

# KI UTA KI TAI

## HEALTHY CATCHMENT HEALTHY HARBOUR



### TĒNĀ KOUTOU!

*Ki uta ki tai* – mountains to the sea is our new catchphrase as we continue to work with your community on your harbour and catchment plan ([waikatoregion.govt.nz/tairua-hcmp](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/tairua-hcmp)).

With summer almost over, it's timely to do a stocktake of your backyard and check the health of the environment. Is it as you would like it? What more can we all do to help protect and preserve it?

In this newsletter, you will find information on work that has happened and is happening across the catchment.

Please take the time to read about our activities in your catchment. If you have any questions or comments, get in touch with one of the team. Our contact details are on the back page.

Ngā mihi,  
The Coromandel (WRC) Integrated Catchment Management team



**Tairua Environment Society has kindly volunteered to service the Graham's Creek and Pepe Inlet predator trap lines, set up by the regional council in 2015. This is great news because it allows us to expand our trapping network, knowing they are being looked after.**

## CATCHMENT WORK IN YOUR AREA

The work we do helps to deliver your community's vision of a healthy harbour, and means we can all access, enjoy and connect to our catchment and coastal environment. So, what is happening around the catchment?

**In July and August 2018, we completed the final stage of our consent to remove mature mangroves in Tairua Harbour beside the Oturu Channel and Tairua Cemetery.** We will monitor these sites for one year, as part of our consent requirements, to see how the natural environment is coping with the change. This includes monitoring tidal flows, sedimentation, and bird and fish life. The mangrove removal work is part of the wider Tairua Harbour restoration programme. We continue to get great support from the community on mangrove seedling removal days.

**A large-scale vegetation control operation** targeting large wattles and wilding pines along State Highway 25, south of Tairua near the harbour, has dramatically changed the scenery at some locations. Some industrious locals are also now well stocked with firewood.



Removal of wilding pines and wattles have opened up views along SH25, south of Tairua



## SUMMER WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Waikato Regional Council monitors a number of popular, open coast beaches during the summer months to assess the suitability of the water for recreation, such as swimming and surfing. The beaches are monitored weekly from November to March.

See [Waikatoregion.govt.nz/coastal-recreational-water-quality/tairua](https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/coastal-recreational-water-quality/tairua)

**River works, in the form of erosion protection**, happened in the Tairua catchment over summer, along Tairua River, Hikuai Stream and Onion Creek. This work focused on riparian planting and restoring biodiversity.

Erosion control also happened in the hills of the Tairua catchment, with the planting of poplars.



**A harbour scale ecological restoration plan** targeting threatened habitats around Tairua Harbour has been completed and builds on work already done around the harbour. We've looked at new opportunities for restoration and have started some of these.



The restoration plan for Hikuai Tī Kōuka Grove, a freshwater tī kōuka (cabbage tree) forest on the banks of Tairua River, is being updated. Within the tī kōuka forest, Australasian bittern, kākā and fernbird have either been seen or heard, and fantail is common. The next four years of restoration works (2019-2022) will concentrate on further animal pest management, weed management and revegetation.

## RIVER WORKS, STREAM PROTECTION, BUSH, STREAM AND WETLAND RESTORATION

In most cases, the cost of these projects are funded jointly by the council and landowners. If you're interested in carrying out work like this on your property, and to find out how we can assist, please contact the Whitianga area office on 07 866 0172 or freephone 0800 800 401.



## PĀUANUI TAIRUA TRAIL

The Hikuai District Trust has opened the first 4 kilometres of a cycleway and walking track between Pāuanui and Tairua. Users can now travel from the western end of Pāuanui Waterways to Awa Whio Whio (Duck Creek). The track will follow the banks of the scenic Tairua Estuary. The next stage of the track, from Duck Creek to Hikuai, is now underway.

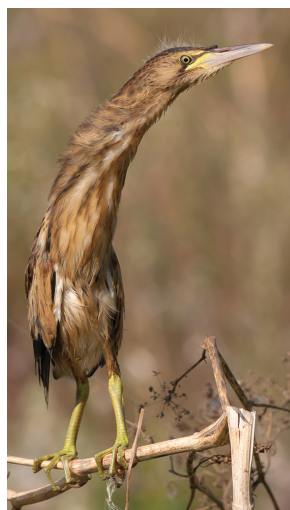


The trail starts at the western end of the Pāuanui Waterways development.



