

Learn about whitebait and their lifecycle

Our Vision

- To have schools, tangata whenua and community groups actively involved in stream and catchment restoration throughout New Zealand.
- To provide ongoing support for all participating groups and schools incorporating cutting edge, practical environmental education.
- To gain a better understanding of the distribution and the abundance of whitebait and other freshwater fish species as well as pest fish species.
- To share knowledge about the effects of landuse practices on freshwater ecosystems.
- To strengthen the relationship between government departments, schools, community groups and tangata whenua.

Our main focus

The main focus of the WBC is to provide education through experience to schools and communities throughout New Zealand. After the discovery, we support schools to take action for their local freshwater environments through whatever ways they deem suitable.



whitebait
Connection
Xstream about freshwater life

Community Conservation In action

Our Offer

Instant teaching - just add water.

Our coordinators come to your school to help you plan and integrate the programme into your curriculum. They also take your class out to deliver an in-stream workshop with the children, other teachers and parents, local stakeholders, everyone is welcome.

Learn about freshwater ecology

Where and when does WBC operate?

The Whitebait Connection operates in several regions throughout New Zealand. To see if WBC is operational near you log on to www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz. The WBC operates all year round.

Action outcomes

After discovering their local freshwater environments, students and their communities are encouraged and inspired to take action for their local catchment. Over the years students have been involved in a range of actions including riparian restoration, fencing, stream monitoring, writing letters to government and stream/river clean ups.
Insert pictures of actions here



Kim Jones, Anita Peters and Miriay Hadwig



Contact Us

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An action based environmental education programme focusing on the health of our streams, rivers and wetlands



What is the Whitebait Connection (WBC)?

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For most Kiwis, the word 'Whitebait' is closely associated with 'fritter'. But the Whitebait Connection (WBC), is changing that association for many New Zealanders, young and old.

Whitebait is a collective term describing the juvenile stage of five species of native freshwater fish that migrate in large mixed shoals from the sea to freshwater rivers and streams during the season. Some of these species are endangered.

Whitebait Connection schools and communities learn about Whitebait and freshwater 'bugs' through hands-on experience. These 'bugs' are not only indicators of water quality, (as some are more tolerant to pollution than others) but they also form the primary food source for Whitebait.

As well as being on the menu of many New Zealanders, Whitebait are on the menu of the Kahawai and the Kingfish that swim into the estuaries to feed. Since the Kahawai itself is an irresistible morsel for a hungry Marlin you can see how in ecological terms, the Whitebait has a connection to a world much wider than its own.

Structure

The Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust (MTSCT) – Nga Maunga ki te Moana – is a legal charitable entity based in Northland, and was formed in 2002 as an umbrella organisation for the Whitebait Connection and Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR – www.emr.org.nz) programmes.

You can also purchase top quality snorkel gear and trust programme t-shirts at our 'shop' at www.emr.org.nz/shop. For a full list of our sponsors visit our website at www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz



Charity Number: CC23806
Mountains → To → Sea
Conservation Trust
Ngā Maunga ki te Moana



Whitebaitconnection.co.nz



www.emr.org.nz



www.marinenz.org.nz

He Kakano
Community Nursery

Drains to Harbour

Mangrove
Discovery
Programme

For all Enquiries email info@emr.org.nz

Resources

WBC aims to continue to develop quality freshwater education resources and to offer the many other services we have developed to date in Northland, such as:

- Community planting days and nurseries
- Regional freshwater forum meetings
- National Marine and Freshwater Educators Wananga
- 'Investigating Freshwater' learning framework and DVD
- WBC manual
- Whitebait Connection Website which includes a community events calendar and resources library – www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz
- Drains to Harbour stormwater awareness programme

All of these activities add value to the sound WBC programme already developed. Future priorities are to continue to build on these activities in Northland while further developing the national delivery of the WBC programme.

Great fun for everyone



Become a member

As well as supporting the work that we do, by signing up to become a member, you will receive our newsletters and information on events.

Membership Application Form

Student/Low Wage \$15

Individual \$25

School/Non-profit \$30

Corporate \$50

All rates include GST. GST No. 83968672.



Name:

Organisation:

Address:

Email:

Please cut this page and send with your membership donation to: *Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust – WBC*
PO Box 3350, Onerahi, Whangarei, New Zealand.

Thank you, a receipt will be sent to you.

Payment by Cheque: Please make payable to 'Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust'.

Payment by Direct Credit: Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, ANZ, Whangarei. Bank No 01 0487 0083337 01 (Please reference your deposit with 'Member' and your last name).