

2022-2023

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**RUAMAHANGA**  
RESTORATION TRUST

# 2022 INTERIM REPORT | 2023 PLAN



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**Ruamahanga Restoration Trust**  
**Registered Charity CC56547**

## SUMMARY

2022 was the year Ruamahanga Restoration Trust came of age by strengthening its reputation within the local community, especially in relation to its support of schools across the Wairarapa.

2022 not only saw the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust support over 18 local schools but we also provided a significant number of native plants for six very unique rural sites, of which two are listed as QEII covenants.

2022 was the third year of our signature SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER project, which is designed to engage local school students in the restoration and protection of bio-diverse ecosystems within the wider catchment.

Participation in our project increased from eight schools in 2021 to 18 in the 2022 calendar year, not including those schools who participated in the Predator Tracking & Trapping workshops, which are held in collaboration with EnviroSchools Wairarapa and the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre. This program in particular will continue to grow in popularity and requires further support in 2023.

One notable achievement was the creation the Conservation Award for Environmental Leadership. Fourteen schools each received one of the hand-made ceramic trophies, valued at \$500 each.

In 2022, the Trust received funding support from One Foundation, Masterton Trust House, Masterton Lands Trust, The Gift Trust, Lion Foundation, and the Lloyd Morrison Trust.

The Trustees and several others combined contributed over 400 volunteer hours supporting schools and local landowners with restoration plantings, and several experts helped advise schools on local flora and fauna, predator trapping tools, and suitable restoration planting sites.







## MISSION

The purpose of the Trust is to promote the restoration and protection of waterways and bio-diverse ecosystems that support indigenous flora and fauna within the Ruamahanga River catchment.

The Trust also offers support to schools and teachers across the Wairarapa by providing activities and resources that encourage students to respect and protect their environmental heritage for themselves and future generations.

Our aim is to work with students, teachers, landowners, community groups, and local government to reverse the decline of natural wilderness and wetlands within the Wairarapa and to encourage the protection and return of endangered fauna and flora, and to address and mitigate the effects of climate change.

## 2022 DELIVERABLES

2022-23 funding supported the following deliverables:

- provided 18 schools with native plants
- sponsored 2 HOS Water Analysis Kits
- funded 15 Predator Tracking & Trapping Kits
- funded the first 5 Biodiversity Kits
- supported restoration plantings on 6 farms
- created 20 Conservation Award trophies
- sponsored school field trips to Pūkaha
- contributed over 400 volunteer man-hours



## WHAT WE DO

The Trust has a long-term role to protect the environmental heritage value and biodiversity of the Ruamahanga catchment. To achieve this we work with landowners, community groups, and schools as a base for bringing about positive change.

**Schools Behind Our River** is a signature project that contributes manpower, equipment resources, and product support to schools willing to get involved. We also support and engage local contractors and environmental consultants who advise us on flora and fauna, predator trapping, best practices, planting sites, and Maori history.

The following core programs were successfully introduced in 2021-22.

## TRACKING AND TRAPPING KITS

**A Predator Free education project conducted in collaboration with EnviroSchools Wairarapa and the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre.**

In 2021 the Trust conceived and assembled a comprehensive Predator Tracking & Trapping Kit that would be distributed in collaboration with EnviroSchools Wairarapa and the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre. Valued at over \$1000, each kit included a trail camera, traps, monitoring tools, traps, and educational resources.

Three kits were distributed in 2021 with a further 15 put prepared for use in 2022-23. Currently, we have ten kits in use at a mix of primary and secondary schools.

*Learning for  
Sustainability*

*Tracking and Trapping Collaboration*





In addition, EnviroSchools Wairarapa in collaboration with Pūkaha Wildlife Centre conducted workshops with 11 schools with each school receiving two D-Rat traps and monitoring equipment sponsored by the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust.

Participating schools also record their capture data, with as many as 42 predator kills of one kind or another recorded within the school year.

**Learning for  
Sustainability**

**Tracking and Trapping Online Workshop - Term 1**



Participating students were from:

- Fernridge School,
- Opaki School
- Pirinoa School
- Dalefield School
- Whareama School
- Eketahuna School
- St Patricks School

In Term 1 of 2022, a group of Wairarapa schools, took part in an online re-energising Tracking and Trapping workshop. These schools had been involved in tracking and trapping in the past but most of the students were new to the process and enjoyed receiving their 2 new traps to practice with. Further online hui will be held for these students to share their experiences and learn from each other.

EnviroSchools Wairarapa and Pūkaha also ran workshops focusing on tracking, trapping and increasing biodiversity in school spaces. The online session was conducted due to COVID, which restricted the ability to get multiple schools together in one space.

Each school also received a mini-kit before the session, which then focused on the use of the kit, sharing trapping experiences and planning any potential trapping action.

“

*“Gill Stewart and I are stoked to be involved in this initiative, which definitely has grown beyond engaging schools with kits to a wide range of schools. For us, having the resource to give equipment to schools is so important, since otherwise it’s just another barrier to action if they constantly need to look for funding for equipment themselves. It gets them engaged right away and invested in using the equipment.”*

”

## Student empowerment

### Tracking and Trapping Workshop - Term 2 South Wairarapa and Carterton Schools



Kelly Body from Pūkaha and Gill Stewart from EnviroSchools ran this hands-on workshop for akōnga from Gladstone, South End, Carterton and Kahutara schools. Akōnga participated in a range of monitoring, tracking and trapping activities designed to enable them to set up their own tracking and trapping practices back at school. They reflected on the ecosystems already present in their school grounds and how their school grounds might influence or connect to others. They were surprised by how many predators we have and the number of species that are endangered or have become extinct because of those predators.

Kelly and Gill will continue to support the schools as they set up their practices. The Ruamahanga Restoration Trust funds the traps and tracking cards for the schools to take away to use.

Some learnings from akōnga: "Be humane - be careful not to torture."  
"Don't touch the traps."



EnviroSchools

## Tracking and Trapping Plan for 2023

### Our Aim

- Distribute additional sets of Tracking and Trapping Kits for more schools
- Provide more up-skilling and planning around use of the kits and equipment
- Identify and empower engaged students who show signs of self-directed action
- Collect and share more monitoring and predator kill data between schools
- Encourage the sharing of trail camera images
- Assign one part-time Education Coordinator from RRT to liaise between EnviroSchools Wairarapa, Pukaha, the Trust and each of the schools.



