Whangawehi

Catchment size: 3600 ha
(25% of Mahia Peninsula)

Land Use:
- Commercial Forestry: 1000 ha (28%)
- Native Forest (DOC): 370 ha (10%)
- Farm land: 2350 ha (62%)
Our story

Sewage coming from the Western side of the Peninsula

Mahia Beach settlement

Towards Whangāwehi

Horokaka Mataitai
Customary / Maori Reserve on the Eastern side of the Peninsula

Whangāwehi river on the eastern side

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Our journey

MOU DEVELOPMENT (2011)
Catchment Management Plan stage 1 (2011)
Incorporated Society (2012)
Application for funding (2013+)
Implementation phase (2014/15/16/17)

Expansion outside catchment footprint (2018)

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Project overview

- Maori cultural values
- Riparian fencing and planting
- Pest control
- Education
- Eco Tourism
- Community engagement
- Soil conservation
- Indigenous water and fish monitoring
- Info sharing

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Project summary:
- 200,000 native trees
- 100 ha retired
- 15 km river fenced
- 30 ha native bush
- Water supplies
- Soil conservation trees, debris dams
- Shelter and walkway projects

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- School programme (63 workshops delivered in 4 years)
- Community planting week ends (400)
- Guided walks and mountain bike rides (over 800)
- Water monitoring (48 sets of data - 15% reduction in E Coli) and pest control programme (300 traps)
- Info sharing
- Awards won: Trust Power Community Awards, finalist NZ of the Year, Winner Pride of NZ Award, Supreme Winner at the Green Ribbon Award 2017 and Winner of the Caring for our water category, Winner of the 2018 IRF Awards in the Pacific category
Where we want to go

✓ Expansion phase
- New alliance with Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust
- Model used in the Taiporutu catchment
- Connectiveness with other initiatives

✓ Current projects:
- Eco tourism: Walkway project
- Mahia Pest Free (PFNZ2050)
- Large scale research project on regenerative agriculture (Beef+Lamb NZ) - Red meat brand
- Twin project in Rarotonga (Muri)
- Significant increase in the scope of our work since 2018

✓ New goals: link conservation work and socio-economic development.

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“The people of Mahia have successfully met the challenge to restore their sacred river to its pristine condition for future generations”

Pat O’Brien Chair