

2024 IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT PLAN 2025



RUAMAHANGA
RESTORATION TRUST



Ruamahanga Restoration Trust
Registered Charity CC56547

TRUSTEES STATEMENT

2024 marked our fifth year as a registered charity supporting 'Schools Behind Our River' with funding and materials for plantings and planting classes, field trips, trapping workshops, biodiversity workshops, educational videos, and outdoor learning kits.

The Ruamahanga Restoration Trust actively engaged with 24 schools over the school calendar year - supplying 2600 native plants, meeting with teachers, supplying scholarships, conducting workshops, sponsoring visits by Ruud Kleinpaste, and funding Overnight Experience Trips to the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre.

2024 also marked the launch of our 'Dialogue Series' of lectures, inviting Professor James Renwick and rural land management experts Dr. Alison Dewes and John Burke to address key issues related to climate change and farm catchments.

The Trust continued to support rural landowners in 2024 supplying 3500 native trees for restoration plantings on QE2 covenants, wetlands, and council reserves.

2024 also marked the first time that the Trust organised a special community event day, Te Ruruhau o Hinetearorangi, at the Solway Showgrounds, to mark Conservation Week. The Trust invited 17 like-minded conservationists and groups to attend with their own stalls, attracting some 450 visitors on top of the usual Farmers Market attendance.

In addition to supporting 'Schools Behind Our River', our plan for 2025 includes more emphasis on restoring and protecting biodiversity along the upper reaches of the Ruamahanga River, which will include a pest control program and wildlife monitoring.

Our vision and purpose to support environmental education and conservation efforts within the catchment remains as strong as ever and we are grateful for the support that we have received to date.

Chris Morrison

Michael Birch

Campbell McLean





MISSION

The Trust promotes the restoration and protection of waterways and ecosystems that support indigenous flora and fauna within the Ruamahanga River catchment.

The Trust also offers support to schools and teachers by providing activities and resources that encourage students to respect and protect their environmental heritage.

Our aim is to work with ākonga/students, kaiako/teachers, landowners, community groups, and government to reverse the decline of natural wilderness, share expertise and knowledge, encourage the protection of endangered fauna and flora, and help mitigate climate change.

ABOUT US

Established as a charitable trust in 2019, the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust is managed by its three founding Trustees: Chris Morrison, Campbell McLean, and Michael Birch.

In 2023 the Trustees appointed Karin Stillberg as Environmental Education Lead, overseeing day-to-day liaison between the schools, community groups, and various collaboration partners.

The Trustees are further supported by a group of advisors including Trevor Thompson, whose knowledge and expertise is frequently called up to help advise schools on plantings, and to further advise the Trustees on which QE2 covenants and other sites are deemed worthy of supporting.





2024 FUNDING DELIVERABLES

1



Role of Environmental Education Lead

2600



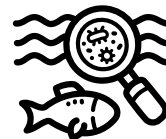
Gifted 2600 native plants gifted to 15 schools

27



Supplied 27 schools with predator traps

1



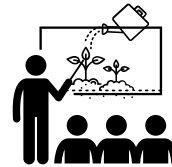
Sponsored one House of Science Water Kit

4



Supplied Seed Propagation Kits to 4 schools

4



Presented Eco-Planting Classes to 4 schools

2



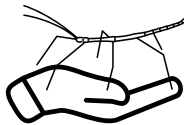
2 'Noticing Nature' workshops for 7 schools

7



Funded 7 Overnight School trips to Pūkaha

5



Sponsored Ruud Kleinpaste to visit 5 schools

4



Produced 4 educational videos

3



Invited 3 guest speakers for 2 public lectures

3500



Planted 3,500 native plants on 8 QE2 covenants

600



Contributed over 600 volunteer man-hours

1



Organised our first community event at Te Purakau o Hineteorangi Solway showgrounds

RESTORATION PROJECTS

In 2024 the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust (RRT) supplied a total of **6589 native plants** for numerous restoration plantings covering a number of QE2 covenant blocks, council reserves, wetlands, and several schools.

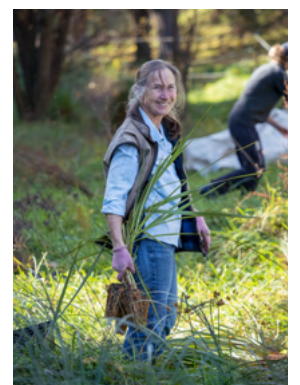
RRT successfully applied to Trees That Count for 1000 native trees for **Alan Wilde's QE2** block on a river escarpment adjoining the Ruamahanga River near Carterton. This site had been painstakingly restored by Alan Wilde over a course of 20 years and RRT stepped in to help support the landowner, who recently retired and was unable to continue his good work. Our Restoration Advisor Trevor Thompson selected the species and Trees That Count paid for the plants. RRT paid Norfolk Nursery to undertake the planting and to provide protective sleeves.



RRT also supported the South Wairarapa Veterinary Services restoration planting day with 1000 plants for the **Ahiaruhe QE2** site. Funding for these plants was subsidised by Greater Wellington. GW also helped to fund RRT with 464 plants for Mike Warren's **Oxbow Lake QE2** site. This is now the second year that RRT has supported these two restoration sites.

