

Maunga ki Tai NEWSLETTER

Board changes at Waikato River Authority

THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY HAS A NEW LOOK BOARD FOLLOWING THE THREE-YEARLY REVIEW OF CROWN APPOINTMENTS.

All five previous Crown appointees have been replaced following decisions by Cabinet and the Minister for the Environment.

The new Crown appointees are: Paula Southgate (Co-Chair); Jackie Colliar; Erina Watene-Rawiri; Dylan Tahau and Stu Kneebone (see more on back page).

They replace Hon John Luxton (Co-chair); Traci Houpapa; Alan Livingston; Peter Buckley and Barry Harris.

Iwi Co-Chair Roger Pikia has paid tribute to the outgoing board members who he says have shown strong commitment

to the river. He has welcomed the new board members to their roles.

In addition to the Crown appointments, there is also change on the river iwi side.

Waikato-Tainui will have a new appointee following the resignation of Rangi Mahuta, who was appointed to the Authority at the end of 2018.

Waikato-Tainui is currently going through its replacement process and in the meantime has nominated Patience Te Ao as an interim appointee.

Raukawa and Maniapoto river iwi also have appointees pending.



Left to right: Stu Kneebone, Roger Pikia, Patience Te Ao, Dylan Tahau, Jackie Colliar, Bob Penter, Paula Southgate, Danny Loughlin, Erina Watene-Rawiri

▶ For more information on the new Crown appointees please see back page

Applications for funding

Applications to the Waikato River Authority to fund projects for the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipā River are now open.

Up to \$6 million is available. Applications close on Thursday 13 August, with funding decisions being announced in October.

For more information about making an application visit www.waikatoriver.org.nz

MESSAGE FROM THE CE

THE AUTHORITY'S TEAM HAS WORKED HARD OVER THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN TO SUPPORT OUR FUNDING RECIPIENTS AND ENSURE COVID-19 HEALTH GUIDELINES ARE WELL IMPLEMENTED.

In a period of great uncertainty we have sought to provide clarity and compassion for those engaged in river restoration mahi. This has meant uninterrupted payments and flexibility in how and when projects are completed. It is vital that those engaged, and those that wish to be, in river restoration initiatives have no ongoing COVID-19 barriers.

The Authority recognises it has a key role in the economic recovery for our catchment communities and we will be working in the coming months to ensure this recovery occurs concurrently with the restoration of our waterways, lakes and wetlands.



Bob Penter
Chief Executive

BRIDGE FOR TAUPIRI MAUNGA

A project to improve access to the Taupiri Maunga with a bridge across the Mangawhara River has been completed with a blessing of the bridge.

The project has been led by the Waikato District Council with close involvement from Waikato-Tainui.

The project received \$250,000 from the Waikato River Authority.

A blessing for the new bridge was carried out on Saturday 30 May. The new bridge allows safer and more appropriate access to Taupiri Maunga.



Pictured: Tim Manukau (Waahi Paa) and Julian Williams (Waikato River Authority) at the new bridge crossing the Mangawhara River to Taupiri Maunga.

Waikeria Prison wins WRA *award*



Waikeria Prison Farm managers Bryan Frederick and Stu Morgan took out the Waikato River Authority Catchment Award in the Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards.



See the Waikeria Prison Farm's video of their Ballance Farm Environment Award entry on YouTube.com

The Waikeria Prison Farm has come out the winner in this year's catchment award for the Waikato section of Ballance Farm Environment Awards, sponsored by the Waikato River Authority.

The farm has undergone significant environmental change in the past few years which has included significant riparian planting and wetland enhancement.

The farm, which is owned by the Department of Corrections, is striving to become a self-sustaining dairy training farm that operates a class-leading once-a-day milking system. The farm is effectively a 'closed' operation that grows all its own feed.

The farm trains about 30 prisoners daily, offering them recognised industry qualifications in a commercial-scale operation – enhancing employment opportunities on release.

As well as a focus on the farm's water quality, Waikeria Prison Farm managers Bryan Frederick and Stu Morgan have put a high priority on biosecurity with considerable work in the area of removal of pests, both plants and animals.

Covid-19 restrictions meant this year there was no Ballance Farm Environment Awards dinner.

Highlighting Advocacy

The Waikato River Authority has created a section on its website dedicated to the work around advocacy for the Vision & Strategy.

Authority co-chair Roger Pikia says while the funding carried out by the WRA is becoming well known, the leadership and advocacy work in support of Te Ture Whaimana is also crucial to the long-term future of the Waikato River and Wāipa River.

"We've always sought to balance our river clean-up funding function alongside ensuring that the Vision & Strategy provides the direction for the future of the catchment. While the Authority clearly plays a leadership role for the Vision & Strategy, just as others contribute financially to the clean-up of the catchment, our view is that Te Ture Whaimana is also embraced by others," says Mr Pikia.



