

# Environment & Planning Committee Meeting

16 November 2023

This Report relates to Item 4 in the Agenda

**“Te Hoiere Project Update”**



# Te Hoiere Project

HAERE, KAKEA TE ARA POKA HOU

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## 2023 Annual Report





## **Haere, kakea te ara poka hou**

Nā tō mātou tupuna a Kupe te mānuka i whakatakoto, kia whāia tonutia e tātou i ōna tapuwae. Kua hīkina ake te mānuka, kua whakamaua kia ita - ko au ko te whenua, ko te whenua ko au!

## **Go ascend the newly trodden path**

With these words Kupe, explorer and tupuna, challenged us to follow his example and seek knowledge of the land. The people of Te Hoiere have taken up this challenge, together climbing a new path, strengthened by love of the land and respect for Papatūānuku.

# Co-Chair Kōrero

## Tēnā koutou e ngā whānau o Te Hoiere

As we finish another year of the project and have prepared for the Trust's second Annual General Meeting, we are reminded of the accomplishments in the catchment. These accomplishments are not only the result of our cumulative efforts, but they also represent our efforts in overcoming challenges that an ambitious project like this brings.

Our catchment is an exemplar, with lofty aspirations. We recognise that setting examples can be difficult when there is no rulebook. The path to our success may not always be a smooth ride, but it is ours to make.

When the Project was formed, we agreed to six mātāpono (principles) in how we would work together to achieve our community aspirations. Our kotahitanga (unity) is our strength to achieve landscape-scale change. As one of our guiding principles, unity means that people plan and work collaboratively with respect and kindness to restore Te Hoiere/Pelorus land and waters.

To everyone leading projects and taking part in them, thank you for your efforts. We are inspired as we share this mahi (work) and resulting outcomes in the pages that follow.

Ngā mihi maioha

Waihaere Mason and Barbara Faulls  
Co-chairs, Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust





## Te Whāinga | Vision

Ko te whāinga matua ko te whakarauoratanga o te whenua, o ngā wai, o ngā tai moana e matomato ai te tipu, e mauri ora ai te tangata.

We work together to restore the mauri of Te Hoiere land, waters, and coast which flourish, along with peoples' wellbeing and livelihoods.

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# Koinei ngā mātāpono o te kaupapa nei

Guiding us are the principles of Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project



# Ngā Mātāpono | Principles

## Ki uta, ki tai | From the mountains to the sea

The interconnected land and waters of Te Hoiere will be protected, restored, and enhanced from the mountains into the sea. This approach seeks long-term environmental, cultural, social, and economic outcomes.

## Kaupapa Māori | The Māori worldview

Te Reo Māori, tikanga Māori and mātauranga Māori/ language, protocol and knowledge are embraced.

## Kotahitanga | Unity

Our strength is in unity. People plan and work collaboratively with respect and kindness to restore Te Hoiere/Pelorus land and waters.

## Mātauranga | Collective knowledge

The knowledge of ancestors, knowledge of Te Hoiere land and waters, people's experiences and learning are celebrated and shared. Communities access expert knowledge and are actively involved in research, innovation, and decision-making.

## Manuka takoto, kaweā ake | Taking up the challenge

The Project is adaptable, resilient, and sustainable, future-proofing nature to withstand climate change and other challenges.

## Rangatiratanga | Leadership

Robust governance, a sound framework and funding support timely action and reinforce the Project into the future. Monitoring and evaluation ensures swift progress is made and social, economic, cultural, and environmental gains are measured and preserved.





### **Oranga Ngahere | Native biodiversity flourishes**

Te Hoiere/Pelorus forests ring with birdsong. Native plants, birds, bats, snails, and insects flourish. In rivers, streams, estuaries, and inlets, taonga populations are abundant and self-sustaining. Ecosystems are healthy and well-connected providing vital ecological pathways and resilience.

### **Oranga Wai | Freshwater sustains life**

Freshwater is clean and clear, sustaining aquatic life, wildlife and the people that rely on it. Flows preserve and support healthy ecological function through seasonal and annual variations. The changing climate is considered in decision making, to ensure water use does not impede the environment's resilience.

### **Oranga Ahurea | Diverse cultures and experiences are respected and celebrated**

Ancestral, cultural, historic and personal knowledge and experience is respected and celebrated across diverse cultures, world views and industries.

### **Oranga Whenua | Landscape character is preserved**

Upper catchments are rugged, wild, pristine and peaceful. Rural catchments maintain an uncrowded character, with a patchwork of protected areas and productive land. People preserve and cherish this diversity while enjoying a flourishing natural environment.