Other QE2 restoration sites that received plants from RRT in 2024 include: **Te Muriwai o Te Whiti QE2** (68 plants); **Ray Labone's QE2** river corridor site (146 plants); and **Hidden Lakes QE2** (244 plants). The Trustees also returned to **Percy Reserve** for a second year, planting 69 native trees and shrubs on a riparian margin of the Ruamahanga River close to Masterton.

Several sites received plants thanks to input from schools, including **Waihenga QE2** (252 plants); **Mangatete wetlands** (227 plants); **Hughes Line Wetland** (156 plants); **Donald's Creek** (300 plants); Solway Showgrounds (150 plants); and **Ruamahanga Farm** (100 plants),



SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER

'As our long-term signature project, SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER continued to expand its reach and effectiveness throughout the school year.

In 2024, the Trust supported 23 local schools either with native plants, field trip funding support, seed propagation kits, planting classes, Noticing Nature workshops, or trapping materials and workshops.

RESTORATION PLANTINGS

Chanel College received 430 plants for the Kuripuni Stream, which has its headwaters at the Millennium Reserve. The stream flows through urban areas, including Chanel College and Masterton Intermediate School.

Chanel College recruited 120 ākonga and keen teachers to first clear away the rubbish and weeds followed by the planting of carex secta grasses along the stream bank.

Kahutara School received 227 plants for the Mangatete Wetland and a further 60 trees for Rod and Jane Riddiford's Reo o te Wai project, which saw the students return to Waihenga Bush, where our planting advisor Trevor Thompson demonstrated how to plant trees and instruct students on the various species.

The Trust also supplied Jane Riddiford's Ruamahanga Farm with 100 native trees planted by **Martinborough School** students.



Restoring the stream and pulling out all these weeds is great fun, I wish we could spend more time doing it.

Jack Carson, Year 9
Chanel College





St. Teresa's School Years 5-8 students received 300 carex secta and sedges for restoration work along Donald's Creek. Replanting and monitoring this stream has been a project of St Teresa's School for a number of years, dating all the way back to 2016.

As well as planting at the site, our students regularly study the aquatic life that inhabits this stretch of stream, and how it changes with the seasons. They have discovered many macroinvertebrates, bullies, kōura, and eels, and have even once found an inanga! Preserving this life, particularly at the height of summer, as well as encouraging greater biodiversity at the section, are the aims and priorities for these students.

Liz Stark
Teacher
St. Teresa's School

Fernridge School received 250 plants for planting between native bush and a bike track on the school grounds, while **Masterton Intermediate School** continued their hard work restoring sections of the Kuripuni Stream, which also flows through their school grounds.

St. Mary's, in collaboration with Parkvale Catchment Charitable Trust, received 156 plants for a restoration planting along Hughes Line, while **Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Wairarapa** marked Matariki by planting 101 trees in their recently created school forest site.



Students from **Solway School** and **Solway College** together received 150 plants that were planted around Conservation Week within the Solway Showground QE2 covenant. As with all plantings, Trevor Thompson was on hand to advise what to plant, and where.

Lakeview School continued on from their previous year's planting working to fill an area beyond the school fence within the Henley Lake Reserve, putting in a total of 335 plants.

Students from **St. Matthews Collegiate** and **Rathkeale College** together planted 134 native plants in and around their campus, **Dalefield School** placed 34 plants along their fence line, and **Kuranui College** students planted **250** plants alongside their school stream.

In total, the Trust distributed **2,600 plants to 15 schools**. All sites were inspected in advance by our planting advisor Trevor Thompson, who also advised each of the schools what to plant and where.

Receiving the plants is one thing but taking good care of them is another. For this reason, our Education Lead, Karin Stillberg, has prepared planting advice materials for the students and teachers, covering how to plant, how to manage weed control, and how to ensure adequate watering over the summer months. It is not our intention to inundate the schools with plants they cannot take care of. A high level of need, commitment and responsibility has to be evident to ensure not only the success of these plantings but also our ongoing support.



Karin Stillberg from Ruamahanga Restoration Trust came to check out our school farm. We had a cool conversation around what we can achieve with our small section of land in terms of restoration. Karin was quick to organise some lovely natives for us to plant on one side of our stream. They look wonderful and we look forward to seeing them grow.

Annemieke van Vliet
Kuranui College

“Our school was on the hunt for an opportunity for our senior students to contribute to the wider community through active service. After a bit of ringing around we contacted Karin to see if there was a local project we could help with. She suggested taking more of an in-house approach, so we met at our school and had a walk around with a new eye, discovering a waste area ripe for regeneration. This became our Yr 5 and 6 Community Project and the students loved the idea especially as it ran alongside our beloved bike track. Karin and the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust worked with us to draw a garden plan and make planting recommendations to create a new play and learning space in our environment, Karin came in for a session with each of our 3 classes talking through various native plants and how to plant them in preparation for our big day.

We so appreciate the support of the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust and the difference their skill, expertise and plants have and will make to our community. Sometimes it just takes a look through a different lens to see what we have right in front of us!”

Paula Sala

Enviro Lead Teacher
Fernridge School



OUTDOOR LEARNING KITS

In 2024, the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust added Seed Propagation Kits to the list of outdoor learning materials and resources already funded and supported in collaboration either with House of Science, Enviroschools Wairarapa or Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre,

Support and funding of these resources allows schools to save on costs and provides students with access to fun, practical, materials that stimulates their curiosity and engagement for outdoor learning.



