

# Waikato RiverCare



Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society Incorporated



# ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2008



The Waikato River is a national and regional icon holding significant cultural, economic, social and environmental values. The Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society Inc (LWRES trading as 'Waikato RiverCare') links these values with interested organisations and a methodology to provide a vehicle for riparian habitat restoration using a base of native plant species. Waikato RiverCare was incorporated in 2001 and is supported by a range of community stakeholders with a common vision and purpose.

The geographic area covered is over 120 kilometres of river (and associated banks) along the Waikato River downstream of Hamilton City to the river mouth at Port Waikato.

## **Vision**

To create a showpiece of healthy Lower Waikato River riparian habitat based around native species.

## **Purpose**

To implement a sustainable programme of action to plant natives plant species on the banks of the Lower Waikato River.



*From this...*



*... to this*

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# Introduction

The Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society (Waikato RiverCare) is pleased to present its seventh Annual Report. The report documents achievements in relation to established projects and new projects initiated this year. It also provides the mandatory Chairperson’s Report and Statement of Financial Performance.

## Structure of Waikato RiverCare

There are two categories of membership - foundation member and general member. Each foundation member appoints one representative to the Executive Committee.

### Foundation member

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council  
Environment Waikato  
Genesis Energy  
Mighty River Power  
North Waikato Federated Farmers  
Waikato District Council  
Watercare Services Limited  
Wayne Bennett  
Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust  
Waahi Whaanui Trust

### Representative

Phil Teal  
Michelle Hodges  
Janine Williams  
Magnus Adlam  
Wally Lee  
Bruce Mackay  
Shayne Cunis  
Wayne Bennett  
Julian Williams  
Pat Nathan

### General member

#### Organisation

North Waikato Federated Farmers  
Environment Waikato  
Horahora Marae Trust  
Horahora Marae Trust  
Waikato Federated Farmers  
-  
Waikato RiverCare  
Environment Waikato  
Watercare Services Limited  
Waikato RiverCare

Peter Buckley  
Therese Balvert  
Emma Witika  
Te Aira Moana  
Peter Buckley  
Dawn Metcalfe  
Alice Barnett  
Bilyana Podrumac  
Suzanne Thomassen  
Sue McConnochie

# Sponsors

## Kauri Sponsor



## Kahikatea Sponsor



## Projects have also been supported by:



DOC Waikato Conservancy – Community Conservation Fund

Ministry for the Environment – Sustainable Management Fund

NZ Lottery Grants Board

Waikato District Council

Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust

Horahora Marae Trust

# Chairperson's Report

The focus for Waikato RiverCare has again been on the core business of restoring the riverbanks and making positive gains.

Of particular note this year was the announcement of the Agreement In Principle to settle Waikato-Tainui's historical Treaty claim to the Waikato River. The health and well-being of the Waikato River is the key focus of the draft AIP and seeks to recognise Waikato-Tainui's special relationship with the river and ensure that the river is managed in an integrated way. This is an unparalleled opportunity for the health of the river to be considered and improvements to be made for the long term – and from our perspective the reiteration of our goals in the documentation of key parties was welcomed.

Also of note in the recent *Seven Wonders of the Waikato* poll undertaken by the regional council – the Waikato River was noted as **NUMBER ONE**. This should give all those involved reassurance that we are on the right track and provides a re-emphasis of the value of the river to its people. This is another 'plank' to be reiterated to sponsors.

The dossier of projects as we strive to meet our goal of 2km of riverbank projects per year continues to grow – even with the individual site technical difficulties –it is pleasing to see results on the ground and high levels of support to achieve such.

The Taupiri site continues to be a key site for Waikato RiverCare in terms of achieving publicity and a showpiece for values of the Waikato River. Planting commenced at this site (with input and enthusiasm from many groups) and took into consideration the maintenance of wide river views. Appropriate low growing species will dominate in places to encourage this.

Another site which Waikato RiverCare is contributing to is the Tumate Mahuta project on the true right of the river between the Tainui bridge and the rail bridge in Huntly. The preparatory work has already had a huge visual impact and complements the work undertaken on the true left bank opposite.

Waikato RiverCare now has more active sites in their early stages of management or are about to have work started on them. This has meant a major time commitment from all the contributing members, to the point that it is necessary to have someone coordinating the site management work.