### **Oranga Ahikā | Te Hoiere is a place of Māori origin and connection**

Whakapapa associations with Te Hoiere are respected and celebrated. Ngāti Kuia are acknowledged as ahikā of Te Hoiere awa and moana, a status shared by Rangitāne along the Kaituna awa. Iwi traditions and relationships to te Taiao and wāhi tapu are protected, encouraged, and revitalised through targeted restoration activities, cultural participation and whānau employment. Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Tama ki Te Taihū, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Rangitāne o Wairau, Te Ātiawa o te Waka-a-Māui and Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional associations are affirmed and recognised.

# Ngā wawata | Aspirations

Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project progresses towards realising community aspirations



## Oranga Arawai | Waterways are healthy and resilient

Community and industry-led action minimises sediment, nutrient and bacteria loading to levels that allow natural sustainable functioning of the estuary, contributing rivers and streams. The potential for upstream human activities to have downstream impacts is recognised, acknowledged, and effectively managed. The receiving coastal marine areas of the Marlborough Sounds supports and sustains an abundance of life.

## Oranga Anamata | Future generations benefit

Future generations benefit from a healthy natural world and understand how to sustain and protect this.

## Oranga Taiao | Build resilience to climate change

The environment, community and economy are resilient to a changing climate including extreme events. Te Hoiere catchments are an important carbon sink.

## Oranga Taonga | People co-create solutions

Communities are united by efforts to restore the mauri and protect taonga of Te Hoiere/Pelorus. People share knowledge, resources and expertise across diverse cultures, world views and industries. They co-create solutions that work for all. Mutual respect creates community wellbeing.

## Oranga Tangata | People live sustainably with the land

People and communities live and work sustainably in our natural environment. Thriving natural ecosystems support community wellbeing and a diverse and resilient local economy. Drawing on new technologies and innovative techniques enables safeguarding of natural resources that support primary production, processing, and tourism.

## Oranga Whakatau | Decision-making is informed

People participate in research and innovation and draw on external knowledge, enabling co-design of effective solutions. Data collection and access to education and science resources ensures informed decision-making.

# Ngā Tāngata | Our People



## **Barbara Faulls**

Co-chair, Marlborough District Council

An MDC Sounds ward councillor, Barbara owns a holiday park at Linkwater with her husband, Chris. Previously, she had a career in the military, overseeing logistics. During childhood she enjoyed family picnics and hikes in and around the Pelorus River and the Sounds and learned a love of native fauna and flora. It's her mantra that what's good for conservation is good for business.



## **Waihaere Mason**

Co-chair, Ngāti Kuia

After years of serving on the Ngāti Kuia Trust Board, which includes over 20 years as Chairman, Waihaere retired from this role in late 2022. The past year, he was made an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Māori and education. He retired from education in 2006 after 45 years of service. Born and raised near Canvastown, he understands his iwi's deep connection with Te Hoiere.



## **Riki Palatchie**

Trustee, Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau

Riki has strong connections to Te Hoiere. His grandmother was raised and lived at Canvastown, and he has tīpuna/ancestors buried at Te Hora marae. As an architect and designer, Riki brings cultural awareness and understanding to his work.



## **Barbara Richmond**

Community Trustee

Barbara owns a family dairy farm with her husband, Bruce, near Pelorus Bridge, where Te Hoiere awa is part of the farm boundary. They moved there 22 years ago, protecting and enhancing their environment ever since. Barbara represents landowners in the community and understands the challenges ahead. She enjoys the collaborative approach on the Trust, working towards common goals for future generations.



## **Dave Hayes**

Special Advisor, Department of Conservation

Dave is enjoying being part of a collaborative catchment restoration project. There is power in working together on biodiversity enhancement on a scale never before seen in Aotearoa/New Zealand, says the Marlborough Sounds Department of Conservation Sounds Operations Manager who has worked in Marlborough for 20 years.



## **Moana Everson**

Special Advisor, Ministry for the Environment

Te Ati Awa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga. Based in Wellington, most of Moana's career has been working in the public sector. She sees it as a privilege being part of Te Hoiere Project's awesome kaupapa and recognises the strength that working in partnership, and with the community, brings to restoration and improvement programmes.

Collaboration is at the heart of the Project, spanning multiple organisations and aspirations. Alongside our Trustees and the community is a growing team of Project partners, many of which are out and about in the catchment or behind the scenes in our Working Group.



