

## KI UTA KI TAI

## HEALTHY CATCHMENT, HEALTHY HARBOUR



### *Kia ora,*

Welcome to your first Whitianga/Mercury Bay catchment newsletter. This newsletter marks the beginning of the information gathering for your harbour and catchment management plan, which requires your input into its direction and actions.

We hope to see you at a drop-in session to learn more on Saturday, 3 November.

In the meantime, if you've got a wetland, bush or stream enhancement project in mind, or want to carry out river management or weed control on your property, find out what we can do to help. The Whitianga Integrated Catchment Management team is a wealth of information, and we also give financial help for restoration works, soil and stream management and animal and plant pest control.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Emily O'Donnell and Lynne Butler**

Harbour and Catchment Management, Whitianga  
07 866 0172

## WHAT IS HARBOUR AND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT?

For Waikato Regional Council, it's about the mountain ranges to the sea – identifying issues that relate to our land, water and communities, and developing a grassroots approach to remedy them. We recognise the need to consider social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes. Importantly, we like the work to be owned and driven by the community, for the community.

We already have plans for Wharekawa (Opoutere), Whangamatā, Tairua and Whangapoua (see [waikatoregion.govt.nz/hcmp](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/hcmp)). In those catchments, willow clearance along stream banks, riparian and forest fragment protection, wetland restoration, stream and flood management and coastal vegetation control (mangrove seedlings and saltwater paspalum) are jobs well underway.

It's now time to take a look at what we can do for the Whitianga/Mercury Bay catchment. We know your community wants a high standard of water quality, to reduce the amount of sedimentation entering the harbour, and not leave it to degrade.



## THE WHITIANGA/MERCURY BAY CATCHMENT

We are looking at an area wider than just the Whitianga Harbour catchment for this harbour and catchment plan. This plan will cover from Waitaia Bay to Sailors Grave, including the landward area, and Whitianga Harbour and Purangi Estuary.

The landward area is about 54,000 hectares and includes 198 kilometres of streams and rivers. It can be split into 11 sub-catchments: Wharekaho, Taputapuatea/Tarapatiki, Mahakirau/Kaimarama, Mill Creek, Waiwawa, Kapowai, Cook, Purangi, Wigmore, Whenuakite and Hotwater Beach.

Of the land use:

- 65 per cent is in indigenous vegetation
- 24 per cent is in pasture
- 8 per cent is in exotic vegetation (6 per cent in plantation forest)
- 51 per cent is classified as moderately steep to very steep (between 21 to >35 degrees)
- 33 per cent is in cattle, sheep and dairy farming.

Whitianga Harbour has about 74 kilometres of harbour margins, is about 1690 hectares in size and has about 141 kilometres of coastline.

## WHAT THIS WORK WILL COVER

Your information will help us and other agencies identify and prioritise specific works for the catchment. It will also help landowners and interest groups identify work they can do to help improve the environmental health of their catchment and harbour.

You and your community will determine the focus of this work. Things to look at include water quality, sedimentation, biodiversity, riparian vegetation, pest plants and animals, flood-prone areas and preserving local values.

It is important to note this is a non-statutory exercise and will not pre-empt the co-governance plan to be produced as a result of the Pare Hauraki Collective Treaty Settlement, nor change any existing consents that people hold.

## GATHERING AND SHARING INFORMATION

Collective wisdom, knowledge and experiences are crucial for developing this plan. We need to paint a picture of what this catchment was like, is like, and what we want it to look like in the next 50 years.

### There are various ways we will collect and share information:

- Drop-in sessions – on 3 November and again once we have collated the information.
- The Informer – in partnership with Stephan Bosman and his team, we will be keeping you up to date.
- Rural landowner workshops.
- Iwi partner workshop.
- Iwi partners, agencies and stakeholder workshop.
- Newsletters – more will come, and in them we'll be reporting on catchment condition surveys, our community survey (included with this newsletter), and what we have heard are the key themes and concerns for the Whitianga/Mercury Bay catchment.



## DROP-IN SESSIONS

We need to understand the priorities and challenges, in regards to the catchment, from your perspective. We are holding two drop-in sessions in Whitianga and Cooks Beach on Saturday, 3 November.

These sessions are not formal meetings, rather a chance for you to drop in and talk to our staff, share your knowledge, and let us know what you love about your environment, what concerns you, and what you think the priorities are.

If you can't make it to one of the drop-in sessions, please share your ideas by completing the survey/feedback form and mailing it freepost to the regional council by 9 November 2018.

### Whitianga

Whitianga Town Hall  
Monk St  
10am-midday  
Saturday, 3 November

### Cooks Beach

Cooks Beach Hall  
corner of Purangi Rd and Rees Ave  
2.30pm-4.30pm  
Saturday, 3 November

**We hope you can help us with this project and look forward to seeing you at one of our drop-in sessions.**


## OUR LOCAL TEAM, AND WAYS WE CAN HELP

**Call 07 866 0172 and ask for:**

<b>Whitianga Harbour and Catchment Plan</b>	The HCMP, its development, timeframes and getting involved.	Emily O'Donnell and Lynne Butler
<b>Navigation Safety</b>	Moorings, safety on the water, jet ski registrations, concerns about others' behaviour on the water.	Peter Head Harbourmaster
<b>Catchment Management</b>	Restoring a wetland, stream or forest area? Want to reduce erosion, run off and improve water quality? Did you know there is financial assistance, and we can draw up a programme of works specifically for you?	Rob Corkill and Elaine Iddon Catchment management officers
<b>Rivers or flooding</b>	Eroding stream, in-stream blockages? Issues with vegetation choking a waterway? Our river staff can help.	James Ferrier-Kerr River management officer
<b>Pest plants</b>	Issues with pest plants? Not sure how to control a pesky weed? Just need some advice?	Benson Lockhart Biosecurity officer (pest plants)

## WHITIANGA HARBOUR AND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FEEDBACK FORM

We are interested in gathering your views on this catchment and where it's heading. We would appreciate you completing this form and returning it to us by either of the following ways:

 **Freepost** Tear off the survey, fold, seal and pop in the post to be received by 9 November.

 **Online** [waikatoregion.govt.nz/whitiangaHCMP-feedback](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/whitiangaHCMP-feedback)

**1. What is your vision for this harbour and catchment?** (Think about how you want to see it in 10 years' time or in 20 years' time.)

**2. What do you value about this harbour and catchment?** (Think about what's really important to you about this area.)

**3. What do you think are the key environmental problems in this harbour and catchment that we should address?**  
(Think about issues now or in the future.)

**4. What do we need to do to address these issues?** (Think about what is practical and how these can be prioritised.)

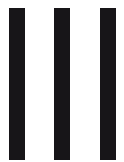
**5. What other thoughts do you have that could help with developing this plan?**

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEER WORK TO PROTECT THE CATCHMENT?

Please leave us your contact details so we can let you know about upcoming planting days, weed control and beach care.

<b>Name</b>			
<b>Address</b>			
<b>City/town</b>		<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Email address</b>		<b>Phone number</b>	

Freepost 118509



**ATTENTION:** J. Henry and D. Major, Social and Economic Science Team

Waikato Regional Council

Private Bag 3038

Waikato Mail Centre

Hamilton 3205