A Site Co-ordinator position was established for Waikato RiverCare utilising a Ministry for the Environment Sustainable Management Fund grant. Sue McConnochie has done a fantastic job in organising the site managers and planting days to ensure an efficient programme of action has been followed. This gives a(n):

- consistency of approach,
- consistency in dealing with contractors,
- appropriate experience and advice can be easily conveyed and coordinated,
- establishment of more community involvement focus; and
- improved efficiencies in being able to pre-order contract grown plants from nurseries in advance.

This role will continue to be very important for our organisation to continue momentum efficiently in increasing biodiversity on the banks of the Waikato River.

The appointment of Alice Barnett as Administration Co-ordinator for Waikato RiverCare has meant that administrative matters are followed up and the grant applications are done consistently and timely. It is even more critical now that Waikato RiverCare reports to the sponsors and funders in a professional and punctual manner. Alice and Sue have certainly contributed to the reduction in stress levels – where many of us have been juggling the duties of governors and active managers.

We continue to acknowledge the contributions of our major sponsors: Mighty River Power (MRP), Watercare Services Ltd (Watercare), and Gallagher Group. This year has also seen Genesis become a major sponsor which cements its support – which has been considerable from staff commitment and with funding over the years. This contribution provides an endorsement of our efforts and is an exciting opportunity.

It also is hoped that the Sponsorship Strategy in the coming year will follow up on the interest conveyed from other potential sponsors.

Without the sponsors we have – we could not contemplate the projects or efficiencies we have established this year. We have purchased our planting stock on a contract grow basis for the next two years which has significant cost efficiencies and provides us with certainty of supply of the eco-sourced species we want.

Our other contributing funders are also acknowledged in providing significant funding to projects. Waikato RiverCare continues to put the funding intended for riverbank improvements into work on the ground – and it is the unique composition of members that allows this to happen.

This year we have focused on establishing an efficient reporting system and we are part-way to achieving such – thanks to the efforts of members to define reporting templates and Sue to co-ordinate such. We have to have accurate and timely accounting and monitoring systems in place. Another issue to be considered in the near future is Community Involvement and this is a challenge for Waikato RiverCare moving forward.

I would like to thank the continued support of all foundation member organisations that provide staff time and supporting administrative and other contributions. I also I genuinely thank each individual person that has provided their time and energy over the year to Waikato RiverCare.

I will be stepping down after a very rewarding three years in the position of Chairman, knowing that there is a high skill base and enthusiasm following that will continue the achievements already made.

Phil Teal  
**Chairperson**



# The Five-Year Plan

In 2005, a sponsorship strategy was developed to ensure improved financial sustainability of Waikato RiverCare's activities. The generous support of three major sponsors: Mighty River Power, Gallagher Group and Watercare Services Ltd have made it possible to plan more efficiently into the foreseeable future.

The business plan has an operational objective of planting up to two hectares of riverbank per year (or two kilometres based on a ten-metre wide riparian margin). With this in mind, there is an awareness not to undertake projects that are currently too big for Waikato RiverCare to logistically handle with the available resources - both time and funding.

With each site, there is an approach of undertaking the project in three separate phases:

<b><u>Preparation:</u></b>	Involving clearance of willow trees, weed spraying, fencing etc.	Indicative cost per hectare: \$13 000
<b><u>Planting:</u></b>	Involving selection of plants and actively planting them.	Indicative cost per hectare: \$19 000
<b><u>Maintenance:</u></b>	Involving weed control and monitoring of plant establishment and survival. Anticipated involvement of three-year period minimum.	Indicative cost per hectare: \$8 000 over three years

Indicative costs will vary from site to site depending on exact requirements and community involvement but an overall cost will normally be of similar magnitude.

Ideally, each year Waikato RiverCare would have at least:

- two one-kilometre sites being initiated in ***preparation phase***
- two one-kilometre sites being planted in ***planting phase***; and
- six one-kilometre sites being maintained in ***maintenance phase***.

The priority sites for the next five years will focus on:

- Churchill East Road B *downstream of Rangiriri*
- Churchill East Road E

- Upstream of Rangiriri Bridge
- Hakarimata C (Private Land)
- Downstream of Taupiri Site (Private Land)
- Ngaruawahia Boat Ramp.

These are in addition to the sites that will commence preparation in 2007/8:

- Churchill East Road C
- Churchill East Road D

This does not exclude other opportunities as they may arise, as there are benefits in pursuing projects that have: clear goals, additional funding opportunities, and key people driving their progress.

