



A programme of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust

Proceedings of the Northland Freshwater Education and Information Hui, 16 April, 2009



Supported by

Hui Objectives

Through attending this hui participants:

- Know what **information** is available and from where;
- **Connect** with others involved in freshwater education and management;
- **Understand** the importance of sound freshwater management for Northland;
- Understand **the role of education** and awareness-raising in freshwater management;
- Learn about **what others are doing** and how it contributes to enhancing Northland's freshwater resources.
- **Discuss** and **relate to policy** (such as the Northland Regional Council's SOE indicators and the Clean Streams Accord report).

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Email	Favourite Freshwater Species
Kim Boyle	Whitebait Connection National Director, Mountains to Sea Conservation Trustee	kim@whitebaitconnection.co.nz	Woody Cased Caddis
Sioux Campbell	Chameleon Public Relations	chameleon.1@xtra.co.nz	NZ Bittern
Nicki Wakefield	Whitebait Connection Coordinator	nicki@whitebaitconnection.co.nz	Kewai
Meryl Carter	Waimarie Trust, Nga Whenua Rahui	merylcarter@xtra.co.nz	
Vince Kerr	DoC Northland Conservancy, Mountains To Sea Conservation Trustee	vincek@doc.govt.nz	Giant bully, eat up to 50 Gambusia in 1 hour
Taimania Toia	Nga Whenua Rahui		
Olivier Ball	NorthTec Senior Tutor	oball@northtec.ac.nz	<i>Tramea sp.</i>
Karen Clearwater	Royal Society Fellow at NorthTec	kclearwater@northtec.ac.nz	Black Mudfish
Mike Scarsbrook	Dairy NZ, Sustainability Team Leader	mike.scarsbrook@dairynz.co.nz	Giant Green Stonefly, <i>Stenoperla sp.</i>
Riaan Elliott	Northland Regional Council, SoE reporting	riaane@nrc.govt.nz	

Rowan Keys	Ngati Wai Trust	rmu@ngatiwai.iwi.nz	Whitebait
Doug Te Wake	DoC Kaitaia Area Office	dtewake@doc.govt.nz	Smoked Eels
Ross Lyons	Developer of Wet Feet resource	rosslyons@hotmail.com	
David Barry	Bream Bay Coastal Care Group, Forest & Bird		Mystery fish spotted one night, with iridescent flashes along side
Teresa Rudgley	NRC Enviroschools coordinator	Teresa.rudgley@nrc.govt.nz	
Susan Karols	NRC Environmental Coordinator	susank@nrc.govt.nz	
Natalie Glover	FNDC environmental sustainability coordinator	Natalie.glover@fndc.govt.nz	
Harirewa Watene	FNDC	Harirewa.watene@fndc.govt.nz	Smoked Mullet
Toby Kay	FNDC	Toby.kay@fndc.govt.nz	Pipi
Toni Daly	NorthTec Tutor	tdaly@northtec.ac.nz	Black Flounder
Jeremy Busck	Developing 15 acre stormwater polishing wetland, Onerahi	jeremy.busck@xtra.co.nz	Banded Rail
Susan Botting	NRC Kaiako Taiao	susanb@nrc.govt.nz	Trout, Inanga
Jamie Carey	WDC pollution prevention officer	jamiec@wdc.govt.nz	
Amy Macdonald	DoC Northland Conservancy	amacdonald@doc.govt.nz	Banded Kokopu
Johnathan Gibbard	NRC northland water and soil plan		Freshwater Cray
Lynnie Gibson	DoC Whangarei Area Office	lgibson@doc.govt.nz	Giant Kokopu
Margaret Hicks	Bream Bay Action Group		Freshwater Crayfish
Bev Woods	Forest & Bird	bevwoods@clear.net.nz	Whitebait
Liz Maire	DoC Warkworth Area Office, independent facilitator	lmaire@doc.govt.nz	Eels
Joanne Murray	Kaiako putaiao & taiao, Te Wharekura o Rawhitiroa	joanne@terawhitiroa.schoolzone.net	Kawai
Stella Clyde	Teacher, Otamatea High School	ssc@otamatea.school.nz	Eels

Proceedings

Welcome and introductions – Hui opened by facilitator Sioux Campbell, followed by one minute introductions from each participant (this included an icebreaker activity of naming your favourite freshwater species). Sioux provided a brief background on a previous freshwater education hui hosted by the Northland branch of the NZAEE in 2007.

