



[www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz](http://www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz)

**Our field trip...**

**Matihetihe School**

**Stream**

**Investigation**

**Finding the treasure!**





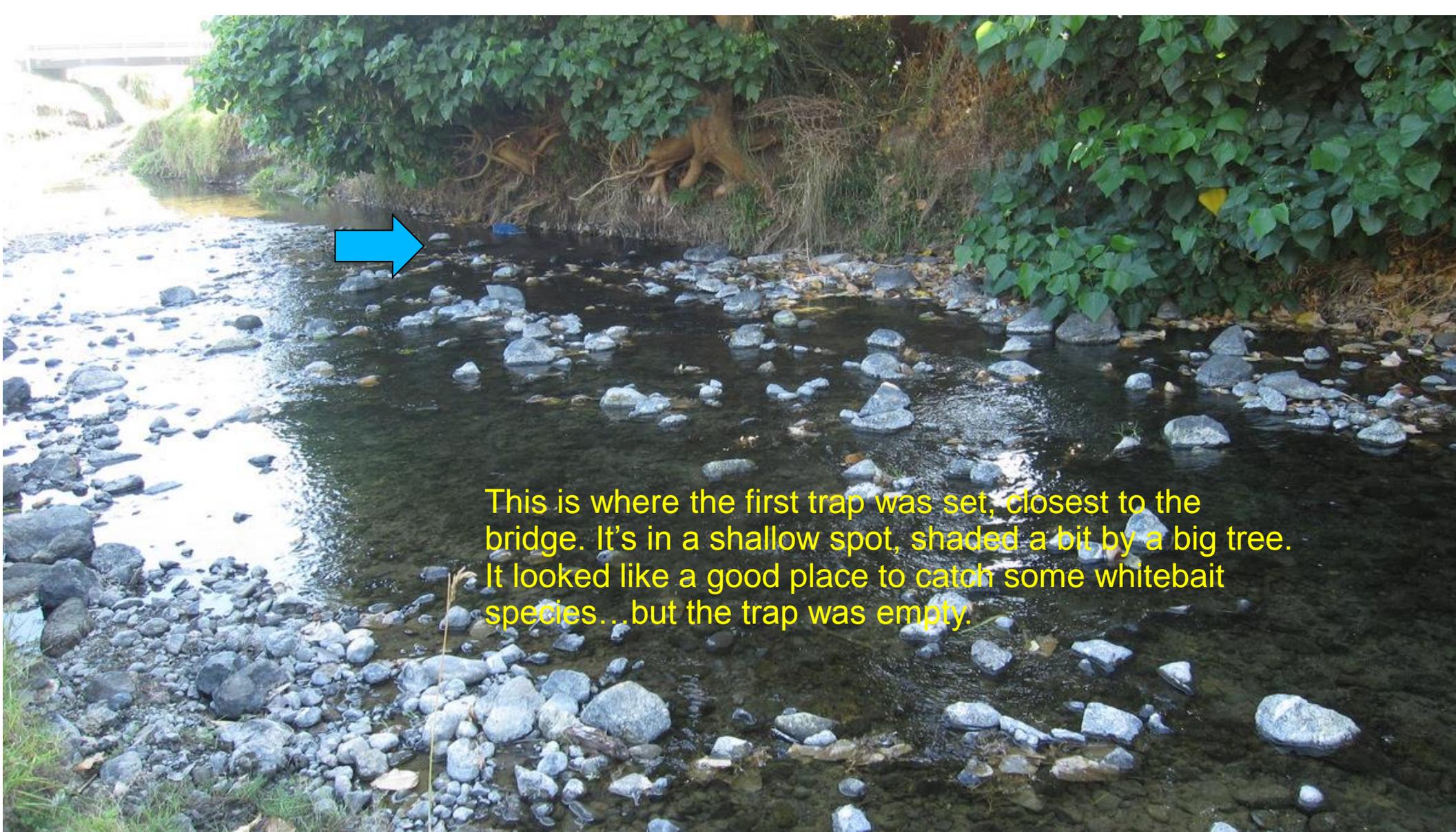
The catchment of the Moetangi River extends from the Wara Wara Forest at the top of these hills and goes down to the ocean at Mitimiti.

