



Waikato RiverCare Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026

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"Mō tātou te awa, mō ngā uri whakatipu."

"The river is for us and our future generations."



Our Vision

Thriving Waikato Waterways



Our Mission

Community Led care for our Taiao



Our Values

Partnerships

Our stakeholders are as passionate and dedicated as us in supporting our Mission and Values

Leadership

We are committed to share our knowledge and skills

Transparency

We are transparent in our resourcing and our operations

Trust

We are trusting of our partners, participants and our processes

| Major Sponsors

Waikato RiverCare sincerely thanks its supporters, funders, project partners and landowners, who enable us to keep up the momentum of restoration work within the Waikato catchment.



| Sponsors



BELL GULLY

Introduction

Since 1999, Waikato RiverCare has been dedicated to restoring and enhancing the lower Waikato River and its catchments. As a registered charity supported by a diverse membership, we focus on riparian restoration through the planting and maintenance of native vegetation.

Our work is guided by strong partnerships, cultural engagement, and sound environmental practices, ensuring lasting benefits for the region’s natural and cultural heritage.

The Structure of Waikato RiverCare Inc.

The organisation is governed by an Executive Committee. There is one category of membership of the Society, that being Members. Any person or incorporated body which agrees to be bound by the aims and by the Constitution of the Society can request to become a Member of the Society.

Executive Committee

Organisation

- Michelle Archer - **Chairperson**
- David Klee - **Deputy Chairperson**
- Ope Akinkugbe - **Treasurer**
- Mandy Bathen - **Secretary**
- Dawn Metcalfe
- Chris Woolerton
- Todd Baldwin
- Tamoko Ormsby
- Michelle Hodges
- Paula Reeves
- Quinton Tunoho
- Haydn Solomon
- Ben Wolf
- Diana Villa Ortega
- Chris Woolerton
- Don Scarlet

Representative

- Independent member of the public
- Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council
- Independent member of the public
- Administrator at Waikato RiverCare
- Independent member of the public
- North Waikato Federated Farmers
- Mercury
- Waikato Tainui
- Genesis
- Waikato Regional Council
- Department of Conservation
- Nga Muka Development Trust
- Waikato District Council
- Watercare Services Ltd
- North Federated Farmers
- Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (Advisory Member)

| Our Year in Numbers

2024-2025

\$511,701
Total Expenses

\$786,846
Total Revenue
(grants and sponsorship)

52,125
Plants Planted

78
Number of Volunteers

22
Number of Projects

16
Hectares Planted

2025-2026

\$522,701
Total Expenses

\$590,758
Total Revenue
(grants, donations, investment income and sponsorship)

51,818
Plants Planted

75
Number of Volunteers

19
Current of Projects

17
Hectares Planted



Breakdown of Financial Statements

Our full Financial Statements are available on on the Charities Services website charities.govt.nz

Waikato RiverCare's project delivery is reliant on annual funding provided by our generous corporate supporters including local Waikato businesses and members of the public. In addition to donations, RiverCare applies to contestable funds for project funding, community grants and central government funding. RiverCare receives excellent industry support from our suppliers and contractors including significant in-kind support from a variety of organisations and individuals.

Revenue	2025/2026
Donations, koha, bequests, and other general fundraising activities	\$655
General Grants	97,799
Government service delivery grants/contracts	\$42,315
Non-government service delivery grants/contracts	\$403,180
Interest, dividends, and other investment revenue	\$46,809
Total Revenue 2025/2026 \$590,758	
Expenses	2025/2026
Employee remuneration and other related expenses	\$159,039
Other expenses related to service delivery	\$352,024
Other expenses	\$11,647
Total Expenses 2025/2026 \$522,710	

Other expenses include:- Kiwi Saver, ACC, depreciation, advertising & community engagement, vehicle use, office expenses, printing & postage, website & accounting package, general expenses.

RiverCare Projects

RiverCare's projects usually cover a three to five year period and involves pre-planting, vegetation control, planting, post-planting care, infill planting and maintenance of the project.

Projects in Progress

Barbour Farm Waotu Wetland	5.77 ha	Storey Farm	1.0 ha
Churchill Farm	2.86 ha	Te Awamutu WWTP	1.43 ha
Genesis Bone Road	5.10 ha	Te Tahi Road WWTP	0.38 ha
Genesis Scott Farm Okowao	2.5 ha	Te Uapoto Lagoon	8.0 ha
Genesis Te Ohaki Rd	3.0 ha	Genesis Tuna Habitat Improvement Project	1.43 ha
Hamilton Farm	8.0 ha	Waahi Paa Tauranga Waka Project	7.5 ha
Hampton Downs	5.78 ha	Waikato District Council	0.11 ha
Lake Kopuera	3.3 ha	Wai O Te Atua Stream Stage II	0.38 ha
Mangawara Lagoon Wetland	2.12 ha	Pokaiwhena Stream	2.75 ha
Rumball Healey Farm	2.75 ha		

Community Involvement

Community engagement is central to our mission, reflecting our commitment to building strong, lasting relationships with the communities we serve.

We work collaboratively through river clean-ups and partnerships with organisations and iwi, including Pou Ltd, Nga Muka Development Trust, Waahi Whaanui Trust, Taupiri Marae, and Te Riu o Waikato Limited, alongside planting days with partners such as Genesis, Fonterra, Fish & Game, and the Waikato River Authority.

This work goes beyond sharing our message—it is about listening, learning, and co-creating solutions to support the health of the Waikato River and its catchment. By involving the community in decision-making, we ensure our work reflects diverse perspectives and real needs, building trust, strengthening relationships, and fostering a shared sense of ownership.

We are grateful for our dedicated supporters, especially landowners, their families, and friends, as well as the technical expertise of individuals and organisations. Our Executive Committee also gives their time voluntarily—without this collective support, we could not achieve our goals for the awa and its communities.



Zack, one of the Waikato Riversweepers



Sharing Our Mahi at Wai Connection 2025



Justyna - what an effort running the entire length of the Waikato River to fundraise for us!



Committee Members at Mercury's Whakamaru hydro dam



**"Ko Waikato te awa, he piko he taniwha,
he piko he taniwha."**

"Waikato is the river of a hundred bends; at every bend a chief, at every bend a guardian."