## School Workshop Program

### Term 1

·1-1 catchups with all schools:

- See how the kit is being used
- What support they need
- Update the group about upcoming workshops
- Offer advice, support, and encouragement

·Physical workshops for schools

- held at Gladstone school.
- Aimed as a refresher along with new information
- Content will be based on what we did in 2022
- Aimed for primary schools
- Secondary schools – continue 1-1 visits

### Term 2

- ·Online workshops to touch base with schools
- ·Continue 1-1 work, especially with secondary schools

### Term 3

- ·Overnight workshops at Pūkaha for the primary students. Sessions include doing a trapline, activities with our predator management team, potential visits from RRT, DOC, Sustainable Wairarapa, focus on biodiversity and next steps in trapping. Will need the overnight costs covered
- ·Day workshop for secondary students, with the same overall purpose as above. Can also focus on new species like possums, which would tie in nicely with the older level of understanding

### Term 4

- ·1-1 visits, potentially an online workshop that encourages the students to plan for 2024, how they might handover the project if it is their last year at school, emphasis on stock take and trap maintenance



# BIODIVERSITY KITS

**An outdoor learning project conducted in collaboration with EnviroSchools Wairarapa and the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre.**

In 2022 we asked our partners what else we could support, and the answer was “Biodiversity Kits”. As a result, the Trust injected additional funding towards assembling an entirely new range of resource-laden Biodiversity Kits as an outdoor learning opportunity for students to study and understand the needs and benefits of insects and other wildlife found within our local ecosystems.

The first three Biodiversity Kit prepared for the 2023 school year will include one set of professional bird-watching binoculars, magnifying glasses, specimen trays and boxes, eDNA testing kits from Wilderlab, insect identification books, bird and lizard identification posters, specimen jars, and several scientific field study tools and resources for students and teachers to use when undertaking field trip classes.

EnviroSchools and Pūkaha will develop a procedure/processes document for the activities in the kit, as well as a ‘how to use’ guide. Valued at approximately \$800 per kit, each kit will be maintained and distributed with help from EnviroSchools and Pūkaha.





# HANDS-ON ACTIVITY KITS FOR SCHOOLS

In the 2022-23 financial year, the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust contributed or has allocated \$27,000 to fund the supply of water science kits, monitoring materials, predator traps and materials for new biodiversity kits suitable for data collection and analysis, science reports, outdoor trapping activities and field trips, much of which is conducted in collaboration with EnviroSchools and the Pukaha Wildlife Centre,



## WATER ANALYSIS KITS

IN COLLABORATION WITH **HOUSE OF SCIENCE WAIRARAPA** ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP OF 2X WATER ANALYSIS TESTING KIT TO BE SHARED BETWEEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE WAIRARAPA TO HELP STUDENTS BUILD AWARENESS OF WATER QUALITY ISSUES



## TRACKING & TRAPPING KITS

IN COLLABORATION WITH **PUKAHA WILDLIFE CENTRE** AND **ENVIROSCHOOLS WAIRARAPA**. FUNDING 10 TRACKING AND TRAPPING KITS PURCHASED AND ASSEMBLED BY RUAMAHANGA RESTORATION TRUST TO HELP ENGAGE STUDENTS COLLECT AND RECORD PREDATOR DATA



## BIODIVERSITY KITS

IN COLLABORATION WITH **PUKAHA WILDLIFE CENTRE** AND **WILDERLAB**. FUNDING 10 BIODIVERSITY KITS THAT WILL INCLUDE E-DNA SPECIES RESOURCE FOR LANDOWNERS AND EDUCATORS TO COLLECT DATA AROUND OUR BIODIVERSITY AND WATER QUALITY .

# CONSERVATION AWARDS

In 2022, the Trust commissioned local ceramic artist Sam Ludden to design an award trophy that would be gifted by the Trust to all participating schools within the Ruamahanga catchment.

Each trophy features a hand-sculpted kokopu as the centrepiece with the Maori proverb, "Toitū te marae ō Tāne, Toitū te marae o Tangaroa, Toitū te tangata" (If the forest and the ocean are strong, so too are the people), inscribed on the timber base. Sam Ludden helped to choose the whakatauki with guidance from local iwi and mana whenua to reflect the role rangatahi can play in safeguarding Wairarapa's waterways, biodiversity, and natural heritage.

The Conservation Award for Environmental Leadership is gifted to each school who in turn select a student who best demonstrates principles of kaitiakitanga [guardianship] and leadership skills in environmental conservation, restoration, or innovation within their school and community.

Each school gets to keep the award trophy while each winning recipient receives a personalized award certificate signed by one of our Trustees and the school principal.

20 trophies were commissioned in 2022 at a combined cost of \$10,000. Fourteen were awarded to schools in time for annual prize giving in 2023 and the remaining six trophies will be distributed in 2023 with a further 16 budgeted for additional schools.





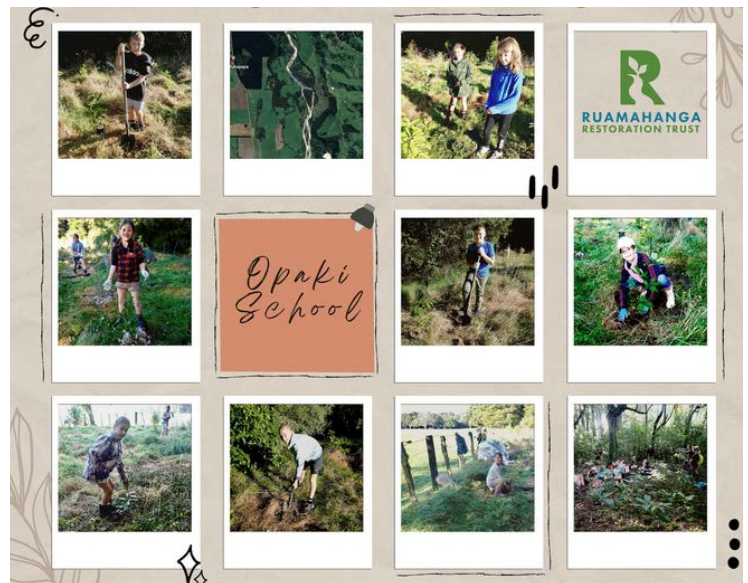
# RESTORATION PLANTINGS

## Supporting Schools and Rural Communities

One of the key objectives of the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust is to fund and support restoration plantings using locally eco-sourced native plants.

