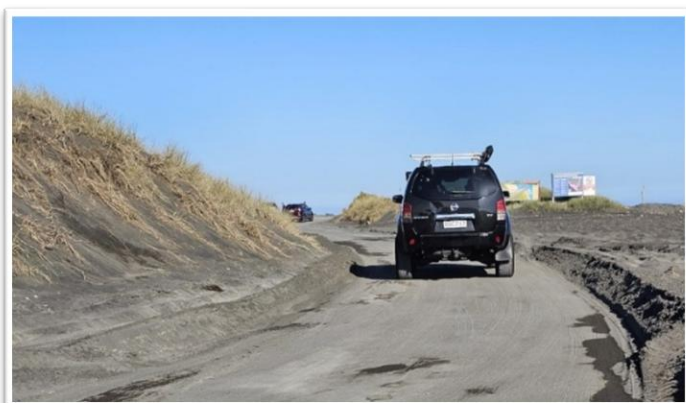
Iwi and Horizons have developed restoration plans for both the North and South Moles foredunes; therefore, Coast Care will focus on the rear dunes, utilising the "Friends of Coast Care" and other groups.

In November, a new initiative resulted in a Friends Group, who work the first Monday of the month. This has tapped into a different group of people. They have been very active, removing ice-plant and dead German ivy, and now planted with a group from IDEA Services who come out each week. WDC funded the professional spraying of the ivy.

We were excited last month, after a few days of westerly winds, to observe that Morgan Street had very little sand cover, yet further along where the road was exposed to unplanted dunes, a lane had to be cleared through the sand to allow cars through. (see photos). Our "sand binding" plants were doing their job, keeping sand off the infrastructure.

This year's funding has bought foredune plants from Coastland Nursery, rear dune plants from the Learning Centre, fertiliser, compost and weed paste gel and contractor fees.

Volunteer days included several community planting sessions; Pingao and Spinifex seed collection for Coastland Nursery to propagate; removing wattle and their borders supported by overseas students visiting Whanganui Collegiate; supporting Multi Culture Council's beach cleanup during Sea Week; fundraising during Whanganui Artist Open Studios, with artist Paulline Allomes; and auctioning her donated painting that raised \$600.



Sand cleared off roadway, spinifex holding the sand at bay and Helping at Sea Week beach clean-up.



7 David & Harriet Eade - Whanganui

Restoring Indigenous Wetlands at Pukeroa - Awarded \$8,400

This project is centred on restoring and enhancing biodiversity through the establishment of native plantings in key riparian habitats. The grant funding supports the planting of indigenous species along waterways and steep gullies, creating ecological corridors that connect existing bush remnants and improve the resilience of local ecosystems, and contributes to the long-term vision of integrating productive farming with ecological restoration.

The project aims to involve local community members and school groups in planting days to foster education and connection to the land, while ultimately establishing a diverse, resilient, and self-sustaining ecosystem that supports on-farm environmental outcomes and regional biodiversity objectives.

Through the support of this grant, a total of 2,376 native trees and shrubs were planted across 1.6 hectares with a strong focus on riparian zones and erosion-prone areas.

Community engagement was a key achievement of the project, with over 110 people participating across two planting days and a further 63 attending a release day, helping to build awareness of biodiversity restoration and strengthen connections to the project outcomes.

This community work was supplemented by an additional \$1,000 of grant funding for follow-up plant release 10 months later.

The project aims to continue to expand native planting, improve ecosystem connectivity and biodiversity while monitoring freshwater health. The local community will continue to be engaged with this project through ongoing planting and education initiatives to support long-term restoration.



8 Forest & Bird Rangitīkei Branch - Rangitīkei

Sutherlands Puriri Trapping - Awarded \$10,452

Sutherlands Puriri Reserve provides an important habitat for the threatened-nationally critical Pekapeka/Long-tailed bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*) and threatened-nationally increasing kārearea/NZ bush falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae ferox*), which have both been recorded within the site.

Rangitīkei Forest & Bird has taken a major step toward eliminating its historic reliance on poisons by transitioning to an automated trapping network. Stage 1 of this project established an integrated system across 45 hectares of native bush, targeting possums, rats, and feral cats.

Funding enabled the purchase of 20 of the AT220 auto traps, along with spare batteries and lure, forming the backbone of the new network.

Since installation in November 2025, a dedicated team of 12 volunteers has contributed 177 hours to installing, checking, and servicing the traps, and recording results in the national database on www.trapnz.co.nz. Their efforts have already removed nearly 230 pest animals from the reserve, reducing predation pressure on vulnerable native species.

Future success will be measured through annual tracking-tunnel monitoring, providing long-term insight into pest trends and the effectiveness of the automated network.



9 Ihaia Taueki Trust – Horowhenua

Inanga-riki Lagoon - A6B Restoration of Wetlands – Awarded \$5,000 (Year 1)

When this kaupapa first took shape, the Trust's vision was humble, guided by the tikanga of their tīpuna. The intention was to restore the mauri of the whenua, bringing whānau back to reconnect with the whenua, and through that reconnection, strengthen the bonds between each other and the whenua.

For the community involved, this is more than a project, it is a return to whakapapa, a reaffirmation of mana, and a living expression of kaitiakitanga.

“When we return to the whenua, the whenua returns us to ourselves. As we have moved in this kaupapa, we have felt the presence of our tīpuna walking alongside us, the steady rhythm of te taiao welcoming us home, and the rising pride of our tamariki and rangatahi who now see themselves as the next kaitiaki of this whenua. Whānau near and far are returning home to place their hands in the soil, to uphold the tikanga of caring for the whenua that cares for us.”

This winter, a dedicated team came from far and wide, volunteering over 320 hours to plant 819 native plants funded through this grant.

Two members have now completed a GrowSafe certification, building the capacity and capability within the whanau to nurture and protect these plantings for years to come.



10 Ihaia Taueki Trust – Horowhenua

Pakau-hokio-iti A6B - Restoration of Wetland – Awarded \$2,500

Similar to the previous project this one sit next to Inanga-riki Lagoon and has a similar purpose of restoring the mauri of the whenua, strengthen connections between whānau and the land, and return the wāhi tapu to a healthy and thriving condition.

The long-term goal is to support and expand native wetland flora, encourage the return of indigenous fauna, and improve overall ecological balance.

Through this work, the project seeks to enhance biodiversity, protect mātauranga Māori, and support community-led stewardship based on kaitiakitanga.

The grant funding was used to purchase weed mats and agrichemicals needed to protect and nurture the 5000 native plants planted over the last five years.

The grant funded pest plant control contractors to release native plants from weed growth.

Whānau members joined the contractors to learn the best techniques, building capability and capacity within the whānau to maintain and care for the whenua.



