



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - JUNE 5

many species 1 planet 1 future

Here today, gone tomorrow; extinction is forever

Did you know that you are one in a million? Or more precisely, one of millions on this wondrous planet - anywhere in fact between an estimated 5 million to 100 million species. Scientists have only managed to identify about 2 million species so far. If you think about it, that means

there a huge amount we still don't know about our planet or whom we share it with.

What we do know though is that humans are among only a handful of species whose populations are growing, while most animals and plants are becoming rarer and fewer.

The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity to focus attention on the need to take our foot off the extinction pedal.

It is an opportunity to stress the importance of biodiversity for human well-being, reflect on our

achievements to safeguard it and encourage a redoubling of our efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.

The theme of World Environment Day is "Many Species. One Planet. One Future." It echoes the urgent call to conserve the diversity of life on our planet.

Student work raises waterway awareness

Environmental awareness has stepped up a notch at Mahurangi College this year, with the development of a WaiCare programme for the 180 students in Year 8.

WaiCare is a community and school-based water quality monitoring restoration programme, designed to help participants learn ways to measure the health of local waterways and get involved in improving water quality.

During terms one and two, the Mahurangi students spent time monitoring and observing at Matheson Bay, Goat Island Marine Reserve and along the Mahurangi River. Year 8 programme manager Debbie Hamer says the students used their research to develop action plans to inform the community and suggest ways to help.

They addressed a wide variety of topics from marine pollution and fishing practises to stormwater run-off and marine life conservation.

"What's great about the programme is that it's student driven," Mrs Hamer says. "They have explored a whole range of media to communicate their message including powerpoint productions, websites, posters,

books and even song writing.

The students showcased their work at a special evening presentation at the school last month.

For more photos of the presentation visit www.localmatters.co.nz



Jesse Bergersen talks to Claire Hart.



Marine biologist Dr Roger Grace took a special interest in Ella Gerard's story of the cockles at Whangateau.



Debbie Hamer with Bevan Hodder (left) and Sean Dugdale-Martin at an evening showcasing the students' work.

Free

NATIVE GARDENING WORKSHOP

Create your own wildlife sanctuary with the help of experts from the Kaipara Coast Plant Centre.

Take a tour around the centre's revegetation areas and learn which native plants are suited to your garden and will attract native birds.

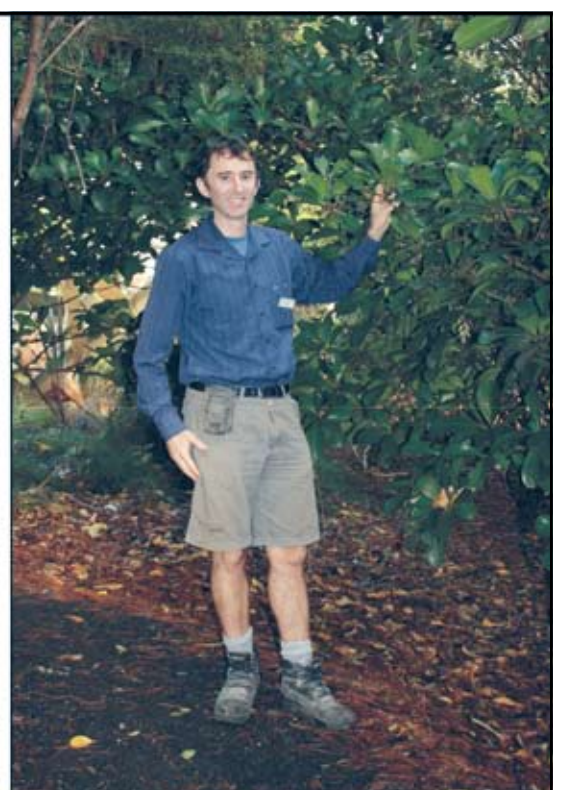
Friday 11th June 10am - 11.30

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MAP

Mahurangi Action Plan

THE NEXT PHASE: WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

The Mahurangi Action Plan is all about restoring the health of the Mahurangi Harbour. The first five year period from 2004 to 2009 has been completed with encouraging results. Now it's time to get on with the next stage.

