

**Waikato  
RiverCare**



# Waikato RiverCare Inc. **ANNUAL REPORT**

2018/19



# Our Vision

To make a positive difference to the wellbeing of our River

*Kia whakapakari te mauri o to t ā tou 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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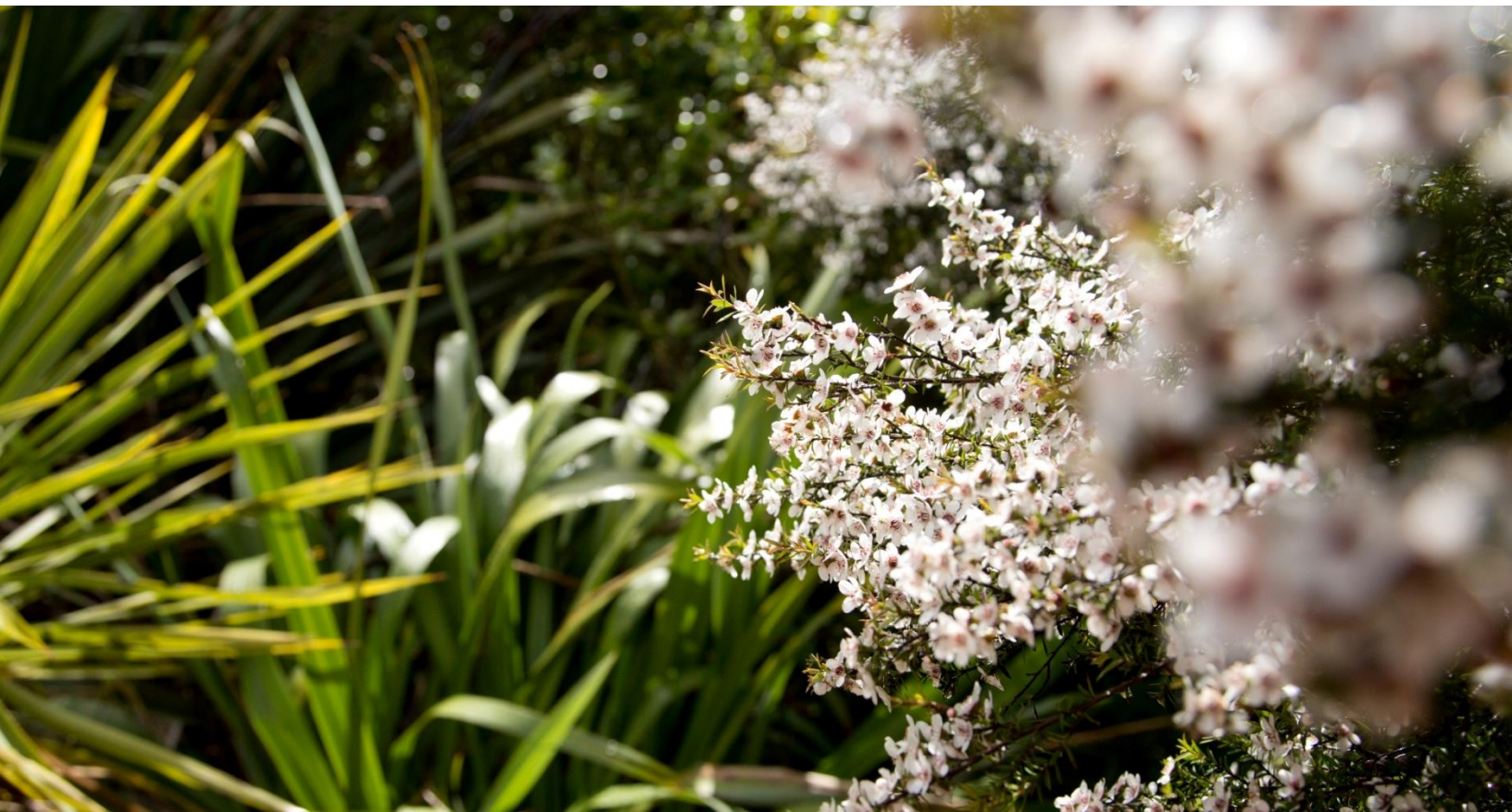
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## Introduction

Waikato RiverCare Incorporated is pleased to present our Annual Report for the 2018/19 period. The report documents achievements in relation to established projects and new projects initiated in this period.