With the exception of presentations 1 and 2, all others took the format of a key points presentation from an agency or group representative, followed by small group discussions facilitated by Vince Kerr, Liz Maire, Kim Boyle and Nicki Wakefield.

Presentation 1 – Action through education; the Whitebait Connection

Presenters Kim Boyle and Nicki Wakefield.

– Presentation available on request

Presentation 2 – Wet Feet Northland Launch

Presenters Ross Lyons and Doug Te Wake

- Presentation available on request

– see <http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/themes/wet-feet-investigating-fresh-water/>

- see www.learnz.org.nz for the up coming Wet Feet field trip.

Presentation 3 – State of the Environment reporting in Northland - key findings and drivers for change

Presenter Riaan Elliot.

- Presentation available on request.

Workshop session 1 – SoE reporting and us

Q1: How does the SoE report affect your organisation?

- Forms **decision making indicators** for policy makers (government and industry), to help understand cause and effect pathways eg for water quality, farm dairy effluent, earth works regulations, roading guidelines (heavy metals), sedimentation issues:
 - Current approaches to sedimentation
 - riparian planting
 - fencing off waterways.
- Determines mahinga kai (food gathering) practices:
 - ability to collect/gather
 - abundance
 - public health issues
 - monitoring indicator and baseline
 - results act as a trigger for caring for the environment, especially when cultural values affected.
- Shows where we are, where we want to be and how we can get there.
- Concrete researched resource for communities, students, general public.
- Establishes a base line for future decision making and response to community concerns.
- Evidence, rationale, background information etc for funding applications.
- Provides confirmation of some empirical observations.
- Provides a way of monitoring and checking that freshwater management efforts are making a difference.
- Tamariki and communities can check trends in water quality after contributing to improve water quality eg riparian planting. But only when data is present!
- Media attention promotes informal discussion amongst public.
- Assists with communication of threats and issues to a wide range of audiences.
- Helps us to communicate/disseminate status through quantitative statistics.

Q2: What can we do with the SoE?

- Own our own areas
 - people empowered can make a difference
 - community input from beginning.
 - need facilitators to carry this out!!**
- Educate all people
 - kids in public education
 - all involved using collaborative approaches between agencies
 - community led groups
 - decision makers eg politicians and business leaders.

- Use in funding applications.
- Use as a drawcard to get communities involved.
- Involve everyone through disseminating information and trends to the public.
- Emphasise monetary profits of good freshwater management to industry alongside other benefits eg conservation and cultural values.

Q3: How can the SoE report be included in our freshwater activities?

- Hapu management planning, can be used to prioritise actions and workloads.
- Education, using locally and regionally significant information.
- Other monitoring groups eg students, community groups can use results to ID change in state and trends over time, other agencies to use as a baseline.
- Recreational use guidelines.
- To back up resource consent submissions.
- Can influence land management plans especially around urban growth.
- Be included in estuarine management.

Q4: What is available that allows us to follow the SoE areas for improvement within our organisations?

- DoC funding for fencing projects at high value sites.
- NRC environmental fund.
- NRC documents eg riparian planting guidelines.
- Land Management Officer at NRC to recommend best practice.
- Conservation covenants
 - QEII
 - Nga Whenua Rahui.
- Funding that is available for environmental projects eg ASB Community Trust
- NRC and DOC Protected Natural Areas and documents – legally protected areas of indigeneity in Northland.
- Community and iwi monitoring groups.
- Free ecologist available through WDC to summarise biodiversity on private land.
- Environmental curriculum awards for schools.
- NRC protected natural areas publication – central Government funding.
- Breakout funding source directory.
- Hard to comment when have not seen or used SoE report recommendations before!

Q5: Are the SoE and its recommendations enough for positive change in freshwater management and activities?

- More compliance, monitoring and enforcement needed – some councils are under resourced for this.
- Need to be harder on resource consents.
- Education component needs boosting to bring about mindset change.
- If you have issues about the policy get in at that policy level by making submissions.
- Should notify more resource consents.
- Not when the recommendations are not followed by decision makers!