WATER ANALYSIS

IN COLLABORATION WITH **HOUSE OF SCIENCE WAIRARAPA** ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP OF A WATER ANALYSIS TESTING KIT SHARED BETWEEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE WAIRARAPA



TRACKING & TRAPPING KITS

IN COLLABORATION WITH **PŪKAHA NATIONAL WILDLIFE CENTRE** TO HELP ENGAGE STUDENTS IN TRAPPING ACTIVITIES AND DATA COLLECTION



NOTICING NATURE KITS

IN COLLABORATION WITH **PŪKAHA NATIONAL WILDLIFE CENTRE, ENVIROSCHOOLS WAIRARAPA** THESE KITS ARE VALUABLE LEARNING AIDS THAT HELP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS LEARN ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD



SEED PROPAGATION KITS

INCLUDES 5 PROPAGATION TRAYS, SEED-RAISING POTTING MIX, DRAINAGE GRAVEL AND HOW-TO INFORMATION ABOUT RAISING PLANTS FROM SEED.

1. TRACKING & TRAPPING KITS & WORKSHOPS

SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER supports a Predator Free education program.

First launched by the Trust in 2020 as a packaged kit available for distribution to any school that wanted it, the initiative is now run in collaboration with **Enviroschools Wairarapa** and the **Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre** as part of a comprehensive outdoor learning resource.

Enviroschools works with schools to empower young people to be part of creating sustainable communities through workshops and educational learning materials, while the team at Pūkaha contributes the expertise and experience around tracking and trapping. The Ruamahanga Restoration Trust provides additional hands-on instructional support along with the much-needed funding of traps and tracking technology.

27 schools now have tracking and trapping equipment and all have traps and other materials topped up on an as-need basis.

In 2024, Enviroschools Wairarapa and Pūkaha arranged **three multi-school workshops** involving 12 schools and 73 students, plus **two online workshops** attended by students from 7 schools.



2. NOTICING NATURE KITS

Two workshops were run in 2024 together with Enviroschools Wairarapa and Pūkaha,

In the first workshop, Kura o Paetūmokai Featherston School, St Teresa's School, and Fernridge School enrolled 18 students and received the kit and folders with information about bird monitoring, bugs, lizards, nectar calendar etc.

The second workshop was held at St Patrick's School and included students from St Patrick's, Ōpaki, Wainuioru, and the Garden School (homeschooling), with 18 students attending.

Each kit includes a wide range of materials donated by the Trust, for which there is no charge or cost to the schools, and no sponsorship attached. Materials are replaced on an as-need basis and more items will be added soon,



2. SEED PROPAGATION KITS

In 2024 the Trust distributed the first delivery of seed propagation kits prepared by Norfolk Nursery. Ōpaki, Featherston, St. Teresa's, and Chanel College were among the first schools to receive the kits. At a cost of \$155 each, the seed kits include five seed-raising trays, one bag of potting mix, one bucket of Pea-metal for drainage, plus some How-To materials.

4. WATER ANALYSIS

The Trust continued its sponsorship of the Water Analysis Kit by the **House of Science**. The Trustees support this kit because it aligns with our values and goal to help educate youth about the importance of protecting our water resources and ensuring a long-term sustainable supply of clean water.

In 2024, the Water Analysis Kit was used for a total duration of **14 school weeks** by five different schools from the Tararua, Masterton, and South Wairarapa areas.

In addition to sponsoring the Water Analysis Kit, the trust will also sponsor a new 'Forest Health' kit, which introduces students to New Zealand's native forests and the unique flora and fauna. Students also get the opportunity to dissect, dry and store seeds and discuss the importance of seeds in the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems.



This is a great kit and worked perfectly in the unit we were looking into for this term. The children were really excited whenever we carried out any experiments and this inspired fantastic writing. The prompt questions really helped my young ones 'discover' the learning on their own. They could make sense of why things happened and even at the end of the term when we reflected on all the resources/experiments the children could remember all of them and the learning.

Pongaroa School

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

In 2024, the Trust funded five Overnight Experience Trips to the Pūkaha National Wildlife Education Centre, including two for **Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Wairarapa** and one for the **Puāwai Pūrau Academy**.

“Thank you to Ruamahanga Restoration Trust and the team that organises and honours the schools so that we were able to attend the Pūkaha Overnight Experiences. All these situations are surprising to us as teachers at the school and to the children.”

Bubba Casha
Teacher

*Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o
Wairarapa*

“When kids come here and they see things they haven't seen before it builds a lot of excitement and sparks a passion, and I think that is the start of something pretty cool. It makes them want to come back, make a difference, and protect those species.”

Nadia McRae

Conservation Educator

Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre





Students from **Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Wairarapa** school also shared their experience on video produced by the Trust, which notched up over 6,200 views on Facebook. The video underscores the opportunity for youth to be inspired by outdoor learning thanks to their experience exploring the outdoors and staying overnight at places like **Te Whare Taiao o Manukura** in the heart of ngahere.