Waikato RiverCare 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 is the leading riparian restoration charity focusing 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's operation.



# Sponsors

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

## Major Sponsors:



## Sponsors:



*Volunteers busily planting at the Te Onetea Extension Planting Day, funded by the Million Metres Streams Project and Len Reynolds Trust*

# 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. Two Advisory Members offer high level support and political advocacy.

## *Executive Committee*

### **Representative**

Michelle Archer - ***Chairperson***

David Klee - ***Deputy Chairperson***

Kathryn Duggan – ***Treasurer***

Larnie Chrystall

Lucy Roberts

Nigel Goodhue

Glen Tupuhi

Wally Lee

Jackson Efford / Sarah Lealand

Nolwenn Lagadec

Ben Wolf

Dawn Metcalfe

### **Organisation**

Independent member of public

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council

Independent member of public

Mercury

Department of Conservation

Genesis

Nga Muka Development Trust

North Waikato Federated Farmers

Waikato Regional Council

Watercare Services Ltd

Waikato District Council

Independent member of public

## *General Members*

Hori Awa

Taroi Rawiri/Lorraine Dixon

Donna Barakat

Waahi Whaanui Trust

Waikato-Tainui

Genesis

## *Advisory Members*

Peter Buckley

Don Scarlet

Fed Farmers / Lower Waikato Zone Farmer

Mercury

## *Staff at end of March 2019*

Kevin Hutchinson

Melissa Ferguson - ***Secretary***

Operations Manager

Administrator

# Chairperson's Report

It has been a year of continued growth for Waikato RiverCare. My first as Chairperson since taking the position over from David Klee who provided 2 years of solid leadership for our organisation. David's knowledge and passion for Waikato RiverCare are much appreciated, and he continues to support myself and the operations team as Deputy Chair.

We also welcomed Melissa Ferguson to the team as administrator and Nolwenn Lagadec from WaterCare. We also retained Kathryn Duggan in the Executive Committee as she formally took over the role of Treasurer. Donna Barakat has been the Treasurer for 9 years and her knowledge and experience were vital to our growth and trust we have built with our funders. We sincerely thank Donna for her assistance and continued support of Kathryn as she adapts to her new role.

It has been a pleasure to work closely with Kevin and understand the huge personal effort and commitment he has for Waikato RiverCare; we are lucky to have such a knowledgeable and well-connected Operations Manager to deliver our work on the ground. Maintaining an engaged executive committee is a challenge for Waikato RiverCare with the pressures of work our members face in their respective roles and organisations. During the year we made slight changes to the operation of the Executive Committee with Waahi Whaanui and Waikato Tainui agreeing to become General Member's to assist in ensuring we met quorum at our bi-monthly hui.

Over the last 18 months, the committee has been workshopping internally what makes our organisation great and determining what is required to continue to make it grow and be successful. We have finalised a new strategic plan and will implement this in the next financial year and the committee is excited to bring this new thinking into our governance and operations. Thanks to Sarah Gibb from Community Waikato and Angus McKenzie from Place Group for giving up their time to assist us in this process.

At an operations level we had another successful planting season, however, the dry summer period again highlighted to the committee the pressure that a changing climate will have on our projects and discussions are continuing on how an organisation like ours could tackle this issue.

**RiverCare successfully secured project funding from both the Waikato River Authority and Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust to support RiverCare's work with the Butler family. Our knowledge and experience has seen new opportunities arise to provide restoration advice and project management for our partners and other organisations. A new keystone project for RiverCare has been the 14 hectare Black Farm Project near Mercer. This is a great example of a landowner led, large scale restoration and we were pleased to be approached by the landowner and involved in this project.**



Next year we are looking forward to commencing the Gateway project at Mercer, funded by Watercare and assisting in new projects in the Waipa and Matahuru catchments.

These new projects highlight RiverCare's shift in focus over the past few years of moving projects up into the catchments and targeting sediment and nutrients at the source. These types of projects, when combined with other work in the catchments, will show improvements to water quality and also provide landowners with examples of how they can initiate changes on their properties.

Waikato RiverCare is always looking for new projects and areas to work in, so if you think you have a new opportunity, please check out our website or make contact with one of the team to discuss your ideas.

