

# Upper Waipoua Kaitiaki Group

*We are working together to enhance our environment, our community and our economic stability.*

## Kia ora,

We trust this finds you and your property doing well and that the coming of Christmas does not feel too overwhelming.

2025 has been a significant year for the catchment committee and the catchment. We expect 2026 will prove to be another highlight year and this brief newsletter is to give you a heads up on some of the first things planned for the New Year.

### Sites of Significance Hikoi

 Saturday 21 February

A guided hikoi led by Joseph Potangaroa will take us through the Upper Waipoua and Wakamoekau catchments to explore and identify historic pā and kāinga sites, alongside settler and landowner stories.

### Catchment Walk

 Sunday 1 March

Following on from the 2025 exploration of the Mikimiki, we will be exploring areas of the Kiriwhakapapa including a trip up the hill on BJ's/Tim Campbell's farm with a view south across the Mikimiki valley.



[wairarapacc.nz/upper-waipoua](http://wairarapacc.nz/upper-waipoua)



Upper Waipoua Kaitiaki / Guardians



**Wairarapa Catchment Collective are hosting a sites of significance hīkoi with the Upper Waipoua and Wakamoekau Catchment Groups, led by Joseph Potangaroa, of Potangaroa Education.**

The overall theme of the hīkoi will be to identify a number of the twenty or more pā and kāinga. From Tawera, south along State Highway 2, west along Loopline, south along Paierau Road and finishing at Thistle Avenue, before returning to Mount Bruce Hall. Joe is also interested in settler and landowner stories as we go.

## Sites of Significance Hīkoi

- 📅 Saturday 21 February  
8.30am - 1.30pm
- 📍 Mount Bruce Hall  
1 Kiriwhakapapa Road
- ✉️ [mdwoodcock@gmail.com](mailto:mdwoodcock@gmail.com)

Tawera is the mountain opposite to Mt Bruce at Kotukutuku at the top of the Ruamāhanga Valley above where the Ruamāhanga River enters the valley from the Tararua Mountains. A term for the top or head of a valley is Te Kauru.

As transport (bus) will be provided so please RSVP for this one. Email your name and number of people who will attend to Woody at [mdwoodcock@gmail.com](mailto:mdwoodcock@gmail.com).

There is no cost and morning tea will be provided.



## Catchment Walk

- 📅 Sunday 1 March

In keeping with our kaupapa of exploring the waters of the Upper Waipoua, following on from the 2025 exploration of the Mikimiki, we will be exploring areas of the Kiriwhakapapa including a trip up the Hill on BJs/Tim Campbell's farm with a view south across the Mikimiki valley.

We will be sharing 4-wheel drive transport, so any offers are appreciated. RSVP to Woody on [mdwoodcock@gmail.com](mailto:mdwoodcock@gmail.com)

## Managing Pest Weeds and Trees

Regrettably our catchment has a number of significant and spreading pest plants and trees. These include pasture weeds and spreading domestic plants.

We are excited to be launching our pest plant pocket guide in the New Year, showing identification and means of control, with a free copy for each household in the catchment and for the enviro school pupils at Ōpaki school.

In conjunction with the release, we will be offering three hands on workshops on how to manage our current list of pest plants. Details TBC.

We appreciate Greater Wellington Regional Council for funding support for both the guide and the workshops, and to the Wairarapa Catchment Collective for their support and encouragement.



*From all the Upper Waipoua Catchment Kaitiaki Group committee, we wish you a great Christmas, a relaxing summer and a very happy new year!*

## COMMITTEE

**Jason Christensen (Chair)**  
jasonchristensen@xtra.co.nz

**Michael Woodcock (Coordinator)**  
mdwoodcock@gamil.com

**Gill Murray**  
gill.murray@xtra.co.nz

**Robin Murray**  
robin.murray@xtra.co.nz

**Julian Bateson**  
bateson.publish@xtra.co.nz

**Jazz O'Connor**  
jazzoconnor@outlook.co.nz