This includes working with local experts to help identify suitable blocks of remnant or regrowth forest along with new sites in need of planting or restoration. We support landowners who do not otherwise have the funds to purchase seedlings and we support schools who can use the planting days as an outdoor learning opportunity that also helps provide native tree cover on the school grounds and alongside streams and rivers close to the school.

In 2022-23, the Trust spent or allocated over \$31,000 supplying native seedlings for restoration plantings across 18 schools and 6 private sites, including two QEII covenanted blocks.





Students from Opaki School planted a fenced-off area of original native bush on Dunvegan Station. The same students planted alongside a stream that runs past the school on Council land. We also provided plants for a QEII block near Morrisons Bush on the banks of the Ruamahanga and another riparian site on the upper reaches of the Mangatarere Stream (with help from several St Matthews Collegiate school students), and one Council site on the Waipoa Stream.



In addition, the Trust also supported Urlah Organic Wines by supplying flaxes and carex secta grasses for planting around the edge of their spring-fed ponds located on the alluvial river terraces of the Ruamahanga River. Another restoration site included a range of native plants for Ox Bow Lake, a private property under QEII covenant close to the Ruamahanga River.



In June, the Trustees led a group of students and community volunteers planting 2,000 flax and carex grasses along the inner rim of two disused sewage ponds at Rathkeale College to attract aquatic birdlife and provide nesting opportunities and protective shade for birdlife and fish species such as short and long fen eel, bullies and mudfish. This was the first time that the ponds had been planted in 50 years and the project is a key step in helping establish the grounds as an open wildlife sanctuary for native birds on a biodiversity corridor that will eventually reach from Rathkeale College to Pukaha Mt Bruce.





# MEET OUR 2022 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

MAURICEVILLE



KAHUTARA



KURA KAUPAPA O WAIRARAPA



CARTERTON EARTH SCHOOL



DOUGLAS PARK



SOLWAY PRIMARY



ST MATTHEWS COLLEGIATE



SOLWAY COLLEGE



CHANEL COLLEGE



KURANUI COLLEGE



OPAKI SCHOOL



GLADSTONE PRIMARY



WAIRARAPA COLLEGE



RATHKEALE COLLEGE



MĀKOURA COLLEGE



FEATHERSTONE SCHOOL



CARTERTON SCHOOL



GREYTOWN SCHOOL



For faster results, the Trust acknowledges that most positive change will only come about by engaging with and supporting local landowners and helping our youth to respect nature and recognise the need for change.

To address this need, the Trust will continue to evolve and expand its **Eight-Step Plan:**

The Trust will continue to promote and raise awareness of our Conservation Award Trophy through the local media and via meetings with school principals, teachers, and students.

The aim being to highlight how the award acknowledges a student's work and service in several areas including media communications, data collection, trapping, planting, product design, or general volunteering work.

It is our intention that the award will inspire primary and secondary students around workable goals and activities, both curricular and non-curricular. Teachers can then propose practical solutions that engage students and equip them with the knowledge required for sharing their know-how and enthusiasm with other students, and to help inspire career path opportunities and engagement as volunteers within the local community.





## 2. OUTDOOR LEARNING - FIELD KITS FOR SCHOOLS

The Trust will continue to support the Pukaha Wildlife Centre and EnviroSchools Wairarapa with Predator Tracking & Trapping Kits and Biodiversity Kits.

The Schools Behind Our River project encourages the use of scientific methodology and analytical processes within schools to help encourage student curiosity and interest around challenges related to monitoring and recording local flora and fauna, including freshwater quality, soil health, biodiversity, and other farming-related data related to climate change and sustainable farming practices.

We believe that encouraging students to embrace the sciences will help prepare them for future challenges and new opportunities in agriculture and environment-related careers.

By sponsoring the **House of Science Water Analysis Kits** for use by primary schools and by purchasing and distributing **WilderLab eDNA Multi-species testing kits** for use in our Biodiversity Kits, the Trust will gain better access to the teachers and students, making them more aware of our role in helping them develop a passion and reason for working together on conservation for the greater good of our community and environment.

In 2022, the Water Analysis Kits were used 17 times by 11 different schools from all four Districts (South Wairarapa, Carterton, Masterton and Tararua), which in turn helps young students gain a broader appreciation not only of science but the need to protect and care for their local waterways.





In 2023, the Trust will continue to purchase materials and supplies for Predator Tracking and Trapping kits along with new Biodiversity Kits for local schools in collaboration with the **Pukaha Wildlife Centre** and **EnviroSchools Wairarapa**, who together provide workshop induction training and distribution.

By creating our own outdoor learning kits for schools, we not only hope to raise awareness around the need for greater biodiversity, pest control and predator trapping but also to help monitor and measure the presence of native birds and other endangered species, including lizards. Seeing what's out there with the help of pre-inked tracking cards, chew cards, and trail cameras ignites the student's enthusiasm.

These activities are all conducted as part of the school curriculum and offer a holistic approach to study, addressing the need for data analysis, documentation, pest eradication and wildlife protection.

As this program grows so too do the man-hours and the need to effectively coordinate between the different schools, EnviroSchools team and the Pukaha staff.

For 2023, the Trust is seeking funding support towards the cost of hiring a part-time Education Coordinator to work 10 hours a week, being 50 hours a month.





### 3. RESTORATION PLANTINGS

Our support for restoration plantings in 2023 will continue by allocating and distributing native plants to help local schools to either establish their own pockets of native bush on school grounds or engage them in the restoration of lowland forest swamps, Council Reserves, the Rathkeale College Eco-Trail, and the Carterton Reserve.

