

# Maunga ki Tai

A newsletter from the  

**Waikato River Authority**

## Unprecedented level of funding for 2017

THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY HAS INCREASED THE FUNDING IT IS MAKING AVAILABLE FOR THE RESTORATION AND WELLBEING OF THE WAIKATO AND WAIPAA RIVER CATCHMENTS THIS YEAR TO AN UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL.

It is also the first time the Authority has increased its total funding amount after receiving applications.

Authority Chief Executive, Bob Penter, says an Authority Board decision to increase the funding allocation level from \$6 million to \$7.3 million speaks volumes for the quality and number of projects.

"The Authority had set aside \$6 million for the current funding round. However, the quality of applications deserving of funding this year had greatly exceeded that amount.

"The Board decided that this year it could lift the available funding as result of a lower funding amount awarded last year," he says.

A total of 47 projects will receive \$7.3

million in the seventh funding round for the Authority.

There were several large-scale projects that received funding this year. This includes a multi-agency project led by the Department of Conservation to protect and restore the wetlands around Lake Whangape which received \$960,000; and a project to improve water quality, biodiversity and fisheries along 16km of the Puniu River being led by Puniu RiverCare – a marae based social enterprise in the Waipaa catchment – which received \$777,000. Both of these projects recently received funding from the Ministry for the Environment Freshwater Improvement Fund, collectively bringing more than \$1.8m into river and wetland restoration in the Waikato catchment.



Some of the whaanau and elders from Ngaati Reko and Waikeri-Tangirau who are at the heart of setting the direction for the Tangirau Wetland Restoration project (full story page 2)

### MESSAGE FROM THE CE

The 5th Biennial Symposium of the ISRS was held in Hamilton last month in partnership with the Authority. It also brought together the IPENZ/Water NZ Rivers Group (NZRG) and the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society (NZFSS). Some 500 delegates attended, and 120 of these were from overseas. There was a tremendous welcome ahead of the conference opening provided by Turangawaewae Marae. Throughout the week there were a number of excellent river-related presentations, with the highlight being the plenary keynote address delivered by Assoc. Professor Linda Te Aho (University of Waikato) on Mana o te Wai.

Following the conference, I attended by invitation a Global Water Summit in New Delhi, India. The work of the Authority has been recognised by the organisation charged with the enormous task of cleaning up the Ganges (Ganga) River. The Ganges is one of the world's 5 most polluted rivers. On March 20, 2017, a judgment by the Uttarakhand High Court gave Ganga the status of the "first living entity of India" bestowing upon it the rights similar to a living person (as with our own Whanganui River). The opportunity to develop a MoU between our respective organisations was an outcome of this visit, and we look forward to future sharing of information and opportunities to support our respective efforts.

The New Year holds much promise for our river restoration journey with the Healthy Rivers Plan hearings to begin and \$7.3m of new clean-up projects getting underway. On behalf of the board and management team of the Authority I wish you and your families a safe and restful holiday.



Bob Penter  
 Chief Executive

# Wetland restoration **more than just planting**

A MAJOR WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT SOUTH OF NGARUAWAHIA AT WAIERI MARAE IS AN UNDERTAKING THAT IS FAR WIDER THAN FENCING AND ENHANCING NATIVE PLANT LIFE.

The Tangirau Wetland restoration involves restoring and preserving the mana whenua cultural heritage as well as removing pest plants, protective fencing and the planting of native species.

The project, funded by the Authority, is a joint undertaking by the Waikato Regional Council, Boffa Miskell and the whaanau and elders of Ngaati Reko and Waikeri-Tangirau.

The Tangirau Wetland is an important historic and culturally significant site for local iwi.

Part of the project has involved facilitated workshops with whaanau and elders to draw out cultural and environmental goals for the area, focusing on restoring the 'mana whakahaere' of the local marae and hapuu.



*Ngaati Reko and Waikeri-Tangirau whaanau take part in a facilitated workshop to develop a cultural narratives report to be incorporated in the Tangirau Wetland Restoration Strategy.*

## Three tonnes of fish caught

THE ANNUAL WORLD KOI CARP CLASSIC WAS HELD IN THE LOWER WAIKATO CATCHMENT AGAIN THIS YEAR WITH THREE TONNES OF FISH BEING CAUGHT BY BOW HUNTERS.

The biggest koi carp caught was an eight kilo fish, shot by Garry Hine, to take the Waikato River Authority sponsored trophy.

A total of 1329 koi carp were removed from waterways during the October weekend, however, the highlight of the competition was a record book grass carp which was landed at 18.4 kilograms.



*Kyle Morland with his 18.4 grass carp, a record for the competition.*



*The 2017 World Koi Carp Classic weigh in was again held in Huntly.*

# Authority AGM 2017

A FEATURE OF THIS YEAR'S WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WAS A SERIES OF PRESENTATIONS ON PROJECTS THAT ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT THE VISION & STRATEGY FOR THE RIVER.

Among those presenting was Eugene Berryman-Kamp who talked about a series of projects being undertaken by the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust; Gina Williams who presented on her family led project to restore gully and wetland areas of their Mangatautari dairy farm and Glyn Wooller who updated the meeting on the extensive Waikato River Trails project.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the upper

catchment this year, at the Wairakei Conference Venue, on Friday 1 December and follows on from the publication of the Authority's 2017 Annual Report.

A key message from Co-Chairs Tukoroirangi Morgan and Hon John Luxton to the meeting was the importance of the review of the Vision & Strategy currently being undertaken. This provides an important engagement opportunity for people and groups connected with the river.



*Glyn Wooller of Waikato River Trails who talked to the Authority's AGM about the success of their project. The Trail was used by 42,000 people last year and in the last five years the River Trails volunteers have planted 86,000 native trees to add to the health and wellbeing of the river.*

## Open Day for Waikare and Whangamarino

A COMMUNITY OPEN DAY TO DISCUSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING LAKE WAIKARE AND THE WHANGAMARINO WETLAND WAS HELD LAST MONTH.

An increasing amount of sediment and nutrient loads at the north Waikato water bodies is causing concern. Sediment enters the lake from the adjoining land and rivers and is stirred up by wind and wave action and the pest fish koi carp. In the wetland, sediment comes from a number of sources, including from Lake Waikare, the Maramarua River and adjacent land.

A catchment management plan is being developed by the Waikato Regional Council to manage and improve environmental outcomes. A strong turnout of local people attended the open day to discuss issues of concern with a wide variety of agencies represented.



*Waikato River Authority representatives Julian Williams and Keri Neilson attended the open day to discuss the future of Lake Waikare and Whangamarino Wetland. The open day was held at the Te Kauwhata Golf Club.*

# Waikato 100 river event

THE INAUGURAL WAIKATO 100 RIVER EVENT WAS HELD LAST MONTH WITH 140 ATHLETES TAKING TO THE WATER EITHER BY ROWING, KAYAKING, PADDLE BOARDING OR IN WAKA AMA.

Waikato River Authority was one of the sponsors of the event.

Participants had the choice of taking part in a relay or completing shorter course options between the start at Waikato Rowing Club in Hamilton, and the finish at Elbows Ski Club 15 kilometres from Port Waikato.

Among those taking part in the event were brothers Tim and Nicholas Manukau who endorsed the experience as a way to connect more people with the river and to create more advocates for a healthy awa.

The event attracted national media coverage and event organiser Rob Hamil expects further interest and growth in the years ahead.



*Kayakers at Ngaruawahia take part in the Waikato 100 event on Saturday 25 November.*



*Prize giving and picnic for the Waikato 100 held at the Elbows Ski Club at the finish of the inaugural event.*