

Committed to the restoration and maintenance and protection of a high standard of water quality
for the water ways of Tokarau -Doubtless Bay Catchment

Quarterly Newsletter

Edition 2 – August 2014

What do Large Trucks, Mangonui School and Clean Water have in common?



Clean Waters to the Sea, Mangonui Haulage and Mangonui School have teamed up in what we are calling **Project X!**

Project X came together because **Mangonui Haulage** wanted to improve the way it dealt with waste washed out of their trucks, **Mangonui School** wanted our future generation to learn about how to deal with waste and support local enterprise and **Clean Waters to the Sea** had the know-how and expertise to put all of it together.

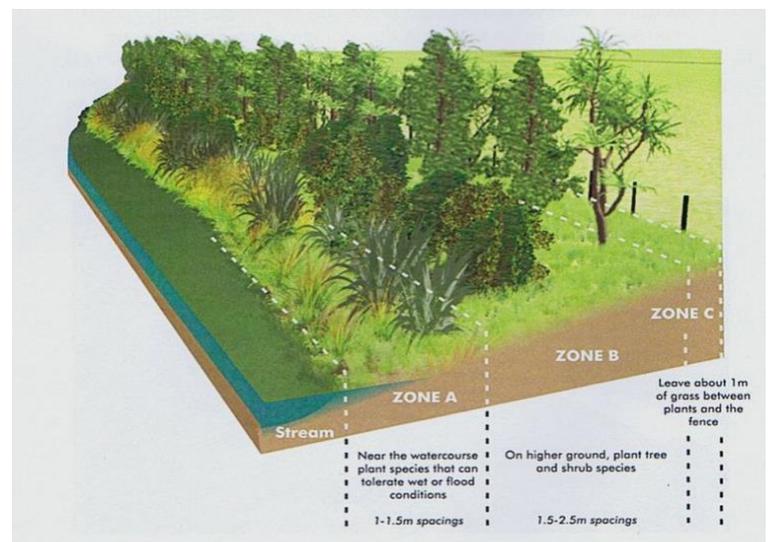
Want to know more about Project X and where we are up to?

Read on for an account from the students of what has happened so far.....

Flood damage! Always a Topical Issue!

Is planting recommended in flood prone areas? Does planting reduce the problem? What plants are suitable to use in these zones?"below are some answers to these common queries...

How to plant: An ideal depth of planting to fence is 15 lineal metres from a watercourse. Where contours are low it's best to use fencing methods which "lay down" in a flood, thereby allowing any debris to pass over. We could breakdown planting in zones of 7-8metres deep, working away from a stream.



What to plant (lowlands): In the riparian or floodable zone main species would be pukio, *carex secta*; flax, *phormium tenax*, and toetoe, *cortaderia fulvida* and *c. splendens*, planted at 1- 1.5 metre spacing. In many low-lying areas rhizomes from native reeds will naturally return, such as for oioi; *baumea* and *stipa* species. These plants are all fast growing and have a mat of shallow roots, which help absorb water, arrest water flow and suppress the erosive impact from rain. They also uptake and filter nutrients meaning less nutrients find their way into our streams.

Project X “Some of the Clean Waters to the Sea group; Trudy, Tiger and Andreas, came to Mangonui School with Dennis, Sean and BroTTY from Mangonui Haulage. They had a problem and asked us if we wanted to be involved. It was a project to look at their ‘Dumping Ponds’ aka ‘Crap Ponds’ where all the trucks’ wash out goes’. These ponds don’t run into the Mangonui Harbour but over time could have the potential to pollute the water.

We wanted to get involved in looking after our harbour so we teamed up with Mangonui Haulage to do something about it.

Firstly we went on a field trip to look at the ponds. They were gross; they stank and looked as though they had green slim in them. We then took water samples from the five ponds. We took these water samples back to school. Andreas had a water testing kit that tested for water quality. We found out that the results were bad. We then put one sample in a bottle with an air pump blowing oxygen and added algae with it, another with air and no algae and another with nothing added to it. This was to see what the best method to clean the water would be. A week later Andreas and Trudy came back and we identified that adding algae was the best method to clean a lot of water. When we meet next we hope to develop plans of how we can lessen the impact of the ‘Crap Ponds’ on our environment.

Kurt Nash, Sandy Harrison, Todd Sparksman

Want to get involved in something locally? Here’s what’s happening in August...

Sunday: August 10th

Where: Wrathall Road – just past Fire Station

What: Clean-up of entrance way of the Clean Waters to the Sea site.

Time: 10-1pm **Bring:** lunch and elbow grease

Saturday: August 16th

Where: Pariri Road inland from Taipa

What: Planting

Time: 9.30am. **Bring:** spade, lunch and a friend

Saturday: August 24th

Where: Matthews farm Aurere

What: River planting. 800 trees/plants to plant

Time: 10am Meet at River of Life Car Park

Bring: Spade, lunch, laughter and grunt

Contact Wayne: 09 4085588

On higher ground, fast growing tree and shrub species are suitable, especially those which can handle exposure. *Karo, karamu, taupata, whau, cabbage tree, houpara, ngaio, koromiko, kanuka and manuka* are ideal here as colonisers. Mostly soft wooded, these will also bend in water and help to slow flow rates.

The FNRC booklet “Clean Streams” is an excellent guide for riparian planting. Funding assistance is available from various sources, including the Far North Regional Council. We recommend you apply and get started! ☺

Clean Waters To The Sea. It’s Not Just Physical!

Our Strategy includes influencing how people think about water management. The everyday person and also those who are in positions to make decisions. This is a snippet of what we have been doing behind the scenes just recently for the Doubtless Bay Catchment:

Over the last year there has been a significant development for fresh water management in our Doubtless Bay catchment. Back in mid 2013 the Northland Regional Council (NRC) formed the Doubtless Bay Catchment Working Group under the Waiora Northland Water masthead and is administered by the Environment Management Committee NRC. Our catchment, along with three others, gained priority status and funding.

Community group and sector group representatives have been brought together on this working group. Clean Waters to the Sea board is represented by Wayne Parsonson. Andreas Kurmann another Board member is also on the group representing Mangonui Sailing Club. Sector group reps include Dairy NZ, Forestry, Beef and Lamb, Iwi and Hapu, FNDC, DOC et.al. Visit <http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Environment/Water> You will see **Waiora Northland Water** listed.

The Working Group meets every two months and has been very constructive in bringing a diverse range of representatives together on fresh water management. Only after three field trips to places of interest in our area, some good working relationships have been established.

One of the best results of our priority funding status will be **an extensive water monitoring regime for our catchment**. This has been under way for the last couple of months and will result in the compilation of a base line data base that will be essential for sound water policy decisions in the future. For further info contact:

Wayne Parsonson 408 5588 | Andreas Kurmann 406 1975