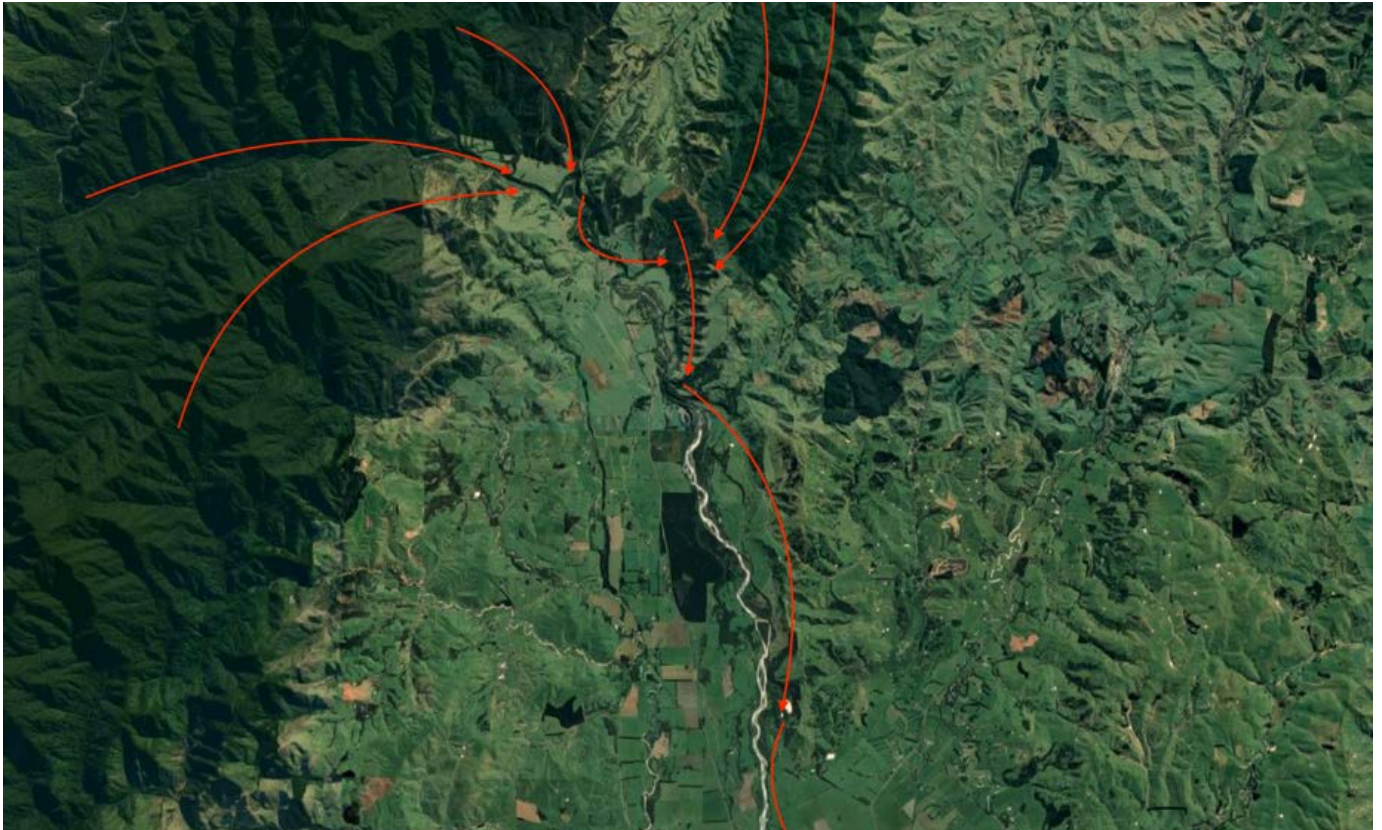
These unique and biodiverse pockets of bush and wetland are key to the long-term health of our river system and are natural habitats for a range of indigenous freshwater fish and native birds.

The Trust continue to focus on plantings within habitats that provide opportunities for student-led research in conservation, land management and clean water protection. In tandem with these efforts, the trust hopes to encourage students to create their own new methods of study, to make their own discoveries, and create their own career paths.

in 2023, the Trust will continue to work with QEII Regional Representative Trevor Thompson as a consultant to help advise us and schools but also to help us identify and support restoration plantings on rural blocks that are either under QEII Covenant or of significant biodiversity value as forested areas or wetland remnants.







One of our long-term plans is to help extend our restoration plantings to include riparian margins and forest remnant blocks of disused farmland between Rathkeale College and Mt Bruce, so that when linked together they will form protective biodiversity corridors between the Tararua Ranges and Pukaha, all the way downstream towards Rathkeale and beyond.







We value and respect that all schools have a choice as to where and why they would like to plant native trees. In some cases, the schools may choose to plant public reserves or riparian strips on private farmland. Every location helps serve a purpose.





## 4. SPECIAL EVENT DAYS

Where possible, our fundraising activities will support community and student-level participation in special event days, such as Restoration Day, Moana Wetlands Discovery Day, World Fish Migration Day, Arbor Day and Conservation Week, etc.

Support will be offered to those activities planned or promoted by community group, such as WP2K, Sustainable Wairarapa, or the Aorangi Restoration Trust, along with any school activity that requests our support.

in 2023, this will include a large student-led community planting day on the banks of the Ruamahanga River at Percey's Reserve scheduled for late June or early July, 2023 on the outskirts of Masterton.

Support will be offered to those activities planned or promoted by community groups, such as **WP2K, Sustainable Wairarapa, Wairarapa Lions Clubs,** and the **Aorangi Restoration Trust.**



## 5. FIELD TRIPS

In 2022-23, the Trust contributed \$2,275 towards to the Pūkaha Wildlife Centre to cover the entrance fees and overnight stays for schools from within the catchment to visit and attend workshops at the Centre. The Trust will continue to look for opportunities fund field trips that support the concept of tiakitanga—being a good guardian or steward of the land and waterways—for the wellbeing of current and future generations of New Zealanders.

**Te Ao Māori** recognizes the need to consider the connectedness of all things including the past, present and future. In considering how our future and our community could be impacted by climate change transitions we must consider where we have come from, as well as the wellbeing of current and future generations. This means we must take an inclusive approach to understanding our place and our heritage over time.





In consultation and with the participation of local iwi, we will also support field trip activities that invite teachers and students on field trips to natural heritage or historical sites connected to the Ruamahanga River. This also helps address the values of whanaungatanga – being mindful of the relationship between all things, our connections to each other and how we connect to our land and manaakitanga – having a deep ethic of care towards people and the whenua, acknowledging their role in the ecosystem, and how they could be affected by future outcomes.

The Trust will continue working with **Pūkaha** and community groups like the **Kahungunu Mokomoko** initiative with the aim to support visits to sites and places of interest that provide stories about early Maori presence along the Ruamahanga and its tributaries, and to engage in conversation and restoration.

