

**Waikato
RiverCare**



Waikato RiverCare Inc.
ANNUAL REPORT
2016/17

Our Vision

To make a positive difference to the wellbeing of our River

Kia whakapakari te mauri o to tātou Awa

Our Purpose

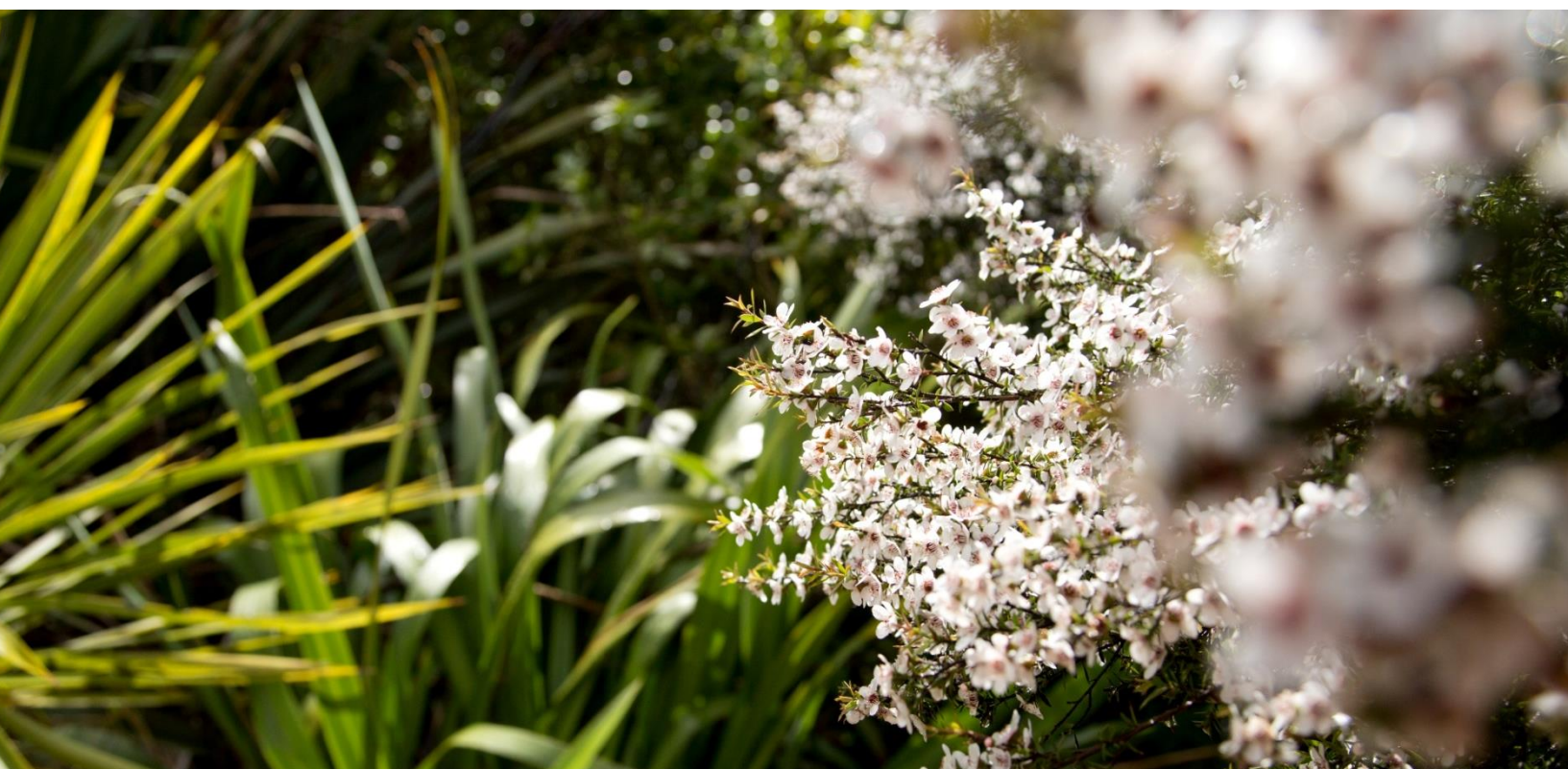
To implement an enduring programme to establish self-sustaining native plant-based communities in and around the lower Waikato River and associated catchments.