11 Kirikau Valley Community Trapping Group

- Ruapehu

Kirikau Valley Community Trapping Project - Awarded \$8,467.46

Over the last decade, farms within the Kirikau Valley have been sold off one by one, each being converted into pine forestry, leaving only one farm within the valley, The Poplars Farm, owned by the Carter Family Trust (Robert and Suzanne Carter). As a result of these pine conversions, six small pockets of land were subdivided off with houses that have been purchased by families who love living in a rural community. These pockets of land are distributed over the full valley length of 7.5 km.

With so much land being converted into forestry, there were concerns among the community that the pine blocks would become highways for mammalian pests to be able to move around the landscape, and there would be a decline in the local kiwi and bat populations. Ken and Gill McCann, who had been running a trapping programme on The Poplars Farm for five years and had recently retired, took it upon themselves to expand the trapping programme, getting the 6 other families within the valley, and an additional two families living on the outskirts, to undertake predator control on the remaining land. Thus, the Kirikau Valley Community Trapping Group was created.

Kanorau Koiora Taketake Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant funding was used to set up each family with a trapping kit of live capture cage traps, possum trapinator traps, DOC 200 trap boxes, Victor rat trap box traps, and a variety of baits and lures (pictured). Two At220's were also brought bringing the group's total number of At220's to seven. Some Individual households have also brought additional traps to be able to expand their trapping efforts.

Total catches for the nine months since traps hit the field are as follows: 12 Feral Cats, 29 Hedgehogs, 298 Rats, 294 Mice, 15 Possums, and 6 Weasels.

The success of this trapping programme has been complemented by two of the forestry companies operating in the Valley setting up their own pest animal management trapping programmes. The Kirikau project is creating safe stepping stones and corridors to link with other projects that are trapping in the Tawata, Paparoa Road North, Otunui and Temaire.



Koitiata Wetlands Restoration Group - Rangitīkei

Koitiata Wetlands Restoration Project - Awarded \$6,550 (Year 1)

Since October 2020, the Koitiata community have been working to improve and preserve the ecology of the wetland to protect and support native biodiversity and provide an area for residents and visitors to explore and enjoy. Significant gains have been made over the duration of the project, with the bulk of the work now focused on maintenance weed control in approximately six hectares of the Reserve surrounding Koitiata village.

This year, thirty-one working bees were held, with community members and Land Based Training (LBT) students working to carry out weed control and to plant 150 natives donated by a local nursery. This year's community efforts have equated to over 382 volunteer hours.

Rangitikei Environment Group were contracted using this year's grant funding to deliver the large areas spray programme targeting ragwort, lupin, pampas, gorse, agapanthus, willow/poplar, Spanish heath and cape ivy.

Following the discovery of a single area of *Phragmites Karka* in the reserve, the project was allocated an additional \$550 grant funding to contract Green by Nature to provide initial pest plant control; ongoing monitoring (including making residents aware of what to look for) and control to be undertaken by the Wetlands group.

Zone 2 in 2022 - 2026



12 Kopua Bush – Tararua

Project - Awarded \$14,000 (Year 2)

This project aims to restore and enhance 18 hectares of degraded habitat around the Southern Star Abbey, a Cistercian Monastery in the Tararua District.

This project's primary focus is on restoring threatened podocarp forest through pest plant control and native planting, to increase native bird and invertebrate populations, especially tūī, kererū, korimako (bellbird), riroriro (grey warbler), and the puriri moth.

The funding has also supported the engagement of contractors to carry out pest plant control work in the least accessible areas. This has allowed the growing volunteer base to focus on sites that were previously inaccessible.

This year, this project has been visited by over 200 people, with over 160 visitors volunteering over 460 hours of their time to help plant 1928 grant-funded native plants.



13 Manaaki Ruahine - Mākāretu Valley

Restoration Project - Tararua

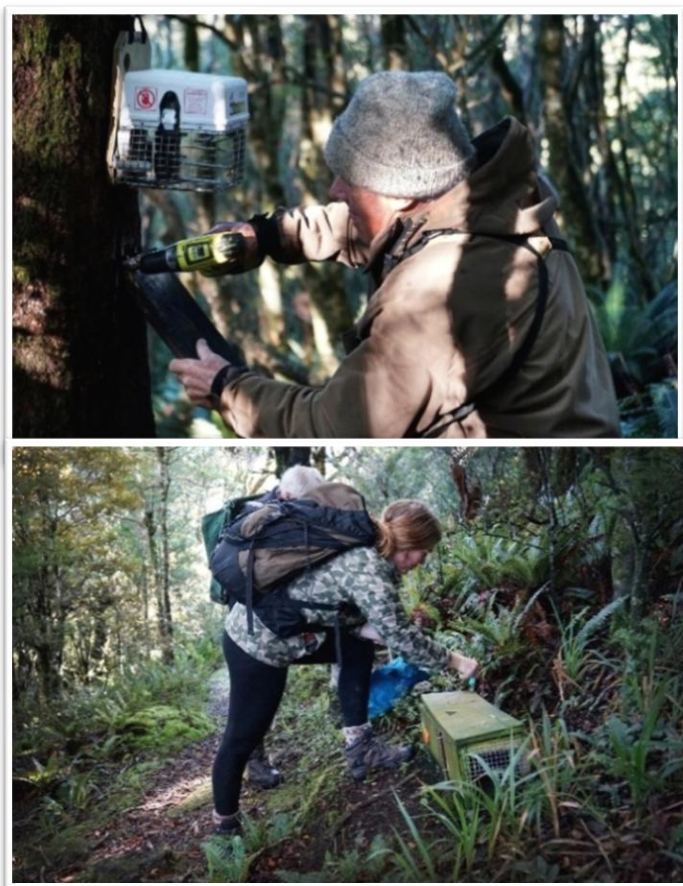
Apiti Track Restoration Project - Awarded \$3,763.37

Manaaki Ruahine aims to bring back threatened and locally extinct species of flora and fauna and is a way for the community to protect and enhance Nga Pae Maunga o Ruahine through action, advocacy and education.

Community workers have been doing conservation work in the close vicinity of the Ruahine Forest Park, Mākāretu Valley since 2016. On 2 December 2020, Arapera Paewai, Fiona Burleigh and Anthony Behrens signed a Community Agreement with the Department of Conservation to formalise a coordinated programme to return the area's biodiversity to a resemblance of its pre-colonisation state

While a successful month also implies that there are too many animals in our area, we're starting to notice a change in kills on the Apiti Track line. We've recently installed 6 new AT220s there - and they are hardly catching anything. This is an amazing result. It means we are really making a dent in the predator population in some parts of the operation. AT220s are like possum vacuum cleaners - if there's a possum in the area, they'll suck it in.