The Ruamahanga Restoration Trust's SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER project helps fund field school trips like this one as a way to inspire local youth to experience the outdoors and to appreciate nature, mātauranga Māori, and the importance of protecting our biodiversity



The Trust also sponsored a one-week visit by **Ruud Kleinpaste** (a.k.a “The Bugman”) during which time he visited five schools taking students outdoors in search of insects and other unique fauna including *Latia neritoides* (a bioluminescent and highly phosphorescent native snail), *Peripatus* (velvet worms), and native slugs.

UNDERSTANDING NATURE - VIDEO SERIES

Following the launch of the short video series in 2023, the Trust produced two more 'Understanding Nature' videos in 2024, interviewing students from **Ōpaki School** and **Wairarapa College**. This long-term project that provides youth with a voice to express their views and understanding of the environment and what they know about climate change.

The Ruamahanga Restoration Trust outreach programmes, workshops, and partnerships with local schools and organisations have been instrumental in raising awareness about the importance of environmental stewardship and empowering individuals to take action.

The Understanding Nature documentary provides an exciting opportunity for Wairarapa College students to express their views on local issues and advocate for climate change action. The students would also benefit from collaborating with others to apply their school learning to a real world issue..

Matt White
Principal Tumuaki
Wairarapa College



CONSERVATION AWARDS

The Trust issued 17 hand-signed Conservation Award for Environmental Leadership certificates in 2024. The certificates are awarded to students who “best demonstrate principles of kaitiakitanga and leadership skills in environmental conservation, restoration, or innovation within their school and community”.



Twenty hand-made ceramic trophies were commissioned by the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust and designed and kiln-fired by local artist, Sam Ludden.



Toitū te marae o Tāne, Toitū te marae o Tangaroa, Toitū te tangata. If the forest and the ocean are strong, so too are the people.



OUR SCHOOL CATCHMENT ...

In 2024, the Trust continued to support the local education sector with all **29 schools** now involved in some form with the SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER project.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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. Martinborough School |
| 6. South End School | 22. Dalefield School |
| 7. Kahutara School | 23. Hadlow Primary |
| 8. Te Kura Kaupapa o Wairarapa | 24. Masterton Primary |
| 9. Mākoura College | 25. Lakeview School |
| 10. Wairarapa College | 26. St Mary's |
| 11. Chanel College | 27. Pirinoa School |
| 12. Solway Primary | 28. St. Teresa's |
| 13. Solway College | 29. St. Patricks |
| 14. Kuranui College | |
| 15. St Matthews Collegiate | |
| 16. Featherston School | |

“Ruamahanga Restoration Trust have been great supporters of House of Science Wairarapa for the past four years through the sponsorship of our Water Analysis Te Wai science kit. This Water Analysis kit is used by primary and intermediate schools from the Tararua, Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa Districts to assess the health of their local waterway and teaching students the importance and the variety of factors that affect it. The continued support of RRT has allowed many of these schools to track changes in their waterway over time to see whether its health is improving or declining.”

Amanda Taylor
House of Science



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

MAURICEVILLE



KAHUTARA



TE KURA KAUAPAPA O WAIRARAPA



SOLWAY PRIMARY



CARTERTON EARTH SCHOOL



DOUGLAS PARK



SOLWAY COLLEGE



CHANEL COLLEGE



ST MATTHEWS COLLEGIATE



KURANUI COLLEGE



ŌPAKI SCHOOL



GLADSTONE PRIMARY



WAIRARAPA COLLEGE



RATHKEALE COLLEGE



CARTERTON SCHOOL



MĀKOURA COLLEGE



FEATHERSTON SCHOOL



FERNRIDGE



GREYTOWN SCHOOL



ST MARY'S



PIRINOA SCHOOL



MARTINBOROUGH



HADLOW SCHOOL



DALEFIELD



PROJECT PLAN: 2025

The Trust continues to believe that positive change and good results occur through collaboration and engagement with schools, rural landowners, like-minded educators, local iwi, and conservation-based organisations.

1. SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER: 2025

As a signature project, SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER is now firmly established but it also relies on the generous and continued support of our funding partners and donors.

Karin Stillberg's involvement as our **Environmental Education Lead** is key to the project's reach, effectiveness, and growth. This can equally be said of the advice the schools receive from our **Planting & Restoration Advisor**, Trevor Thompson.



2. RESTORATION PLANTINGS: 2025

Our restoration plantings in 2025 will continue to help local schools rewild their own school grounds or support off-site restoration. In addition, the Trust will continue to support landowners with the rewilding and restoration of QE2 covenants and other forest remnant blocks deemed worthy of conservation.

Our 2025 Plan for **SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER** includes:

Brochure

Production of a trifold brochure to introduce schools to what support we can provide, mainly focusing on planting at school and/or off-site. The brochure will also include info about planting/ecosystem class sessions, and the kits and workshops we support/fund.

Planting Info Sheet

A how-to guide for teachers and school ground-staff about planting techniques and aftercare. This aims to avoid unnecessary loss and damage to the plants that we provide.

Rewilding schools

Working together with Enviroschools to support schools to develop a vision for their school grounds on how to incorporate more wild areas for play and restoration. Once a vision has been created Trevor Thompson will then advise on appropriate plant species for the different areas.

Off-site restoration

Working together with Trevor Thompson and community/catchment groups to identify public reserves and other wetland areas that need restoration plantings, and then supporting schools to get there to help restore the mauri of the awa and ngahere.