“The Waikato River is a national and regional icon holding significant cultural, economic, social and environmental values. Waikato RiverCare Incorporated (trading as ‘Waikato RiverCare’) links these values with interested organisations and provides a vehicle for riparian habitat restoration using a base of native plant species. Waikato RiverCare Inc. was established in 1999, incorporated in 2001 and became a registered charity in 2008. The organisation is supported by a range of community stakeholders with a common vision and purpose.”



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Introduction

Waikato RiverCare Incorporated is pleased to present our Annual Report for the 2016/17 period. The report documents achievements in relation to established projects and new projects initiated in this period.

Waikato RiverCare Inc. has been operating since 1999, officially becoming an incorporated society in 2001 and a registered charity in 2008. Members include a range of organisations and people who all share a similar passion for the lower Waikato River.

Waikato RiverCare Inc. is the leading riparian restoration charity focussing on preparing, planting and maintaining areas of native plant habitat on the banks of the lower Waikato River and associated catchments, and sourcing funds and support to carry out this work. Sound science, cultural understanding, sustainability and a cooperative approach are essential to Waikato RiverCare Inc.'s operation.



Structure of Waikato RiverCare Inc.

The organisation is governed by an Executive Committee whose membership comprises one representative from each Foundation Member organisation. In addition, up to three general members can also be appointed to the committee. Three Advisory Members offer high level support and political advocacy.

Executive Committee

Representative

David Klee - *Chairperson*
Larnie Chrystall - *Deputy Chairperson*
Dawn Metcalfe
Lucy Roberts
Nigel Goodhue
Glen Tupuhi
Wally Lee
Taroi Rawiri
Jackson Efford
Hayden Jackson
Tim Manukau
Elton Parata
Michelle Archer

Organisation

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council
Mercury
Independent
Department of Conservation
Genesis Energy
Nga Muka Development Trust
North Waikato Federated Farmers
Waahi Whaanui Trust
Waikato Regional Council
Watercare Services Ltd
Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui Inc
Waikato District Council
Independent

General Members

Donna Barakat - *Treasurer*

Genesis Energy

Advisory Members

Peter Buckley
Don Scarlet
Tom Roa

Fed Farmers / Waikato Regional Council
Mercury
Waikato-Tainui

Staff at end of March 2016

Kevin Hutchinson
Natasha Murrhiy-Paulussen

Operations Manager
Administrator / Secretary

Sponsors

Waikato RiverCare Inc. sincerely thanks its supporters, partners and clients, who enable us to keep up the momentum of restoration work along te awa.

Major Sponsors:



Sponsors:



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Chairperson's Report

It's been an outstanding 12 months for Waikato RiverCare Inc., successfully completing a number of key projects and reaffirming sponsorship agreements with our valued supporting organisations and businesses.

The executive committee has experienced some changes in membership with the team welcoming Elton Parata from the Waikato District Council, Glen Tupuhi from Nga Muka Development Trust and Michelle Archer as a community representative from Te Kauwhata. My thanks go out to all of the committee members for their time, energy and contributions to the organisation.

Waikato RiverCare Inc. has enjoyed significant success this year and highlights for me included:

- Attending the Green Ribbon awards dinner held by the Ministry for the Environment in Wellington. It was a great surprise to win the 'Caring for our water' category which recognised the organisation's efforts and achievements over the last 17 years.
- Completing the Taupiri Ki Waenganui project, our largest project to date covering a total of 5.63 Hectares. This is a multifaceted restoration effort encompassing planting and wetland restoration.
- Successfully delivering four projects with Waikato River Authority grants 12-045 and 14-013.
- Planting 58,375 plants across ten projects.
- Increasing community interest and involvement in the work we do within the catchment of the Waikato River.