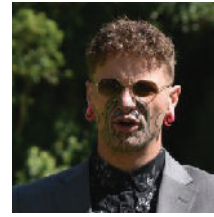
**Rachel Russell**  
Programme Manager



**Heli Wade**  
Project Manager



**Shannon Huntley**  
Kaitiaki Ranger



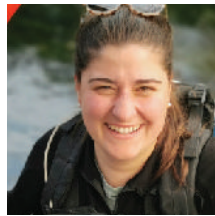
**Ruihana Smith**  
Ngāti Kuia



**Sally Neal**  
Rangitāne



**Aubrey Tai**  
Catchment Care Officer



**India Hamill**  
Marlborough District Council



**Sioban Harnett**  
Contract Manager



**Wendy Sullivan**  
Landcare Trust



**Phil Clerke**  
Department of Conservation



**Kristin Aldridge**  
Catchment Coordinator



**Karen Morrison**  
Catchment Coordinator



**Mark Zillwood**  
Catchment Coordinator



**Simone Zillwood**  
Catchment Coordinator



**Pete Hamill**  
Marlborough District Council



**Connor Wallace**  
Forest & Bird



**Mandy Noffke**  
Forest & Bird



**Clare O'Rourke**  
Forest & Bird



**Daria Erastova**  
Forest & Bird



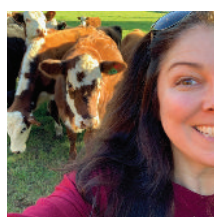
**Penny Wardle**  
Communications



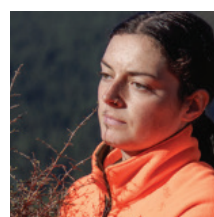
**Don Pointon**  
Havelock Community Association



**Angela MacKenzie**  
Top of the South Wood Council



**Stephanie Flores**  
Communications



**Hana Mason**  
Department of Conservation



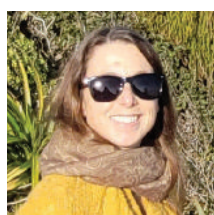
**Antonia O'Donnell**  
Education Coordinator



**Jane Mitchell**  
Fonterra



**Simon Langley**  
Ministry for Primary Industries



**Lea O'Sullivan**  
Waka Kotahi

There are many more amazing people working across these organisations and in the community that contribute to the Project. These include but are not limited to contractors, landowners, volunteers and staff at our partner organisations who kindly donate their expertise and time.



# Living Our Principles

## People turning aspirational plans into actions

Over the past year, the Project has built capability and capacity, from operational expertise through to management and governance. The addition of people, expertise and experience will propel the Project even further in the coming year.

At the governance level, new trustees from the community have added to our collective knowledge from a number of lenses, including a landowner and freshwater scientist. Capacity was bolstered in management, with a new role of Programme Manager joining the existing project and contract managers.

Our partners have added brand-new roles either directly funded by the Project or supported by Project goals. Examples of these include the addition of a Kaitiaki mō Te Hoiere Awa Coordinator for Ngāti Kuia (see page 15); Department of Conservation's addition of a Nga Awa Ranger; and Marlborough District Council's addition of a Freshwater Ecosystems Scientist.

Through NZ Landcare Trust, the Project has formalised agreements with members of the community, who have stepped up to lead catchment efforts in their areas. NZ Landcare Trust will continue these efforts to support the formation of catchment groups across Te Hoiere (see page 20).

The Project is continuing to build capability in the community, from free seed workshops to talks about the benefits of dungbeetles. Funding has assisted with on-farm biodiversity plans, adding capacity for landowners looking to progress their restoration goals beyond fencing and planting.

"From what I have seen one year on from what has been established when we started with the project, these goals are certainly being achieved. With more landowners coming onboard, it is a win for everyone involved and the community."

JUSTIN WEAVER  
SNOW TUSSOCK CONTRACTING

"People are key! It is the capability, collaboration and commitment of not only the individuals but the communities involved that are driving the traction, the success, and the growth of this project. Many hands achieve great things, and this is surely something we are seeing take effect."