We investigated this part of the stream - just inland of the West Coast Road.

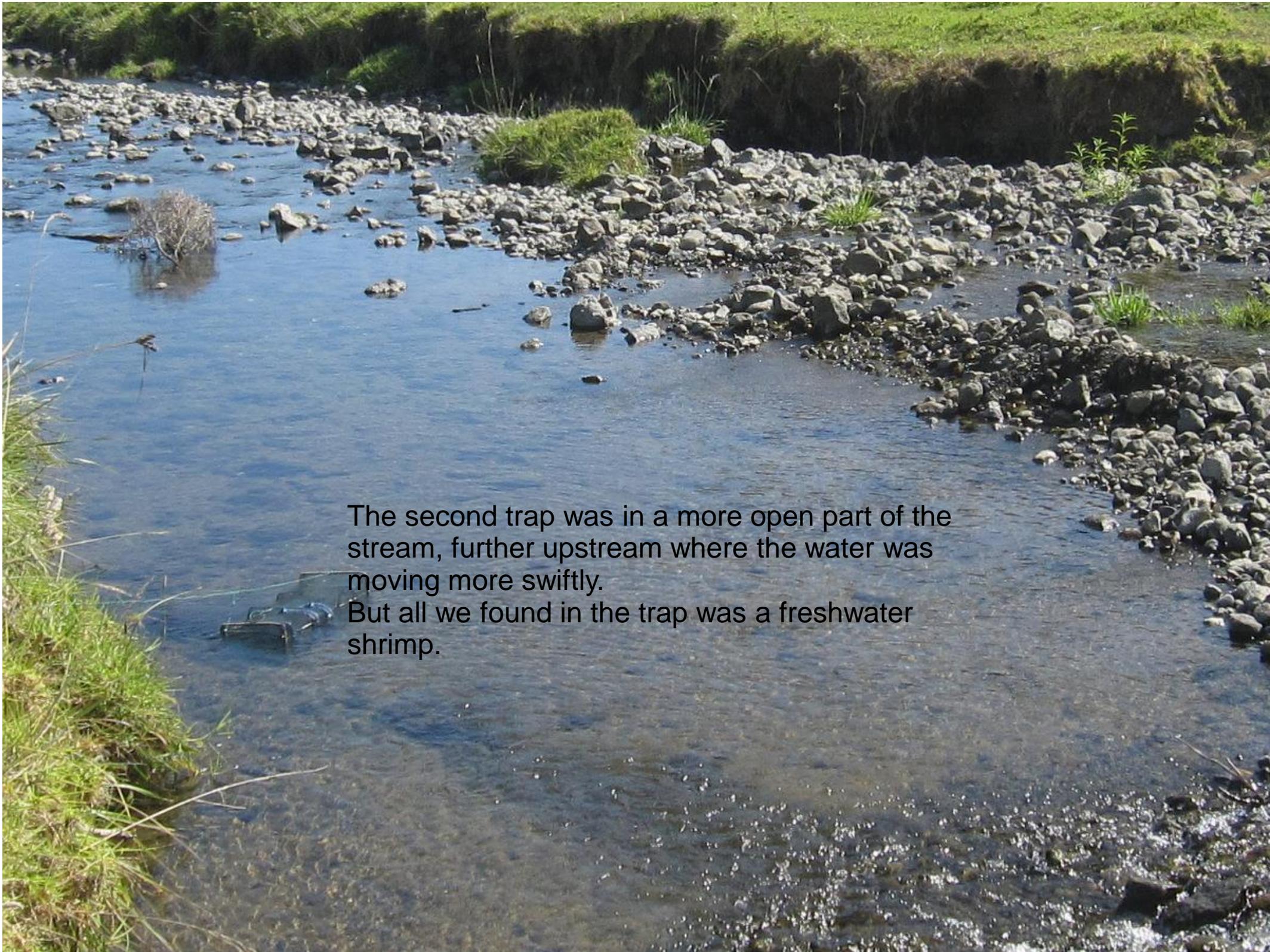




It's only a short walk from the school



This is where the first trap was set, closest to the bridge. It's in a shallow spot, shaded a bit by a big tree. It looked like a good place to catch some whitebait species...but the trap was empty.