Q6: Ideas on how your organisation can contribute, or areas of the SoE process needing improvement.

- Fill the communication gaps between agencies in efforts to re-vegetate streamsides.
- Keep making submissions to NRC/local councils.
- Help interpret information – make user friendly and break down for general public.
- Get community groups involved in monitoring!!!
- Growth strategies
 - consider SoE information when planning within our organisations
 - look at new approaches to sewage disposal eg more land based.
- Continue Waitaua rRver planting and other community led work.
- Use what we've heard to back up our commitment to make positive change and encourage

others.

- Continue providing quality awareness and education.
- Feed community gathered data back into the SoE database which would result in policy change eg NWP, Wai Care. **Needs to be standardised to fit within NRC reporting**
- Local network models to enact change within local catchment, but how can this info feed back into freshwater management policy? **submissions & collaboration**
- Collaboration between policy makers and other agencies.
- Public education on why it is important to make submissions, and how to make submissions. Public can then be empowered to help make change in local and regional government policy eg through LTCCP process!
- Even out the current bias on monitoring sites with issues eg intensive land use catchments.
- Interpretation of results needs fine tuning eg eutrophic status being described as a less desirable status tells nothing of the trends.
- Place higher emphasis on trends, as they are important for ID of actual status and cause and effect pathways
- Use species indicators and iconic cultural values more in interpretation and delivery of results, keep public informed of what is at stake ie their favourite species.
- Industry to work with councils on identified pressures outlined in SoE reporting. This reporting is not standardised across regions while industry groups eg Fonterra and Dairy NZ are national organisations
- Neighbouring councils to work together more, eg Kaipara Harbour containing strong cultural values in snapper spawning areas, yet only 2 sites monitored between the 2 regional councils responsible for the area.
- Highlight economic and cultural benefits in better freshwater management eg sediment trapping in the Kaipara Harbour protects future snapper fishing industry for whole west coast by preserving sea grass beds.

Presentation 4 – Business & industry - their contribution to freshwater management and issues

Presenter: Mike Scarsbrook

- Presentation available on request.

Workshop session 2 – How is industry based freshwater management operating in Northland?

Q1: How do you work with industry on freshwater management and activities?

- At the grass roots level – working with volunteers and community groups on conservation projects.
- Councils responsible for sewerage, storm water, roads, urban streams, pollution prevention etc work with industry at all times.
- Seeking collaboration on restoration projects.
- Students writing letters to farmers seeking partnership for restorative actions.

Q2: How well is industry based management working in Northland?

- Definitions of the Clean Streams Accord a bit vague, Clean streams Accord is lacking teeth.
- Clean Streams Accord doesn't work well in Northland. Our streams are too shallow!
- Fonterra Maungaturoto contributed to Otamatea High School riparian planting projects and a nursery development.
- Auditing on monitoring systems within industry may be required at a higher percentage eg nutrient budget monitoring carried out at all farms, not just a percentage, externally audited to provide unbiased figures on status of environment and clarify regulations.
- Enforcement is only on individuals that are non compliant, not upon industry as a whole. Perhaps industry based enforcement may provide more widespread improvement?

- Farming includes tradeoffs. From case to case the tradeoffs will differ depending on the catchment values data available through SOE and community submissions eg through local and regional government values data. Industry based management can only be as good as the data available!
- NBEG initiative creating a handbook to provide how to undertake conservation projects.
- Do targets directly relate to environmental benefit? This question is important to farmers eg to understand why certain protocols are put in place. Is riparian fencing directly related to the desired target?
- Other resources for farming industry include MAF best practice catchments, the best management practice toolkit. These are working well but in isolation, not widespread.
- WDC works with each individual industry in accord with policies and bylaws.
- NRC is a member of the Clean Streams Accord and has a action plan which it is implementing and carries out monitoring at every dairy farm to pursue compliance eg farm dairy effluent monitoring on consented **and** permitted activities. This is paid for by each individual monitored. NRC also administers follow up on non compliance. Potential ways to increase effectiveness of actions – to link cause and effect directly to the status eg tighter rules, clearer definitions of targets.
- NRC monitoring techniques in recent years have greatly improved, so this has skewed status data eg is revealing more non compliance.
- Peer network of acceptability standards and greater integration of farmers into community action groups could result in more widespread action.
- Not enough is being done, some believe.
- Effectiveness depends on which industry and what organisation.
- Councillors need replacing or educating!
- It is hard to determine how things are going as there are extremely different interpretations from different agencies and NGOs.
- How well does the national stuff work/apply in Northland? eg Northland streams being smaller than in many other regions. Regional variation needs to be accounted for especially in national industry bodies.
- Response to industry guidelines can be positive and voluntary eg stock in waterways being removed after being requested to do so.
- At least some effort is being made with the dairy industries' first response to better industry based freshwater management.