Thanks again to all the committee members and the funding partners for their continued commitment to Waikato RiverCare. Thanks must also be given to our founding organisations and the respective employers that give their staff time to ensure that Waikato RiverCare continues to function and successfully deliver projects on time and to budget. We also cannot forget that some of our members also contribute to RiverCare in their own time, so a big thanks to these members and their families for their support.

I look forward to a successful planting season in 2019 and continuing to lead Waikato RiverCare as we implement our new strategic plan.

Nga mihi

*Michelle Archer*

*Chairperson, Waikato RiverCare Inc.*



*Michelle meeting Sir David Attenborough in Costa Rica. They were filming wild Scarlet Macaws, bred in captivity and released into the wild by Michelle's childhood friend Chris Castles.*



# Operation Manager's Report

The last 12 months have produced some excellent results for Waikato RiverCare Inc. (RiverCare) and it's my pleasure to put the spotlight on the highlights.

The standout project of the year was RiverCare's Te Onetea extension project located close to Rangiriri village on the Te Onetea Stream. This planting effort was a true credit to the community and our supporters; so many individuals worked together as a collective to make it happen, including a successful crowd funding programme and a well-attended public planting day getting this project over the-line.

Critical to the success of the project progressing from an idea to an established planting was the financial support provided by the Len Reynolds Trust and the Department of Conservation. RiverCare's partnership with the Million Metres Programme was another extremely successful outcome of this project showcasing both organisations work with rural communities and the wider New Zealand public.

The crowd funding model also provided the opportunity for individuals and businesses outside of the Waikato to get behind the project and support "the locals" on the ground efforts to get weeds at the site under control and plants in the reserve.

The Black Farm project funded by WCEET was another standout this year. RiverCare's biggest ever project at 14ha the site includes mixed habitat comprising of former hill country grazing to a remnant lowland forest and wetland development. A total of 18,740 plants and wetland grasses were planted this year with an additional 5,000 plants planned for the project next season. This project would not have been possible without the financial support provided by our committed partners at WCEET and the vision of the Black family particularly Todd and Dean.

The Waikato River Authority continues to be a significant and valued supporter of RiverCare's work in the Waikato catchment with several funding agreements maturing this year and where possible agreements made with the land owners and administrators for the continued protection and management of those project plantings.

Maturing projects this year include the 1,400m Te Awa River Ride project in Ngaruawahia, the 440m Hakarimata F project, the 2.5Ha Lake Ohinewai project, the 1,120m Hopuhopu project and lastly the 5.63ha Taupiri Ki Waenganui project (RiverCare's biggest Waikato River planting to date involving Stevenson's Group, Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust, Waikato

River Authority, Waikato District Council, the farm lessee, Waikato Regional Council and countless local contractors and suppliers).

RiverCare's partnership project with the Waiterimu Golf Club is an excellent example of the opportunities available to the organisation in finding and developing new projects. RiverCare's knowledge and organisational expertise in delivering successful projects provides confidence to both the funder and project partner, with RiverCare managing the key milestones of plant procurement and management of the public planting event for the Golf Club.

Other exciting developments to occur this year include two new projects in the Waipa River catchment in partnership with the Waipa District Council. One 700m project located on the Mangauika Stream and the second 1,850m long project on the Mangapiko Stream. Community and industry interest in establishing more riparian planting in the Waipa district is extremely high particularly the Mangapiko Catchment and RiverCare is well placed to provide advice and resourcing to assist parties in this area.

In general RiverCare projects are in good shape however some plantings are showing signs of stress as a result of the prolonged dry weather particularly those projects between Ngaruawahia and Rangiriri on free draining sandy soils.

Weed threats continue to require constant vigilance with new pest plant incursions reported by contractors up from previous years. This increase in weed establishment is very likely due to the extreme weather events of the previous 24 months when flooding carried plant material much further into planting zones.

Community participation and interest in attending planting events remains steady with beautiful spring weather in September making for a great day on the Te Onetea extension project. Next seasons public planting event at the Waiterimu Golf Club is already looking like it will be well attended with several groups registered. Don't worry about missing out! With 3,724 plants ordered for the project there should be plenty for everyone.