The AT220 traps are AWESOME! But they're also susceptible to the harsh conditions we keep them in. Weather, rodents and splatery kills mess with them. While we can usually fix them in the field, sometimes they need a bit more attention. So, we've had to take three out of the hills, and they're now in Fraser's workshop. Fraser has agreed to become our new Mr Fixit.



14 Manawatū River Catchment Collective (MRCC) – Manawatū, Horowhenua and Tararua

Pest Animal Trap Library Project - Awarded \$12,640.02

(MRCC) Trap Library project is a community-driven biosecurity initiative designed to protect and restore local biodiversity across our catchments. By providing landowners with access to high-quality predator control equipment, practical training, and ongoing technical support, the library removes the primary barriers to effective, coordinated pest management on private land. The project goal is to encourage active participation in pest control success (one trap alone, 20 possums) catching possums, feral cats and rats. The project funded 20 Auto Traps, 17 Doc 200's, plus tools.

Traps have been lent individually to catchment farmers, lent based on 3-6 months duration depending on success of trapping and demand

On the back of the successful application, one catchment group has since purchased traps for each of the farmers who are part of monthly water collection rotation; and we have extended access to traps via increased numbers of traps for participating groups.



15 Mandy Brooke - Whanganui

Somme Parade Walkway Revegetation Project - Awarded \$6,167.20

This project aims to remove invasive weed species and revegetate the riverbank along the Somme Parade Walkway using ecologically appropriate native plants. The intention is to establish a small, locally treasured riverbank forest that serves as a strong example of effective native riparian planting.

The project has received strong support from the local community. This year, 30 volunteers contributed a total of 384 hours, working in small groups to remove invasive weeds and plant 1,204 native trees. This work has been funded through the biodiversity grant, supplemented by a donation from the Department of Conservation, with additional support from the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust and Whanganui District Council.

Alongside the biodiversity gains, the team removed 1.5 cubic metres of rubbish from the site, along with a further 1 cubic metre of recyclable material.

Grant funding has enabled the group to establish itself with essential tools and equipment, and to engage a weed control contractor to tackle steep and difficult-to-access areas.

Additional funding provided in early 2026 supported further contractor work, clearing an additional 450 metres of weed growth and giving the project a strong foundation for future planting efforts.



16 Mangahao River Catchment Group - Tararua

Wetland expansion Project - Awarded \$5,000

The grant-funded wetland has been protected by a QEII covenant since 2012. Considerable work has already gone into removing willows and pest species, and the area remains relatively undisturbed. However, parts of the wetland are still dominated by grass and weeds rather than native vegetation. Mature native trees are well established, and the long-term goal is for the whole area to develop native canopy cover or native grasses.

The wetland also contains plants that are now uncommon locally, including swamp maire and native mistletoe. The first stage of the project is to plant the wetland with a strong base of pioneer species suited to the site, providing habitat for birds and aquatic species. Over time, we hope to encourage a wider spread of the trees that occur naturally in the wetland.

In total, more than 2,400 plants were planted in the wetland. Most of the trees purchased were open-ground plants sourced locally from Coppermine Nurseries. We were also able to source several Swamp Maire and Titoki trees, which were larger specimens and were selectively planted where they could establish among the existing mature trees.

The planting day had around 40 people in attendance, including children from Balance School, members of the local community, QEII, and some volunteers from the Woodville Domain Board, who oversee the local Ferry Reserve.

Planting has now been completed across almost the entire 3-hectare wetland. Most plants are pioneer species, including flax, cabbage trees, and carex, along with several kahikatea, swamp maire, and titoki. In two to three years, once the current planting has matured, we plan to carry out infill planting using larger-grade plants that complement the species already occurring naturally in the wetland, such as rewarewa and swamp maire.



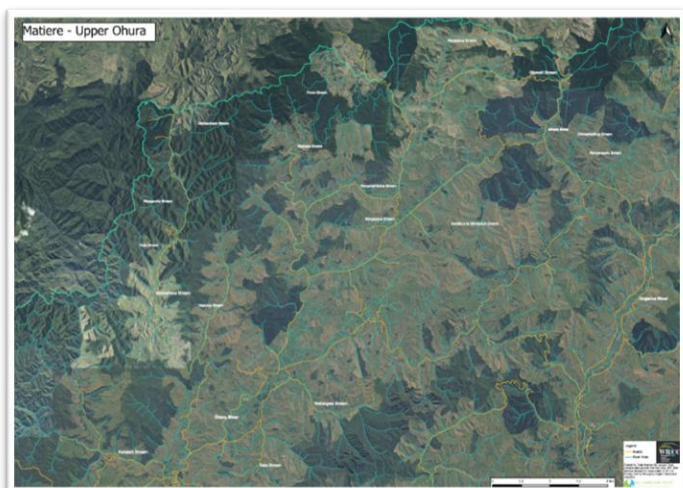
17 Matiere Catchment Group - Ruapehu

Matiere Trap Bank Project - Awarded \$5,814

The Matiere Catchment Group formed around two years ago as part of the Whanganui Region Catchment Collective (WRCC). Since then, the group has carried out monthly water sampling across seven sites, along with eDNA and macroinvertebrate community index (MCI) sampling, to better understand the pressures on freshwater in their catchment and how these can be mitigated. Alongside this monitoring work, the group has run a range of community events, from first aid courses to drench resistance days, building a strong base of engagement across local farmers, landowners and community members.

The Matiere Trap Bank project grew out of this momentum. Two of the group's leaders had already been carrying out predator control on their own properties with strong results, one having caught 30 cats in eleven months, and the other six cats and 30 rats in a similar period. Both had observed bats and kiwi present in the area. The trap bank was established to spread this enthusiasm more widely, giving catchment members access to a variety of traps to trial on their own land, building awareness of the taonga species at risk, and encouraging broader uptake of predator control across the catchment for cats, mustelids, possums and rats.

The trapping workshop held with Cam Speeding was well attended by 30 people, including the local Matiere School Children. This workshop was aimed at upskilling catchment group and community members on trapping to ensure they got the most out of the traps in the trap bank. The Matiere catchment group has 50 individual members plus their family members who can access the traps throughout the year. The group will continue to use these traps for years to come, and we will aim to hold maintenance days when needed and provide other support to ensure the momentum continues.



18 Ngati Kahungunu- Tararua

Herbertville Coastal Project- Awarded \$4,500

The Herbertville Restoration Project was initiated to assist the Horizons Regional Council biodiversity currently happening at Cape Turnagain and Tautane Station, with Tautane Station being owned by Ngati Kahungunu. Horizons are committed to a long-term project at Cape Turnagain to enhance and protect coastal plant life, birdlife and the landscape in general. There is also a large QEII deer fenced area on Tautane Station for the protection of native tree species.

