



## Wild about waterways newsletter

Our region's waterways not only provide habitat and food for hundreds of plants and animals, but also recreational and economic opportunities for the community. Healthy waterways reflect a healthy environment, something we all want to enjoy.

At Greater Wellington we're committed to maintaining clean and healthy waterways. We work in partnership with many community environmental care groups and private landowners. Our aim is to make it easy for people to look after their local stream wetland.

*Wild about waterways* provides up-to-date news and information on our programmes.



The Wainuiomata River is a great habitat for fish.

### Streams Alive

Greater Wellington's *Streams Alive* programme, launched in June 2004, aims to improve water quality and stream life by planting stream banks and fencing streams from stock.

If you are a landowner in one of the twelve priority catchments – Waitohu Stream, Otaki River, Ration Creek, Karori Stream, Wainuiomata River, Mangaroa River, Owhanga Stream, Upper Waiohine River, Upper Ruamahanga River, Kaiwhata River, Waihora Stream and Glendhu Creek – and you have a stream on your property, you may qualify for free native plants, planting and weed control.

We also provide practical advice on stream restoration for anyone who has a stream on their property.

To find out more about *Streams Alive*, stream restoration, or whether you are in a priority catchment, contact Michelle Bird on 06 370 5634 or 0800 496 734, email [riparian@gw.govt.nz](mailto:riparian@gw.govt.nz). Individual *Streams Alive* fact sheets will be available online at [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz) in October.



The Waitohu Stream has been fenced to keep the stock out of the whitebait spawning ground.

### Wetland Incentives Programme

Since the *Wetland Incentives Programme* began in November 2003, over sixty landowners have received advice and support from us on wetland management. Around half are lifestyle block owners and almost half live on the Kapiti Coast. Landowners have received help with weed control, fencing or pest control and we've also trialled water level monitoring.

If you would like help or advice about managing a wetland on your property, or have any questions or comments about the programme, contact Melanie Dixon on 04 384 5708 or 0800 496 734, email [wetlands@gw.govt.nz](mailto:wetlands@gw.govt.nz)

### Take Care

Greater Wellington's *Take Care* programme provides opportunities for community or landowner groups to work on environmental projects that contribute to the health and restoration of rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, estuaries, dunes and the coast.

For more information call Paula Loader on 04 384 5708 or 0800 496 734, email [caregroups@gw.govt.nz](mailto:caregroups@gw.govt.nz) or visit [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)

## Weedbusting at Te Hapua wetland

QEII National Trust, Kapiti Coast District Council, local landowners and Greater Wellington are getting together to organise a weed control programme to target blackberry, pampas grass, willow and African boxthorn. A survey of weeds in the area is helping us to work out how much a control programme would cost.

- Pampas and blackberry compete with native plants in the dunes and wetlands.
- African boxthorn can form dense stands on sand dunes and is poisonous to stock and to birds that eat the berries.
- Willow can be a problem in the wetlands because it grows tall and shades out shorter native wetland plants such as flax (harekeke).

If you live in the Greater Wellington area the weeds on your property may have already been surveyed. If not, please contact Mike Urlich on 04 526 5325, email [michael.urlich@gw.govt.nz](mailto:michael.urlich@gw.govt.nz)

## Can fish fly? Native freshwater fish in our region

Well, no, our native fish can't fly – but they are fascinating. Greater Wellington has just published a series of fact sheets profiling our native fish and where they can be found in the Wellington region. Our fact sheets include:

- Giant kōkopu
- Inanga
- Banded kōkopu
- Koaro
- Bullies
- Shortjaw kōkopu
- Eels (tuna)
- Torrentfish



Banded kōkopu are common in the Wellington region.

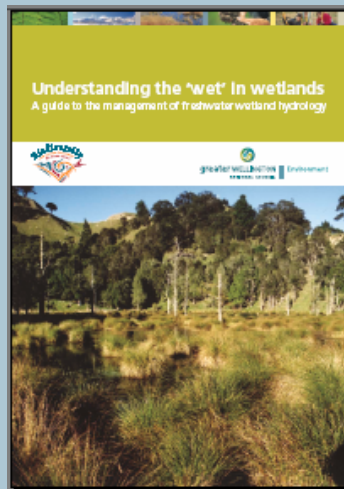
## Understanding the 'wet' in wetlands

Freshwater wetlands need water to survive. The flow of water in and out of a wetland is known as its hydrology. Published with support from the Government's Biodiversity Advice Fund, this new publication has been written for wetland enthusiasts and landowners.

It will help you understand the importance and basic principles of wetland hydrology, develop your own monitoring programmes and create a more natural hydrological regime.

Other publications include:

- A beginner's guide to wetland restoration
- Controlling problem weeds in riparian zones
- Restoration planting
- Managing your bush block
- Mind the stream.



**Copies of all these publications are available from our website [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz), by email [publications@gw.govt.nz](mailto:publications@gw.govt.nz) or by contacting us on 04 384 5708 or 0800 496 734.**

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Greater Wellington  
P O Box 11646  
Wellington

Greater Wellington  
P O Box 41  
Masterton

Greater Wellington  
P O Box 40847  
Upper Hutt

T 04 384 5708  
F 04 385 6960  
W [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)

T 06 378 2484  
F 06 378 2146  
W [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)

T 04 526 4133  
F 04 526 4171  
W [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)

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