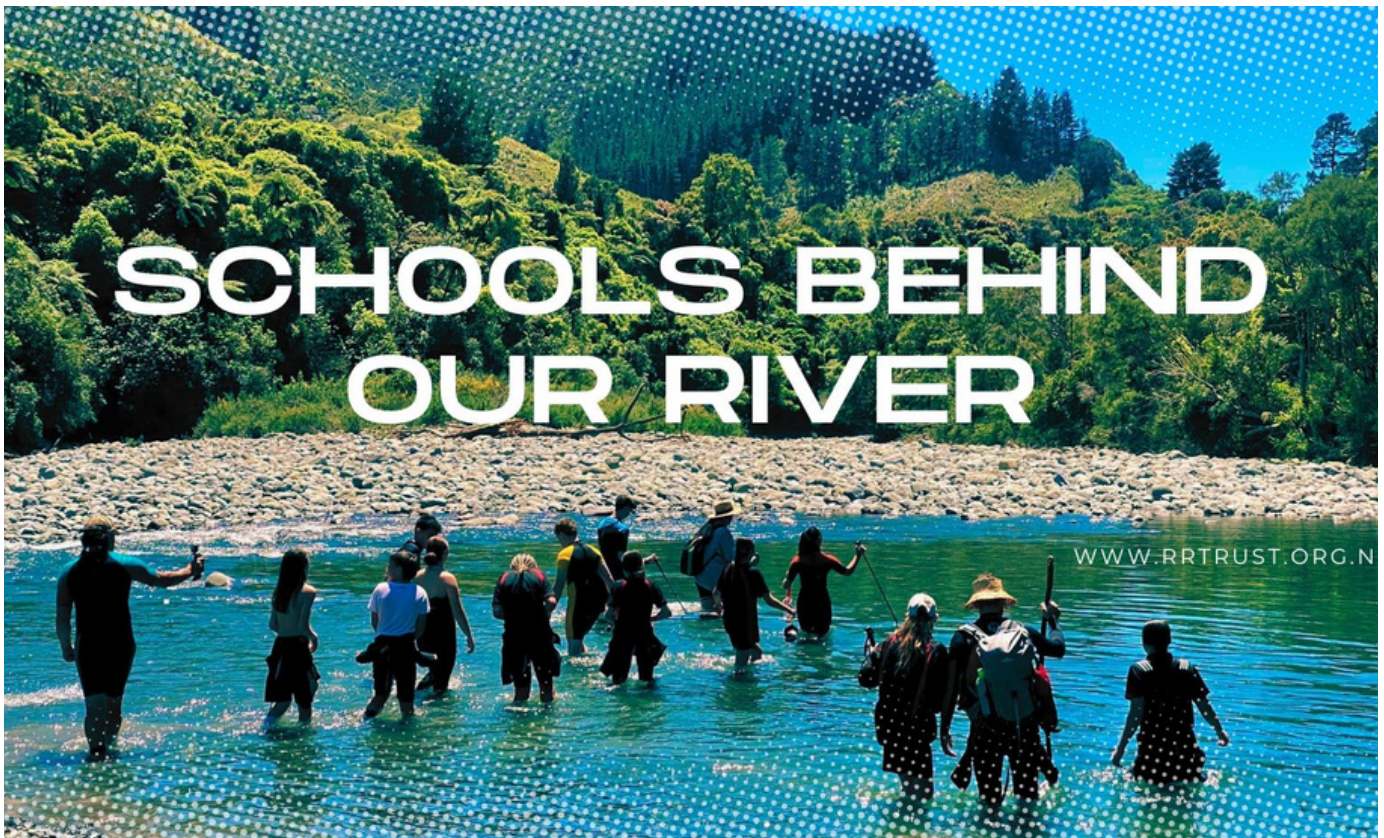
Supporting school field trips to Pūkaha as day trips for secondary schools and overnight trips for Primary Schools assists schools and or parents who could not otherwise afford the extra costs for students to attend these beneficial outdoor learning experiences.

By doing so, we not only strengthen our collaborative relationship with Pūkaha but we also hope to make younger people more aware of their local environmental heritage; to learn and understand sustainable use of our waterways and lowland forests and to share their stories in a way that helps others appreciate the need to restore, protect and sustain our environment, including how to prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change.





By doing so, we not only strengthen our collaborative relationship with Pukaha but we also hope to make younger people more aware of their local environmental heritage; to learn and understand sustainable use of our waterways and lowland forests and to share their own stories in a way that helps others appreciate the need to restore, protect and sustain our environment, including how to prepare for and mitigate the effects of long-term effects of climate change.





## 6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Management continues to be a challenge the Trust grows in scope and reach, relying mostly on a combination of volunteer hours and consulting fees. In 2022, the Trust spent \$22,294 on project management fees and consultants.

In 2023, the Trust plans to appoint a part-time Educational Coordinator to help manage our collaborative program needs with local district schools, including liaison with EnviroSchools Wairarapa, and Pūkaha.

The Educational Coordinator will be tasked with managing the distribution of native seedlings for schools, following up on the Conservation Award program, coordinating class visits and workshops with Pūkaha and EnvironSchools, managing available resources and materials, and assisting with our PR and social media content creation. The role requires planning and coordination time of an estimated 10 hours per week, or 50 hours a month.

As the reach and scope of the Trust's work increases so too does the time required to submit funding grant applications, manage the relationships with community group, liaise with schools and suppliers, manage finances, complete accountability reports, and provide content for social media, etc.

For this reason, the Trust acknowledges that in addition to our volunteer hours it is necessary to have more people or more man-hours devoted to project management.



### SUPPORTING DONORS



## 7. CAREER PATHWAYS

The Trust hopes that Schools Behind Our River can ultimately shape and influence young careers and create new jobs by encouraging mentors from the farming, technology, science, and the media sectors to help school leavers prepare themselves for careers inspired by nature.

According to the draft report from the New Zealand Climate Change Commission, education, and science and innovation systems are critical for ensuring low emissions economic growth, adding that the education system needs to ensure that New Zealanders are set up with the skills that are needed in the labour market.

“Aotearoa is known as a country of innovators and problem solvers. Being an early mover in researching new technologies and adopting existing technologies will benefit not just the climate, but the economy and wellbeing of New Zealanders. This is particularly true in sectors where Aotearoa is traditionally innovative, such as agriculture.”

