

## Whitebait Connection Programme Breakdown

It has been said that...

***“The day we successfully manage our freshwater resources, we would have solved all our land management issues in the process”***

The aim of the WBC programme is to raise awareness, understanding and involvement in freshwater and catchment discovery, monitoring and conservation through provision of dynamic, experiential education for sustainability opportunities.

### The WBC concept

#### INFORMATION – EXPERIENCE – ACTION!

The WBC concept is the essence of the programme:

- Introduction **about** NZ whitebait and freshwater biodiversity.
- Investigation of the **local** catchment.
- Freshwater **discovery experience** **in** a freshwater environment.
- Freshwater **biodiversity monitoring**.
- **Action** **for** the freshwater environment.

#### Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the lifecycle of the NZ whitebait and be able to name some of the threats to NZ whitebait.
- Give at least 3 examples of New Zealand freshwater biodiversity and explain what a catchment is.
- Explain and use freshwater monitoring equipment.
- Describe the local catchment and some of the things that live in its waterways.
- Identify and classify some freshwater creatures that they see.
- Make comparisons between freshwater sites and explain some of the reasons for differences.
- Base their opinions about the value of good land management practises and freshwater conservation on their personal experiences and action what they learnt in the community.

### **Main Curriculum Links:**

- Science – Living World, Ecology and Evolution
- Social Science
- Health and PE
- Arts
- English – written language, speech
- Maths – data analysis, statistics.

### **What the WBC coordinators do (for free\*)**

- Explain how the desired learning outcomes can be achieved.
- Provide freshwater and catchment education resources.
- Deliver a whitebait and freshwater biodiversity, catchment and conservation presentation to the class.
- Work in partnership with you to coordinate and organise field trips.
- Provide safety management and briefings/leadership on field trips
- Provide freshwater monitoring and safety equipment and instruction for water activities.
- Provide RAMS forms and emergency procedures template for inwater activities.

### **What you (teachers) do:**

- Explain how the intended learning outcomes are based on the achievement objectives in the relevant curriculum areas, and follow up WBC activities with lessons in the classroom.
- Provide adequate parental/community supervision for field activities (WBC recommends a 1:4 ratio, and can help identify community support for supervision on request).
- Provide student participation consents, medical conditions and permission for WBC use of student images/footage.
- Provide appropriate support for students with special needs.
- Review the risk management template provided and seek approval from the Board of Trustees.
- Risk management planning for all activities other than freshwater study (e.g. transport).
- Provide an additional first aid kit on field trips.
- Cover any costs associated with transport, food, accommodation, WBC Northland requires a \$1 per student per field trip for use and maintenance of the monitoring gear.

***\*Subject to funding availability.***

## The Action

WBC has a long history of success since its establishment in 2000. Below are some of the highlights...

### Documented Success Stories



**Otamatea High School** students working together with the WBC and local organisations have fenced, replanted and monitored their wetland area and are now developing interpretation and walkways. Their case study can be read in detail on the WBC website under WBC Regions, Northland, Kaipara.



**Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Rawhitiroa** together with the WBC have developed the 'He Kakano' Community nursery in Whangarei and successfully propagated and planted over 10,000 native plants along their awa (Waitaua River) in a bid to restore the mauri (lifeforce). They showcased their project with the shortfilm 'Tiakina O Tatou Awa' and won best Te Reo film in the 'Outlook for Someday' sustainability film challenge in 2007 which can still be viewed online and is also available through WBC by request. They featured on Maori TV's 'Miharo' in July 2010 working in their nursery. Footage of this is also available on request.



**Canterbury WBC** has flourished despite an extremely challenging climate and topography. Coordinator, Cody Frewin has developed a 'stream' which she takes to the classroom for when the kids can't go to the stream. They are also about to embark on overnight WBC marae stays and a fresh new Mudfish raise and release programme.



**WBC Nelson** has developed their WBC programme into 'WaiMaori' and become locally sustainable with continued support from DOC, both councils and Nga Whenua Rahui, (a DOC fund). They recently featured on DoC's 'Meet the locals' series under the title 'Water Guardians' which can be viewed online through DOC and WBC websites.



**WBC Northland** partnered up with DOC Kaitaia Area Office and Northland Conservancy to host the WetFeet LEARNZ virtual field trip in 2009 and 2010 which featured their first ever Te Reo audioconference. Over 1000 schools were tuned in to the field trip throughout New Zealand. The field trip can still be viewed online and is set to go ahead again in 2011, thanks to its success.



**WBC Gisborne** has become locally sustainable and have recently been invited to participate in the scoping of the Turanganui a Kiwa Water Quality Enhancement Project which is a multi-catchment project supported by the local authority (GDC).

**WBC Northland** has developed a framework for holding a regional freshwater hui and successfully held it in Northland bi-annually since 2007. Partnerships between agencies and community groups have been formed and actions such as the “What’s up in Freshwater” newsletter have been developed through this forum.

### Statistics

As of July 2010 WBC has documented the statistics below (this is conservative as some items have not been measured by some areas);

- 45,214 New Zealanders were participating in WBC.
- 1137 schools were engaged
- 32,800 native seedlings had been planted
- 15 hectares of riparian margins had been restored.
- 20 cubic meters of riparian rubbish had been removed.
- WBC has had 55 media hits.
- 48,820 hours of volunteer time had been contributed.
- Capacity has been built in 13 DoC offices.

### Testimonial

DoC staff continually testify to the effective partnership between WBC and DoC in a local context, towards helping to achieve freshwater goals, as outlined in Amy MacDonald’s testimonial below.

*DOC’s partnership with the Whitebait Connection has contributed a great deal towards our freshwater advocacy and awareness goals in Northland. The Whitebait Connection programme consistently delivers effective and engaging freshwater education to northland schools and community groups. When working with the whitebait connection I have observed the positive and open relationships their staff build with the groups they work with. I have also seen firsthand, schools and community groups getting involved in positive conservation action after undertaking the Whitebait Connection programme. Whitebait Connection has undoubtedly contributed a great deal of positive momentum to the Northland freshwater conservation cause, and will continue to do so in the future. I feel lucky to have such a high quality freshwater education programme operating in Northland, and I will continue to look for opportunities for DOC to work with Whitebait Connection in our own education projects”.*

Testimonial in support of Whitebait Connection Programme in Northland.

Amy Macdonald  
Freshwater Technical Support Officer  
Northland Conservancy, Department of Conservation.