

Maunga ki Tai

A newsletter from the

Waikato River Authority

Large turn-out for Authority's fifth AGM

The Waikato River Authority celebrated five years of operation with its 2015 Annual General Meeting held on the 26th of November in Pukekohe.

More than 50 iwi and other stakeholders attended the meeting. Authority co-chair Tukoroirangi Morgan and Hon John Luxton said they were particularly encouraged to see such a strong turn-out from local iwi effectively representing the flax roots of the area.

The Authority has held its AGM in different parts of the Waikato and Waipa River catchment each year over the past few years in an effort to communicate the work of the Waikato River Authority face-to-face.

A feature of this year's AGM was presentations from key partners with the Authority.

These included:

- *Mike Scarsbrook and Adrian Brocksopp from DairyNZ on the success of the sustainable milk plan project which has received significant funding from the Authority*
- *Waikato Regional Council chief executive Vaughan Payne presented on the close and effective working relationship between the WRA and Council with particular focus on the Vision and Strategy*
- *Local dairy farmer Stu Muir spoke on behalf of the Muir Family who have been instrumental in a number of whitebait habitat restoration projects (funded by the Authority) in the Aka Aka area of the lower Waikato River*

- *Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development administration director Tuti Cooper gave a presentation on the college's close relationship with the Waikato River Authority and the Maanaki Tuna (eel restoration strategy) which has been funded by the Authority.*

Following the AGM a short field trip was held to look at the whitebait habitat restoration work carried out by Stu and Kim Muir.



(L to R) Waikato-Tainui CEO Parekawhia McLean, Tukoroirangi Morgan, Stu Muir and Hon John Luxton visiting the Muir farm to see whitebait habitat restoration work undertaken. Parekawhia McLean congratulated the Waikato River Authority on its successful first 5 years at the AGM, and commended the work of river iwi and other funding recipients partnering with the Authority.

MESSAGE FROM THE CE

The day after the Authority's 5th anniversary we held our AGM. It was tremendous to have the work of the Authority with its funding partners resoundingly endorsed alongside a strong contingent from Waikato-Tainui marae and management.

Reappointments of two Waikato River iwi appointees to the Board of the Authority echoes the strong support for the work and direction of the Authority in its first 5 years.

Work continues on the 5-15 Year Waikato River Restoration Strategy, and we welcome the Waikato Regional Council leading this key project that will help guide investment for clean-up initiatives.

On behalf of the Board and management team we wish you all a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.



Bob Penter
Chief Executive

2000 koi removed in one weekend

Carl Hine removed 108 koi carp from lower Waikato waterways during the weekend of 7 and 8 November.

The Matamata beekeeper has been bow hunting for koi carp for about ten years and took part in this year's World Koi Carp Classic around Huntly. Carl caught half of his fish in Lake Waikare and the remainder in the main stem of the Waikato River.

The Waikato River Authority is a supporter of the event.

There were 58 entries in this year's event with a total of 1948 koi carp shot. The total weight of fish taken was 4.84 tonnes. The biggest fish taken to win the Waikato River Authority Trophy was for an 8.04 kg carp shot by Mark Turner.

More than half the fish shot were from the Waikato River with the remainder taken from surrounding lakes.



Carl Hine with a couple of the fish he caught bow hunting in the World Koi Carp Classic at Huntly over the weekend of 7 and 8 November.



A strong turn out of farmers, funders and sponsors for the wetland showcase event at the Baldwin farm in Lichfield.

Wetland Showcase at Lichfield

Waikato River Authority board members and management were among those who attended a recent field day showcasing progress on a wetland construction and renovation on a Lichfield dairy farm in the south Waikato.

The 1.1 hectare wetland on the Baldwin farm is being regarded as a best practise outcome for a farm wetland.

The project received \$75,000 of funding from the Waikato River Authority and is being led by DairyNZ. The field day was an opportunity for stakeholders and other farmers to see progress on the wetland, which is being used as an example of design and construction of farm wetlands for environmental improvement.

Iwi appointees confirmed

Authority co-chair Tukuroirangi Morgan and deputy co-chair Roger Pikia, have been re-appointed to the Waikato River Authority by their respective river iwi.