Where possible, the Trust will continue to develop projects that help students seek out or create new job opportunities ranging from conservation work to predator control, development of new technologies related to emissions or agricultural practices or work in native forestry, regenerative farming, or documentary filmmaking.

### PŪTĀTARA CALL TO ACTION

#### UNDERSTANDING OUR ENVIRONMENT

*"Knowing the history of the land around me helps me understand it and think about its future."*

“ KNOWING THAT I AM HELPING TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD MAKES ME EXCITED ABOUT MY FUTURE. ”





The Climate Change Commission states that as the country transitions to climate-resilient low emissions future “new skills, knowledge and capability will be needed in the workforce. Ensuring the workforce’s skills match what is required in the labour market is key to ensuring that businesses can innovate, adopt new technologies or commercialise new ideas.”

For this reason, the Trust has developed a long-term documentary series project titled, **‘Understanding Nature’**, which it hopes will help create new career paths for young videographers and editors with an interest in the environment, conservation, and topics related to climate change.

As a documentary series, ‘Understanding Nature’ will not only highlight key environmental issues and local stories as witnessed and told by local youth but it will also provide skills training and income for school leavers with an interest in storytelling and filmmaking.

The Trust is currently seeking funding to support this unique production initiative.



## THEIR VOICES OUR HOPE



UNDERSTANDING NATURE will help each of us, from one generation to the next, address and prepare for changes to our biodiversity, farming practices, and lifestyles: all witnessed and recorded within our own time.

“  
UNDERSTANDING NATURE  
GETS YOUNG PEOPLE OUTSIDE  
— TALKING ABOUT IT.  
”

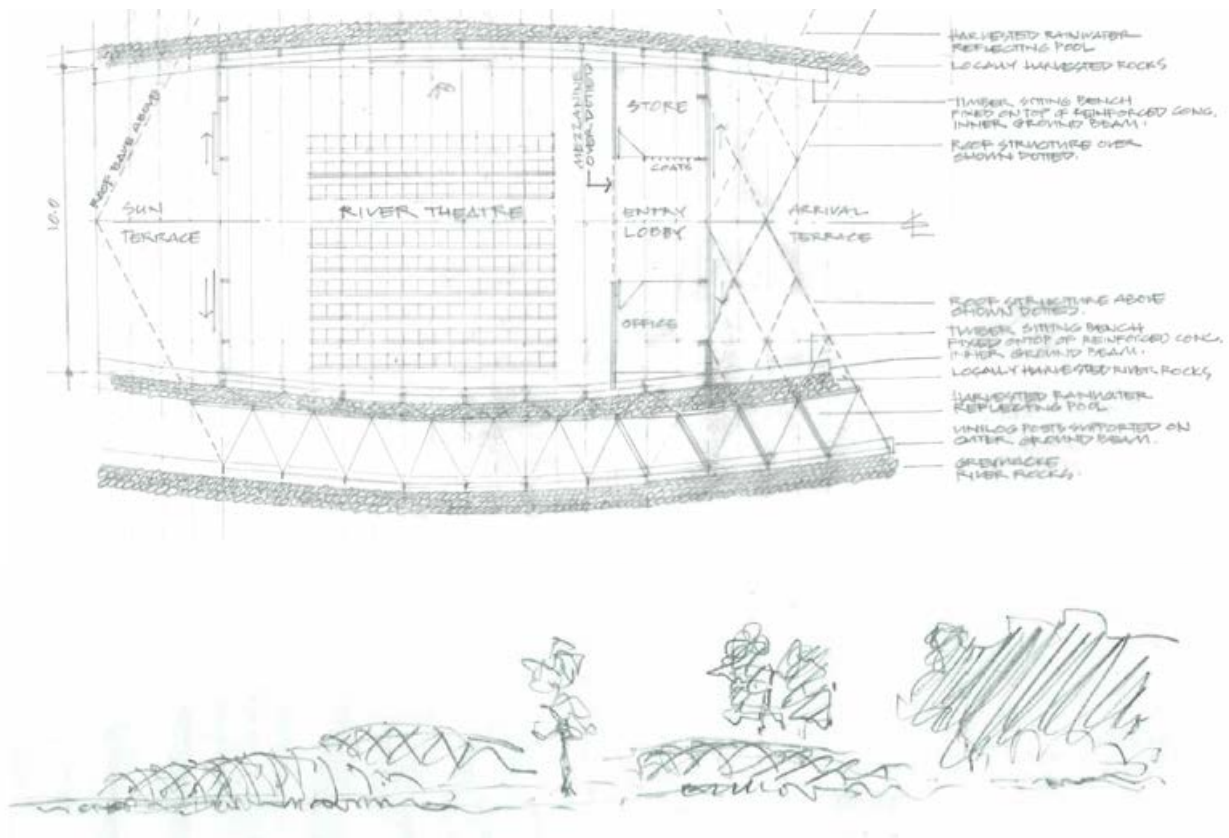
## 8. RUAMAHANGA RIVER CENTRE

In Q1 2023, the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust will submit an application to DIA Lotteries for Feasibility Funding complete with preliminary concept designs for unique community space suitable for hosting talks, lectures, and events addressing current and future the needs and uses of the local environment and ecology.

The Ruamahanga River Theatre will also address the relationship of the area as whanaungatanga — including the connections between Maori and the first European settlers and how the landscape and environment evolved and how we can best use and sustainably manage our available resources.

A vision and spacial framework has been prepared by Chris Moller Architecture + Urbanism in association with Dunning Thornton Engineers.

We see the construction as an important educational process to enable local community and particularly the coming generations of school students from across the Masterton District to learn the skills and material processes of building as a natural extension of their lives. This way people can work towards common goals and together build community facilities through collective effort and skill development. The hope is that this will catalyse community ownership of this project and lead to further phases of development in future.





