

proceedings of the
NORTHLAND FRESHWATER HUI
**Opportunities and Challenges – freshwater stewardship and
management in Northland**
26th April, 2012 – NorthTec, Whāngārei

Hosted by the Whitebait Connection and proudly supported by the [Department of Conservation](#), [NorthTec](#), [Whāngārei District Council](#) and the [Northland Regional Council](#).

Contents:

1. Northland Freshwater Hui background, purpose, objectives, Whitebait Connection Programme Background.
2. Hui proceedings including links to presentations and workshopping results.
3. Participants list, freshwater bio and email.
4. List of funding sources from pre hui evaluation.

1.1 Hui Background

This special event was designed to bring together organisations, groups and individuals with an interest in the stewardship, management of, and education about our freshwater resources. Previous Northland Freshwater Hui hosted by the Whitebait Connection have held in 2009, 2007. This year's hui had the goals to foster collaboration and action for freshwater environments in Northland – **“the hui with more do-ey!”**.

1.2 Purpose

Individuals, groups and organisations are supported to share information, skills and resources for enhanced freshwater management in Northland and to take action.

1.3 Objectives

Through attending this hui participants:

- Know what **information** is available and from where;
- **Connect** with others involved in freshwater education and management and have opportunities to **brainstorm barriers and opportunities and possible paths forward**;
- **Understand** the importance of sound freshwater management for Northland;
- Understand **the role of education** and awareness-raising in freshwater management;
- Learn about **what others are doing** and how it contributes to enhancing Northland's freshwater resources;
- **Develop** forward thinking **ACTIONS** for progressing stewardship, management of and education about our freshwater resources;
- Discuss and relate to policy such as the **Northland Regional Council's SOE indicators** and the **Northland Policy Statement for Freshwater**.

The Whitebait Connection (WBC) is an experiential learning programme of action promoting community involvement in healthy freshwater ecosystems. It began in Northland in 2000 and has spread to various areas of New Zealand with the support of the Department of Conservation and other sponsors. The programme is run under the auspices of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, along with the Drains to Harbour (DTH), Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) programmes and Mangrove Discovery Programme (MDP).

2. Proceedings of the NORTHLAND FRESHWATER HUI - Opportunities and Challenges freshwater stewardship and management in Northland.

Facilitation by Carolyn Smith, Department of Conservation, Acting Area Manager Poumanahere, Kaitaia Area Office, **email:** csmith@doc.govt.nz **phone:** 09 4086190 **mb:** 021 241 2273

Morning Tea by NorthTec Cafe contact Kathryn Donovan **email:** kdonovan@northland.ac.nz
phone: 09 4703842

Lunch by Maria Lawton, **email:** maria.lawton@xtra.co.nz **mb:** 027 777 0587

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity/Session</i>
9:30	Arrivals, registration, morning tea provided by NorthTec Cafe
9:55	Welcome to all and thank-you to supporters the Department of Conservation , NorthTec , Whāngārei District Council , and the Northland Regional Council , by facilitator Carolyn Smith & Whitebait Connection , host and co-organiser Kim Jones.
10:00	Participant introductions in the <i>“introduce your neighbour”</i> format. 3 minutes discussion then each participant has 20 seconds to speak on their neighbour's name, organisation and brief outline on their involvement in the freshwater arena. See participant list section 3 for full details on participants.
10:25	The Whitebait Connection Programme , presented by Kim Jones, Whitebait Connection Programme National Coordinator. www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz Prezi link notes from Kim's Presentation (23kb)
10:35	Session 1: Threats to Freshwater in Northland <i>presentations</i> Green Party Freshwater Policy , presented by Eugenie Sage, Green Party NZ member of parliament, spokesperson on freshwater. www.greens.org.nz Eugenie's powerpoint presentation (1.37 MB) notes from Eugenie's presentation (92 KB) see details on the Green Party's Clean Rivers Plan (1.36 MB) Biosecurity in Northland's Freshwater Bodies , presented by Gail Townsend, Northland Regional Council, Biosecurity Officer. www.nrc.govt.nz/Environment/Weed-and-pest-control Gail's powerpoint presentation (1.1 MB)

Session 1 workshop summary

What are the threats to Northland's Freshwater environments ?	What are the current approaches to threat management?	What could be done that's not already being done?
<p>garden wastes, ponds, disposal national apathy, ignorance and lack of engagement gaps in monitoring ETS gaps – eg dairy lack of central and industry leadership irrigation continuing historic attitudes & practices sedimentation economic drivers channelised rivers lack of education lack of funding pest species lack of monitoring lack of regulations lack of incentive for ingenuity & research lack of understanding about our place in the human and natural environment eg, wastewater legacy issues – we plan for changes in the present and future, but don't often make changes to compensate for historic issues</p>	<p>industry leadership Fonterra Clean Streams Accord ballance farm award funding</p> <p>community leadership Whitebait Connection Enviroschools NorthTec landcare groups charitable trusts</p> <p>government leadership QE II covenants National Policy Statement on Freshwater MAF Biosecurity NZ Regional policy statements national water and soil land and water forum prioritising human based needs, instead of ecological & environmental needs short political cycle resulting in constant priority change</p>	<p>Celebrating best practice more eg, farm awards better combination of legislation and practice legislation used to draw lines and place sustainability caps alternative farming better researched and promoted to mainstream including economic benefits require reporting and accounting to include social and environmental audits subsidise environmentally sound practices empower and encourage involvement of communities in decision making include native as a core part of constitution prioritise upper catchment wetlands linking all stakeholders on catchment plans incentives eg, rates relief put a price on high quality water make targets – set national standards eg, sediment load of water reduced to 2mm p/a provide black and white policies giving value to urban restoration activities which currently are outside funding criteria increase access to experts form Northland Ecological Restoration Network – lobby group, networking, information</p>

11:40 Lunch provided by Maria Lawton email maria.lawton@xtra.co.nz, mobile 027 777 0587.