Biodiversity and Planting Sessions

Continue to deliver class sessions focused on biodiversity, ecosystems, restoration, and proper planting techniques.

Restoring the health of the Chanel College school stream provides invaluable educational opportunities for students to learn about ecology, biology, and environmental stewardship. Ultimately, investing in the restoration of our school stream not only benefits the local ecosystems but also empowers students to become informed and proactive environmental citizens.

Giuseppe Cugliari, Teacher
Chanel College

RESTORATION PLANTINGS 2025 CONTINUED

Our 2025 Plan for restoration plantings includes a new project working-titled as the **RUAMAHANGA UPPER REACHES PLAN**.

The Upper Reaches Plan is in line with our vision to create and protect resilient conservation zones along the Ruamahanga River.

In the immediate to short term, the goal is to kickstart a planned program of predator control, ecological weed control, and restoration plantings on a number of QE2 blocks and forest remnant sites along the Ruamahanga River extending from Mt Bruce down towards Rathkeale College; repairing canopy gaps, creating edge vegetation, allowing native plants to have a secure seed production base, and reintroducing plant species that play an important role in the area's ecosystem.

Stage One Tasks for 2025

1. Set trap lines to kill and collect data possums, stoats, weasels, wild cats etc.
2. Use trail cameras and an audio detector to survey and record presence of birdlife etc.,
3. Evaluate the need for deer and possum control on a case-by-case basis.
4. Undertake "sensible and cost effective" restoration plantings in manageable stages
5. Protect, check and maintain plantings, including weed control.
6. Record data

A total of six key sites have been identified, with permission and access obtained from the property owners. The environmental team from Greater Wellington will also be informed and involved whenever possible. Local iwi have also been invited to participate.



Stage One Requirements

- Part-time role to undertake Weed Control, Trapping, Recordings, & Maintenance
- Part-time role to advise on weed control, plantings etc.
- Predator traps & baits etc.
- Bird call recorder/bat detector
- Trail camera with bird call monitor function
- Basic safety gear, weed control equipment etc.
- Funding support for all of the above



Our restoration work in 2025 will include planting 1000 trees donated from **Trees That Count** on a QE2 covenant located at 'Hidden Lakes' on the Upper Reaches of the Ruamahanga River.



3. OUTDOOR LEARNING KITS: 2025

The Trust continues to see the value and benefit of investing in outdoor learning resources and materials for students and teachers: supporting schools and helping students to better understand and appreciate biodiversity and value of their natural world,

In line with our collaborative efforts, the Trust will continue or initiate the following as part of our contribution to SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER.

1. Tracking & Trapping Kit Equipment

In collaboration with Enviroschools and Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre

Traps and accessories to order in 2025 include:

- 200 x ink cards from Gotcha Traps
- 5 x Flipping Timmy (possum trap)
- 5 x DOC200 traps
- 40 x D-rats (in wooden box)
- 200 x chew cards, pre-filled with synthetic bait

In addition, two **workshops** will be delivered in term 1 followed by others throughout the school year.



OUTDOOR LEARNING KITS: 2025 CONTINUED

2. Noticing Nature Kits

In collaboration with Enviroschools Wairarapa

Continue to add to and restock the kits, including the use of trail cameras and a birdlife audio recorder. Advertise kits through social media and feature them in the SBOR brochure.

In addition, **two workshops** will be delivered in Term 2 possibly followed by others later in the school year.

3. House of Science Kits

In collaboration with the House of Science

In addition to our annual sponsorship of one **Water Analysis Kit** the Trust has agreed to sponsor a new **Forest Health Kit**, which introduces students to New Zealand's native forests and the unique plant and animal life found within them. Students also get the opportunity to dissect, clean, dry and store seeds and discuss the importance of seeds in the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems.

Annual sponsorship of the House of Science kits costs the Trust **\$2500 each**. Each kit is distributed with the Trust's name and logo on all materials.



4. Seed Propagation Kits

The Trust will continue to offer and distribute Seed Propagation Kits to local schools who request and are interest in receiving one. In addition, each school will receive instructions on how to use the kits and maintain the seedlings.

5. Stream Exploration Kits

The Trust will introduce another new kit this year as an optional addition when schools borrow the Water Test kits from Greater Wellington Regional Council. These new kits will include a vinyl print of the Freshwater Life of Aotearoa Poster; a Whakaoriori awa map also printed on vinyl/banner material; and eDNA kit/s from WilderLab with info/instructions about what eDNA is and how to measure and record the results, as well as their eRangers card game.

TE RURUHAU O HINETEARORANGI CONSERVATION WEEK EVENT (2024)



The stream walk was definitely a standout! It really connected the event to the local environment and allowed people to engage in a meaningful way. There was also a great turnout with lots of positive energy from both the vendors and visitors.

Overall, the event was really well-organised. I loved how it combined a market feel with a deeper connection to the local environment, thanks to the interactive activities and participation from everyone.

Kara Kenny

Mountains to Sea Wellington



4. SPECIAL EVENT DAYS

The Trust will continue to offer support towards community and student-level participation in special event days such as World Wetlands Day, Arbour Day, and World Environment Day, etc.