Details of the work carried out in support of the Te Ture Whaimana can be found on the front page of the Authority website at www.waikatoriver.org.nz

Project completed

A MAJOR RIPARIAN PLANTING PROJECT CARRIED OUT ON CHARLIE LEA'S FARM AT WHITEHALL NEAR CAMBRIDGE HAS BEEN COMPLETED WITH WIDE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

The project has involved planting and fencing the Waiarumu Stream which ultimately feeds into the Waikato River near Karapiro.

More than 120 people have been involved in the project since it was funded by the Waikato River Authority in 2016.

Key facts for the project include:

- Native planting – 5700 plants
- Fencing completed – 6.4 kilometres
- Community and planting days – 4 events
- Land restored/enhanced – 20 hectares.

The project received \$99,000 from the Authority with another \$65,000 of co-funding provided.

The Lea's farm was a Ballance Farm Environment Award winner in 2017.

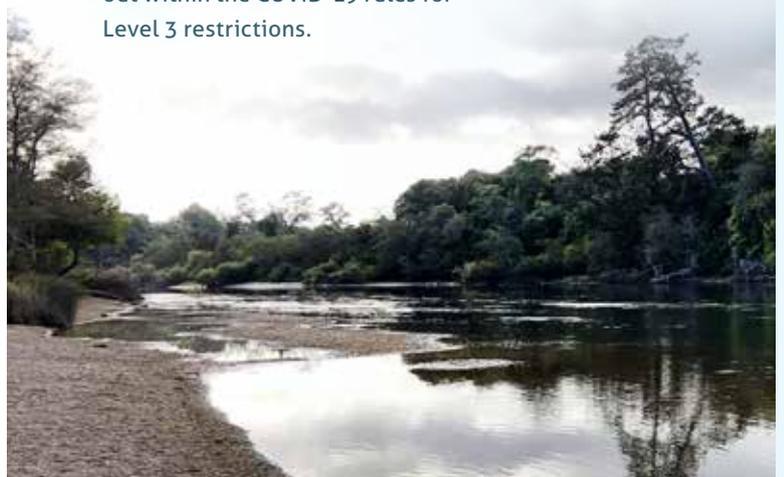
SUPPORT FOR RIVER RĀHUI

A rāhui on the Waikato River put in place by King Tūheitia during Covid-19 Level 3 was lifted when the country moved to Level 2 in the middle of May.

The Waikato River Authority was in discussions with the King's Office as the rāhui was established which enabled restoration work on the river to continue.

The rāhui was announced to help protect the wellbeing of the river and the people around it during the early stages of COVID-19 crisis.

Continuing restoration work was carried out within the COVID-19 rules for Level 3 restrictions.



New Crown appointments for Waikato River Authority

The Minister for the Environment and Cabinet have appointed five new Crown members to the Waikato River Authority following the three-yearly review of appointments.



PAULA SOUTHGATE (Co-Chair) is the Mayor of Hamilton and has extensive governance, community and environmental experience.

She has a strong understanding of water issues in the region, and co-chaired Healthy Rivers:

Wai Ora Plan Change. She is a former councillor and chair of the Waikato Regional Council. She is also a member of Local Government New Zealand's governance leadership group on 3-Waters (policy advisory/governance and strategy group).



JACKIE COLLIAR is a technical expert with governance experience and strong connections to Waikato/Waipā River Iwi.

Her technical speciality is environmental engineering and infrastructure and she

received a Young Leaders Award from the Institute of Management NZ in 2018 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the community and her profession. She has a range of governance experience and has experience working on projects which include mātauranga Māori.



DYLAN TAHAU

works in local government and has expertise in governance, leadership, business planning and organisational development.

He is currently the Head of Community, Culture and Heritage at Taupō District Council. He

serves on the Tūwharetoa Settlement Trust Board, which he previously chaired. Mr Tahau has close connections in the region and strong knowledge of Te Ture Whaimana.



ERINA WATENE-RAWIRI

is a freshwater scientist with a background in river and lake restoration management, resource management and environmental planning.

She is an experienced science communicator and project

leader who works across policy, mātauranga Māori, and science. She has governance experience on government, marae, and not-for-profit boards. Ms Watene-Rawiri grew up alongside the Waikato River and has whakapapa connections to Waikato/Waipā Iwi. She has strong technical expertise in freshwater management which sit alongside her community connections.



STU KNEEBONE

is a councillor on the Waikato Regional Council and a local farmer.

He actively supports initiatives that contribute towards catchment health, water quality and biodiversity enhancement.

Mr Kneebone has experience across local government and is committed to the local environment and working with river iwi.



**Waikato River
Authority**