With all three projects able to complement one another, this offers a “corridor biodiversity effect”. The project focused on awareness by engaging with freehold landowners; this created platforms for wider conversation discussions and viewing of Tautane operations carried out by Horizons and Ngati Kahungunu.

A successful number of rats have been eliminated, thus assisting awareness of pest populations and potential damage from these populations. Young pine regen trees have been removed, leaving only mature trees that are hazardous to remove, this will slow the spread of wilding pines and allow native grass to populate the dune areas.

Community involvement has been good however there have been some challenges with coastal weather at times. Approximately 245 people have been to the project site and the full corridor of project partners at Herbertville, this has involved two separate days of viewing followed by a gathering at the Tautane Woolshed.



19 Ngāti Te Maunga Whenuakura - Ruapehu

Te Taurima i Ngā Mātāpono Tiaki mō Whenuakura Project - Awarded \$20,500

Ngāti Te Maunga Whenuakura Incorporated was established following the Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa Treaty settlement to uphold and enact the settlement deed's protection principles and reaffirm their identity as mana whenua of Whenuakura, a culturally and ecologically significant stronghold in the Pureora Forest Park.

Ultimately, the Society aims to empower whānau through both cultural preservation and economic self-determination, nurturing the creative talents of local artists and practitioners to ensure a sustainable, connected future where both the people and the land can thrive.

The operational area holds exceptionally high conservation value, capturing precious pockets of the naturally uncommon and vulnerable North Island frost flat ecosystem. Sustained predator control here directly protects rare and threatened native flora and fauna from introduced mammalian pests. Furthermore, the trap network established by Ngāti Te Maunga Whenuakura Inc. successfully bridges a crucial gap between two existing large-scale forestry blocks operated by Manulife. This collaborative buffer reduces pest reinvasion rates and amplifies landscape biodiversity outcomes, linking smoothly with the Department of Conservation's wider protection networks, safeguarding vulnerable species like Kokako in the neighbouring Pureora Forest.

Funding this year was used to purchase traps and trapping infrastructure assets (55 x DOC200 double sets and 55 x DOC250 single sets). With the foundational trapping hardware successfully out on the lines, our next operational phase focuses intensely on ongoing track-cutting to 1200mm, line validation work to secure the network, and the formal registration and tracking of catch data through www.trapnz.co.nz to ensure transparent, data-driven results moving forward.



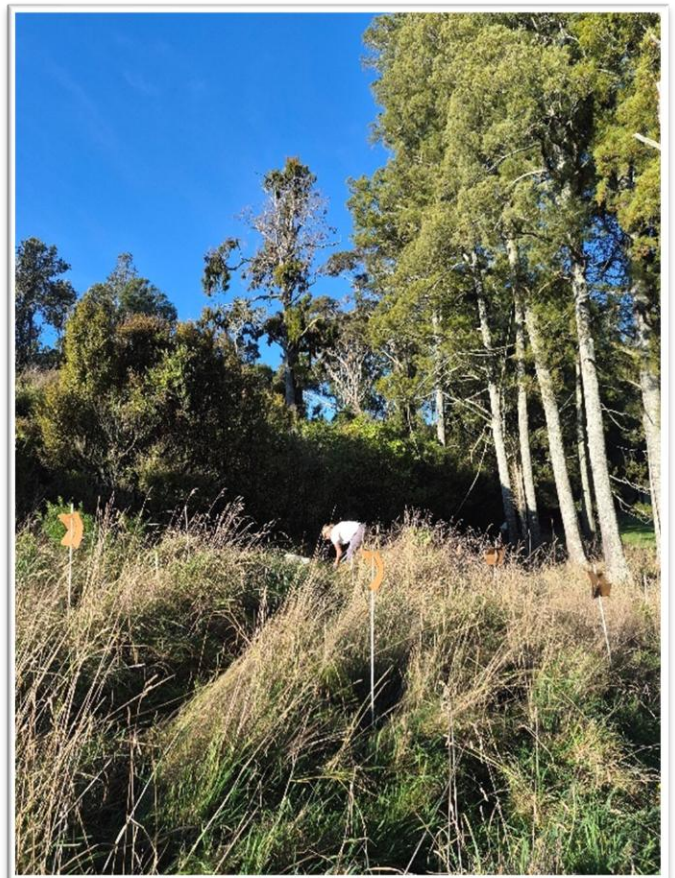
20 Ngawakahiamoe Bush Trust - Horowhenua

Fence off and plant 0.45Ha of pasture and mixed podocarps -
Awarded \$4,000

This project is part of the larger Ngawakahiamoe Bush project. The fund assisted fencing off and planting 0.4562 Ha of dairy pasture in 375 manuka plants. The area has some mature Kahikatea and Matai across it, which will help shelter new plantings. A further 65 manuka were planted on a low sand ridge that is covered in thick tall grass and causes natural regeneration to be very, very slow. It received planting during 2023 and 2024, and the new plants should help provide the tough pioneer shelter needed to encourage future natural regeneration.

A contractor constructed the fence, and volunteers planted over several sessions from May to mid-June. Planting is a special time for volunteers at Ngawakahiamoe, not only does it provide a great workout, but it establishes a special bond between volunteers and the trees that they then watch growing over the years.

Volunteers work hard here and it is always amazing to see plants come through a couple of seasons later. Ngawakahiamoe becomes a very personal special place to those who work here.



21 Ngawakahiamoe Bush Trust - Horowhenua

Predator Control Project - Awarded \$478 (Year 3)

This year's funds built on the trap network at Ngawakahiamoe to install an additional 24 DOC200s and six self-resetting AT220s. The total trap network has been on Trap NZ since April 2026 and includes 56 traps and 38 possum bait stations.

Ngawakahiamoe have benefited from many generous donations including three x A24s from one of our trappers and 10 x DOC250 box traps from Horizons High Priority fund, four dozen eggs for the box traps donated monthly by Zealand Farms ('The Big Egg'), and some thick planks donated by Mitchpine to improve tracks by building little bridges over tree roots to protect them and provide for safe and efficient walking for volunteers and visitors.

The trap distribution has focused on the edges of the ngahere, to create a shield against new arrivals, whilst also catching resident pests. Since July 2024, two trapping teams have operated that comprise of six regular volunteers and one or two occasional volunteers.



22 Ohaumoko Trust - Rangitīkei

Forest Biodiversity Development in the Mangatipona Stream Catchment Project - Awarded \$7,790

This project aims to tackle a small but developing infestation of old man's beard and convolvulus within the Mangatipona Stream valley and gorge.

The objective is to effectively eradicate Old Man's Beard and convolvulus within the Wairere and Mangatipona Stream reserve boundaries over three years.