# Allocation of Funds

## Sponsor

Gallagher Group

Mighty River Power

Watercare Services Ltd

## Project benefited

- Te Kokiri
- Taupiri A
- Administration Co-ordinator
- Ngaruawahia sites (schools)
- Project Co-ordinator
- Te Kokiri
- Tumate Mahuta Drive (Huntly B)
- Private Land A – Gedye
- Rangiriri B

## Funder

Department of Conservation

NZ Lottery Grant Board

Transpower

Waikato Catchment Ecological

Enhancement Trust

Private Landowner (Gedye)

Ministry for the Environment

Forest Flora

Environment Waikato

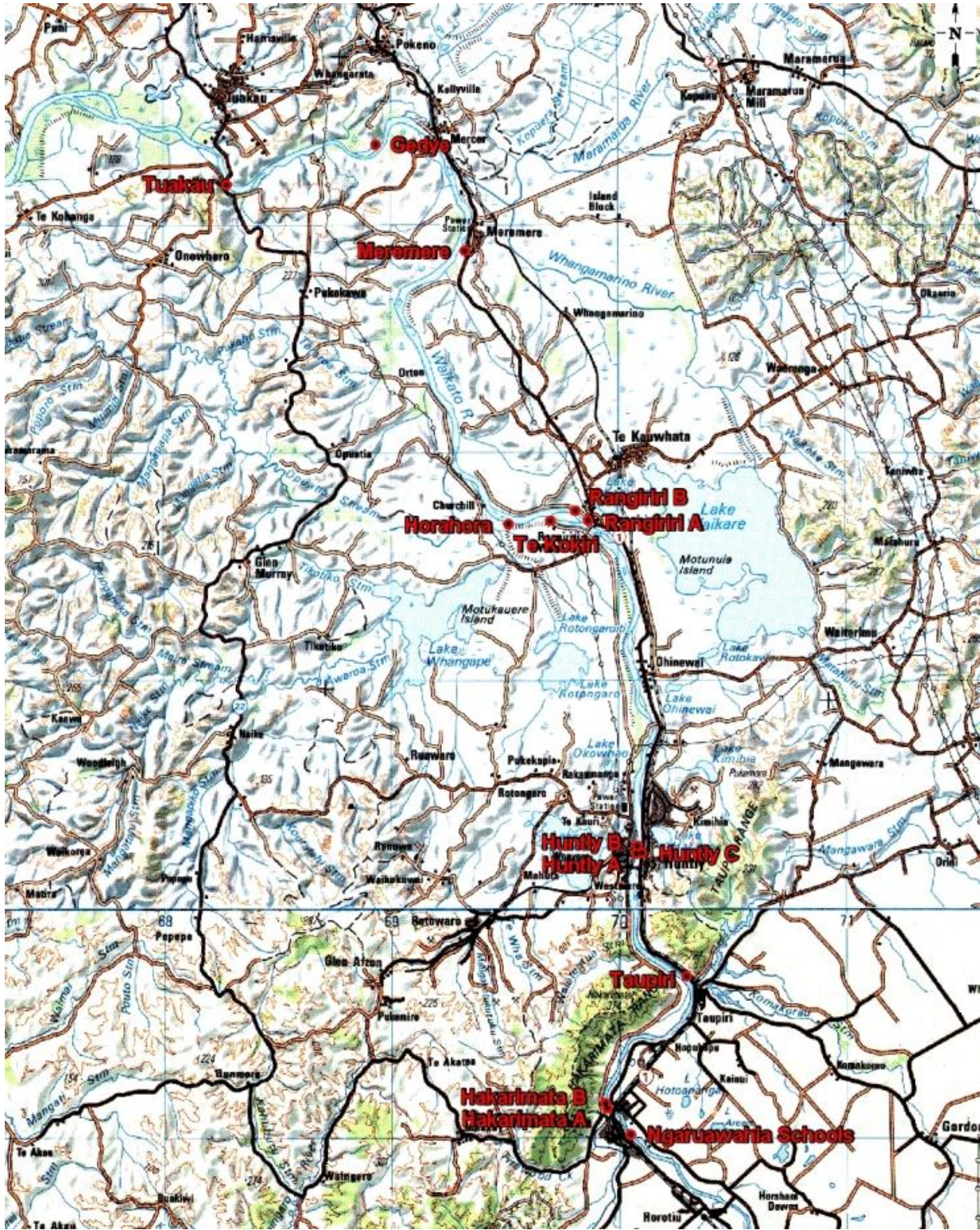
Genesis Energy

Waikato District Council

## Project benefited

- Site Co-ordinator (until July 2007)
- Hakarimata B
- Te Kokiri
- Taupiri A
- Private Property Project A – Gedye
- Project Co-ordinator
- Hakarimata A
- Te Kokiri
- Taupiri
- Ngaruawahia sites (schools)