At the start of year we welcomed Melissa Ferguson to our team as the new administrator with Kathryn Duggen stepping down and accepting the new role of Treasurer at our AGM. RiverCare is extremely fortunate that our work in the community and environment attracts people with a genuine interest and passion for what we do; RiverCare could not operate as effectively without their volunteered time and energy. Our new chair Michelle Archer is an excellent example of community interest and commitment, volunteering to take on the role left by David Klee after two years of appreciated service to the organisation.



In the new financial year RiverCare will focus operational efforts on identifying new mana whenua contractors to assist in project delivery, a key driver will be increasing the available pool of contractors capable of completing project works.

New projects involving iwi and landowners in the Waipa catchment will also be a priority for RiverCare particularly at sites identified by the Waikato River Authority.

My thanks to everyone that assisted RiverCare and the team over the last 12 months especially those community groups, landowners and project funders that supported me. The coming planting season will be another big one for RiverCare with 45,335 plants going to 11 different projects.

*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.



## **Performance in relation to the Strategic Business Plan**

Waikato RiverCare continues to include catchment streams, wetlands and lakes of the lower Waikato River into its focus as well as the main stem of the Waikato River.

Waikato RiverCare's experience and ability to deliver projects on time, under budget and to utilise local expertise are key to the organisations ongoing success. Waikato RiverCare has been involved in strategic planning during the 2018-19 financial year and has ensured that ongoing external funding is secured and high-quality projects are delivered. As a result, we have seen an increase in the number of projects within the catchment.

This past year has seen funding being secured for 8 new projects. These include two projects in the Waipa River catchment in partnership with the Waipa District Council (one located on the Mangauika Stream and the second on the Mangapiko Stream). Other projects are on the Butler Farm, Hickey Farm, Waiterimu Golf Club, Hakarimata G (Candy), Mangatea Stream and Lake Waikare.

Waikato RiverCare has increased its online profile by providing regular updates on Facebook and keeping the website active and up to date. The organisation has supported community events such as the Kilwell Lower Waikato River Trout Fishing Contest and partnership projects with sustainable business network (Million Metres). During the 2019-2020 year, Waikato RiverCare will work to increase its online presence further and seek out opportunities to get involved in communities to promote Waikato RiverCare's vision, and make it easy for people and businesses to fund the organisation's growth e.g. in 2019-2020 Waikato RiverCare will be supporting the Waikato 100 event.



# Our Year in Numbers

2018-19

\$269,148  
Total amount spent

\$349,719  
Funding received via grants,  
sponsorship and interest

38,735  
Number of plants planted

12,536 m  
Metres of work completed along  
waterways

55  
Numbers of volunteers helping  
out

20  
Number of current projects

26.51ha  
Hectares planted

2017-18

\$ 396,246  
Total amount spent

\$ 418,188  
Funding received via grants,  
sponsorship and interest

41,168  
Number of plants planted

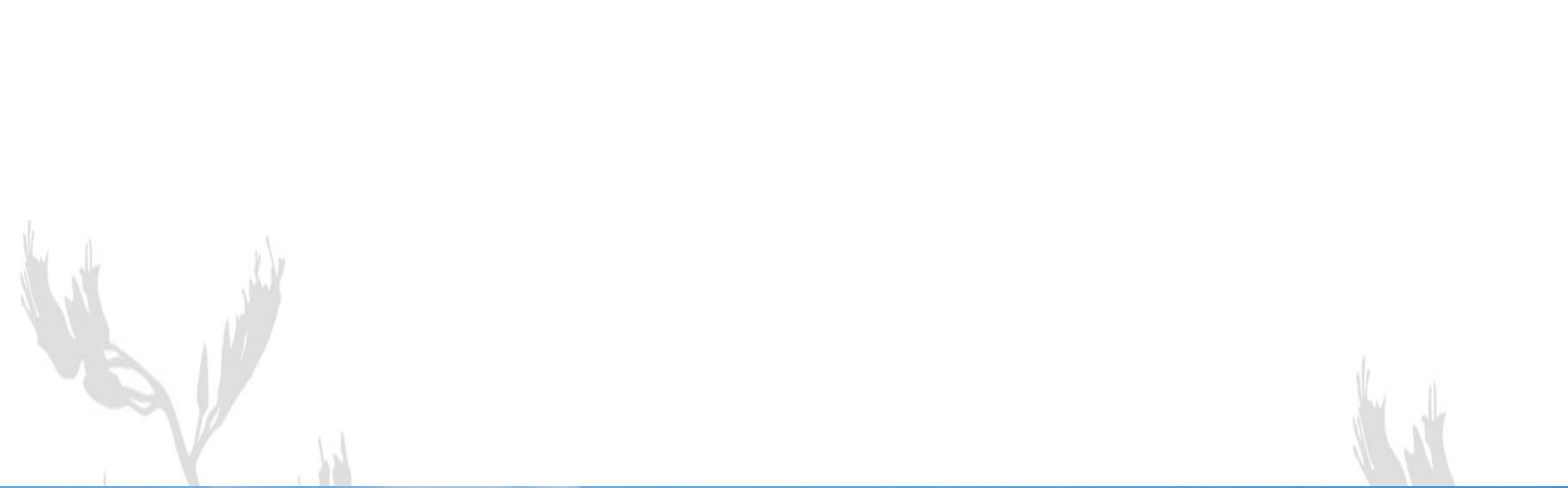
11,912 m  
Metres of work completed along  
waterways