The organisation's success would not be possible if it wasn't for the excellent support we receive from our supporting partners, both in general funding and site lead works. This year, Watercare Services, a foundation member, significantly increased its financial support of the organisation, pledging \$50,000 per annum over the next four years. The Waikato River Authority continues to play a key role in the development and growth of the organisation with two new grants approved for projects in the Mangawara Catchment and Lake Waikare catchment. Funding pledged last financial year by the Waikato Regional Council has increased the number of restoration and riparian projects located on scheme lands, particularly in high biodiversity hot spots like the Opuatia Wetland and oxbow wetlands in the Mangawara catchment. Our longstanding partnership with WCEET has continued with funding approved for the Lake Ohinewai project. This funding provides resources to complete the excellent work started by the Department of Conservation in the mid

2000's to ring fence and plant the lake margin. Once completed later this year, Lake Ohinewai will have a riparian buffer comprising native plantings around its entirety.



The teams from Watercare and Waikato RiverCare Incorporated after signing the new agreement. Credit: Maxine Clayton

On behalf of Waikato RiverCare Inc. staff and committee members, I would like to acknowledge Cathy Tarrant and thank her for the work she has done for Waikato RiverCare Inc. and express that our thoughts are with Cathy's family at this difficult time. Cathy was the co-ordinator for the Mercury-Tainui partnership and has been a great supporter of our work.

Coming up this year, we look forward to continuing our partnership with Te Whangai Trust who have won the tender to plant 40,000 trees at six of our project sites. The Waikato River Authority and Waikato Regional Council are set to release updated priority documents for the Lower Waikato River and we look forward to seeing how Waikato RiverCare Inc. can help implement identified priority projects.

Thanks,

David Klee

Chairperson, Waikato RiverCare Inc.

Operation Manager's Report

Waikato RiverCare Incorporated has completed another very successful year, setting new benchmarks and consistently delivering on restoration outcomes and performance targets.

The 2016 planting season was our biggest yet with more than 58,000 plants procured from our preferred supplier and planted on ten different projects. Waikato RiverCare Inc.'s largest planting project to date, Taupiri Ki Waenganui, received an additional 12,523 plants, bringing the total for the project to 22,968 plants across this 5.63ha Waikato District Council esplanade reserve.

Community participation and involvement increased this year with three public planting events involving school groups, corporate supporters, individuals and mana whenua. Several key events throughout the year brought the importance of protecting fresh water to people's attention and our planned planting events provided the general public with the opportunity to 'give something back' for the benefit of waterways and the Waikato Region.



Waikato RiverCare Operations Manager, Kevin Hutchinson (centre), Vicky Robinson (left), CE of the Ministry for the environment, and Hon Maggie Barry (right), Minister for Conservation

Waikato RiverCare Inc. was recognised for its many years of advocacy and riparian planting on the Lower Waikato River by the Ministry for the Environment, winning the 'Caring for our water' category at the Green Ribbon Awards in July. David Klee and I had the pleasure of travelling to Wellington to attend the awards dinner and collecting the trophy on behalf of all those organisations that have supported Waikato RiverCare Inc. over the last 17 years.

Several other key milestones have also occurred over the last 12 months:

- Two Waikato River Authority grants matured as agreed project works were completed, both under the forecasted budget.

- The Waikato Regional Council reconfirmed its support of the organisation signing a new MOU agreement, committing \$80,000p/a to restoration works on Council administered lands.
- Watercare Services reconfirmed its support of the organisation signing a new MOA for four years, committing \$50,000p/a to restoration works.
- Several new funders have been approached and are now supporting projects.
- WCEET continued to maintain its excellent support of Waikato RiverCare Inc., funding the Lake Ohinewai project north of Huntly and plant procurement and planting on the Mangawara Catchment Project 1 site.