# Location of Sites



# Site progress and achievements

## Private Property Project A – Gedye

This was the second year of planting at the Gedye’s property. Planting was undertaken by staff from Watercare Services, Mighty River Power, Environment Waikato and Rabobank as well as volunteers from the Gedye’s family and friends. The planting day was held on Wednesday 25th July 2007 and was a successful day with approximately 1000 plants planted over a distance of approximately 300m. A great time was had by all and the day finished up with a BBQ lunch kindly donated by Watercare Services.

Following the planting day there were a few hundred plants remaining to be planted so Michelle Hodges and the Gedye's family and friends braved pouring rain on Saturday 28th July 2007 to complete the planting.



*Enjoying a BBQ lunch after planting.*



*Volunteers working hard.*



*Trees planted in 2006 are growing well.*

## Hakarimata A

RiverCare's involvement at this site is now in the maintenance phase following the previous three years of planting. The high standard of site preparation has worked well at this site and native plants are prospering. Where shade is provided by willow trees, weed problems have been minimal, therefore reducing maintenance costs. However, there have still been re-infestations of wandering dew and this will continue to be monitored to ensure the survival of the young native plants.

There are a number of native plants now regenerating on the site that were not doing so prior to Waikato RiverCare's intervention. Species regenerating include koromiko, cabbage tree, mahoe, karamu and mamaku tree ferns. The karamu, mahoe and mapou are producing large amounts of fruit that will help encourage native birds into the area to feed. As other plant species mature, they will also contribute to the production of food for birds.



## Hakarimata B

This site is located on Hakarimata Road between Ngaruawahia and Huntly. Preparation of this site for planting was achieved during 2007/08 with assistance from the Huntly Conservation Corp and weed control contractors. Like many Waikato RiverCare sites, there was a lot of household rubbish present, including an old car body. Waikato District Council supplied a small skip to dispose of the rubbish and permanent bollards were erected at the site to try and prevent further dumping. Due to the safety issues associated with this site being located next to a busy road, planting was undertaken by contractors. Approximately 4800 plants were planted at the 500m long site with a further 1200 plants held back until 2008 to allow for more weed control to be undertaken.



*August 2007.*



*March 2008.*

## Huntly A

After three seasons of planting from 2002 to 2006 approximately 13,000 plants have been planted at this site. Unfortunately, some plants have died due to vandalism and being overcome by weeds. In 2007 a further 1200 plants (which were surplus to other sites) were planted on the lower areas of this site, close to the river. More planting will be undertaken in 2008 to fill gaps around the traffic bridge caused by bridge upgrade works. As with all Waikato RiverCare sites, weed control will be undertaken until the young plants are several years old and can fend for themselves.



*August 2007.*



## **Ngaruawahia A & B (Ngaruawahia Schools)**

These sites are located alongside the Waikato River in Ngaruawahia. RiverCare members have been working with St Paul's School and Ngaruawahia Primary School to combine some environmental education with action on the ground. St Paul's School senior class and Ngaruawahia Primary School have worked with Waikato RiverCare to carryout native planting at these sites each year since the first planting in 2004. Wayne Bennett from Ecosourced Waikato has provided the educational component to the planting programme.



*Newly planted specimens.*

## Rangiriri B

This site is approximately 1km long and is currently being prepared for planting in late winter 2008. Site preparation has involved engaging a contractor to spray weeds with herbicide. A site management plan has also been prepared and plants ordered in preparation for planting.



*Spraying for site preparation in March 2008.*

## Te Kokiri (Horahora Marae)

The success of this site has been a joint effort between Waikato RiverCare, Horahora Marae and Environment Waikato. With funding received from Transpower and fencing materials donated by Environment Waikato, a fence was erected to make the site stock-proof. Marae members worked hard to help plant approximately 5,000 plants along 500 m of riverbank. Work will continue in 2008 to extend the planting to cover the full 1 km long site.