SHANNON MEARS  
J&S MEARS CONTRACTING



**6** dung beetle farm packs

Restoration of wāhi tapu underway **1**



**24** bat roost sites

**38** properties where restoration activities are taking place

**229** people involved with educational activities



**25.5** kilometres riparian/wetland fencing

**16.8** hectares of wetland protected

**29,365** riparian + wetland plants planted

**4** funds supporting action across **111,834** hectares

**14** native fish species identified using eDNA

**5** on farm biodiversity plans created

**29,567** people hours

22 working group members, 13 project partners, four trustees, three catchment coordinators, three project management staff, two special advisors to the trust, one educator, one catchment care coordinator, one kaitiaki mō te hoiere awa coordinator, one nga awa ranger

# Ruapaka Wetland Restoration

## Ngāti Kuia

Steps to restore Ruapaka Wetland, a wāhi tapu (site of significance), are well under way for this Ngāti Kuia-led project. The 14-hectare wetland is just downstream of the confluence of the Whakamarino and Te Hoiere/Pelorus Rivers, flanked by Te Oranga Mataitai tuna/eel reserve. With willows removed and native seedlings in the ground, work is almost wrapped up for the first of three zones to be cleared and planted.

Along with its field crew trained through a horticulture partnership with NMIT, Ngā Toki Kaiahuone, Ngāti Kuia works with other project partners, including the community, Marlborough District Council, Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, NZ Landcare Trust, Forest & Bird, Waka Kotahi, and Fonterra, which made a generous donation to the Ruapaka restoration. Marlborough Roads is advising on stormwater management, whether herbicide sprays are used in the area, and traffic control measures.



# Kaitiaki Ranger

## Shannon Huntley

The Kaitiaki mō Te Hoiere Awa Coordinator role is funded by Department of Conservation's Jobs for Nature programme and employed by Te Runanga o Ngāti Kuaia. Shannon Huntley filled this new role, joining the Project in November 2022 to oversee the operational work plan to restore Ruapaka Wetland.

Raised in Waikawa, Shannon is a graduate of the Department of Conservation's Nelson Ranger Programme, as well as former firefighter for the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He is an active member of Te Hoiere Working Group and looks after contractors and the Ngāti Kuaia field crew, Ngā Toki Kaiahuone.



Ngā Toki Kaiahuone





# Farm Biodiversity Plans

## Ngā Awa river restoration programme

Farm biodiversity plans in Marlborough are voluntary and considered above and beyond best practice. Funded by the DOC Ngā Awa river restoration programme, five on-farm biodiversity plans were created with the help of local ecologist, James Lambie. James says the five farmers involved were all keen to have their efforts and aspirations for biodiversity maintenance and enhancement on record. While a template was used to guide the process, each farm was different and resulted in tailored plans for the properties.

The pressing need for all five of the plans was livestock exclusion around waterways and wetlands, followed by enhancement, restoration planting and maintenance. Unique to some of the farms are remnants of near-original or old-growth forest where livestock exclusion is also a priority.

Ungulate and pest control posed a challenge on some farms, as current regulatory interest and funding is directed for waterway protection and enhancement. Only one of the farmers has the time and opportunity to take on deer, goats, and

other pest control. According to the plans shared by landowners, most of the farmers undertake some predator (cat and mustelid) control around their homes, but none of the plans had a predator control focus because of other priorities.

Arising from the biodiversity plans is the need to recognise parts of the farm where staged retirement from grazing of sub-optimal pastures is already occurring and an opportunity for forest restoration is emerging.

Monitoring of the plans will focus on the rate of fencing and success of riparian plantings. Farmers with a passion for native birds are encouraged to undertake annual native bird monitoring to detect any positive changes in birdlife arising from riparian enhancement and to detect negative changes arising from lack of predator control.

Offering assistance to farmers on their biodiversity farm plans was very successful and much welcomed by landowners. Exploring further funding for this action for the next financial year is already under way.





Bat monitoring, January 2023

## Te Hoiere Bat Recovery Project

### Forest & Bird

This Forest & Bird initiative to protect pekapeka (long-tailed bats) from predators in the catchment began nearly two decades ago, with the addition of bat monitoring in 2018.

In December 2021, the Bat Recovery Project secured a boost to expand the programme by partnering with Te Hoiere Project and the Government's Jobs for Nature programme. Today, this predator control, monitoring, and habitat restoration programme is securing the protection of this threatened species in key locations across the catchment.

While Forest & Bird has had a dedicated trapping network in the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve to protect roosting sites for years, the current three-year funding boost is the first major effort to protect and restore pekapeka habitats in the area. This work not only focuses on the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve, but three other DOC managed reserves in the Rai Valley—Brown River Reserve, Carluke Scenic Reserve and Ronga Recreation Reserve—where there was previously little to no predator management.

The 2023 summer season marked the fifth year of bat monitoring, where the priority shifted from Pelorus Bridge to the less-studied Rai Valley area. A thermal imaging device (infra-red) was also used for the first time in the Bat Recovery Project, to collect information about roosting locations. This monitoring informs management decisions about where to control predators and restore habitats.