Waikato RiverCare Inc. continues to diversify its project base and scope developing new contacts with landowners and administrators for not only riparian projects but wetland restoration projects, habitat projects for tuna and wildlife, kahikatea and totara stand restoration projects and mass plantings on land retired from grazing.

The partnership with the Waikato Regional Council and Waikato River Authority in the Mangawara catchment is producing some excellent projects with five oxbow wetlands under restoration, two tree stands protected from grazing and significant planting projects completed or due to start. Several projects are aimed at improving or creating habitat for tuna and wildlife with a particular emphasis on improving fish passage and establishing plantings that provide cover from predators.

The organisations online profile continues to grow with regular stories and updates on events and projects now posted to the Facebook site. A partnership with 'Million Metres' aims to launch Waikato RiverCare Inc.'s first crowd funding initiative for the Te Onetea Extension project. An additional two new project signs have been installed, one on the Ohinewai/Tahuna Rd and another on the Hakarimata F project visible to traffic travelling on Hakarimata Rd. Our family of key sponsors pictured on signage has changed with the Mighty River Power logo replaced with the distinctive yellow Mercury logo and Watercare Services pohutukawa flower logo now featuring.

The 2016 -17 financial year set a new benchmarks and milestones for the organisation, however none of the organisations successes over the last 17.5 years would have been possible without the commitment and relentless support shown by our key supporting partners, their staff and our community/industry volunteers. Thank you for the time given to this organisation and your expert advice.

Kevin Hutchinson
Operations Manager

Society's Performance Review

Compliance with the Society's Objectives

Waikato RiverCare Inc. has been compliant with the objects and rules listed in its Constitution:

The Society was established for environmental and charitable objects and purposes within New Zealand only.

- (a) **Core activities** – The enhancement of the natural water and riverside environment of the Waikato River and associated catchments to improve habitats and thereby benefit the users of the river and its environs, local communities, and visitors now and for future generations through
 - (i) Providing improved plant and animal habitat in and around the Waikato River and associated catchments for general ecological benefit, and
 - (ii) Promoting public interest and appreciation of the Waikato River and associated catchments and its environs through education and communication with local communities and other river users for the benefit of achieving awareness and support for the need to maintain and enhance the riverine environment.

- (b) **Funding** – To raise, accept, accumulate, and employ funds for the environmental and charitable purposes authorised by these objects.

- (c) **General** – To do all such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the environmental and charitable purposes authorised by these objects.

Performance Measures

Performance is measured through project evaluations which monitor planting health, establishment, pest plant prevalence, fence condition and stock exclusion. The use of several photo points helps illustrate planting success and condition and assist in identifying long-term management considerations.

Project progression from active management to receiving pulse maintenance after 5 years is the underlining measure of project success for Waikato RiverCare Inc.

Performance in relation to the Strategic Business Plan

In the 2014-15 financial year, Waikato RiverCare Inc.'s committee, by agreement, updated the strategic focus and direction of the organisation to include catchment streams, wetlands and lakes of the lower Waikato River. The committee felt a focus only on the main stem of the Waikato River was potentially limiting for the organisation's long-term sustainability.

This past year has seen funding being secured for four new projects off the main stem of the river. These include projects on the Mangawara Stream, Te Onetea Stream, and Lake Ohinewai. The coming years will hopefully see projects also being undertaken on the Mangatea Stream and Lake Waikare.

Other areas identified as needing further development included Waikato RiverCare Inc.'s online profile, the promotion and distribution of resources and information to the general public on riparian planting, and developing opportunities to make it easy for people and businesses to fund the organisation's growth.



Our Year in Numbers

2016-17

\$436,979
Total amount spent

\$413,789
Funding received via grants and sponsorship

58,375
Number of plants planted

14,708m
Metres of work completed along waterways

80
Numbers of volunteers helping out

20
Number of current projects

16.98Ha
Hectares planted

2015-16

\$266,854
Total amount spent

\$522,703
Funding received via grants and sponsorship

32,034
Number of plants planted

13,238m
Metres of work completed along waterways

40
Numbers of volunteers helping out

14
Number of current projects

7.21Ha
Hectares planted



Kimihia Primary School students learn about native plants as they plant trees along the Te Onetea Stream.