Following the success of our first **Te Ruruhau o Hineteaorangi Conservation Week event** in 2024, the Trust will continue with a similar approach in 2025, inviting stallholders and hosting forest walks and interactive sessions with the many visitors. The aim being to help connect the community with the greenspaces in their local area and to explore the green belt that runs through Whakaoriori/Masterton.



5. OUTDOOR LEARNING FIELD TRIPS

Subject to successful grant funding, the Trust will continue to support **Overnight Experience** field trips to the Outdoor Learning Centre at **Pūkaha**.

Further funding will be sourced to help support school trips to the Wairarapa Moana wetlands, Hidden Lakes, and other areas of conservation value. Some of these trips will be in collaboration with **Joe Potangaroa** whom the trust has assigned as an iwi advisor and mātauranga educator to accompany students to special environmental sites of interest.

Joe Potangaroa has been commissioned by the Trust to produce a climate change section in his field study workbook, looking at the issue from a mātauranga perspective. This will form the basis of any class field trips that Joe will undertake for **SCHOOLS BEHIND OUR RIVER**.

The Trust will continue to sponsor well-known conservationist and outdoor educator **Ruud Kleinpaste** to visit schools and conduct field trips over the course of one week.

Further funding support is needed to help support all these worthwhile initiatives.



Students from the Puāwai Pūrau Academy

6. COLLABORATION

The Trustee acknowledge that we are stronger when we work together with others.

Our collaboration partnerships and community engagement includes engagement with many of the following:

- Enviroschools Wairarapa
- Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre
- Ruamāhanga Farm Foundation
- Queen Elizabeth II National Trust
- House of Science
- Potangaroa Education
- Ruud Kleinpaste
- Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
- Sam Ludden
- Mountains To Sea
- Wairarapa Pūkaha to Kawakawa (WaiP2K)
- Wairarapa Catchment Collective
- Rangitāne o Wairarapa
- Forest & Bird
- Sustainable Wairarapa
- Norfolk Nursery
- Te Koru Kai
- Predator Free Masterton
- Waiawa Botanicals

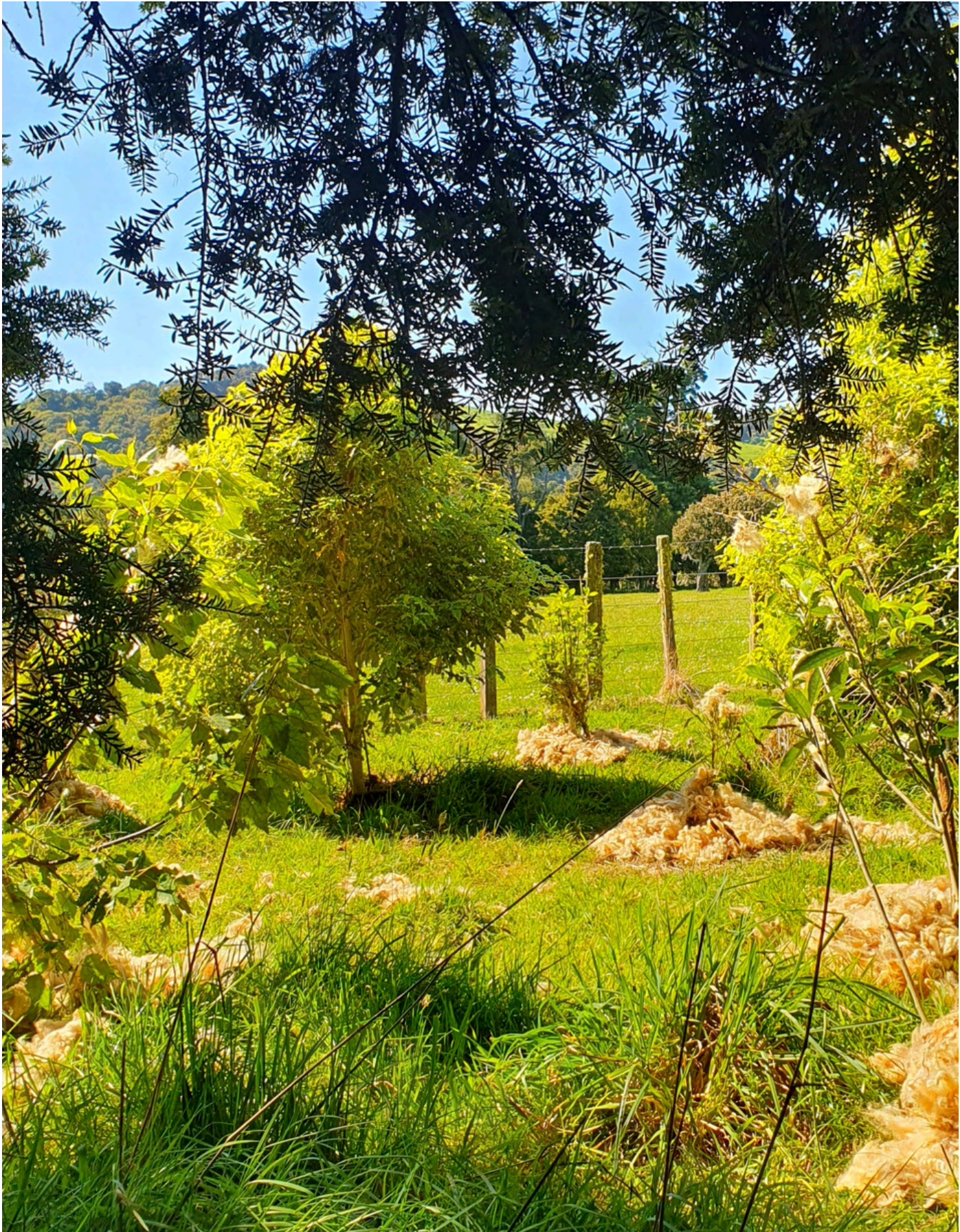


7. CONSERVATION AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

The Trust will continue to raise awareness around why we created the Conservation Award Trophy and how it will benefit youth in the medium to long-term.

