

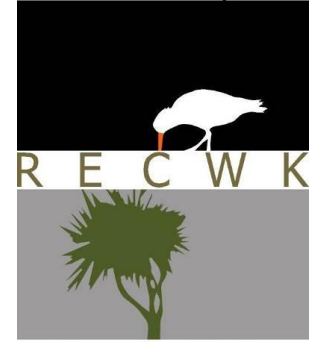
# River Estuary Watch

River-Estuary Care: Waikouaiti – Karitane

AUGUST 2019

## Waka Launch

River - Estuary Care



Waikouaiti - Karitane

Saturday 20th July on the Waikouaiti awa, Hauteruruku ki Puketeraki Waka Club launched their newest waka, Hiwa-i-te-rangi.

Over the last 2 years a core group of 8-12 club members have been meeting weekly, but well over 50 others have been involved to complete the build. This waka was built on the same moulds and design as our double hull waka Hauteruruku, also using strip planked kahikatea. As Hiwa-i-te-rangi was built by mainly young builders there were many firsts - first time using a thicknesser, a band saw, a spokeshave, a jigsaw and learning the fibreglassing process. This all taught under the mentorship of George Meikle and Brendan Flack, who did well to stand back and let others learn.

This waka has a single hull with the ama (out-rigger) built from kōrari (stalk of the harakeke flower) and the mast and boom made of bamboo. The waka is named after the youngest star of the Matariki cluster, the star to which you send your dreams and aspirations.



**Nā Suzi Flack**



# Ensuring the future of Whitebait

Whether we are whitebaiters, enjoy a shared feed of fritters or spend time along the waterways, whitebait is part of New Zealand's environment and cultural landscape.

This freshwater seasonal delicacy is made up of juveniles from five galaxiidae species: inanga, koaro, banded kokopu, giant kokopu and short jaw kōkopu which whitebaiters catch on their return to the river after spending part of their lifecycle in the ocean.

Once known as milkfish because their large shoals turned the waterways white, whitebait were so plentiful farmers used them for fertiliser and feed.

Today, unfortunately, four out of the five whitebait species are endangered. Habitat loss and increased fishing pressure are likely reasons for the decline.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is responsible for managing whitebait and whitebait fishing. In 2018 DOC undertook a public engagement process as an initial step towards improving whitebait management. Later this year public consultation commences with DOC calling for written submissions on proposed management updates for this local resource. If you are interested in finding out more visit: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2018/improving-whitebait-management/>

DOC has also been working towards gaining better understanding of whitebait, their habitat, lifecycles and the potential causes of declining populations. Rosemary Clucas, a researcher contracted to DOC, has been conducting surveys along several local waterways to better understand whitebait and their habitat. This information will go towards developing a sustainable management plan for the five whitebait species.

You can assist in helping to ensure the future of whitebait. Keep an eye out for the call for written submissions by DOC and have your say.

## **Take only what you need.**

Enjoy time on the water with friends and whanau but also be mindful of your impact on the environment.

Leave the waterway in the same condition (or better) than you found it.

Report any unlawful whitebaiting activity to DOC immediately, 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

River-Estuary Care: Waikouaiti-Karitane has been working to maintain and enhance whitebait habitat through education and habitat restoration since 1999.



***Abandoned nets after a flood***

If you would like to help out contact Joel Vanderburg, [yburg8113@gmail.com](mailto:yburg8113@gmail.com)

***Elizabeth Vanderburg***



# Schoolyards Matter

Kartiane School children have been working alongside River Estuary Care in caring for our waterways for almost 20 years.

They know that what happens in our backyards and schoolyards makes a difference to the health of our river and marine environments.

There is a small tributary of the Waikouaiti River Catchment running through the school grounds.

This year the school children, staff and community members expanded the marsh planting back by the hut in the school yard.

We finished up with yummy wood fired pizza. Many thanks to all!

***Patti Vanderburg***







**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE,  
set up for us last year. It has lots of background information, newsletters  
going back 10 years and updates and  
pictures of our ongoing projects**

**<https://riverestuarycare.wixsite.com/riverestuarycare>**



## Waka landing site



You can't miss the sea of canes marking April's big planting at the Waka landing site by the railway bridge. 46 volunteers (fuelled by wonderful morning tea and lunch ladies) worked hard to get 510 plants into the heavy ground. The site is being monitored and the trees are doing well.



# River Estuary Watch

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River - Estuary Care



Waikouaiti - Karitane

## Would you like to volunteer?

Rivercare projects work because people volunteer time, advice, and donate funds, plants & materials.

- Would you like to be notified if we are having a planting day in the field or a potting-up day at the shade house?
- Are you keen to help in other ways?

Please contact Patti Vanderburg [vburch8113@gmail.com](mailto:vburch8113@gmail.com)

To become a friend of the River and Estuary Care: Waikouaiti—Karitane	Phone or email Brad – 03 4658334 or <a href="mailto:brad126@xtra.co.nz">brad126@xtra.co.nz</a>
Should you wish to kindly make a donation	<p>Online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enter our name: Waikouaiti-Karitane Rivercare Group Inc) (this will appear on your statement)</li> <li>▪ Enter our bank account number 060942 0190792 00</li> <li>▪ Enter your name and reason for payment e.g. donation to friend of Waikouaiti-Karitane Rivercare Group (Inc) (this will appear on our statement)</li> </ul> <p>or post donation to 1333 Coast Road, Karitane</p>

### **River-Estuary Care Waikouaiti - Karitane**

Active since 1999 – Incorporated in 2001

Coastal Otago Conservation Award for 2005

#### **Objectives**

- To restore balance to Papatuanuku (Mother Earth).
- To have a well-informed community about our river and estuary.
- To have our community participating in sustainable resource practices.
- To have a healthy, productive river and estuary ecosystem (fishing, biodiversity, general health).
- To promote an understanding of the inter-relatedness of our river and estuary ecosystem with adjacent ecosystems.

**Anyone interested in supporting the above objectives may join!**

**Would you like to help with a project this year? Then contact**

- Newsletter – Hilary Yeoman. Ph 465 7687
- Revegetation project – contact Andy Barratt. Ph 021 890 048
- Education, information and advocacy project – contact Patti Vanderburg. Ph 465 811
- Birdwatching – contact convener Dave Yeoman. Ph 0220991202

Produced with assistance from the Otago Regional Council