A photograph of a shallow, rocky stream. The water is clear and blue, flowing over a bed of grey and brown rocks. The banks are covered in green grass and some small plants. A small, dark trap is visible in the water, partially submerged. The text is overlaid on the lower right portion of the image.

The second trap was in a more open part of the stream, further upstream where the water was moving more swiftly. But all we found in the trap was a freshwater shrimp.



Trap 3 was set in deeper water, in a shady spot where the water moves slowly. Again, the trap was empty!

This is where the fourth trap was set ...but still no critters! Maybe the fish here are too smart to get caught in these rather battered old traps.





So we set to work to find some critters ourselves

We also measured the temperature and pH of the water and checked it's clarity.



It was 13 degrees Celsius, which is nice and cool for the fish and we could see through 70cm in the clarity tube – that's really clear! The pH was 6.5 which is normal.



By searching with our scoop nets and looking carefully under rocks, we also found...



Banded kokopu



Redfin Bully



Eels



Inanga



Spiny gill mayfly – 9



Free-living caddisflies – 5



Smooth-cased caddisfly? – 9



Snails – need identifying!



Dolomedes Spiders - 5



Horsehair worm - 6



Dobsonfly or "toe-biter" – 7



Unidentified... head of some insect? Seed?



More spiny gill mayflies – 9





And more tuna!

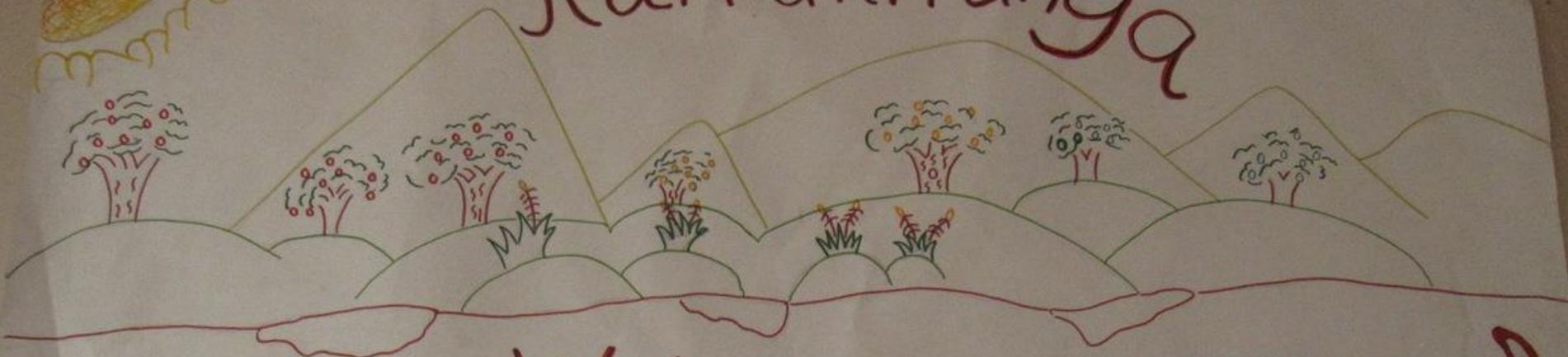
There were lots of high-scoring invertebrates, which shows that our awa is really healthy. The day was pretty hot so we jumped in for a swim before heading back to school.



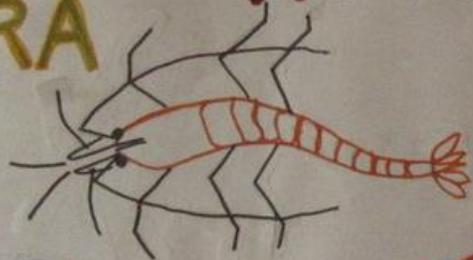


After our Whitebait Connection field trip, we made posters to show what we had discovered.

# Kaitiakitanga



**KOURA**



Waiora

**BULLY**



**FISH**



**TUNA**

Mauri

Algae feeds the  
bullyfish and  
the mauri.  
Tuna also feed  
on algae and  
help keep algae  
in balance.



Water snails  
clean algae off  
the rocks -  
Snails are food  
for bullyfish and  
tuna.