# Wāhi tapu haerenga

## Te Hora Marae

In March 2023, Ngāti Kuia hosted Te Hoiere Project and Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust members at Te Hora for a day filled with paku mihi, pronunciation, place names, celebration and connection. The day was topped off with a haerenga to important tohu whenua of the area. This included Ruapaka, Motuweka and Māhaki-paoa. Days like these bring the whole team together as a reminder of the combined mahi it takes to restore the awa.

Haerenga to Totara Flat,  
site of significance to Ngāti Kuia



# Kaupapa Māori | The Māori worldview



# Catchment Coordinators

## New Zealand Landcare Trust

The Project contracts with New Zealand Landcare Trust to help communities establish their own catchment groups. Led by Wendy Sullivan, three areas contracted catchment coordinators in the 2022–2023 operating year in Linkwater, Lower Pelorus, and Rai and surrounding areas.

Each catchment group is community-led with coordinators who live or work in the local area. Linkwater is well under way with activities, including voluntary water monitoring. The Linkwater catchment group has also been active in driving their own community meetings. In March 2023, the group hosted the visiting Upper Lachan Catchment Group

from New South Wales (Australia) to share knowledge and experiences on catchment groups and restoration mahi. The group has already hosted another community event in the 2024 operating year.

More resources will be dedicated to establishing a Rai and surrounding catchment group in the future, and work is under way to find replacement coordinators in the Lower Pelorus and Whakamarino (Wakamarina) areas.



Community meeting in Linkwater





Training at Pollard Park

## Electric Fish Training

Department of Conservation | Marlborough District Council

As part of Te Hoiere Project, the Department of Conservation and Marlborough District Council teamed up to learn about electric fishing, a research tool used around the world.

New Zealand has 51 species of native freshwater fish. Most are nocturnal, small and hard to find. The most efficient way to find out where they live is to use electric fishing.

This works by sending a small electric current through the water that temporarily stuns the fish without harming them. This means they can

be captured far more efficiently than other methods, such as netting. Once the fish are caught, they are identified, measured and released back into the water unharmed. This information helps to identify what species live in local streams.

Council teamed with DOC for this training at Pollard Park in Blenheim and will use the technique in Te Hoiere waterways as part of work to better understand the distribution of threatened native fish and barriers to migration.



# Whio Project

## Department of Conservation

Whio are a taonga species that Māori have a strong cultural, spiritual, and historic connection with. Whio were once widespread across much of New Zealand but predation, primarily by stoats, and habitat modification have now greatly limited their abundance and distribution. Today, they have a threat classification of endangered.

Led by the Department of Conservation (DOC), this whio project clarified if whio were still present within the wider Te Hoiere catchment. Whio were once present within the Richmond Range/ Bryant Range. The last records obtained from the local DOC Sounds Office were from goat hunters working in Te Hoiere and Whakamarino (Wakamarina) catchments in the early 2000s.

In March 2023, a habitat assessment was conducted of the Upper Whakamarino River and its tributaries to assess both the presence and current suitability for whio.

A DOC-certified and experienced whio dog (Tui, a 9-year-old Golden Labrador Retriever) and owner/handler Glen Newton were contracted to make either a single or double pass search along waterways and banks in the Upper Whakamarino Catchment.

No whio were located after three days and 13.5km of searching in Whakamarino catchment, although the habitat is suitable. Unfortunately, in the absence of sustained predator control, stoat predation has likely caused local extinction of the whio population across the wider Richmond/Bryant Range.

This study showed that large-scale landscape-based predator control, targeting stoats, would need to be implemented and demonstrating success before reintroduction of whio could be considered in the area. The Project and its aspirations are intergenerational, and long-term solutions will still be explored to re-introduce this taonga species.

### **Species conservation dog, Tui, surveys Doom Creek for whio in March 2023.**





Left: Dr Cindy Baker of NIWA speaks in Havelock and Dan Moore (right) runs a seed workshop

# Workshops and Science Talks

## Community Participation

There were a number of workshops, talks and community gatherings over the past year that were either a result of the Project or the great work of our partners. The community participated and took the opportunity to engage with the Project and/or Project partners all year-round in the catchment.