Work undertaken in 2024 reduced the target weed populations by approximately 70%, aiming to bring them down to around 5% of their original pre-2024 extent within three years.

This year the grant allocation was used to engage professional pest plant control contractors trained in high rope access work to undertake old man's beard management within the Wairere Stream gorge.

Alongside the contracted old man's beard management, a team of five volunteers spent 20 hours working to control convolvulus across the site.

The vision for the property – and the inspiration for the effort and investment in weed management is to support visitors to visit, providing help to control deer and other pest animals.



23 Otiranui Guardians - Ruapehu

Trapping Expansion Program Phase 2 Project - Awarded \$5,250

The project is the protection of the flora and fauna within 155 Ha of regenerating native rainforest on Otiranui near Ohakune. The goal is to increase indigenous biodiversity through trapping predators (cats, possums, stoats, ferrets, hedgehogs and rats) and hunting of ungulates and pigs.

Part of the purpose of this project is to educate and expose the local community and general public to the benefits of protecting and preserving indigenous biodiversity. Access for the public is via the Puketawa Track, a 6km marked route through the rainforest. As well, there is a shelter that can be used as a base for people to experience the rainforest at night.

Grant funding was used to purchase 10 cat traps, bait, repairs to 2 AT220s, and to purchase a new unit. Over the last year, 25 cats were caught in the live capture traps and removed from the forest.

The project was primarily completed by volunteers and neighbours but was also supported by international help exchange workers. We did not feel it was appropriate to involve schools and community groups until we are able to educate these groups more effectively on the damage cats inflict on our fauna.

They are monitoring for cat signs and sightings and moving cat traps appropriately, and in the future aim to have more cat traps to avoid the time wasted in unnecessary relocation of heavy traps. They are considering the value and implementation of transmitters and receivers on cat traps to allow more set traps per volunteer, and cat trapping will be something that will continue for the foreseeable future.



24 Ōwhango Alive - Ruapehu

Whakapapa Whio Protection Project - Awarded \$5,380

Ōwhango Alive's mission is to protect and enhance the environment of the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve, Whakapapa River and Ōwhango village for the benefit of the endemic and native flora and fauna and the enjoyment of locals and visitors.

The project focus for this year's grant funding was on further protecting the Whio on the Whakapapa River by purchasing 10 AT220 Autotraps, batteries and lures as well as enhancing the live capture trapping programme using trail camera footage.

Trail cameras, funded by the biodiversity grant, have been a useful tool, allowing volunteers to monitor sites, locating areas with high predator counts and for the AT220 traps to be placed. The traps funded this year have quickly been put to work, trapping three feral cats, 164 rats, and 76 possums so far.

These have been a great addition to an established trapping program of 300 traps in total, protecting 200 hectares alongside the Whakapapa River.

In the past 12 months, Ōwhango Alive have experienced excellent community engagement, involving over 300 people across planting events, trapping forums and trap building days, engaging 200+ students from five schools.

This year Ōwhango Alive has reached a huge milestone, with community members contributing over 2,500 volunteer hours of their time to help protect their rohe.



25 Peter and Ella Grant - Whanganui

Matatū Manu Restoration Project - Awarded \$6,241.50

Matatū is a privately owned conservation block in the Kauarapaoa Valley, Whanganui. The trapping programme aims to extend protection of North Island brown kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*) from 28ha to 230 ha. This is year five of the project.

Year one (2022/2023) involved establishment of tracks and the deployment of 3 x AT220 traps. Year two (2023/2024) expanded the network to cover the adjacent ridges, and tracking tunnels were introduced, enabling the development of new and existing trails for volunteers to maintain traps more efficiently, allowing children aged 5 upwards (with direct adult supervision) to visit the project area to learn about NZ conservation. Year three saw an additional 3 AT220 traps introduced to the network, bringing the total number of AT220 traps in the 28ha project area to 9. This year (year four) saw the project expand considerably with 40 DOC200s and an additional AT220 deployed across the entire 230ha block.

In total, 253 possums, rats, mice and stoats were trapped over the year (3 mice, 36 rats, 2 stoats, 44 possums, 167 “Unspecified”). The trail cam purchased has been moved around various sites throughout the year, collecting mostly images and videos of goats and volunteers, but also native birds, including a kiwi.

The deployment of the 40 DOC200 traps was done with the assistance of volunteers and Horizons Biodiversity staff. Regular volunteer days have been held on the first Sunday of every month, averaging 4 - 5 adults and occasionally accompanied by primary to intermediate age tamariki.

The owners Peter & Ella Grant’s son in law Joel is an active member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and has been a fantastic advocate of environmental service within the church, often guiding large groups into Matatū to check traps and undertake track maintenance, as well as Rutherford Intermediate “Bush Guardians” Program, leading students into Matatū to learn about conservation in the environment, for the environment, and undertaking trap checks and trail maintenance tasks.



26 Pikiariki Restoration Group - Waitomo

Pikiariki Restoration Rat Control Project - Awarded \$12,204

This project is establishing a network of A24 traps throughout the Pikiariki Forest, Pureora, to maintain rats at a low density throughout the year. This complements pest control work done by DOC, who do intermittent rat control using aerial 1080 and anticoagulant toxins. DOC control knocks rat numbers down, but rats recover quickly in this forest type, with the project aim to keep rats at low density between DOC's operations. It also complements work done by the Pikiariki Halo project, who focus on minimising the reinfestation of pests in Pikiariki Forest. The pest control is required to restore and protect one of Aotearoa New Zealand's finest examples of dense podocarp forest, and the bats and birds that call this forest their home.

Pikiariki Restoration spent \$12,202.30 on 1467 lures and 800 gas canisters. These were used to service the 325 A24 self-resetting traps which were set up in the 2024/25 financial year. Traps were serviced 3 times during the year to top up lure and gas. These traps cover 300 ha of Pikiariki forest, and Lotteries funding has been used to expand the trap area to 461 traps over approx. 450 ha. They are focused on growing the rat control area at a rate which is sustainable for funding and volunteers. Rat monitoring shows that rats are at lower density within the A24 rat control area than outside of it, which is a positive sign that it is helping to protect biodiversity in the forest.

Over the past year, volunteers have come from many sources. The Waikato Tramping Club and the Hamilton Tramping Club, both based in Hamilton, the Pirongia te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society, the van trampers group, the Karioi Project, and Taupo District Council. Geographically, they have come from an area stretching between Foxton Beach and Mangawhai Heads and Opotiki to New Plymouth. Once the network gets into action, it really gets going!



