

Catchment Group Story

Wellington/Te Upoko-o-te-Ika | OCTOBER 2024

Upper Mangatarere Community Catchment Group

Mangatarere River Catchment, Wairarapa

Welcome to the Upper Mangatarere Community Catchment Group (UMCCG)! They're a collective of passionate landowners in the catchment dedicated to enhancing the environmental health of the Mangatarere River.

The Group's aims are:

- » monitoring freshwater quality, bats, and pest animals
- » implementing predator control
- » planting streamside and wetlands
- » restoring native biodiversity
- » connecting with local schools
- » facilitating community emergency response.

As a community, they aspire to extend their efforts through the Mangatarere Catchment, showcasing the river's quality upstream to inspire positive action downstream.

Supported by Wairarapa Catchment Collective (WCC), Greater Wellington, On Farm Support, and Mountains to Sea Wellington (MTSW).

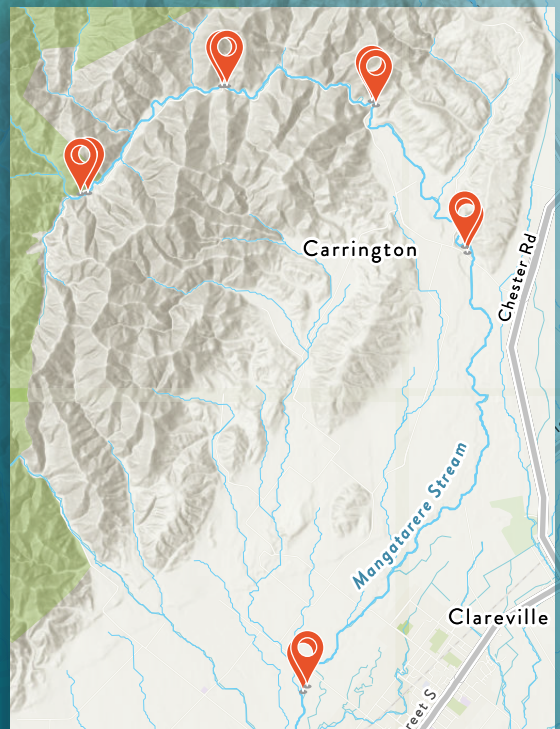




PHOTO CAPTIONS – **Front page:** 1. Large kōkoputuna/longfin eel in an oxbow wetland. **This page:** 2. eDNA sampling in the Mangatarere and Kapaitangata Rivers. **Page right:** 3, 4 & 5. UMCCG and Southend School working together to collect native seedlings for riparian restoration. **Back page:** 6. Working together to better understand the quality of the water – monitoring water clarity. 7. A beautiful sunny day to look for kōkoputuna. 8. Greater Wellington expert helps to identify a potential wetland restoration site.

Community Engagement & Monitoring Initiatives



Water Quality Monitoring – Mangatarere River

Over the past year, UMCCG has completed seasonal water quality monitoring at five locations along the Mangatarere River, from the forest park boundary down to Carterton's outskirts. They're also tapping into data from Greater Wellington, which monitors the Mangatarere's confluence with the Waiohine River. The aim is to understand how diverse land uses along the river might be impacting water quality. Among the next steps, the group plans to focus on riparian planting to increase shading over the stream, especially during the summer.

This past summer, they carried out macroinvertebrate sampling across all five sites, revealing excellent water quality in the river's upper reaches, where they found large stoneflies and mayflies – key indicators of a healthy stream ecosystem.



Species Monitoring Using eDNA – Kaipaitangata Stream & Mangatarere River

The group is also using eDNA technology to monitor species at two sites on the Mangatarere River and one on the Kaipaitangata Stream, a key tributary and the source of Carterton's drinking water supply. The Kaipaitangata area is of particular interest due to previous sightings of long-tailed bats, with short-tailed bats also having been known to roost nearby. The group plans to revisit these sites in summer, aiming to detect pest species as part of their predator control programme and to support ongoing bat monitoring efforts.



Pest Control

To boost native biodiversity, the group is developing a pest management strategy for the catchment. Their initial two-year plan involves monitoring pest populations in the first year, followed by targeted control measures in the second. Focus species include possums, feral cats, rats, mustelids, and goats, whose management is expected to create a more hospitable environment for native species.



Restoration Planting – Kaipaitangata Stream & Mangatarere River

Enhancing native biodiversity is central to the group's restoration vision for the catchment. They plan to collect local seedlings within the Mangatarere Valley to support restoration projects across the catchment area. Already, a roadside reserve has been planted with native species, and the long-term goal is to restore roadside corridors, riparian zones, and wetland ecosystems throughout the area.



Next Steps



Next steps will include the following:

- » **Collaborating with Mangatarere Restoration Society** – this group works in the flats before the Mangatarere reaches Carterton, focusing on awa restoration, enhancing the area around the wastewater plant, and being part of flood management decisions.
- » **Summer community event** – with multiple groups interested in the Mangatarere and nearby whenua, UMCCG seeks to connect these groups around a shared vision for the river's health. They'll host a whānau picnic day at a local wetland to start sharing ideas.
- » **Predator control programme** – supported by Greater Wellington and Wairarapa Catchment Collective, the aim is to reduce predator numbers to boost native biodiversity.
- » **Interpreting results and continuing monitoring.**
- » **Connecting with Southend School** – an intergenerational kaupapa, the group values involving tamariki. Southend School will join in water quality monitoring, seedling collection, restoration planting, signage, and pest tracking.
- » **Participating in long-tailed bat surveys** – in the foothills of the Mangatarere catchment area on private land under guidance of a qualified bat ecologist.



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To learn more about the Upper Mangatarere Community Catchment Group, or how 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai' is supporting them, please contact:

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