### Events

The catchment hosted a **disaster relief visit** from Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, September 2022 (Ngāti Kuia, Civil Defence Emergency Management )

**Dung beetle talk**, September 2022, Havelock (Te Hoiere Project, NZ Landcare Trust, MfE)

**Annual Ronga Reserve planting**, September 2022, Ronga Reserve (Forest & Bird)

**Bryants stream planting**, and 'Life in the Stream' information board launch, October 2022, Rai Valley (Pelorus Youth with NZ Landcare Trust and Conservation Kids New Zealand)

**Native fish and geomorphology talks**, November, 2022 Havelock (Te Hoiere Project, MDC and DOC)

**Annual General Meeting**, November 2022, Ukaipo Centre Grovetown (Te Hoiere Project)

**Kaituna community meeting** February 2023, Okaramio Hall (NZ Landcare Trust, MfE, Te Hoiere Project)

**Pekapeka Save Our Species**, February, 2023, Pelorus Bridge (Conservation Kids NZ/F&B)

**Rai Valley A&P Show**, March, 2023, Rai Valley (Te Hoiere Project/Forest & Bird)

Visit from **Upper Lachan Catchment Group** from New South Wales Australia, March 2023, Linkwater (Linkwater catchment group)

**Fish passage** talk by NIWA, March 2023, Havelock (Marlborough District Council)

**Seed collection** workshop, March, 2023, Pelorus Bridge (NZ Landcare Trust, DOC)

**Te Reo Wananga and Sites of significance Ngāti Kuia haerenga** March 2023 (Ngāti Kuia run with support from Te Hoiere Project)

**Seed collection** workshop April 2023, Linkwater (NZ Landcare Trust and MfE)



# Ngā Awa Wananga

## Ngāti Kuia | Department of Conservation

Te Hoiere Project is part of the Ngā Awa Priority Rivers programme through the Department of Conservation. The Project receives funding for implementing freshwater biodiversity restoration actions, supporting research and for Project backbone costs through this national programme. The Ngā Awa programme partners regularly get together in order to work together across Aotearoa.

Hosted by Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou marae just out of Dunedin, mana whenua, DOC's Ngā Awa Priority River rangers and freshwater technical advisors attended a wananga in May 2023 to share knowledge, make connections and build relationships. Ten of the 14 awa under this programme were represented, and Te Hoiere Project attendees learned firsthand about the mahi and progress in the Taieri catchment.

Sharing mātauranga and mahi inspires and motivates partners to carry out river restoration work. Through connecting with shared experiences, lessons and aspiration, Ngā Awa participants can achieve more in their own catchments.

Attendees for Te Hoiere came away from the wananga motivated to establish a tohu species survey and monitoring involving, kanakana (pouched lamprey), kakahi (freshwater mussels) and tuna (longfin eels).

**Clockwise from the top left:** Hana Mason, Ruihana Smith, Heli Wade and Phil Clerke sharing mātauranga



## **Our Trodden Path, Together** Science, mātauranga Māori and local knowledge

Through the Project, people share knowledge, resources and expertise across diverse cultures, world views and industries. There were several projects seeded or under way last year. These projects are either directly funded by the Project or feed into the Project by our partners. These include:

- Cultural health monitoring for freshwater (Ngāti Kuia)
- Geomorphology, erosion vulnerability tool, and river management planning (Marlborough District Council)
- Linkwater water quality study (Linkwater catchment group and Marlborough District Council)
- Groundwater investigation (Marlborough District Council)
- Monitoring of fish and invertebrates (Department of Conservation and Marlborough District Council)
- Nature-based solutions (Catchment community and Marlborough District Council)
- Five forestry innovation projects (Top of the South Wood Council): Sediment loading, riparian native planting, land transition, ungulate exclusion, access toolkit for research and monitoring

What happens to this knowledge? Community workshops and meetings have already been under way for some of these projects, with more planned for the future. When communities participate in research and innovation, it enables the development of co-designed solutions. Effective solutions turn knowledge into informed action that benefits people and the environment.

## BBC Earth spotlights Te Hoiere

Conservation partnerships in the Marlborough Sounds hit the international stage in March 2023 with BBC Earth releasing a 12-minute video highlighting how nature can help to solve the climate crisis. The video is part of a wider effort by BBC Earth to share extraordinary stories from across the world for its #OurFrozenPlanet campaign.

The stories featured collective conservation efforts across the top of the South Island, such as work by Te Hoiere Project, Picton Dawn Chorus and Forest & Bird's pekapeka (long-tailed bat) project. The Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and Nature Conservancy (the New Zealand arm of a global environmental not-for-profit) worked with BBC Earth and the Moondance Foundation to produce the video.

“For Marlburians, we know that the Top of the South is a special place. We love sharing our stories with the world but we know there is still much work to do to protect and enhance our natural environment,” said Marlborough Mayor Nadine Taylor.