27 Project Tongariro - Ruapehu

Mangawhero River Walkway Restoration Project - Awarded \$8,080 (Year 1)

This project is to build a biodiverse native bush corridor alongside the Mangawhero River as it passes through Ohakune township. The river and track create a corridor from Tongariro National Park linking with Jubilee Park and islands of native vegetation (such as Pae Mahara) further afield. They plan and aspire to enhance and grow this nature corridor by maintaining the track, tackling the weeds and planting native trees to allow natural restoration to take place. More specifically, in this financial year, with Horizons funding, has meant weed removal has been undertaken, and begun planning and preparation for planting next year. A contractor was able to undertake weed-tree removal, spraying and drilling-poisoning work.

The Mangawhero River Track Restoration group were involved in this project. Predator Free Ohakune continues to support this work, and it has sparked interest from river walk users, and some have made donations – in particular, the River Run group (runners).

It is hoped there will be more community involvement when the tree planting planned for autumn in 2027 happens, and there will be a follow-up strike at the weeds that re-emerge from this year's removal work.

The Horizons funding the weed removal, mostly being done by Mangawhero River Track Restoration members and a local contractor.



28 Raetihi Primary School - Ruapehu

Outdoor Classroom Development Project - Awarded \$1,750

Raetihi School have a paddock as part of the school grounds. It has a stream running through it and a man-made pond. They had a vision to turn this space into an outdoor classroom space where tamariki and their whānau can make use of it.

This is the third year of funding this project has received. The work this year saw a further 151 native plants added to the 1,045 plants planted across the last couple of years. A microscope was also purchased so children could see macroinvertebrates and plants up close.

Together, students, staff and caretakers have been the main drivers of this project with planting and after-care for these plants.

Each child has adopted two plants, and it is their responsibility to care for them.

Local farmers have been a big help, supplying mulch to be used around the plants, and it has been a community project to get this outdoor classroom created.

The outdoor classroom will have boulders and logs interspersed throughout the planted area to add additional features to the space.



29 Ruahine Whio Protection Trust – Rangitīkei

Ruahine trapping to protect whio Project - Awarded \$30,000 (Year 2)

Ruahine Whio Protection Trust raises funds to support community-led mustelid trapping to protect Whio and Kiwi in the Northwest (Te Potae O Awarua) and Southern (Oroua/Pohangina Blue Duck Protection Project) Ruahine Range. These projects have been operating for 18 years and are part of a wider trapping network in the Northern and Southern Ruahine. The Pohangina catchment holds the most southern Whio breeding population in the North Island.

The objective is to maintain the population of Whio and provide a protected base population and have 50 breeding pairs. The Ruahine are recognised as a recovery site by the national Whio Recovery Group (DOC), but we are awaiting confirmation that the Northern Ruahine Ecological Management Unit (EMU) is recognised as a Security Site for Whio Protection.

Funding from Horizons, DOC and selling calendars supported the 2025/26 trapping season, with the Te Potae O Awarua project area as the prioritised recipient this season. With the sudden increase in helicopter costs, this used most of our budget.

Volunteers have completed 6 of the 7 planned Te Potae trap service trips with between 7 and 13 people each time. In the Pohangina River, traps (A24's) have been serviced twice as required with 5 and 8 people each trip. In the wider project area, the Oroua River has had monthly trips servicing the more accessible traps and less frequent trips to the more remote traps, regular volunteers include trampers, hunters and Massey University Student Wildlife Conservation Club. One Duke of Edinburgh student completed her gold 'Service' during the last year and is still coming out on the trap lines.



30 Sally Pearce – Rangitīkei

Rangitīkei Remnant Weed-busting blitz Project - Awarded \$4767.25

The 2025-26 weed-busting blitz was part of a now 27-year community restoration programme, supported over the years by Forest & Bird and other volunteers, Horizons, DOC, QE11 Trust and other funders.

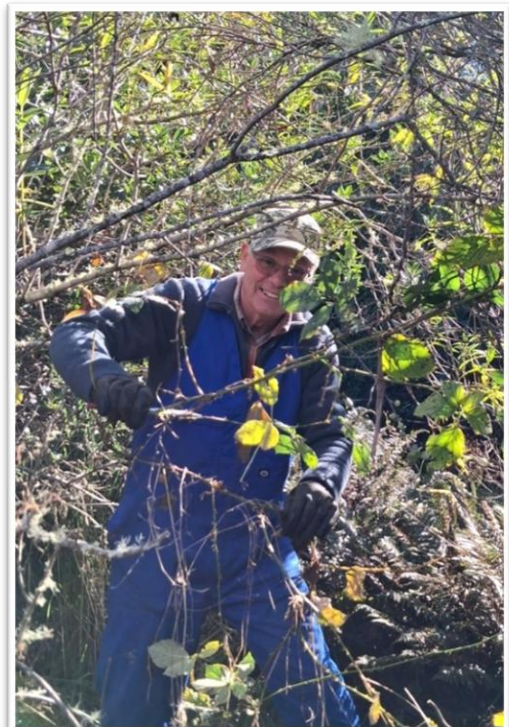
The goals of the 2025-26 project were to:

- 1) promote the long-term health and regeneration of the bush by greatly reducing the number of pest plants throughout most of the remnant, focusing especially on species that are most invasive and/or difficult to control once established; and
- 2) Reduce the number of wasp nests to minimise the risk to volunteers and others, and to reduce the ecological impact of high numbers of wasps on the ecosystem.

The larger programme includes ongoing weed work, annual wasp baiting, possum, rat and stoat control and historically the growing and planting of natives eco-sourced from this site into gaps in the southwest block. Most of these gaps have now been filled, and planting is now a lower priority than controlling the weeds.

The funding this year was used for Kahikatea Contracting to survey and control weeds in the weediest and most difficult areas of the site that were not possible for volunteers to do. Some of the funding was also used to purchase Vespex wasp bait.

They will continue to do voluntary weed control and look for other sources of funding and support when required. The results are positive with fewer sycamores each year, with the odd larger ones (on the verge of seeding) that were more hidden or out of the way. In general, all weeds are much more spread out (other than in the southwest block), and it is increasingly important to be able to survey the bush thoroughly and record problem areas to return to.



31 St Joseph's School - Manawatū

Almadale Reserve Restoration Project - Awarded \$4,648

This project is the latest stage of the St Joseph School Forest School program, which established a trapping network within the Almadale Reserve in late 2023. The program has serviced a network of 25 Rat Traps and six Possum traps weekly and has removed over 130 Pest animals to date.

This year, the project has used funding to purchase native trees to be planted by the students and staff. This builds on the pest plant control work undertaken by Green by Nature and funded by the Manawatu District Council.

The grant supported 1000 native plants, which were planted over two different planting events, the first 515 plants in September 2025, and the last 485 plants in May 2026, with each event attended by over 40 Staff, students and community volunteers.