20  
Numbers of volunteers helping  
out

22  
Number of current projects

17.36 ha  
Hectares planted





*Robert Shearer of Native Awa (RHS) infill  
planting at the Hopuhopu project*





# Community Involvement



We were pleased our public planting event at the Te Onetia Stream Extension project was a success. It was a day full of learning opportunities for the students and for some to see how well the plants are doing from the first stage of the Te Onetia Stream project that they planted. A massive thank you to all those that donated to the Te Onetia Million Metres programme, our fantastic planting volunteers who did such a great job in getting 2,203 plants in the ground in just over three hours.





# Future Plans

Waikato RiverCare 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 has made it possible to expand Waikato RiverCare's project portfolio and develop a sustainable organisation into the future.

**Kia whakapakari te mauri o to tātou Awa.**

**Making a positive difference to the wellbeing of our river.**

As Waikato RiverCare approaches its 20<sup>th</sup> year of business, we acknowledged that this was a great opportunity to review our vision statement, goals and mission. We have developed a new tag line "Pride in our Waikato rivers – Kia whakahii taatou ki ngaa awa o Waikato" which will be incorporated in the 2019-2020 and future years.

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

- A new strategic plan has been developed to ensure the ongoing effectiveness and longevity of the organisation
- Establishing a significant, large-scale, 3-5 year project with a partner
- Continuing to establish collaborative projects within the catchments identified by the Waikato River Authority as priority work areas
- Continuing to provide technical advice and assistance to landowners, businesses and iwi groups keen to develop partnership projects
- 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 is continuing to expand its areas of operation 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, while still seeking catchment-scale projects. Waikato RiverCare has successfully developed relationships with the Waipa District Council and thereby expanding projects in the Waipa area. The Te Tahi Riparian Planting and Te Awamutu Wastewater Treatment Plant – Mangapiko Stream Riparian Planting projects are great examples of how Waikato RiverCare's projects are a collaboration of support from landowners, our generous sponsors, Councils and members of the community.

Waikato RiverCare has provided technical advice for partners such as Genesis where it identified three restoration projects in the Huntly area. We acknowledge that it is extremely helpful having the network of contacts RiverCare has when preparing information for technically challenging projects. For example, Waikato District Council and Waikato Regional Council staff have generously helped collate information and co-funding support for funding requests.

The executive committee participated in two strategic evaluation workshops during the 2017-18 financial year to gather information that will guide the development of a strategy moving forward. Education and collaboration with local communities living by the river remain key to ensuring the best possible long-term environmental outcomes for the lower Waikato River. Waikato RiverCare 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'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](http://www.waikatorivercare.co.nz/planting-sites).