“Our region has suffered two major storms in the last two years - the evidence points to the fact that climate change is bringing more frequent and more intense rainfall events to our part of the world.”

“The Te Hoiere project is an exemplar project in New Zealand and now it’s an example internationally of what can be achieved when we work together for landscape-scale transformation,” she said.



# Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust

## Governing our mahi

Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust was formed in 2022 to provide leadership and guidance for the restoration and enhancement of the Te Hoiere Project area and receiving waters. The receiving waters cover Te Hoiere/Pelorus Sound to Te Kakaho/Chetwode Islands.

Trustees represent tangata whenua, the community, and Marlborough District Council, with advisers from Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment. It is the trustees' jobs to reinforce the Te Hoiere Project into the future, using rangatiratanga (leadership), robust governance and funding.

Regular monitoring and evaluation reports are provided to the trust to ensure social, economic, cultural and environmental gains are both measured and preserved.



**Co-Chairs Barbara Faulls and  
Waihaere Mason**

# Te Hoiere

## Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan Objectives

The Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan acknowledges the community of Te Hoiere as the custodians of their landscape, documents their aspirations for the future and the actions required to translate these into reality. Below is a list of the key objectives.

### Governance

- A1. Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust established
- A2. Investigation, development, and implementation of a self-sustaining funding system.
- A3. Project communication and community engagement strategies are established and implemented
- A4. Finalise ICEP Storymap and GIS hub managed.
- A5. A comprehensive project monitoring and evaluation programme is established and implemented.
- A6. An integrated research strategy and research programme and funding strategy developed and implemented
- A7. Community catchment groups are enabled and supported.

### Knowledge, learning and innovation

- B1. Te Hoiere Pelorus community innovation hub(s) established and managed.
- B2. Best land management practice guides developed.
- B3. A programme of best land management practice events is developed and delivered.
- B4. Te Hoiere restoration guides developed
- B5. Environmental education resources developed
- B6. Kaitiaki Ranger programme developed
- B7. Primary industry education resources developed

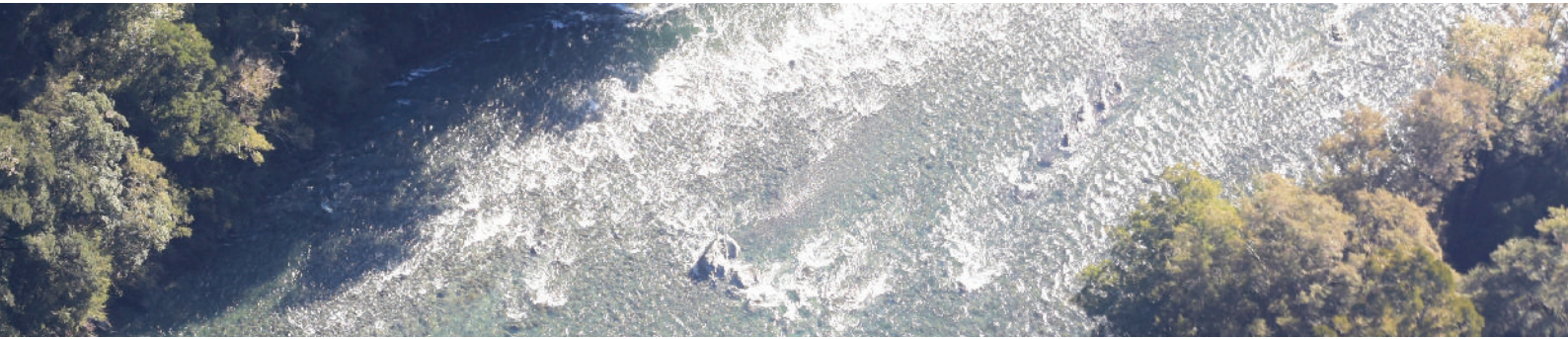
### Mātauranga Māori

- C1. Ngāti Kuia and Rangitāne ki Wairau interactive cultural maps are developed.
- C2. Te Ao Māori stream classification and mapping completed.

- C3. Cultural and community monitoring programme implemented.
- C4. Species of cultural significance are available for cultural harvest and traditional activities.
- C5. Sites and waterways of importance to Tangata Whenua are restored.
- C6. The cultural footprint of iwi is visible in the landscape and celebrated.
- C7. Vulnerable cultural sites are protected.
- C8. Heritage knowledge is retrieved and archived
- C9. Historical environmental footprint researched and understood to inform re-establishment of taonga species.
- C10. Hauora of Tangata Whenua and the community is increased.