## WANT TO SPOT A BITTERN?

If the tide is out at Pepe Inlet, we reckon you have a 70 per cent chance (based on very unscientific analysis) of seeing bittern. Look carefully, and even check close to where you are standing. From what we hear, they are there more often than not.



## FORESTRY FIELD TRIP

Tairua Residents and Ratepayers were among community groups invited to visit Rayonier's Tairua forest. The field trip was jointly organised by Rayonier and the regional council, and gave people the opportunity to go into a pine plantation and ask questions about forestry processes. Rayonier regional manager Andy Warren first led a discussion in the Ōpoutere Hall before giving a guided tour of the forest. The trip ended with lunch beside Wharekawa Harbour.

## MARINE BIOSECURITY

Waikato Regional Council contracts divers to undertake marine pest surveillance work across the Coromandel, including Tairua Harbour. In October 2018, the dive team surveyed the Tairua marina and harbour moorings. The survey includes checking vessel hulls, mooring lines, wharf piles, marina pontoons, etc.

The good news was no marine pests were found. Your harbour remains marine pest free. Another survey will be done in April, after the busy summer boating season, to check for any new marine pest incursions.

You can help do your part by keeping your vessel hull clean.

Want to know more?

[Check out marinepests.nz](http://marinepests.nz)

## PREDATOR FREE VISION

A new report has been released by Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel Community Trust providing a snapshot of the scale and scope of community conservation projects across the peninsula.

The report highlights the work of over 57 community conservation groups and 600 volunteers who are protecting our special biodiversity in an area of almost 30,000 hectares.

The trust was established in October 2017 to support and promote community conservation groups in the Hauraki Coromandel within the national Predator Free programme.

Jude Hooson, chair of the trust, says the work provides vital insights into the scale of the work currently being undertaken, the needs of the groups, and what it will take to link and scale up current community group conservation effort for a predator free Hauraki Coromandel.

If you would like an electronic copy of this report or to get involved, please contact the trust at [info@pfhc.nz](mailto:info@pfhc.nz).



## COASTAL MONITORING

The regional council conducts various different types of monitoring around the Waikato region's coastal marine area to assess the state of the environment and for other purposes (e.g. assess the suitability of the water for contact recreation).

### ESTUARINE WATER QUALITY

We monitor water quality in Tairua Harbour every month to assess the suitability of the water for ecosystem health.

### REGIONAL ESTUARY MONITORING PROGRAMME

This monitoring programme uses intertidal sediment-dwelling organisms (such as shellfish and marine worms) and the characteristics of the sediment in which they occur as indicators of the state of monitored estuaries. We currently monitor Tairua Harbour and the Firth of Thames.

### HAURAKI GULF COMMUNITY SHELLFISH MONITORING

As part of the Hauraki Gulf Forum community shellfish monitoring project, we support annual shellfish monitoring in two Coromandel estuaries.

### SHORELINE CHANGE MONITORING

We collect beach profile data at over 60 sites on the eastern coastline of the Coromandel Peninsula. This monitoring programme has provided data on changes in the position of dunes at Coromandel beaches since 1979. Cameras in Tairua provide data on rip currents and shoreline change.

## OUR LOCAL TEAM, AND WAYS WE CAN HELP

<b>Navigation safety</b>	Moorings, safety on the water, jet ski registrations, concerns about others behaviour on the water.	<b>Stephen Wise</b> Harbourmaster
<b>Catchment management</b>	Restoring a wetland, stream or forest area? Want to reduce erosion, run off and improve water quality? Do you know there is financial assistance and we can draw up a programme of works specifically for you?	<b>Rob Corkill</b> Catchment management officer
<b>Rivers or flooding</b>	Eroding stream, in-stream blockages? Issues with vegetation choking a waterway? Our river staff can help.	<b>James Ferrier-Kerr</b> River management officer
<b>Pest plants</b>	Issues with pest plants? Not sure how to control a pesky weed? Just need some advice?	<b>Benson Lockhart</b> Biosecurity officer (pest plants)

Call 07 866 0172 and ask for:

Stephen Wise  
Harbourmaster

Rob Corkill  
Catchment management officer

James Ferrier-Kerr  
River management officer

Benson Lockhart  
Biosecurity officer (pest plants)