Q3: What can we do to support and grow industry based management?

- Establish a trade wastes bylaw – to counteract the compliance issues.
- Encourage that drains be included in catchment waterways definitions, 'better definitions'.
- Put in place stormwater drain traps/stormwater polishing wetlands!
- Show what economic gains are possible from good environmental management.
- Establish sustainable business club in Northland to upskill members on sustainable business. Share ideas and info. Provide professional development to farmers.
- Policies aren't regionally focussed – they need to be in order to be effective! Submit to industry on their policies becoming more regionally adapted.
- Ensuring education officers are appealing to businesses and industry members.
- Small businesses are making a big effect as well as big business eg Golden Bay Cement in Portland, Whangarei which makes no discharges into the harbour, total opposite to former discharge history – great example of large businesses adapting to change in regulations.

Q4: How can you and your organisation collaborate with industry on freshwater management activities?

- Develop workshops for farm environmental advisors network.
- Help farmers' riparian planting and fencing programmes.
- Educate people on the importance of voting and submitting.
- Build restoration skills.

- Support and celebrate winners.
- Support and network with industry environmental staff – intergrate with community.
- Promote the Whaingaroa catchment restoration model – use success as a model that attracts others.
- Invite farmers to schools.
- Enviro stamp on farm products from certified best practice farms.
- Find people we can work with and build connections – start with those already doing it.
- Make community aware of clean streams actions on private land.
- Encourage industry staff to come to community interest groups.
- Collaboration!!!
- Provide advice.
- Work with industry to improve foresters' and farmers' freshwater management protocols.
- Promote external auditing of compliance.
- Participate in consents and consultation processes.
- Build sustainable business networks – make it sexy!
- Make submissions to LTCCP to encourage point source pollution monitoring/seeking compliance and enforcement.
- Make the submission process easier eg by developing a cross reference submission index.
- Establishing strategically placed models for sustainable 'clean' industry and business.
- Northtec
 - students go to industry eg Golden Bay Cement for environmental studies
 - gather information, monitoring (info is not make readily available to the public at times).
- Schools
 - utilise and celebrate industry grants for environmental education and action eg BOC Gas and Marasumi.
- NorthTec – Keep getting students to do monitoring for free.
- Set up more Waiora Hokiangas!
- Linking industry with Enviroschools – promote a collaborative model.

Presentation 5 – Science and Information Transfer

Presenters: Amy Macdonald, Olivier Ball, Karen Clearwater.
 - Presentation available on request

Workshop session 3 – Science and information transfer

Q1: What information is available and from where?

- Royal Society – online journals and publications.
- DOC and its website: www.doc.govt.nz (go to the following sections: By region or Conservation or Publications or Education/getting involved).
- Do an internet search on "Google Scholar" – or a range of internet searches relating to freshwater!
- NIWA and its website: www.niwa.co.nz incl on-line freshwater fish atlas.
- Education for Sustainability information: www.efs.org.nz
- Scientific journals accessible through rather expensive subscriptions, or access through academic research institution's library.
- School journals.
- Attending events eg open days for projects, guided walks, science fairs, conferences.
- General media information via newspapers and magazines as well as National Radio.
- Universities and polytechs.
- Cawthron Institute: www.cawthron.org.nz
- NRC: www.nrc.govt.nz and other regional council websites.
- SOE reports.
- Ministry for the Environment – has standards and reporting guidelines for councils.
- Personal contacts.