Students have continued carrying out service at Almadale Reserve, helping to ensure seedlings are not overwhelmed by weed growth. During the ten Forest School sessions held between planting days, they have typically spent an average of 25 minutes managing weeds around newly planted vegetation.

In total, around 90 students have participated in either planting or weed control activities, supported by approximately 20 adults from the school community.



32 Te Mara o Rongo-mā-Tāne - Palmerston North City

Rongoā Planting Project – Awarded \$3,500

This project is a dedicated school garden showcasing traditional Māori rongoā and local biodiversity. Initiated in 2025 at College Street Normal School, the project has since relocated to Palmerston North Intermediate School, PNINS, building upon the school's existing history with rongoā gardens. The garden is named in honour of the Māori atua Rongo-mā-Tāne, the Atua of cultivated foods and peace.

The grant application was prepared by a College St Normal student and supported by the school principal. The student's move to PNINS coincided with plans by former Principal Mr Hamish Ruawai alongside Whaea Natalie Strickland for a rongoa garden and biodiversity education, where the funds enabled significant progress.

At Te Mara o Rongo-mā-Tāne a po have been carved by Mr Ruawai, and a dedicated seven-person team handled the construction. Student and staff teams contributed to the initial planting and design and production of the signage as well as digital support throughout the project.

Moving forward, PNINS will host community classes and information days in the Whare, involving local schools and landowners. These will provide multicultural learners with hands-on opportunities to learn about indigenous medical practices while restoring habitats for native bird populations.

A maintenance plan combining student stewardship and operational support will keep the garden thriving.



33 Te Roopu Taiao o Ngāti Whakaterere Trust - Horowhenua

Restoration of Te Maire Lagoon Project - Awarded \$6,000 (Year 1)

The project focused on restoring and protecting the ecosystems of Te Maire Lagoon and Graham Street through native planting, weed control, pest management, and environmental monitoring. Guided by the Poutū Pā wellbeing model, the initiative aimed to improve environmental health while strengthening cultural connections, education opportunities, and community wellbeing.

The project successfully brought together diverse community groups and key partners to restore Te Maire Lagoon and Graham Street. Active participants included three representatives from TRTONWT, eight from the Environmental Water Park Trust, four local landowners, 27 students and teachers from Shannon Primary School, 13 from Hanana Kōhanga Reo and six Anglican Venerable Bede whanau. This project has been supported by Horizons Regional Council, Horowhenua District Council and Green by Nature.

To secure the long-term success of the restoration works at Te Maire Lagoon and Graham Street, Te Roopu Taiao o Ngāti Whakaterere Trust has established a robust maintenance and future development strategy. Recent plantings will be actively maintained over the next three to five years to ensure high establishment and survival rates and they will continue pest animal control and environmental monitoring.

The Trust intends to utilise these restored sites as living outdoor classrooms. They will continue to integrate these environments into Taiao and Kaitiakitanga youth initiatives with Shannon Primary School, and Hanana Kōhanga Reo curriculum, providing hands-on educational opportunities in conservation. Furthermore, they plan to expand the planting footprint in successive stages, working in close collaboration with local landowners and Councils. By weaving these ongoing efforts into the Shannon Community Plan, they will ensure that Te Maire Lagoon and Graham Street remain thriving, self-sustaining taonga that support both the health of the environment (taiao) and the well-being of the community (tangata) for generations to come.



34 The Eco School – Whanganui

Gully Restoration Project - Awarded \$4,000 (Year 3)

The goal of this project is to re-establish native bush and wetland habitats on both sides of Purua Stream on Kaitiaki farm in Okoia, Whanganui, with the help of school groups, whanau, and community volunteers.

Funding was used to purchase 500 native trees, which were planted to increase native biodiversity in the Purua Stream valley on the farm, and to support community engagement through hosting school groups and community events.

Throughout the year, The Eco School have hosted approximately 200 students, teachers and community members over a total of six planting days, involving five school groups and one Whanau Day.

To date, close to two hectares of native planting had been established on the property. An adjacent property contained approximately half a hectare of mature bush, and another nearby property included around one hectare of regenerating bush. Together, these areas formed a significant biodiversity hotspot close to the city boundary.

As this stage of the project comes to an end, The Eco School will continue to engage with the community, changing the focus of their efforts towards maintenance and pest management in the years to come.



35 Waikawa Beach Environment Group - Horowhenua

Reay Mackay Dune Revegetation Long-term Project - Awarded \$12,506 (Year 1)

The Reay Mackay Dune Revegetation long-term project is a community-led initiative undertaken by the Waikawa Beach Environment Group (WBEG) to restore indigenous coastal dune ecosystems within the Council-owned reserve between the northern and southern pedestrian walkways at Waikawa Beach. The project focuses on the removal of invasive pest plants, restoration of indigenous dune species, enhancement of habitat connectivity, and increased community stewardship of the local environment.

Year one focused on-site preparation, invasive weed control and the establishment of indigenous plants across priority areas adjacent to the northern and southern walkways and within the connecting corridor. Four planting days were postponed due to extreme weather, however two successful community planting events have been held, planting around 1100 spinifex and pīngao plants and 200 tauhinu. A major weed control programme was undertaken targeting blackberry, lupin, pampas, marram and boxthorn. These works have significantly improved planting conditions and reduced competition from invasive species. The inundation of Pampas was controlled by volunteers who regularly and progressively cut back the pampas and planted behind them.

Approximately 23 active volunteers participated in the project, contributing an estimated 208 volunteer hours through planting, weed control, monitoring and maintenance activities. WBEG has actively managed an online social media campaign to educate the community on both pest and beneficial plants in our environment.



2025 pre-planting and 2026 post-planting

36 Waimarama Freeman - Manawatū

Te Mata o te Whenua Project - Awarded \$2,400 (Year 3)

Tēnā tātou, in 2021 we started planting native rākau on our Whenua, under the old tōtara and kahikatea near Ōroua River. The aim was to restore the Whenua and Reporepo with a wide range of indigenous rākau to help heal the whenua and bring balance to the taiao in their own backyard. Bringing whānau, hapū and iwi together to reconnect, heal and embrace each other with taonga species and taiao.

The have planted around the Reporepo and have weed mats to help them get off to a great start, and total number of rākau planted is now 1431. They have started water monitoring the Awa and Reporepo, and baseline monitoring for the old tōtara and kahikatea.

Some feedback from whānau for this project have been:

One planting day was after Koko Theo's Tangihanga. Our Koko was 97 years old, and he spent most of his life on this whenua. It was great healing for us to be together, working as we found our feet walking this earth without him, with us physically. There were about 45 landowners that attended this planting day. For a few of the landowners, this is the first time they have been on the whenua, and they felt a strong sense of belonging before rushing off to catch their planes back to where they live.