The intention is to inspire primary and secondary students around workable goals and activities, both curricular and non-curricular. Teachers can propose practical solutions that engage students and equip them with the knowledge required for sharing their know-how and enthusiasm with other students, inspiring career paths and engagement as volunteers within the local community, and to become long-term advocates for the continued work and goals of the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust.





8. DIALOGUE SERIES

The Dialogue Series of public lectures aims to invite high profile experts to address local audiences and invite discussion around educational topics that relate to the environment, climate science, sustainable farming, and water management. The Trust aims to host at least two more Dialogue Series of lectures in 2025.



DIALOGUE SERIES

With **JAMES RENWICK**

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE



**“Is the future parched? Or will we drown?
What does **climate change** hold in store for the Wairarapa?”**

Professor Renwick CRSNZ has studied the climate system for over 30 years and has come to understand how big a threat climate change is to humanity. Every country is affected. This presentation will describe how climate change is currently affecting the Wairarapa and New Zealand, and what the future might have in store, depending on how quickly we reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. There will be plenty of time for discussion, so bring along your observations and your questions.

MONDAY
29 JULY 2024 7:00 PM

ST MATTHEW'S COLLEGIATE AUDITORIUM
33 POWNALL STREET MASTERTON

FOR BOOKINGS RSVP
INFO@RRTRUST.ORG.NZ

SPECIAL THANKS

Eastern & Central
Community Trust

MASTERTON TRUST HOUSE FOUNDATION

TRINITY SCHOOLS TRUST



DIALOGUE SERIES

With **DR ALISON DEWES & JOHN BURKE**

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE



FARMERS TAKING ACTION:

Alison Dewes: Catchment Groups, Councils, and Working Together Better
John Burke: Environmental plans, Landscape Mapping, Funding, and Low-cost Native Planting

Discussion points include: strategies to improve the efficiency of funding to landowners by Central and Local Government; the need for implementing land environmental plans, overcoming frustrations & barriers; the role of Regional Councils; Pukekauri farm's 25-year land environmental plan journey; the economics of farming red zone marginal pastoral land; low-cost native planting using the Timata method; what landowners need to get started ... and much more.

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2024 4~6PM

ADMISSION FREE Includes Q&A discussion

FOR BOOKINGS RSVP
INFO@RRTRUST.ORG.NZ

33 POWNALL STREET MASTERTON
ST MATTHEW'S COLLEGIATE AUDITORIUM

SPECIAL THANKS

Eastern & Central
Community Trust

TRINITY SCHOOLS TRUST

9. YOUTUBE VIDEO SERIES

In 2025, the Trust will continue to produce short educational videos based on some of our activities and opportunities with invited guests. Our **Understanding of Nature** video series will continue to feature primary and secondary students talking openly about their understanding of the environment and whether or not they are impacted or concerned about climate change, and what it could mean to them in their future.

Subject to available funding, the Trust will also produce additional videos based on field trip activities and/or interviews with our **Dialogue Series** guests.



Wow. That is just beautiful! The editing is brilliant, the lighting for my interview works so well, and you've even made me sound coherent! I will put a link on my Victoria University of Wellington web page, and let the comms people know about it.

Thank you and your team so much, I am totally impressed.

Professor James Renwick, CRSNZ
Climate Scientist

The trees are all in place and they look great. A huge thank you for this, we are very grateful and think it's pretty special what you and your friends are doing. We look forward to seeing them grow into the future.

Henry Bell
Landowner
'Hidden Lakes'



The trees gifted by the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust have been a welcome addition to the restoration work undertaken by the owners of Te Muriwai o Te Whiti. It is so important to provide a native habitat for our birds and geckos and weta to thrive. A big thanks to the Trust.

Tim Byrne
Landowner
'Te Muriwai o Te Whiti'

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA : 2024

The Trust continues to use social media to help spread messaging to a wider audience and in 2024 a YouTube Channel was created to host our original video content.