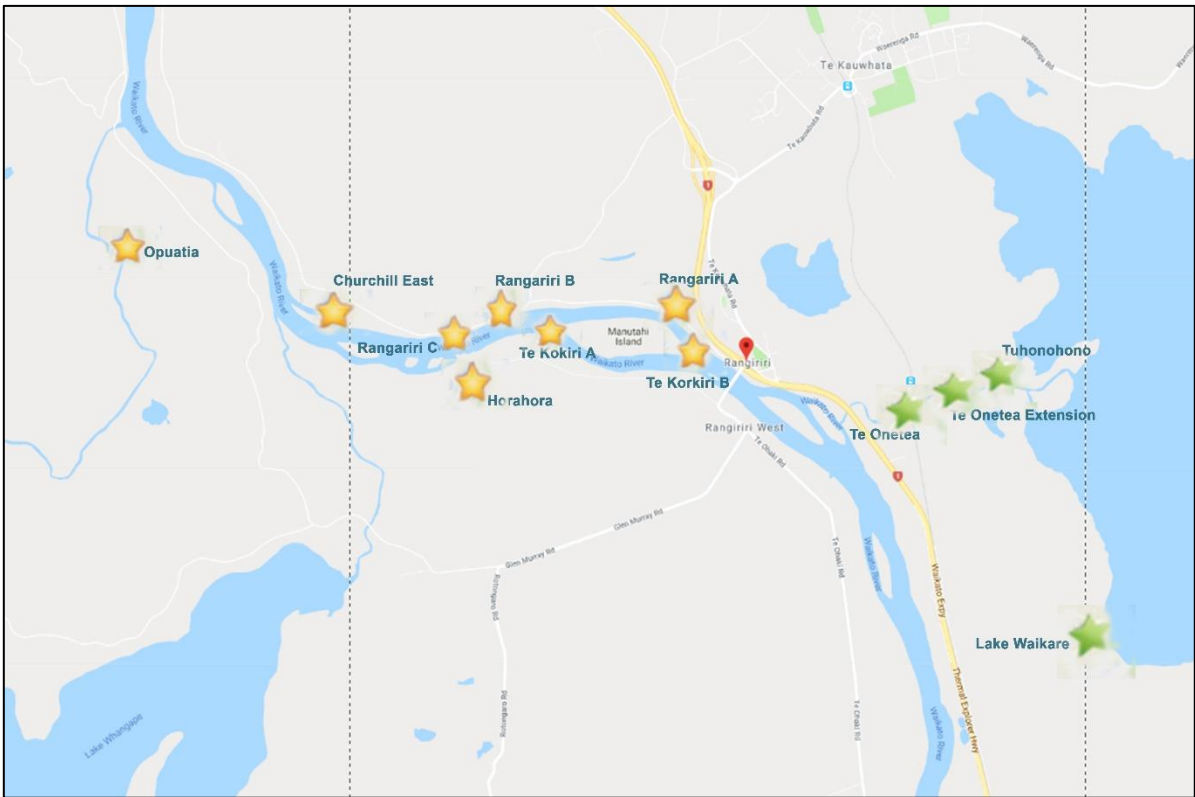
**Key:**

- ★ Current Projects
- ★ Completed Projects

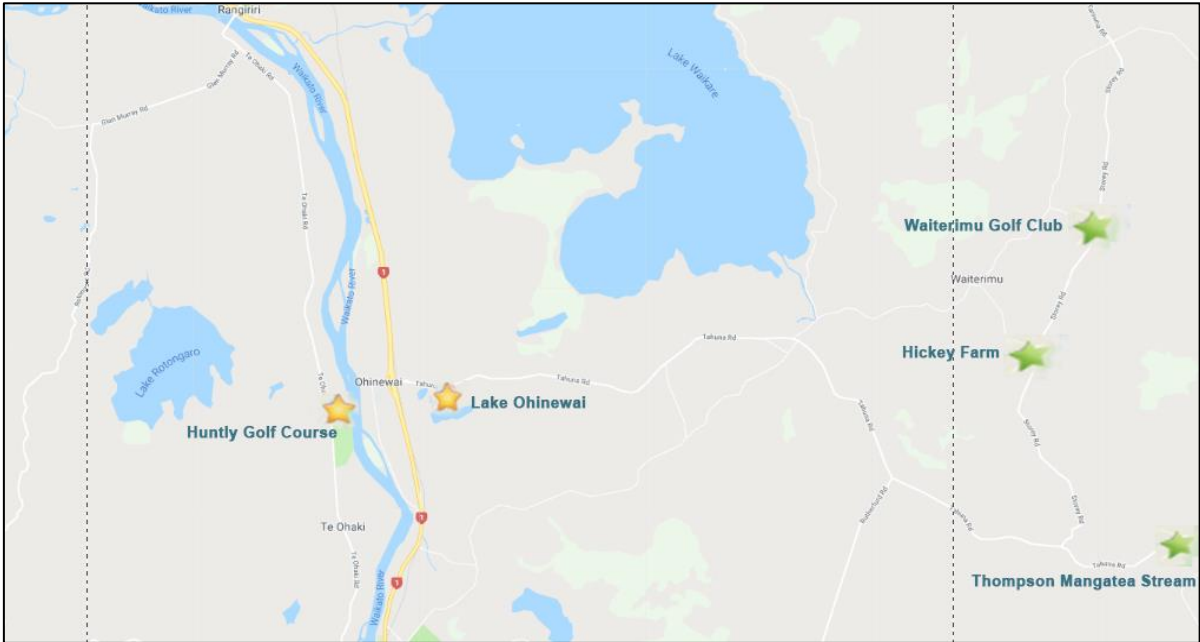
**Northern Sites**



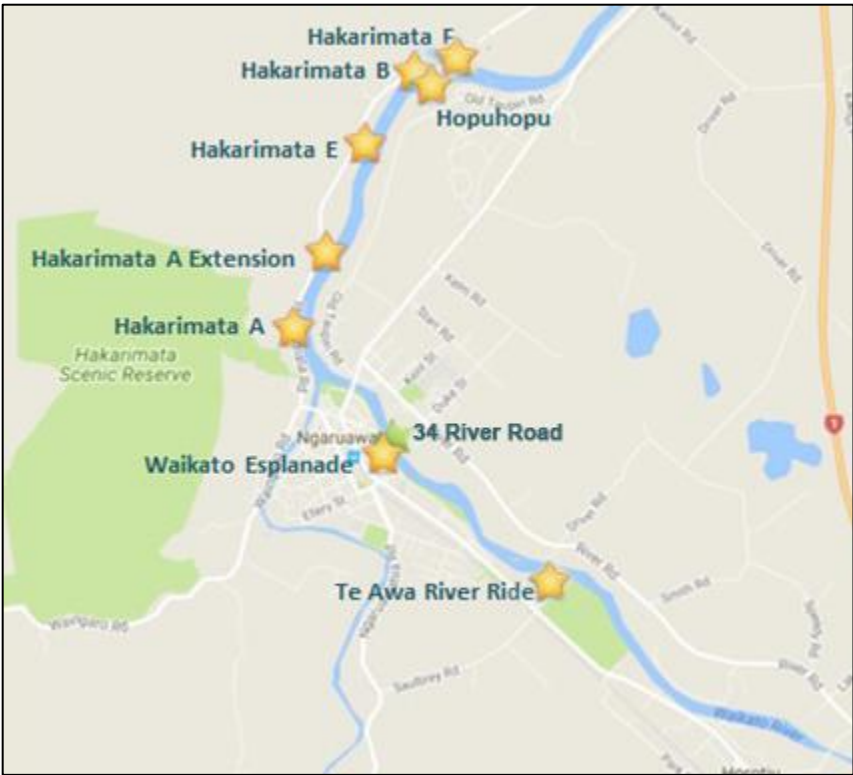
**Rangiriri Sites – Rangiriri North**



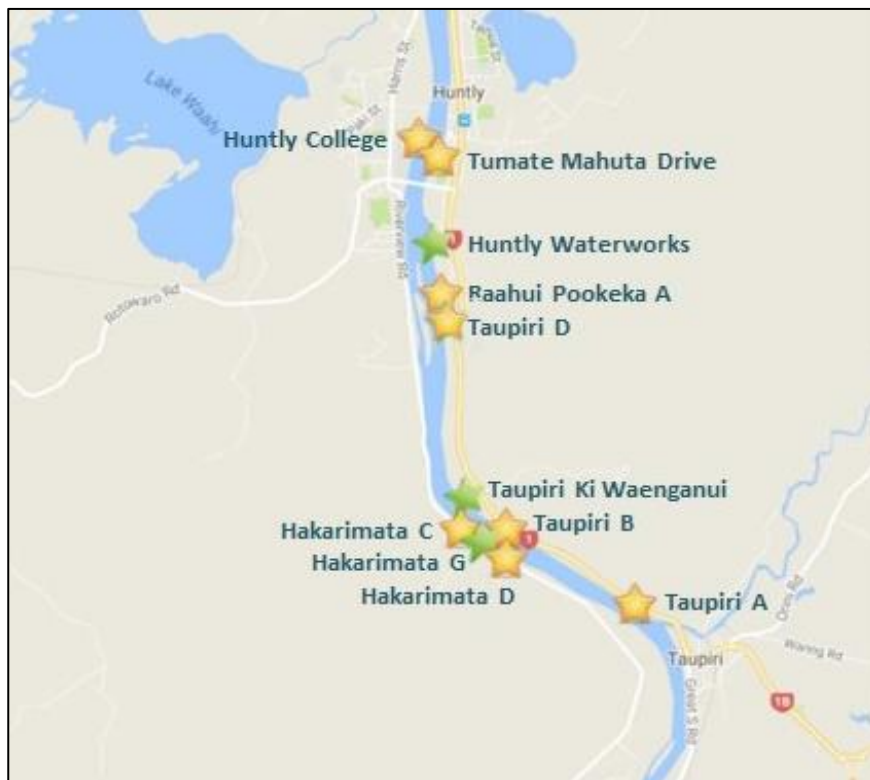
Rangiriri South -East



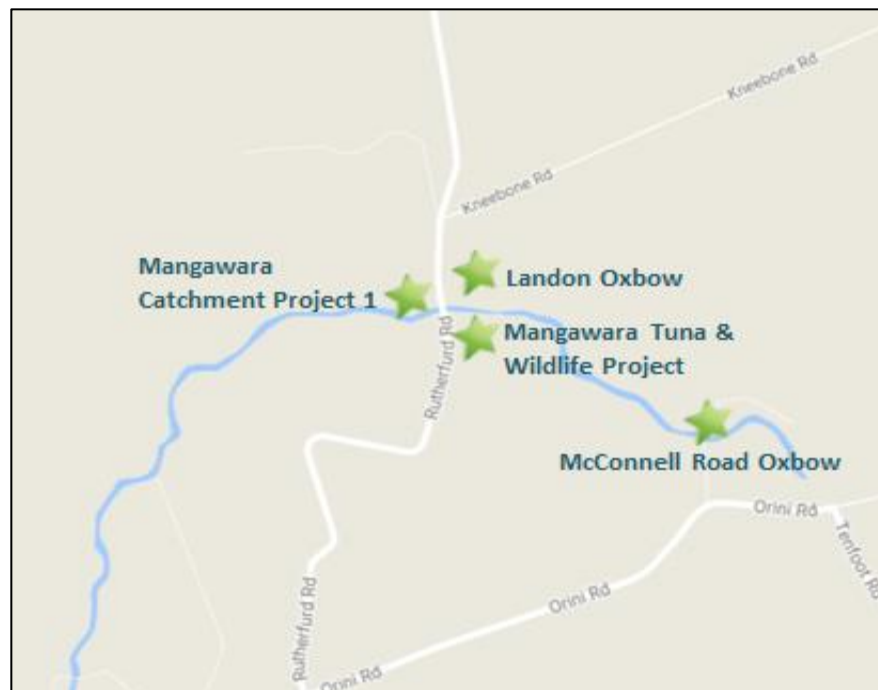
Ngaruawahia Sites







## Mangawara Stream Sites



# Breakdown of Financial Statements

Our full Financial Statements are available on our website, [www.waikatorivercare.co.nz](http://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 and catchments. Sponsorship agreements and in-kind support with a variety of organisations are also central to the funding of Waikato RiverCare's projects.

Revenue	2018-19
Grants/sponsorship	\$333,961
Interest	\$15,758
Other Revenue	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$349,719</b>
Expenses	2018-19
Project costs	\$149,181
Staff costs	\$106,856
Other Expenses	\$13,111
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$269,148</b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>80,571</b>



# 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](http://www.waikatorivercare.co.nz)
- Like our [Facebook page](#)
- We're always interested in new project ideas big or small
- Tell others about the work that we are doing!
- Email us at [info@waikatorivercare.co.nz](mailto:info@waikatorivercare.co.nz)

We'd like to acknowledge and thank our generous sponsors, partners, and donors for your continued support.