"I have felt a real sense of reconnection with both our whenua and our whānau through these planting days. Being part of something that isn't just for today, but will continue to benefit future generations, has been incredibly meaningful. Knowing we are restoring our whenua with native plants gives me a deep sense of pride and purpose. It has been wholesome, grounding, and a reminder of the importance of caring for our environment together while strengthening our connections to each other and to the whenua".



37 Wairua Conservation– Whanganui

Kai Iwi Restoration Project - Awarded \$7,465 (Year 1)

The Kai Iwi Trapping Project focuses on the suppression of introduced predators, primarily rats, possums, stoats, and mice, to protect and restore the biodiversity in the Kai Iwi area. The project relies on a dedicated community of volunteers throughout the Kai Iwi township. Around 20 households in the area have a trap assigned to them that they check and rebait and there is a structured volunteer team, including a passionate site lead and data manager (Sophie Ross), an operations lead (Antz Manning), and several active field volunteers.

There is a mixture of traps used in this project including victor rat traps, modified victor stoat traps, Doc 150's, timms traps, and flipping Timmy traps. They also have tracking tunnels and an artificial intelligence camera for monitoring.

Funding was used to purchase possum traps and Doc 200s. They have also recently been able to retire ageing, unsafe equipment and deploy 48 new victor professional rat traps, as well as tracking tunnels and ink cards, which will significantly improve monitoring capabilities and overall catch rates in the coming year.

The plan is to retain the current volunteer base through regular communication and community reporting, while also looking to onboard new locals who have shown interest. By maintaining ongoing accurate data entry via www.trapnz.co.nz they will continuously evaluate the impact and adapt traplines to ensure Kai Iwi's indigenous biodiversity has a permanent haven to thrive. There is a focus on initiative to foster community guardianship by training local volunteers in safe trapping protocols, data collection, and environmental monitoring care, health and well-being.

As they move into the second year of funding the primary focus is sustaining the momentum built and improving monitoring capabilities. The recent equipment regarding monitoring and new, fresh traps to put out in the field remains safe, effective, and reliable for volunteers to set.



38 Waitārere Rise Residents Society Incorporated - Horowhenua

Waitārere Rise Reserve riparian margin Project - Awarded \$1,500

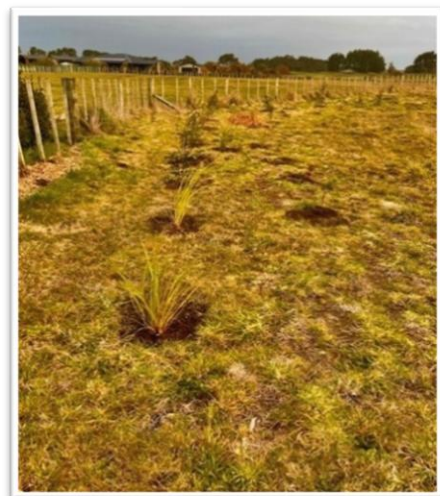
The Waitārere Rise Reserve Society (WRRSI) has 35ha of land dedicated as a community reserve. The WRRSI maintains the reserve spaces as functional spaces for use by New Zealand wildlife.

They are replanting former pine forests with native trees, reducing predators and managing the wetland space for use by aquatic birds.

Part of the reforestation includes riparian planting along the Wairarawa Stream.

This year a total of 355 trees and shrubs, comprising 27 species, were planted by residents volunteering their labour.

These plants went along the reserve strip bordering the Wairarawa Stream to improve the water quality and improve the naturalness of the stream. They had a 100% survival at four months, which is likely based on some heavy rain in the days post-planting, as well as the dedication from the community to water them from carts during dry periods, keeping grass clear, and the use of guards to protect them from rabbits and the coastal winds.



39 Waitārere Rise Residents Society Incorporated - Horowhenua

Waitārere Rise Reserve Trapping Project - Awarded \$5,984

The Waitārere Rise Reserve Society (WRRSI) has 35ha of land dedicated as a community reserve. The WRRSI maintains the reserve spaces as functional spaces for use by New Zealand wildlife.

They are replanting former pine forests with native trees, reducing predators and managing the wetland space for use by aquatic birds.

Part of the reforestation includes riparian planting along the Wairarawa Stream.

The funding was used towards the purchase of traps including, 16 flipping Timms, 24 DOC200s, four At220s and four SA2s.

These traps have been deployed throughout the 35-ha reserve and are actively serviced by nine volunteers. To date 60 pest animals have been removed from the reserve since trapping was implemented.

Monitoring tunnels were also purchased to monitor pest animal populations, and these are being done in conjunction with bird surveys. Results will hopefully be showing that the trapping being done is having a positive impact on bird populations.

40 Weber School - Tararua

Weber School Wai Restoration Project - Awarded \$3,500

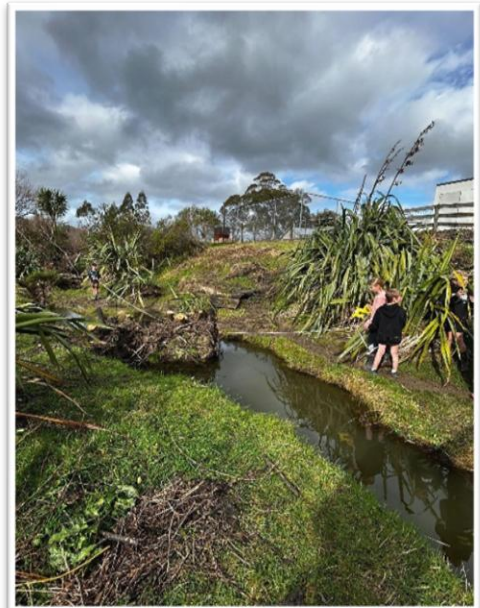
Following a visit to the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre – Mount Bruce to learn about native environments, ecosystems, and biodiversity, the staff and students at Weber School were inspired to explore and improve their local area. They investigated their creek area and identified issues that needed to be addressed to restore the ecosystem and support the return of biodiversity.

Funding has allowed the engagement of contractors to carry out pest plant removal that was not suitable to carry out with school children and volunteers. This project has made dramatic improvements to the site, with the removal of 130 Elm trees, four large willow trees and a 120 square meter patch of blackberry.

While the grant funding was used to engage a contractor, staff and students worked alongside them at every stage, creating valuable opportunities for hands-on learning with their tamariki. They have worked with Rangitāne leaders, who shared tikanga for planting and provided a Te Ao Māori perspective to guide and strengthen the restoration project.

Using the SHMAK kit to monitor stream health, Weber School students are actively working as kaitiaki for their environment.

This project has empowered young people to connect with the whenua and become active agents of change in restoring the creek's biodiversity and ecosystem.





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