



Lower Mangapiko Stream Care Group 2016



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This is the latest project in the on-going restoration of the lower Mangapiko Stream between Te Awamutu and Pirongia.

This project represents a continuation of the very successful community led project involving the Lower Mangapiko Streamcare Group, local landowners, agencies and industry who live along the Mangapiko stream downstream of Te Awamutu. The Lower Mangapiko stream runs between the townships of Pirongia and Te Awamutu. In 2016 the group alongside Waikato Regional Council and with the support from Waikato River Authority, Grassroots Trust and the local landowners plan to undertake 1650m of new fencing with minimum 5m setbacks from the Mangapiko Stream and 1.7ha of native planting which will see 7,100 native plants in the ground.

The work will be undertaken on two properties adjacent to each other which cover 1.2km of the Mangapiko Stream. WRA15-002

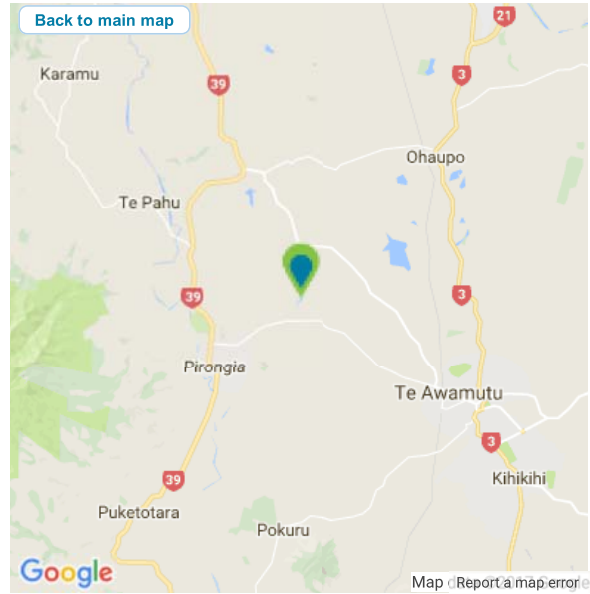
The reserve was purchased in 2001 from the farming owners who were keen to see this important remnant protected rather than felled. The kahikatea forest in the area has been gradually eroded, only 50ha remain in the Mangapu River valley, with over 70ha felled since 1975. As a result of negotiations, a neighbouring 20ha block on Maori lease land has also been fenced and protected, making the total protected area a significant proportion of the remaining forest.

The forest is in almost virgin condition with mature pole-stand kahikatea, some aged around 120 years. There are fine specimens of mature swamp maire, matai, titoki and pukatea. The ground cover is in excellent condition.

Bird numbers are significant, including tui, kereru and shining cuckoo and there is also a black shag rookery. Previous surveys have recorded the presence of freshwater clams/mussels, land snails, skinks and numerous native beetles.

Plant pests include willow, glyceria, privet and gorse on the margins. Kahikatea are particularly susceptible to poison so weed control needs to be handled very carefully. Fencing has been completed to exclude stock and goats.

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