There was some concern that the plants would not survive the Waikato drought and on two occasions a water pump was brought in to water them with water taken from the Waikato River. Thankfully, the plants were hardy specimens and survived well.



*Species thriving along the river bank within the stock-proof fence.*

## Taupiri A

This site is a very visible site, located opposite the Taupiri Urupa and next to the Taupiri boat ramp. Waikato RiverCare had a busy year clearing the site of weeds and preparing it for planting. Over a dozen rubbish bags of household rubbish were removed from the riverbank before planting could take place.

A small planting event was held in August and 600 trees were planted around the car park area in preparation for Te Arikinui's unveiling or Huritau. It was one year since she passed away on the 15th of August.

In late September, a huge community effort saw the planting of over 4000 plants. The community response was huge with plenty of volunteers available on each of the three planting days. Some of the volunteers included, Genesis Energy's volunteer programme, Mighty River Power staff, Kanae Kakariki Trust and the Turangawaewae Maori Women's Welfare League. However, there were also large numbers of individuals – including those driving past who saw the planting going on and thought they would stop to lend a helping hand.



*Some of the volunteers who lent a helping hand.*

## Huntly B – Tumate Mahuta Drive Floodway

This project is designed and managed by the Waikato District Council with RiverCare contributing \$25,000 from our Mighty River Power sponsorship.

The project was intended to take a disused area of overgrown scrub next to the Waikato River in Huntly, and develop it into a natural recreation reserve. The reserve was to incorporate viewing platforms over both the wetland area and the Waikato River, as well as a "Lakeside" area in the wetlands that could be developed as a picnic area. The project includes a significant length of walkway, and is intended to link up with the recently developed boardwalk from the town centre of Huntly, and to provide an additional link to the new Countdown supermarket.

A local contractor (Colin Slater Contracting) was approached regarding the project, and has done a large volume of work at low cost, as a charity contribution toward the project.

The works so far has involved the mulching of the existing scrub, and then earthworks to reshape the existing ground into lakes and ponds, as well as extension and re-levelling of an existing bund to act as the base for the walkway. To date this work is almost completed. Timber piles have also been driven for the walkway bridges (taking advantage of the extremely low river levels over summer) with the rest of the bridge planned to be placed in the spring/summer of 2008.

Full planting of trees and bushes has only been undertaken on the isolated island, the rest of the site has just been grassed, to stabilise it until planting is undertaken in spring of 2008.



*Construction of the wetland area in 2008.*

**The following sites are completed but are still monitored:**

**Horahora**



**Meremere**



**Tuakau A – Batkins Reserve**



**Rangiriri A**



# Review, Assessment and Evaluation of the Society's Performance

## Compliance with Governing Legislation

Waikato RiverCare has eight foundation members listed for the 2007/8 Financial Year – all of which have renewed and confirmed.

All subscription requirements have been fulfilled.

## Compliance with Society's Objectives

Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society trading as Waikato RiverCare has been compliant with the objects and rules listed in the Constitution:

The Society is 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 Lower Waikato River and thereby benefit the users of the river and its environments, local communities, and visitors now and for future generations through:
  - Providing improved plant and animal habitat in and around the Lower Waikato River for general ecological benefit,
  - Promoting public interest and appreciation of the Lower Waikato River and its environments 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 Lower Waikato River 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

Waikato RiverCare's performance is measured by the area of riverbank that is planted each year and that can be considered relatively weed-free and sustainable in the long term.

## Performance in Relation to the Strategic Business Plan

The objectives in the Strategic Business Plan are:

**To plant up to two hectares (2 kilometres of riverbank 10 metre wide) per year.**

In the 2007/8 year, the following projects were commenced by undertaking site preparation for planting:

Rangiriri B          1 ha          (1000x x 10m)

These following project sites were planted:

<b>Project Site</b>	<b>Length of planting (metres)</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Area of planting (hectares)</b>
Private A – Gedye	300	(300m x 15m)	0.45
Te Kokiri – Horahora	500	(500m x 15m)	0.75
Taupiri	500	(500m x 15m)	0.75
Ngaruawahia Schools	50	(100m x 10m)	0.1
Hakarimata B	400	(800m x 15m)	1.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1750</b>		<b>3.25</b>

A total of 3.25 hectares of riverbank was planted at our project sites, which covers a length of 1.75 kilometres of riverbank. This meets Waikato RiverCare’s objective of planting two hectares per year.