Community Involvement



Left: Huntly College students help out on the Te Awa River Ride project in Ngaruawahia.

The students were extremely proud to have made such a positive contribution to the health and well-being of the Waikato River.

Right: Students from Kimihia Primary School talking to staff from Te Whangai Trust about the different species being planted at Te Onetea Extension Project.

A team of 57 volunteers, including students from Kimihia Primary and Te Kura o Rangiriri, and groups from Spark and Watercare planted 4,000 native plants at the site.



Left: A team of around 20 people from the Kirkwood Whānau continued works at the Ngaruawahia project, planting 495 native trees and grasses along the Waikato River. This planting is a continuation of the 150 plants they planted last year.

We hope to continue working with the Kirkwood Whānau in the future.

Future Plans

Waikato RiverCare Inc. is ensuring financial sustainability by continuing to forecast and budget on a 5-year cycle and developing new sponsorship/project agreements. The generous support of our major sponsors have made it possible to expand Waikato RiverCare Inc.'s project portfolio and develop a viable organisation for the foreseeable future.

**“Kia whakapakari te mauri o to tātou Awa.
Making a positive difference to the wellbeing of
our river.”**

Key focus areas in the coming 12 months for Waikato RiverCare Incorporated include:

- Establishing a significant large scale project with a partner covering a duration of 3-5yrs
- Identification and development of new projects within the Mangawara catchment
- Continuing to provide technical advice and assistance to landowners, businesses and iwi groups keen to develop partnership projects
- Establish new projects within the catchments identified by the Waikato River Authority as priority work areas
- Continue to maintain a diverse project portfolio to ensure the widest possible appeal to both large and small funders
- Continue to provide value to our key supporting partners and maintain the excellent reputation the organisation has established in delivering quality outcomes

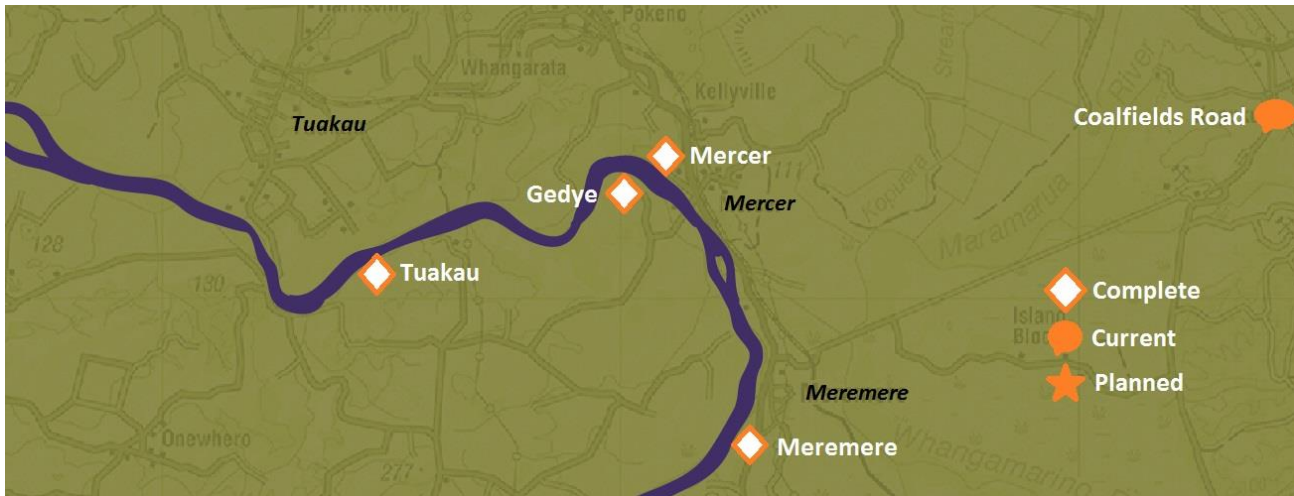
Waikato RiverCare Inc. is expanding its areas of operation consistent with the objects of the society and priorities of our key sponsors and partners. This will be achieved by undertaking projects in and around the lower Waikato River catchments, wetlands and lakes, as well as along the main stem of the lower Waikato River. The Mangawara Stream is an excellent example of this change in focus with new projects to develop and improve tuna habitat and projects targeting tree stand protection and enhancement.