Mr Morgan and Mr Pikia were the lead negotiators for their iwi in the Waikato River Treaty Settlement negotiations with the Crown. Both were founding members of the Guardians Establishment Committee which laid the foundations for the Authority.

Mr Morgan and Mr Pikia say they are humbled by their re-appointments at a time when the Authority is celebrating its fifth anniversary.

Mr Morgan is King Tuheitia's representative on the Waikato-Tainui executive and a director for Tainui Group Holdings Ltd. Waikato-Tainui interests in the Waikato River stretch from Karapiro to the mouth of the Waikato River.

Mr Pikia is the chairman of the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and the Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa Runanga Trust. Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa's interests in the Waikato River stretch from Te Waiheke o Huka (Huka Falls) to Pohaturoa (Atiamuri).



New life for ancient lake

Ancient peat lake, Lake Areare north of Hamilton, is getting a new lease on life thanks to a major collaboration led by the Department of Conservation with funding from the Waikato River Authority.

The lake has become severely degraded over many decades and now has a very high nutrient level causing algae growth.

The rehabilitation of the lake is a long term project which is moving forward following the construction of Waikato River Authority funded silt traps with on the western side of the lake.

Glyn Morgan, DOC ranger for biodiversity, says more than 10,000 natives will be planted this year following the construction of the silt traps. He says the early stages of the project to improve the lake

will also include the development of biodiversity and habitat improvement for natives species of fish and birdlife.

Lake Arearea has a rich cultural history and was considered a spiritual marker point for iwi territory over the centuries as well as an important source for food gathering.

The lake is 31 hectares in size and there is about 13 hectares of land around the edges, owned by DOC and Waikato District Council, which is ear-marked for planting and restoration.

Partner organisations in the rehabilitation of the lake include, DOC, Waikato River Authority, Waikato Regional Council, Waikato District Council, Fish and Game, Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Fonterra through its Living Waters programme.



Glyn Morgan surveys the outlet of the silt traps after heavy spring rain.



Volunteers will have planted around 10,000 natives including about 3500 wetland species during 2015.

A major wetland restoration project funded this year by the Waikato River Authority is the Mangaotama Wetland restoration near Ngahinapouri in the Waipa catchment. The wetland is over 25 hectares and is home to rare species such as spotless crane and long-tailed bat. Restoration work will involve fencing, pest plant and animal removal and native planting.



Lakes and wetland restoration feature in 2015 clean-up funding decisions

The Waikato River Authority has announced it will allocate \$4.7 million to a further 32 projects to help clean up the Waikato and Waipa river catchment following its latest funding decisions.

Major projects include:

- A funding contribution of \$448,000 for the Rotokauri Reserve restoration being managed by the Waikato District Council near Hamilton
- A continuation of the Matahuru Wetland restoration in the southern area of Lake Waikare with funding of \$310,000
- Funding of \$830,000 towards stage two and completion of the Waikato and Waipa River Restoration Strategy providing a five to 15 year master plan for the restoration of the catchment.

Waikato River Authority co-chairs Hon John Luxton and Tukoroirangi Morgan say the level of collaboration between groups and organisations involved in clean-up initiatives is again a feature of successful projects.

"We are again encouraged to see that more and more we have groups working together and bringing much needed additional resource and co-funding to these projects," says Mr Luxton.

The latest funding announcements are for the 5th funding round to be carried out by the Waikato River Authority. To date 169 projects have received Authority funding of more than \$27 million and it is estimated that the total cost of these projects including co-funding is approaching \$60 million.

Tukoroirangi Morgan says one area of strategic focus for the Authority has been to see wetlands and lakes feature strongly from clean-up initiatives. "These wetland areas are crucial for the well being of the river in addition to having their own important ecological, environmental and cultural value. It is heartening to see lake and wetland projects being successful," says Mr Morgan.

Congratulations to successful applicants

The Waikato River Authority chief executive Bob Penter says the Authority has once again been impressed with effort and commitment from applicants involved in the funding process.

"The 32 successful projects represent another step forward in partnering with others to help achieve

the outcomes of the Vision and Strategy – a healthy Waikato River."

The full list of successful project is available to be viewed on the Authority website at www.waikatoriver.org.nz.