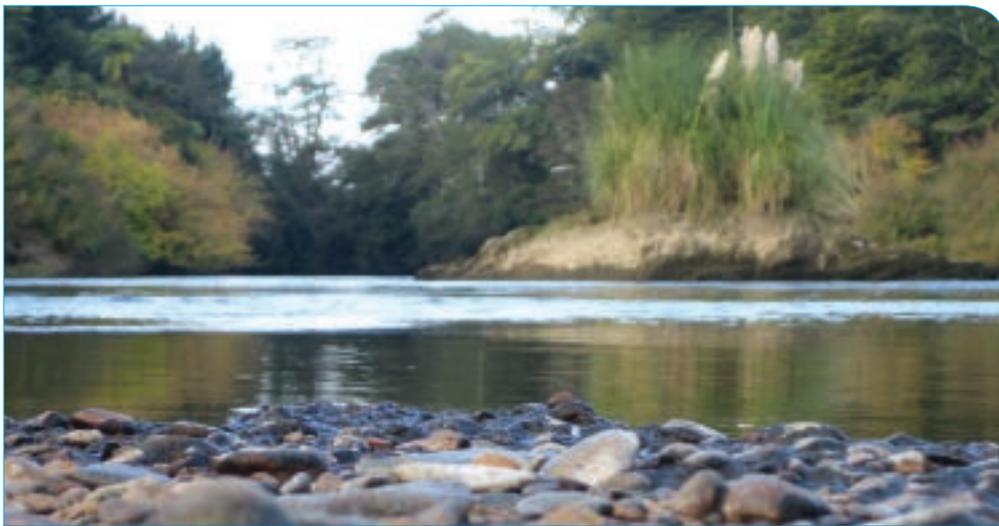


Maunga ki Tai

A newsletter from the

Waikato River Authority

River Authority announces bigger and earlier funding round for 2013



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FIRST NEWSLETTER

Kia ora koutou and welcome
to the inaugural newsletter from the Waikato River Authority.

THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY IS BRINGING FORWARD AND ADDING A MILLION DOLLARS TO IT'S FUNDING ROUND THIS YEAR IN AN EFFORT TO GET INCREASED MOMENTUM IN CLEANING UP THE WAIKATO RIVER.

This year's funding round will open on 1 July and will have up to \$7 million available for clean-up projects.

Waikato River Authority co-chairs Tukoroirangi Morgan and Hon John Luxton say while the two previous funding rounds have been successful the task ahead for the Authority and the wider community in looking after the river is considerable and there is a need to push even harder to see more clean-up action.

"At our funding round in 2012 not all available funds were awarded.



Hon. John Luxton



Tukoroirangi Morgan

WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY CO-CHAIRS

"We have funded some high quality projects and we are keen to send a message that we do have funding available for more projects that meet the required standards and outcomes," says Mr Luxton.

The Authority would also like to see more funding applications from community groups.

"A large part of protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River is to ensure that people have a strong connection with the river. Even relatively small projects, for example, where local community groups come together for planting programmes can make a big environmental difference as well as create more people who are strong river advocates for the future," says Mr Morgan.

Potential applicants are encouraged to get in touch with the Authority's office which offers support and guidance regarding the funding process.

The Authority's updated Funding Strategy 2013

AS YOU CAN SEE WE ARE CALLING OUR NEWSLETTER **MAUNGA KI TAI**. THIS DESCRIBES OUR RIVER AS IT FLOWS TO THE SEA.

Through Maunga ki Tai we aim to bring you news and information from the Waikato River Authority, updates from our funded projects and any other material that is relevant to the Waikato River.

If you haven't received Maunga ki Tai directly and would like to be on our newsletter email database, please contact Liza Hiku at the Waikato River Authority: liza@waikatoriver.org.nz. Include your name, the organisation you represent (if any), phone number and the email address you wish us to use.

Please feel free to ask others if they would like to receive this newsletter.



Bob Penter
 Chief Executive

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cover story continued...

will be available to coincide with the opening of the funding round. Applications for funding will close at the end of August. Projects will be divided into large and small categories with larger projects allocated in excess of \$50,000. All Authority funding is inclusive of GST.

As has been the case in past years the Authority is keen to see a high level of co-funding, especially in the larger clean-up projects. The Authority says it will require more than just the resources of the Waikato River Authority to see a restored and protected river and consequently a high level of partnership and collaboration will be needed for ultimate success.

More schools and community groups take to native planting

The Waikato Regional Council says there has been significant growth in the number of community groups and schools becoming involved in environmental protection programmes following on from recent funding.