TWITTER X

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024
FOLLOWERS 147



FACEBOOK

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024 VIEWS 16.600
REACH 15,300 VISITS 2,500 FOLLOWERS 643



INSTAGRAM

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024
FOLLOWERS 3051



YOUTUBE

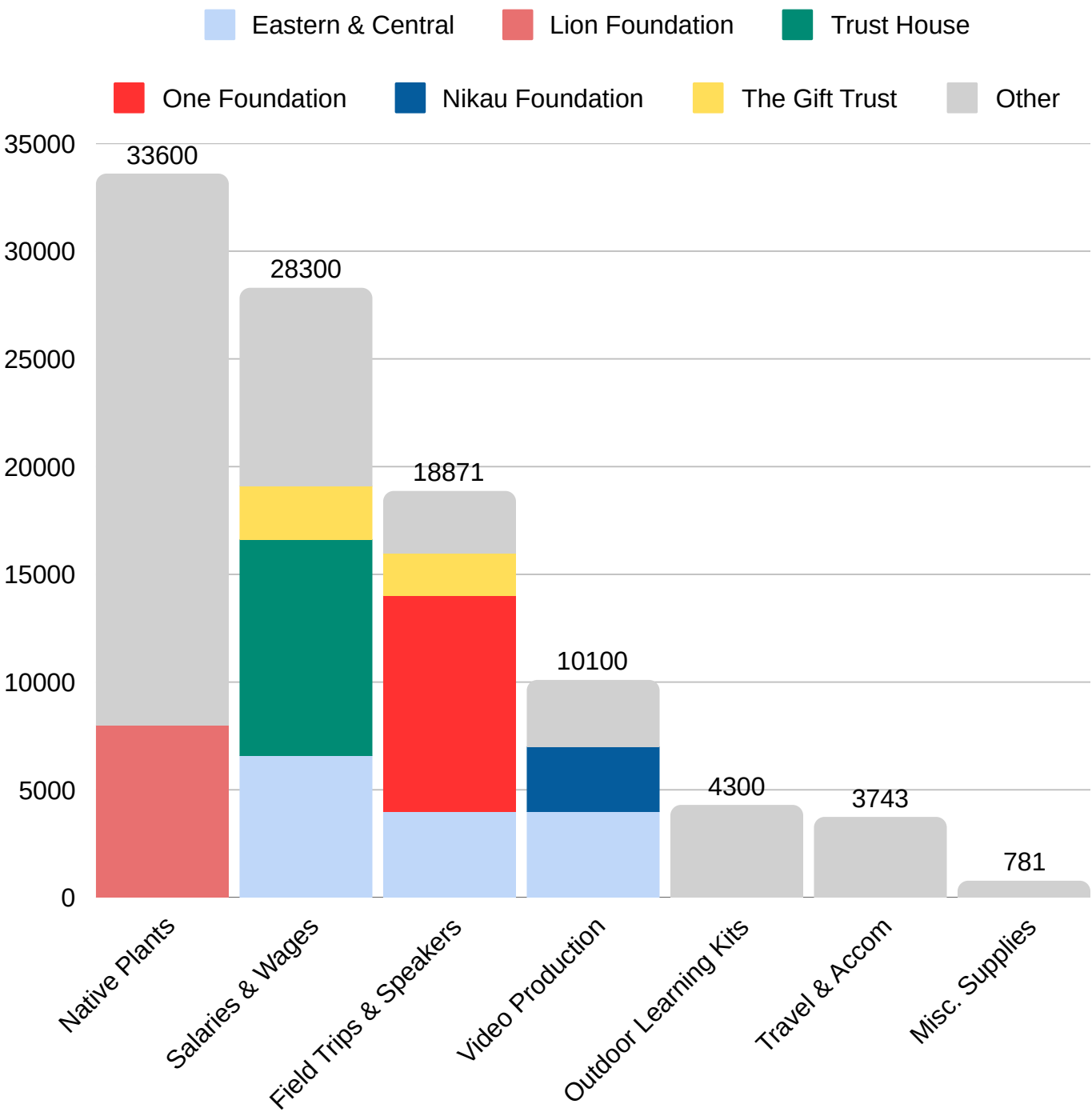
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024
VIEWS 610 WATCH TIME 40.9 HOURS
SUBSCRIBERS 12



2024 FUNDING IMPACT

The following chart indicates the source and allocation of funding for the 2024 school calendar year. The figures are not representative of the financial year 2023-2024. Financial statements are available on the Charities website.

Includes funds rolled over from 2023 financial year and excludes some grant funds received late 2024 earmarked for expenditure in 2025.



2025 AND BEYOND

The Ruamahanga Restoration Trust will continue to develop working relationships with Greater Wellington Regional Council, DOC, and rural landowners with the aim to establish a network of restoration plantings along the Ruamahanga River, thereby encouraging the regrowth of 'biodiversity corridors' linking 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 productive benefits to the wider farming community and all those that live within the catchment.

In 2025, the trustees also hope to raise greater awareness about the need for clean water and water management and how the trust as a registered charity can possibly help.

Key to all of our goals and vision will be our engagement and partnership with local iwi and other collaborative partners.

The Trustees are forever grateful for the faith and trust shown by supportive community funders and other benefactors who have kindly contributed towards our aims and purpose.





**RUAMAHANGA
RESTORATION TRUST**

TRUSTEES

Michael Birch
Campbell McLean
Christopher Morrison MNZM

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION LEAD

Karin Stillberg

RESTORATION CONSULTANT

Trevor Thompson

ADVISORY TEAM

Grant Harper
Bruce Logan
Chris Moller

SUPPORTING PARTNERS 2024

Masterton Trust House
Nikau Foundation
Eastern & Central Community Trust
One Foundation
Lloyd Morrison Trust
The Gift Trust
Tai Shan Foundation
Lion Foundation
Greater Wellington Regional Council
Trees That Count
Gibson Sheat Lawyers
Forest Protectors
Windrush Design
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