Education and collaboration with local communities living by the river are key to ensuring the best possible long-term environmental outcomes for the lower Waikato River. Waikato RiverCare Inc.'s operational strategy remains unchanged with committee members reiterating the need to promote and increase community involvement on projects. Waikato RiverCare Inc. will continue to promote the use of both the Best Practise Guide and Priority Restoration Site documents with groups interested in developing a planting project. Both documents are a free resource available on Waikato RiverCare Inc.'s website under the Resources tab.

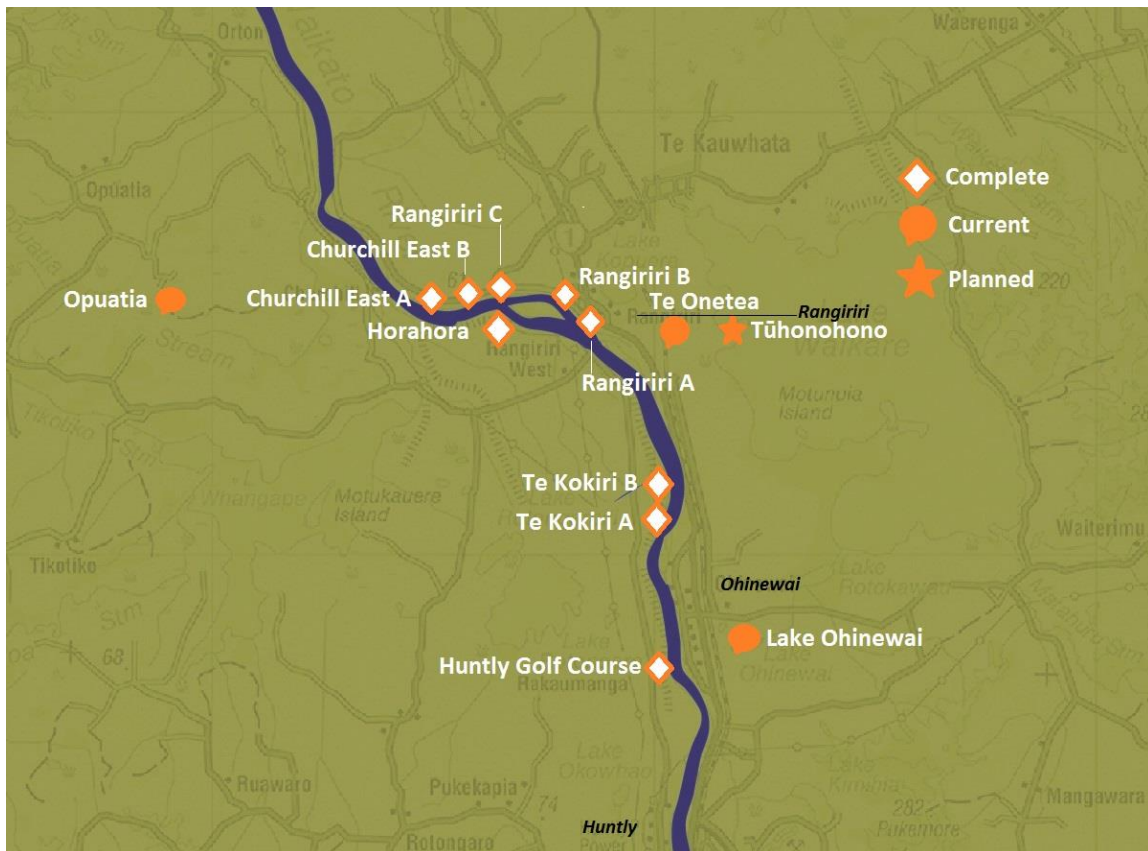
Site Location Map

Site locations are mapped below. For a more comprehensive look at our site locations, visit www.waikatorivercare.co.nz/planting-sites.