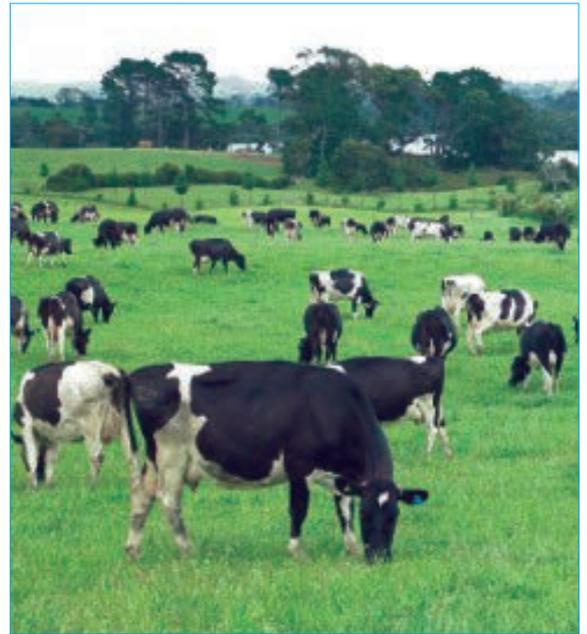
One important source of funding was the Waikato River Authority last year providing \$147,000 to Trees for Survival. This project resources a collaboration of 15 schools to become involved in native planting programmes. The regional council says nearly half of Waikato schools are now involved in the Enviroschools programme, which has seen steady growth. The council also reported that there are now 45 landcare groups operating in the Waikato.

nearly half of Waikato schools are now involved in the Enviroschools programme

WRA supports one of the dairy industry's largest environmental projects

FUNDING SUPPORT FROM THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY IS KEY TO THE LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD-PRACTICE CATCHMENT PROJECT EVER UNDERTAKEN BY THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

The Upper Waikato Sustainable Milk project is a three-year initiative to reduce the nutrient and sediment loads going into the river. The project also aims to improve water use efficiency on farms



and to encourage farmers to do more than what's required by current regulation.

This project is being managed by DairyNZ and is strongly supported by the dairy industry, including Fonterra, Open Country and Miraka dairy companies, all of which have farmer suppliers in the catchment.

the Upper Waikato project will involve 700 dairy farmers from Huka Falls to Karapiro dam

The Authority has invested \$685,000 over three years in the project with the remainder of the \$2.2 million project cost coming from DairyNZ and central government.

Eventually, the Upper Waikato project will involve 700 dairy farmers from Huka Falls to Karapiro dam.

This project, at this scale, is a first for New Zealand. It allows for one-on-one advice and support for every dairy farmer in the catchment. There is no charge for the advice which is provided by professional farm consultants, contracted by DairyNZ.

Project leader Dr Mike Scarsbrook said while involvement in the project is voluntary, the industry is "strongly recommending" farmers get involved.

"Many dairy farmers are already voluntarily undertaking a wide range of actions which are having positive environmental outcomes and we need to capture all that work to demonstrate farmer stewardship.

Also, being involved in this project will help farmers be better prepared for future regulatory change, whatever form that takes."

being involved in this project will help farmers be better prepared for future regulatory change

Controlling koi carp

THE WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL IS LEADING AN AUTHORITY FUNDED PROJECT WHICH AIMS TO HELP CONTROL THE NUMBER OF KOI CARP IN THE LOWER WAIKATO RIVER.



The project offers an added bonus in that it uses the koi to make fertiliser, which in turn helps grow native seedlings for river catchment planting.

The project involves trapping large numbers of koi in cages. Once the fish are humanely destroyed they are fed into a bio-digester and broken down. The resulting material is then dried and available to be used as a plant fertiliser.

If you search for 'giant koi carp harvest' on YouTube you will be able to view a 47 second video showing one of the first carp harvests underway.

TVNZ's One News also captured action on the day.

The koi carp trap and digester are located on one of the water channels leading to and from Lake Waikare near Te Kauwhata.

Koi carp are regarded as an environmental pest and compete with native fish species in the lower Waikato River. While it is now regarded as impossible to eradicate koi from the Waikato River catchment, the Waikato Regional Council pilot project is hoping to prove the koi can be controlled and put to good use at the same time.



Diane Young, DairyNZ

Community focus a big part of the River Trails project

The impressive progress made with the Waikato River Trails over the last few years is due to a very successful programme of community engagement.