### Catchment understanding

- D1. Erosion vulnerability assessment project established
- D2. Long term water quality monitoring programme developed
- D3. Freshwater fish and macro-invertebrate habitats and populations are understood
- D4. Wetland inventory developed and wetland restoration prioritised
- D5. An integrated terrestrial biodiversity monitoring programme is developed.
- D6. Seagrass monitoring programme is developed and implemented.
- D7. Catchment condition
- D8. Hydrology monitoring and freshwater research programme developed and implemented
- D9. Refined climate change modelling undertaken, and adaptation strategy implemented
- D10. Storm event monitoring programme developed and implemented
- D11. Fresh Water Management Tool (FWMT) developed



- D12. River geomorphology studies undertaken
- D13. Coastal ecosystem change understood and appropriate responses developed.
- D14. Accumulated direct pressures on the estuarine environment investigated
- D15. Emerging pest incursions are detected and managed

### Restoration and Protection of biodiversity and ecosystem function/ Pest control

- E1. Mammalian pest control programme (predators) developed and implemented
- E.2 Mammalian pest control programme (ungulates) is developed and implemented
- E.3 Wasp control programme developed and implemented
- E4. Plant pest control programme developed and implemented
- E5. Wilding exotic tree control programme developed and implemented
- E6. Plants for initial planting are sourced
- E7. Seed collection programmes are developed and implemented
- E8. Commercial scale indigenous plant production nursery established and managed
- E9. Re-vegetation and maintenance programme developed and implemented
- E10. Community restoration projects are supported and expanded
- E11. Incentives and mechanisms to improve protection and management of biodiversity on private land are developed and implemented.
- E12. Wetland restoration programme developed and implemented
- E13. High priority long-tailed bat species and habitat protection programme is supported
- E14. Monitoring and predator control is in place to

- support Whio population recovery
- E15. Biodiversity corridors are developed and enhanced across the catchment
- E16. Threatened species populations and habitat are maintained and enhanced
- E17. Identify, document and protect rare ecosystems
- E18. Fish passage is restored and maintained

### Land-use management

- F1. Freshwater quality is maintained and enhanced
- F2. Dung beetles are established across the catchment
- F3. Optimisation of irrigation water plan developed and implemented
- F4. Land transition options investigated
- F5. Sediment mitigation programme developed and implemented
- F6. Riverbank erosion programme developed and implemented
- F7. Forestry practice, innovation and research programme developed and implemented

### Infrastructure & Services

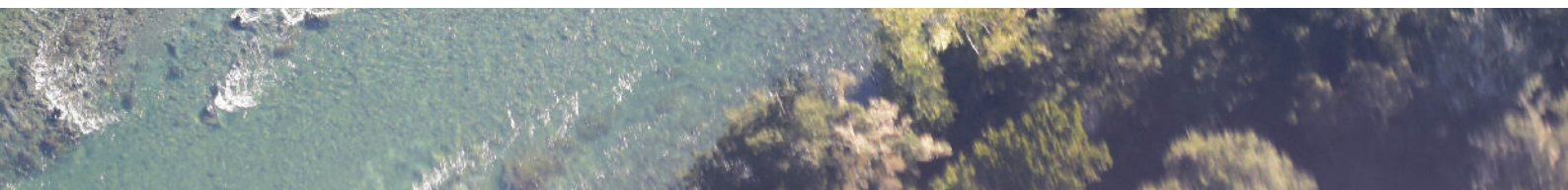
- G1. Urban waterways enhanced
- G2. Capped landfill investigation completed, risk identified and mitigated
- G3. Integrated holistic solid waste management strategy developed and implemented

### Promote Te Hoiere/Pelorus

- H1. THP brand developed and promoted
- H2. Wayfinding and signage strategy developed and implemented

### Sustainable Tourism

- I1. Sustainable/regenerative Te Hoiere Pelorus tourism strategy developed and implemented





# Partnering with Te Hoiere community and



**Ngāti Kuia**



**MARLBOROUGH  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**Rangitāne**

Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**NZ LANDCARE TRUST**  
NGĀ MATAPOPORE WHENUA



**Forest & Bird**  
TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*



TOP OF THE SOUTH  
**WOOD COUNCIL**



Te Hoiere Project is aligned with Kotahitanga mō Te Taiao, which promotes collective action towards enhancing and protecting biodiversity in Te Taihū, the top of the South Island.



Kotahitanga mō te Taiao

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# Te Hoiere Project



[tehoiere.org.nz](https://tehoiere.org.nz)



[info@tehoiere.org.nz](mailto:info@tehoiere.org.nz)



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