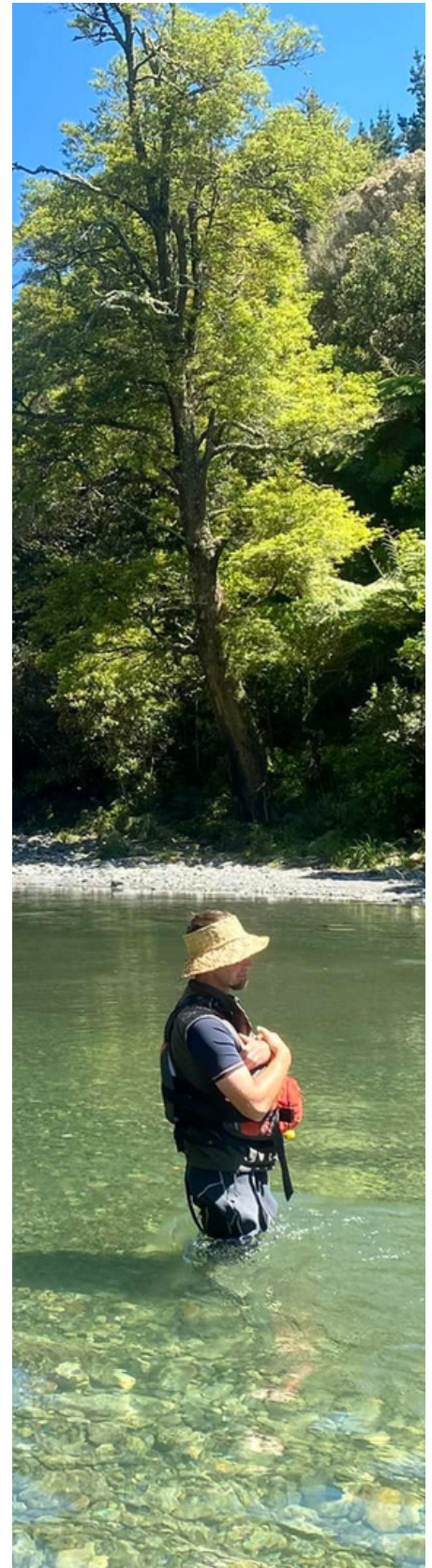
# BACK TO SCHOOL ...

In 2023, the Trust will continue its support of its existing base of 18 schools and plans to invite the participation of **12 additional schools** as marked\*,

*We are all very grateful for the plants you donated to our school to improve our local environment. We have planted around school, an area that is very wet during the winter, and all of the children were involved on the day.*

Katrina Hampton  
Principal  
Kahutara School

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Opaki Primary            | 17. Carterton School           |
| 2. Rathkeale College        | 18. Greytown School            |
| 3. Mauriceville Primary     | 19. Masterton Intermediate*    |
| 4. Gladstone Primary        | 20. Fernridge School*          |
| 5. Douglas Park School      | 21. St.Patricks*               |
| 6. South End School         | 22. Martinborough School*      |
| 7. Kahutara School          | 23. Dalefield School*          |
| 8. Kura Kaupapa o Wairarapa | 24. Hadlow Primary*            |
| 9. Mākoura College          | 25. Masterton Primary*         |
| 10. Wairarapa College       | 26. Lakeview School*           |
| 11. Chanel College          | 27. Greytown School*           |
| 12. Solway Primary          | 28. St Mary's Carterton*       |
| 13. Solway College          | 29. St. Teresa's Featherstone* |
| 14. Kuranui College         | 30. Pirinoa School*            |
| 15. St Matthews Collegiate  |                                |
| 16. Featherston School      |                                |



Support will be offered to all the above schools using the Eight Steps plan, depending on the level of funding contributions received.

Trevor Thompson will continue to be hired as a consultant to help advise and supervise restoration plantings at schools and existing or potential QEII covenanted sites.

The Trust will ask teachers, parents, and community volunteers to help supervise and allocate tasks according to the students age and abilities, incorporating the tasks where possible into outdoor activities and educational curriculum.

Photos will be published by the Trust on social media sites and shared with other conservation groups and interested parties, including individual schools, EnviroSchools, WP2K and Pūkaha Wildlife Centre, highlighting our role and acknowledging the contribution of our funding partners.

Schools will have the opportunity to access the outdoor learning kits and to attend workshops and site visits at Pūkaha, and participating schools will also be encouraged to remind students of the benefits and desired outcomes of winning the Conservation Award trophy.



*My absolute gratitude for your combined efforts to ensure we were able to have an enriching learning experience this past term. Keilah and her whanau were absolutely thrilled and proud of her achievement. I hope to continue working with you as we work to give experiences to connect our rangatahi with their turangawaewae.*

Pepe Pereira  
Year 9 Curriculum Learning Leader  
Mākoura College





# PROJECT OBJECTIVES 2023

- 1. FUND** restoration plantings in support of students and the local farming community — to restore and protect wetlands, feeder streams, forest remnants, and riparian margins along the Ruamahanga River.
- 2. ENGAGE** farmers, DOC, GRWC, and local iwi in our activities, and bring people together via one or more planting days.
- 3. EXPAND** collaborative partnerships with EnvironSchools and Pukaha and underscore a common resolve among our future generations to help restore fragile ecosystems, regenerate native bush, protect endangered species, create bird corridors and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
- 4. INVITE** student representation from each of the colleges to attend our quarterly Advisory Council meetings organised by the Trust and attended by several experts and local council representatives who will act as mentors and sounding boards for new ideas and proposals from our young leaders.



*Massive thanks to the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust who most generously donated the native trees that were planted at our working bee along the stream embankment. The trust provided over 1,000 native plants that will help to clean up the waterways around our school.*

Belinda Bunny  
Gladstone School Principal

*The kit was amazing! Our kids got so much from it. We integrated its use into our local streams inquiry this term and has led to so much learning.*

Masterton Intermediate

*It has been a fantastic experience to work with the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust this year. The Conservation Award trophy was very well received and will be placed in our trophy cabinet so that everyone can look at it during the coming years.*

Erica Jar  
Biology Teacher  
Solway College

**5. PRODUCE** 'Understanding Nature' with the help of students who will help us explore the long term affects and consequences of climate change on youth and rural communities.

**6. PROMOTE** our success stories using social media and produce more blogs and media releases regarding the Trust's activities.

**7. COMPLETE** the feasibility study for the design and build of the Ruamahanga River Centre.

**8. CREATE** new jobs and career opportunities for local youth to work in conservation, restoration, earth sciences or ecology projects that protect our unique habits and biodiversity for the wellbeing of the wider rural community.



The process of construction we see as an important educational process to enable local community and particularly the coming generations of school students to learn the skills and material processes of building as a natural extension of their lives. This way people can work towards common goals and together build community facilities through collective effort and skill development. The hope is that this will catalyse community ownership of this project and lead to further phases of development in future.