## Governance

The governance of Waikato RiverCare continues to follow the articles set out in the Society’s constitution that has an executive committee comprising:

- Each Foundation member can appoint one representative to the Executive Committee
- Election of up to three representatives from the General Membership to the Executive Committee.

The Foundation Members of Waikato RiverCare have renewed their commitment to the society and continue to have an active involvement in the executive committee decisions.

The Foundation Members include:

- Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council
- Environment Waikato



- Genesis Energy
- Local resident – Wayne Bennett
- Mighty River Power
- North Waikato Federated Farmers
- Waikato District Council
- Watercare Services Ltd.
- Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust
- Waahi Whaanui Trust

## Operational

Waikato RiverCare was successful in receiving funding from the Ministry for the Environment to employ a part time Project Co-ordinator for three years. This position was filled and the Project Co-ordinator has been invaluable for Waikato RiverCare. Their duties have involved:

- Co-ordinate site planning requirements and planting days
- Liaison with contractors to ensure activities are carried out to standard
- Development and implementation of a Community Engagement Strategy

Waikato RiverCare has also employed a student to assist with administrative duties. This position is part time and has been essential to the smooth operation of RiverCare. Administrator duties include:

- Reporting to fund providers at specified timeframes
- Co-ordination of site reporting function
- Co-ordination of Annual Report
- Co-ordination of funding applications
- Development of Waikato RiverCare's website
- Writing of RiverCare newsletters and promotional material

Funding for this position over the 2007/08 financial year has been met from the Mighty River Power sponsorship.

# **Financial Statements**

## **for the year ended 31 March 2008**

Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society Ltd

Statement of Movement in Equity for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

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	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>OPENING EQUITY</b>	91,394	35,288
<b>TOTAL RECOGNISED REVENUE AND EXPENSES</b>		
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>39,239</u>	<u>56,106</u>
<b>CLOSING EQUITY</b>	<u><u>130,633</u></u>	<u><u>91,394</u></u>

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# Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society Ltd

Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2007</b>
Cambridge Forest and Native Nursery	3,265		-	
Department of Conservation	-		6,400	
Environment Waikato	-		5,150	
Genesis Energy	35,556		8,889	
Gedyes PF & RA	444		-	
Mandeville Nursery	-		1,162	
Mighty River Power	25,625		25,000	
Ministry for the Environment	6,345		-	
NZ Landcare Trust	-		4,444	
PF and RA Gedyes	-		444	
NZ Lottery Grants Board	20,000		-	
SMF Funds Advisor	3,309		-	-
The Gallagher Group Sponsorship Committee (unpaid)	10,000		-	
Watercare Services Limited	10,000		10,000	
WCEET (unpaid)	-		17,778	
Interest Received	4,307		682	
		118,851		79,949
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>				
Gedye A	2,904		2756	
Hakarimata A	-		630	
Hakarimata B	18,360		1,360	
Huntly Project A	2,505		12,285	
Meremere	-		624	
Ngaruawahia A	2,778		2,669	
Rangiriri	-		1,066	
Taupiri A	13,978		-	
Te Koriri A	14,354		-	
Administration	956		465	
Administration Coordinator	6,766		-	
Bank Charges	74		5	
Bank Interest	38		-	
Cambridge Forest & Native Nursery	3,265		-	
Function Speaker Expenses	653		-	
Project co-ordination A	4,843		-	
Project co-ordination B	8,138		1,983	
		79,612		23,843
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>39,239</b>		<b>56,106</b>

# Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society Ltd

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2008

	2008	2008	2007	2007
<b>EQUITY</b>		<u>130,633</u>		<u>91,394</u>
<b>Represented by:-</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Current Account - BNZ	73,612		21,547	
Saving Account - BNZ	-		24,749	
Term Saver - BNZ	51,964			
Debtor Accrued				
Mighty River Power	-		28,125	
WCEET	-		20,000	
Gallagher	10,000		-	
SMF Funds Advisor	3,309			
Cambridge Forest and Native Nursery	<u>3,265</u>		<u>-</u>	
		142,150		94,421
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors:				
Web Widgets Ltd	410		-	
Semele Consulting Limited	979		-	
New Zealand Post (cheque not cleared)	-		125	
Inland Revenue Department	<u>10,127</u>		<u>2,902</u>	
		11,516		3,027
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>130,634</u>		<u>91,394</u>