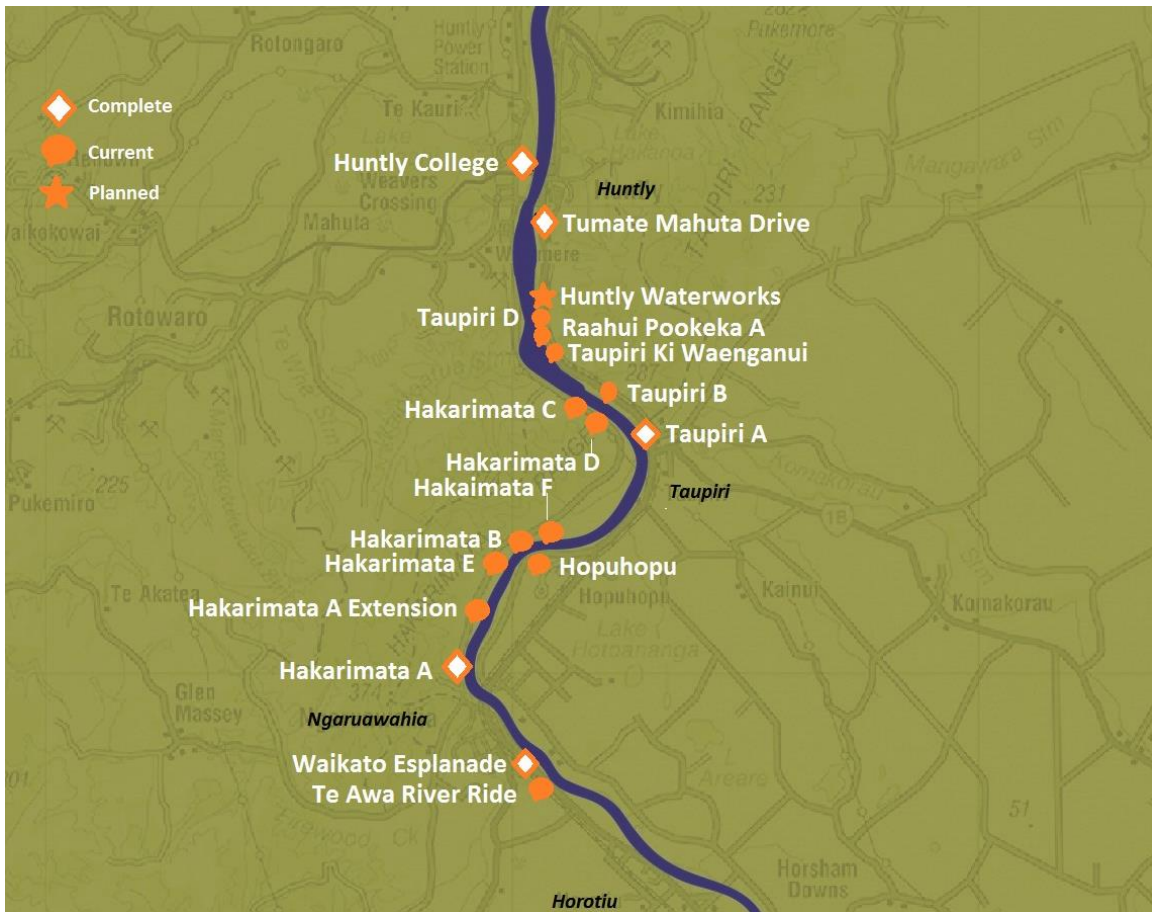
Northern Sites



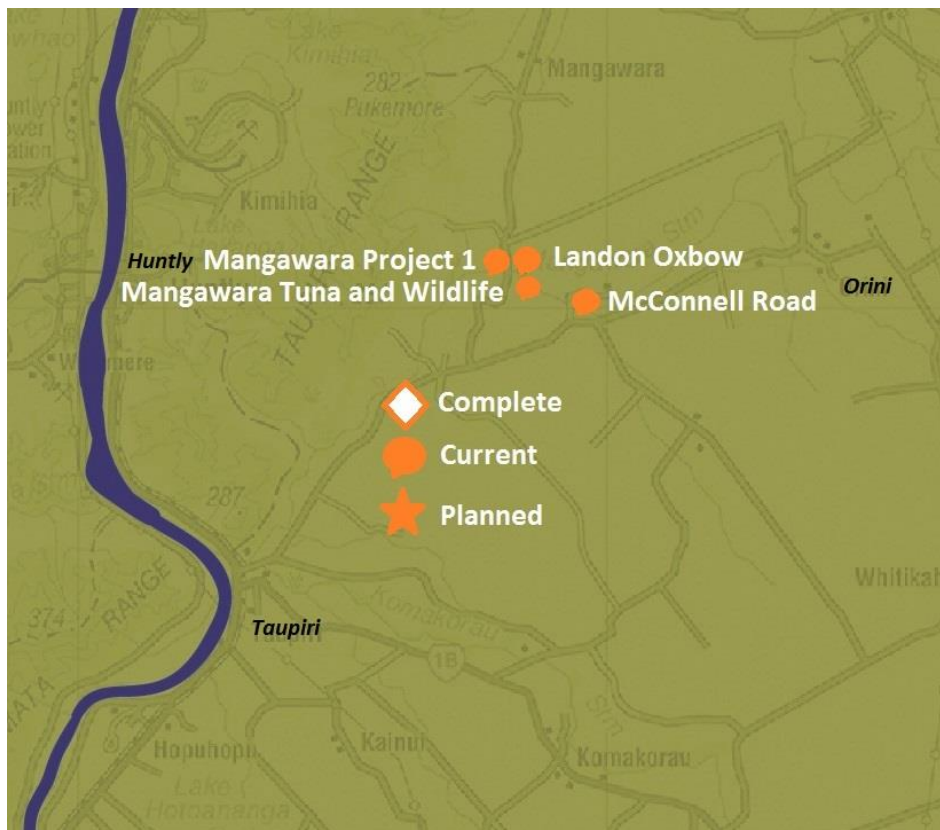
Rangiriri Sites



Taupiri/Huntly Sites



Mangawara Stream Sites



Breakdown of Financial Statements

Our full Financial Statements are available on our website, www.waikatorivercare.co.nz.

Waikato RiverCare is dependent on community funder grants and government funds in order to provide riparian restoration along the Lower Waikato River. Sponsorship agreements and in-kind support with a variety of organisations are also central to the funding of Waikato RiverCare's projects.

Revenue	2016-17
Grants/sponsorship	\$361,610
Interest	\$5,111
Other Revenue	\$47,068
Total	\$413,789
Expenses	2016-17
Project costs	\$311,774
Staff costs	\$107,557
Other Expenses	\$17,648
Total	\$436,979
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(-\$23,190)

What Can You Do?

- You can donate to our Give-a-Little page [here](#)
- Let us know if you or your organisation would like to sponsor one of our projects
- Visit our website: www.waikatorivercare.co.nz
- Like our [Facebook page](#)
- Let us know if you have an idea for a new project
- Tell others about the work that we are doing!
- Email us at info@waikatorivercare.co.nz

We'd like to express our sincerest thanks to all of our sponsors, partners, and donors for your continued support.