12:45 **Session 2: The current state of the freshwater environment policy, monitoring & understanding different methods.**

presentations

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment report: Water Quality in New Zealand – Understanding the Science presented by Dr. Jan Wright, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

www.pce.parliament.nz

[Water Quality in New Zealand full report \(3.3 MB\)](#)

to request hard copies of the report email pce@pce.parliament.nz

Northland Freshwater State of the Environment Reporting presented by Emma Simpson, Northland Regional Council, Environmental Monitoring Officer, S.O.E Analysis

www.nrc.govt.nz/Environment

[Emma's powerpoint presentation \(524 KB\)](#)

Northland Freshwater Policy Changes presented by Ben Tait & Robyn Broadhurst, Northland Regional Council, Policy Analyst – Planning and Policy.

[NRC website](#)

[Ben and Robyn's powerpoint presentation \(647 KB\)](#)

[click here for more information on National Policy Statement for Freshwater \(2011\)](#)

workshop summary

What monitoring methods are out there?	How are monitoring programmes used within your organisation?	Other ways monitoring could be used
<p>traditional & modern scientific monitoring fish biosurveillance by genetic methods – University of Waikato water temperature fishing surveys electric fishing surveys MCI monitoring chemical analysis eg, minerals, pollutants stream condition index eg, as used in Victoria, Australia cockle surveys eg, Whangateau Harbour Care wetland condition index monitoring of harvested things eg quota WaiCare SHMAK kit Whitebait Connection eg carried out by school groups</p> <p>values based monitoring community awareness/anecdotal evidence, museums Cultural Health Index recreational water quality index eg, NRC use of photos trout monitoring – Fish and Game</p> <p>industries monitoring aquaculture monitoring fisheries monitoring for quota catch per unit effort</p>	<p>collaboration with other departments providing and publishing recommendations education and public awareness pathogens analysis used in upstream management adaptive management – respond to trends used in funding applications identify gaps in monitoring informs policies and plans managing quota and harvests season lengths Whangaroa community gathering info for catchment management plan Whangateau Harbour Group uses sediment data to target action Schools – environmental education investigating incidents compliance</p>	<p>Involve more organisations and people in gathering data public dissemination celebrating successes help generate funding offering lab testing to community groups gather all data into one information bank non-regulatory approaches to adaptive management</p>

2:00

Afternoon Tea

presentations

The Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group presented by Leane Makey (IKHMG Coordinator) & Mikaera Miru (Kaiarahi, Cultural Education Trail and Marae Biodiversity Project, Environs Holdings Trust (environmental subsidiary of Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust).

[Integrated Kaipara Harbour Catchment Management Group website](#)

[Leane & Mikaera's powerpoint presentation \(3.7 MB\)](#)

An attempt towards shared management of freshwater resources at Poroti Springs presented by Meryl Carter, Nga Whenua Rahui Kaitakawaenga, Te Uriroro.

[NgNgā Whenua Rāhui website](#)

[Waimarie nurseries website](#)

[Meryl's powerpoint presentation \(1.4 MB\)](#)

Community riparian restoration in the Waitaua Catchment presented by Nicki Wakefield, Whitebait Connection Northland coordinator.

www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz

[Nicki's powerpoint presentation \(2.08 MB\)](#)

workshop summary

Participants were asked to identify their perceived challenges to implementing freshwater projects in Northland. 5 challenges were workshopped on the way to overcome the challenge and ideas for action.

challenge	what we are doing well	actions
<i>funding</i>	great organisations celebrating successful maintaining relationships clear mou's following through on promises sharing good news & bang for buck presenting outcomes in variety of ways ensuring more than 1 person involved	provision of more long term funding more admin funding sell ourselves better be proud be open & willing to evolve/change use habitat banking & biodiversity credits
<i>dealing with decision makers</i>	identifying and backing winners with common interests identifying economic advantage	invite councillors out to projects don't give up! place economic value on water be available to elect and become a councillor use RC processes to report form strong lobby groups provide support for councillors who are environmentally proactive develop relationships with iwi

<p><i>engaging land owners/managers in riparian protection</i></p>	<p>peer pressure with incentives eg. economic advantages farm environment awards – celebrating champions rural support trust</p>	<p>use the oldest crustiest codger with credibility to champion exhibit best practice eg. on monitor farms, create more evidence of benefits engaging decision makes eg. when farm is in trust or corporation reduce consent processes & cost for conservation actions use common language - avoid jargon communicate philosophy instead of hard line instructions get people on side instead of heckles up NRC Action Pack to link community groups with funding access, catchment wide consents, labour, fencing etc to land managers.</p> <p>Instigate road meetings eg, a pot luck dinner with 5 key messages</p>
<p><i>Involving younger people</i></p>	<p>Enviroschools Whitebait Connection WaiCare Marae/Hapu based involvement</p>	<p>Connecting sense of environmental value with involvement and personal actions not using relavent technologies to potential eg, phone apps coordination of people and opportunities giving ownership and power to young people older leaders hogging opportunities include enjoyment and social elements in all projects - active using young peoples networks intergrate into family focussed activities involve groups, church, marae, youth</p>

Continue to part 2 of the Northland Freshwater Hui 2012 Proceedings (will be hyperlinked)