



Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

Ki uta ki tai, he taonga te wai - From the mountains to the sea, water is life

Contact us: 0800 496734 | ruamahangawhaitua@gw.govt.nz | www.gw.govt.nz/ruamahanga-whaitua-committee

Field Work

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee (RWC) are listening, learning and understanding a wide range of views and information about land and water management in the Ruamahanga River catchment.

Last week committee members discussed the interaction of land and water in Wairarapa's hill country, learning more about historic 'crack willow' issues, land classes and erosion control techniques as well as changes to farming practices over time.

South Wairarapa District Councillor and RWC member Colin Olds valued the opportunity to meet farmers and hear about the challenges of farming in the Taueru River catchment, north of Masterton.

"What happens at the head of the river affects the bottom of the river. Soils are different and the river has a different character on the valley floor where I live and work. Urban wastewater is not an issue in the hills for example, but preventing landslips is," said Cllr Olds. "I can read all about this but having discussions on-site gives me

a much better understanding."

"Last week we heard a farmer compare his stock ratios to his father's records in handwritten diaries for the same farm. He had been surprised at the volume of sheep his dad had run in light of his own concern to manage soil erosion on the property. The farmer soon realised his father had run much lighter animals, grown for the then buoyant wool market, instead of heavier animals for the meat market as is usual today. His story brought home to me how important it is to make sure numbers tell the whole story."

"Interactions within any catchment are complex," said Cllr Olds. "During this information gathering time I have learnt just how many sources and layers there are to consider."

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee members have been working towards a comprehensive understanding of the scientific, economic, geographic, ecological and cultural interactions within the Ruamahanga River catchment over recent months. They have taken several field trips to gather

knowledge about land and water management along the length of the river, to north, central and south Wairarapa and considered many reports and presentations.

The committee will build a picture and begin sharing this with the Ruamahanga River catchment community.

"We will check we are on the right lines, add more knowledge and ask for feedback and detail as widely as possible."



Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee members learn more about hill country land and water management issues.

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee has been listening to people's ideas and concerns for land and water management in the catchment.

Contact committee members on ruamahangawhaitua@gw.govt.nz or join in discussions at:



Carterton Events Centre



ANZAC Hall, Featherston

Wairarapa and the Greater Wellington Region, is moving to a new way of managing land and water.

Find out what it's all about and watch our video at: www.gw.govt.nz/whaitua-committees.

December 2013

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee announced

February 2014

Powhiri and first committee meeting, Te Ore Ore Marae, Masterton

March-December 2014

Understanding the Landscape: committee meetings, presentations, field trips, workshops, discussion with community members

January-June 2015

Understanding community values: How important is our land and water you? How do you want it to be managed in the future? Looking at options for a way forward

November 2015 onwards

Draft Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme (RWIP) discussed with the community

February 2016

RWIP submitted to GWRC for approval

Mid 2016

RWIP incorporated into GWRC Natural Resources Management Plan (this document governs the work of GWRC, formerly called the 'Regional Plan')

Talking water in Wairarapa

Key to developing a land and water plan for the Ruamahanga River catchment is understanding what people working, living and playing in it now want for the future.

During January whaitua committee member Ra Smith spent several days in Masterton's town centre chatting to passers-by about Wairarapa's waterways.

"My aim was to develop a general understanding of how local people are connected to our waterways and start some conversations," said Ra.

"Some people had quite developed views and we had some lengthy discussions. For others the idea of land and water management was something they had ideas about but had not necessarily put such a formal title on. Once they got chatting it was clear the held views about what they want for the future of Wairarapa's waterways."

"I am sure there are many, many people across the catchment who wouldn't necessarily get involved in formal processes. One of the challenges for the whaitua committee will be making their work and approach relevant to these people so that decisions in the future are relevant to everyone that is affected on a cultural or economic level."

Ideas, concerns and information gathered during these conversations will add to ideas already collected from the community during other discussion, for example previous regional plan consultations or focus group discussion.



Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee have been chatting about Wairarapa's waterways in Masterton town centre and at the A&P Show.



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