- National Library.
- Ecological reports from development proposals (eg for DOC, councils and developers).
- Your own research and observations and traditional environmental knowledge (TEK).
- NZ Landcare Trust: www.landcare.org.nz
- EMAP (including Koura Kraze – survey on koura).
- Forest and Bird and other environmental non-government organisations.
- Fish and Game: www.fishandgame.org.nz
- Get into a stream!
- SHMAK kit.
- Iwi and hapu management plans.
- Visiting experts.

Q2: How do we share it?

- Regional dairying initiatives including Women in Dairying and other action groups (Evan Smyth chairs something in Northland?)
- Through industry groups and associations including farmers.
- Connecting the objectives of different groups/agencies/organisations.
- Have a Northland summit – bring all interested and involved parties together around the SOE report with a mission to expand on the actions.
- Personal contacts.
- Recording by video or DVD or having an on-line conference session to help encourage involvement.
- Talking to each other/networking/hui.
- Newsletters.
- Media coverage – papers, magazines, radio, local newsletters etc.
- Passionate speakers and viral marketing – get people excited and capture their interest.
- Local action and support groups.
- Field days.
- Targeting schools.

Q3: How is it most useful?

- Hard copy often required esp. for research and schools.
- Executive summaries with expanded info to follow.
- Bullet points and section summaries.
- Better if websites had a combined/shared “eco” section or similar which brings local knowledge and knowledge bases together.
- DVDs.

Presentation 6 – The role of communities and how groups are contributing

Presenters: Joanne Murray and Meryl Carter

- see kura movie, <http://www.theoutlookforsomeday.net/films/2007/035/>
- Presentation available on request

Workshop session 4 – The role of communities and how groups are contributing

Q1: What are community groups contributing?

- A lot of restoration wouldn't be happening if it wasn't for community groups.
- Counting for something – Min. Social Devt. Website.
- Planting! - trees, labour, passion, wisdom, expertise.
- Something that industry and bureaucrats might not consider.
- Ownership – taking responsibility.
- Strengthening communities.
- Inspiration.

- Infectious – passion catches.
- Getting people connected – emotional engagement.
- Engaging holidaymakers – reaching city people.
- Positive focus.
- Daily monitoring – trends.
- Anecdotal information.
- How important is on the ground action? IMPORTANT for many reasons including how it transcends politics. The community provides answers through ACTION.
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Q2: What can we do to support/grow community contribution?

- Provide groups with facilitators.
- Use attractive people like Erena – inspire others.
- Go to planting days and support them!
- Resources, catering.
- Be supportive, don't scare them with OSH regulations etc.
- Provide maintenance with planting projects – PD workers, council parks department with public land.
- Release some of the decision making processes to community groups – set issues – give options.
- 3-6 monthly newsletter "what's happening with freshwater in Northland?"
 - including
 - Who's planting where?
 - knowledge sharing
 - new/good resources
 - kids stories to inspire.
- Encourage positive thinking and celebration of progress. "The Enviro-Good News Project"
- Build capacity within communities to enable them to carry out action in local area, enable community gathered information to be linked into decision makers data.
- Develop 'civics' into school curriculum to give people the tools to make change through understanding how local, regional and central government operates – empower public to encourage change in government, policies, bylaws etc.
- Make the connections between all involved in freshwater management. Schools, community groups, marae groups, Enviroschools, NGOs for a smoother collaboration model.
- What happens at secondary school? Incorporate environmental education and action into secondary school curriculum.
- Develop citizen juries to
 - Provide technical support
 - Encourage ownership and big picture thinking through integrating sustainability into learning processes, eg in schools.

Specific suggested actions from hui:

- A newsletter focussing on collaboration and celebrating progress "Freshwater Northland" – The Whitebait Connection has committed to doing this.
- Develop an 'enviro stamp' to put on farm products from certified best practice farms – who would be responsible for doing this??
- Develop a list of submission themes for LTCCPs – The Whitebait Connection has committed to getting the ball rolling with this.

Various other actions are included in the discussion session write-ups which different agencies, groups and individuals could follow-up. The Whitebait Connection will also include them in its newsletter as discussion and reporting points for recipients and participants.