## OUR SOCIAL MEDIA : 2022

In addition to using traditional social media platforms, the Trust also creates BLOG POSTS on the website [www.RRTrust.org.nz](http://www.RRTrust.org.nz) and links this to Twitter and Facebook.

### TWITTER

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022  
IMPRESSIONS 17,271  
TWEETS 61  
FOLLOWERS 142



### FACEBOOK

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022  
PAGE REACH 10,453  
PAGE LIKES 404  
PAGE VISITS 524  
IMPRESSIONS 23.5K  
FOLLOWERS 484



### INSTAGRAM

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022  
PROFILE VISITS 155  
REACH 4196  
FOLLOWERS 210

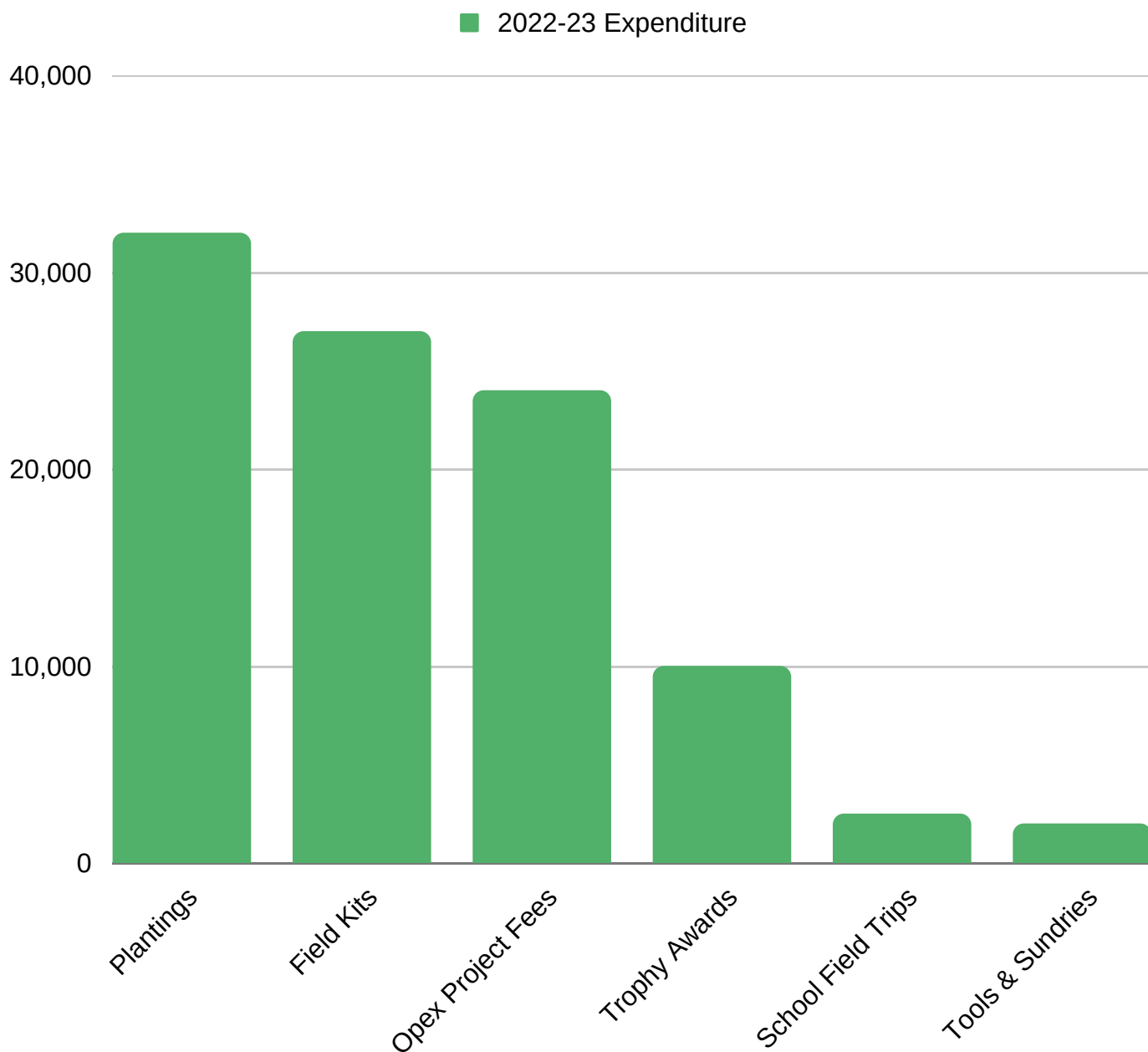


# FUNDING REPORT

In 2022, the Trust raised over \$102,000 from community grants and private gifts.

The highest percentage of these funds went into investing into funding and distribution of locally sourced native seedlings for schools, council sites, and private properties.

This was followed by the Trust's investment and sponsorship of a range of outdoor learning field kits allocated for use and distribution in 2022-23 school terms,





## BEYOND 2023

Besides encouraging students to embrace conservation and science to mitigate the effects of climate change, we also have a long-term vision that will encourage youth to take more interest and pride in their own environment — preparing them for new responsibilities in their future career and community leadership roles.

Another long-term aim is to see a noticeable increase in native fish species and birdlife through the establishment of a network of biodiversity corridors that link all areas of the wider catchment.

Engaging and including schools along with the wider community and landowners into supporting the restoration and planting of biodiversity corridors, from the mountains to the sea will in turn offer more productive benefits to the wider farming community and all those that live within the catchment.

Furthermore, our vision to create the Ruamahanga River Centre as a venue for students and community groups will hopefully play a key role in the sustainable development and growth of our region.





#### **TRUSTEES**

Michael Birch  
Campbell McLean  
Christopher Morrison MNZN  
Melissa Clark-Reynolds OMZN

#### **ADVISORY TEAM**

John Bissell  
Dr. Marie Doole  
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Bruce Logan  
Chris Moller  
Trevor Thompson  
Jeremy Ramsden MNZM  
Dr. Cameron Stanley

#### **SUPPORTING PARTNERS**

Masterton Trust House  
Masterton Lands Trust  
Nikau Foundation  
Eastern & Central Community Trust  
One Foundation  
Lloyd Morrison Trust  
The Gift Trust  
Lion Foundation  
Gibson Sheat Lawyers  
BackBlocks Environment Management  
Forest Protectors  
WindRush Design  
Good Books Accountancy  
Karma Drinks  
Urlar Wines

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