Waikato River Trails construction began back in 2003 and now has a 100 kilometre stretch from Atiamuri to the upper end of Lake Karapiro. In recent years there has been a focus on track improvements and riparian planting. In the past 12 months the Waikato River Trails has overseen a riparian management project of more than 18,000 plants along the 100 kilometres, including 12,000 provided by the Waikato River Authority and co-funders the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and South Waikato Environmental Initiatives Fund.

A key to the planting has been the involvement of corporate and community groups. Last month 250 staff from DairyNZ took part in a weeding and planting day along the trail.

The Waikato River Trails project provides access to the river for people to walk, cycle and tramp who might not otherwise get to experience and appreciate the Waikato River.

The Waikato River Authority has been an important funder of the Waikato River Trails Trust in 2011 and 2012.

The Waikato River Trails project provides access to the river for people to walk, cycle and tramp who might not otherwise get to experience and appreciate the Waikato River.

WAIKATO RIVER CLEAN-UP TRUST FUNDING RECIPIENTS 2012/2013

OVER \$50,000 RECIPIENTS

NIWA-Waikato Raupatu River Trust for the restoration of whitebait habitat in the lower Waikato River.

Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust linking community culture and ecology through active experiences and river access.

Waikato River Trails Trust to continue the River Enhancement and Community Awareness Project.

Whaingaroa Harbourcare Inc for riparian planting of the Lower Waipa River & Tributaries.

NIWA-Waikato Raupatu River Trust for restoration of the Maurea islands.

NIWA-Waikato Raupatu River Trust to develop Waikato River Restoration Report Cards and a monitoring tool.

Ngaati Haua Mahi Trust for the Mangaonua Stream gully system restoration project.

Trees for Survival Trust for an education project with local schools to grow and plant natives for riparian planting.

Waikato Regional Council for the Waipa River Catchment Plan.

Ngaati Tahu-Ngaati Whaoa Runanga Trust for Wilding Pine control within Orakei Korako/Red Hills Tutukau Forest and Lower Mangatoetoe Stream.

Department of Conservation for the restoration and enhancement of Lake Areare.

Waipa District Council for restoration of the Waipa River margin.

Solid Energy & Waahi Whanui Trust for the Kimihia restoration project.

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust for a Fisheries Plan.

Tauhara North No2 Trust for the Puurua Reserve and the adjoining true right bank of the Waikato River – Aratiatia Taupo.

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust for an Environmental Management Plan.

Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society to restore riparian ecosystems along lower Waikato River margins

Nga Uri a Maahanga for native revegetation around the urupa of Pehi Houkura

UNDER \$50,000 RECIPIENTS

Hamilton City Council for a natural areas streams restoration programme.

Hamilton City Council for the Gully Restoration Programme.

Waikato District Council for Waikato and Waipa riverbank planting.

Waahi Whanui Trust for Yellow Flag Iris eradication (Huntly – Rangiriri).

Waikato University for Oranga Lake remediation and education.

Waahi Pa for Waahi stream riparian enhancement.

Muir Family Trust to restore and enhance habitat for inanga to spawn.

He Kura ki Waikato Trust for pest plant eradication and native revegetation.

Lower Mangapiko Stream Care Group for lower Mangapiko stream restoration, pest plant removal and riparian planting.

Cambridge Primary School for the Cambridge Primary Riverbank Project.

Dairy NZ & Boffa Miskell for a farmer outreach programme on riparian planting.

Queen Elizabeth II National Trust for the Harker Reserve Fencing Project.



TheRippleEffect

WWW.MAKEARIPPLE.CO.NZ

Collaboration on website project

The Waikato River Authority will be joining forces with the Waikato Regional Council on a website project aimed at boosting collaboration on environmental initiatives.

The Ripple Effect (www.makearipple.co.nz) will be a place to showcase Waikato River projects and where people can enlist support. The website has been developed by the regional council and is expected to go live in April.

Pa site restoration underway

THE RESTORATION OF AN HISTORIC AND SIGNIFICANT PA SITE ON THE BANKS OF THE WAIPA RIVER IS UNDERWAY WITH THE HELP OF FUNDING FROM THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY.

Matakitaki Pa is on the banks of the Waipa and Mangapiko Stream and is known to have been an important settlement as well as an historic battle site.

The restoration project is being undertaken by the Waipa District Council with \$28,000 from the River Authority. The council has used labour from Waikeria Prison to undertake large-scale riverbank planting.

The project is expected to take four or five years more work. The next stage will involve development of the nearby wetland, public access ways and interpretive signage.

 **Waikato River Authority**

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