

# TE HOIERE/PELORUS PROJECT

## October 2021 Newsletter

'Haere, kakea te ara poka hou' go and ascend the newly trodden path

Photo: Penny Wardle

### Mahi mō te Taiao funds connect people and land

[The Te Hoiere/Pelorus Catchment Restoration Project](#) is strengthening connections between people and the natural environment, says Ngāti Kuia Kaitiaki o Te Taiao, Lewis Smith.

Lewis is excited that Government Jobs for Nature/ Mahi mō te Taiao funding will help Ngāti Kuia whānau look after Te Hoiere Awa and contribute towards establishing a native plant nursery on Iwi land in the heart of the catchment.

"Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au. I am the river, the river is me. We came from the river. That's where our beginnings lie," says Lewis.

Ngāti Kuia founding tupuna, Matuahautere explored Te Hoiere Sound and Awa, guided by Kaikaiāwaro, his spiritual guardian and ancestor. He named the waterways Te Hoiere, after his waka. For his descendants these waters were a rich source of flax, birdlife, eels, fish, shellfish and pakohe, an argillite stone.

The development of a nursery will provide whānau with the opportunity to learn and have meaningful employment while spending time on their land, says Lewis. From May, the Iwi and NMIT Polytechnic will offer New Zealand Certificate in Horticulture Level 3. Students will propagate locally sourced seedlings for planting and gain valuable skills while helping develop the nursery.

The Project also connects people who share deep feelings about Te Hoiere but come from different walks of life, bringing their own interests and points of view, says Lewis.

"Farmers, foresters, tourism operators, Havelock residents, all have a voice and we are united in a desire for clean, healthy waterways – kotahitanga. There'll still be farms and forests. That's people's livelihood. But the mauri of our awa and moana and the life of the people must co-exist.

"On the surface, from bush-clad headwaters to the estuary at Havelock some small patches remain serene. Sadly, however this is the exception to the

norm. We have an opportunity to work together to restore and enhance our environment.

"The old people say things used to be better. The Te Hoiere Estuary was a lot deeper. People used to catch snapper there .... there's room for improvement."

For Lewis, a love of collecting pakohe from the Te Hoiere riverbed then carving the stone into taonga is perhaps his strongest connection with his tīpuna/ancestors. This "metasomatised argillite" is found only in Te Tauihu/the top of the South Island. It is extremely hard and holds a sharp edge.



Lewis Smith, Ngāti Kuia Kaitiaki mō te Taiao and pakohe carver

Lewis is grateful to have known his great grandmother Pirihiira (Phyllis) Smith née Hamuera who died when he was 10. It was many years later that he started learning te reo at Te Hora Marae near Havelock, gradually becoming more involved with his iwi.

Lewis is hoping that whānau will now take the opportunity to work alongside one another while helping heal their land.

For further information about the native plant nursery, please contact David Johnson 03 546 7556.

Like the Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project on [Facebook](#) and [follow on Instagram](#)

## Catchment Condition Surveys completed by June deadline

With Freshwater Improvement Fund support, catchment condition surveys have now been finished. Linkwater was the first area to be completed in mid-February, soon followed by the Opouri, Ronga, Tunakino, Rai, and upper Te Hoiere catchments. Final stretches of lower Te Hoiere, Wakamarina and Kaituna catchments were completed in time for end of June.

Farmers, landowner and managers are now being contacted for individual advice. The next stage will be to work either individually or in catchment groups to identify priority areas for action. Results will help guide the Project, providing a complete picture of catchments so efforts can be focused where benefits will be greatest.

**If you missed out**, it's not too late to have your farm surveyed. To participate in catchment condition surveys contact Matt Oliver, Marlborough District Council 03 520 7400 [matt.oliver@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:matt.oliver@marlborough.govt.nz)



Geolnsight's Berit Mohr surveying in Linkwater

### What's happened?

- Rai Valley Community Get Together, April 8
- Catchment condition surveys completed, June 1
- Conservation Kids SMHAK training day, June
- Fox Farm planting day, June 13
- Training course to facilitate community groups, at Te Hora Marae, July 2021

### What's happening?

- Government announces \$7.5 million of Mahi mō te Taiao funding for the Te Hoiere Project. This will enable creation of jobs to kick-start catchment restoration and building of a native plant nursery on Iwi land, over the next four years. The funding is additional to \$1 million from the Ministry for the Environment's Freshwater Improvement Fund, \$100,000 from the MDC and community support
- Finalising ICEP action plan

### What's next?

- More workshops on the horizon, keep an eye on Project Facebook page
- Launch of the Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan (ICEP) and associated action plan
- Kick start restoration in the catchment with Jobs for Nature funding.
- Family Fish Fest day, celebrating freshwater wildlife, November 14, Rai Valley. Further details on [Facebook](#) soon!



The Te Hoiere Project brings together the community and the supporting partner agencies to look after Pelorus-Te Hoiere catchments from bush-clad tops to the sea – ki uta ki tai.