Catchment plan

The priority actions needed for the long term protection of the Mahurangi Harbour were identified and agreed upon by residents, iwi, local community groups, Rodney District Council and Auckland Regional Council. This information has been collated and is presented in the draft *strategic catchment plan*. The draft plan covers the next 20 years but looks in most detail at priority actions in the next five years.

Please let us know what you think!

We'd like you to look at the draft strategic catchment plan and let us know if there is anything you'd like to add. The feedback you offer will be considered as we create a final plan. You can read the full plan online at www.arc.govt.nz key words Mahurangi Action Plan.

As you look at the draft plan, you may want to consider these questions:

- Are the identified actions the right priorities to protect the Mahurangi Harbour in the long term?
- If you are currently involved in a community project, can you see your project reflected in the actions?

You can bring your comments to the workshop being held to finalise the catchment plan on Monday 28 June from 6 – 8pm at the Betty Paxton Room, Mahurangi East Community Centre, Snells Beach. Doors open at 5.30pm with a light supper provided.

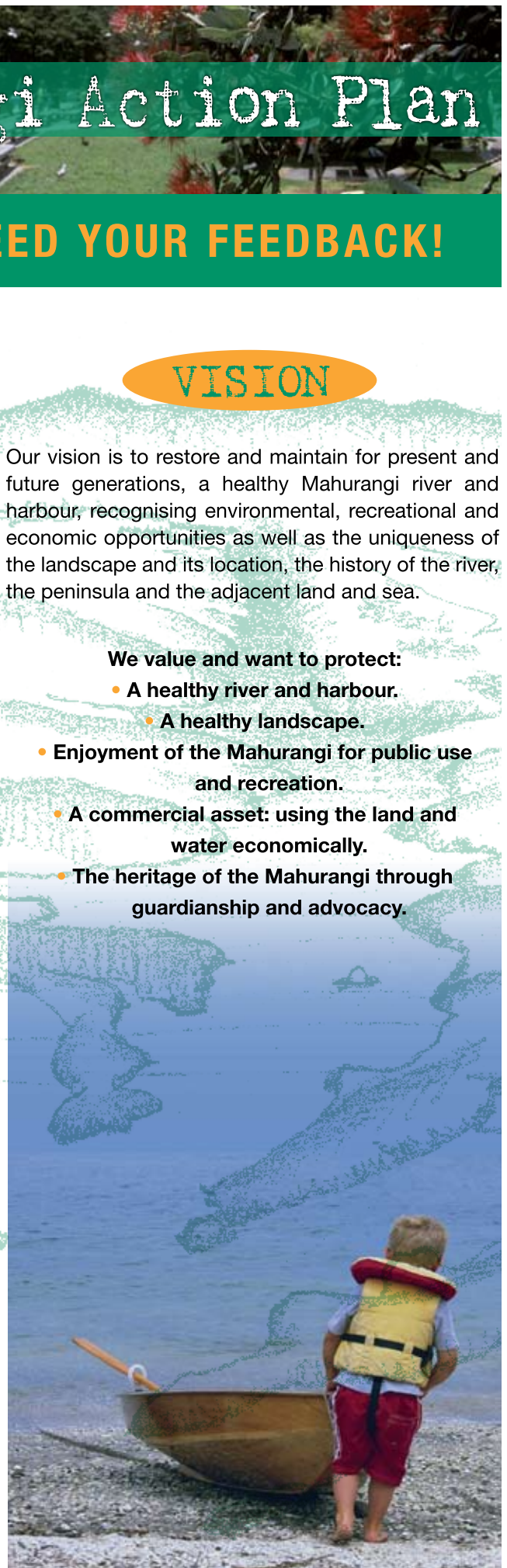
Alternatively, you can email your feedback to kim.morresey@arc.govt.nz or call 0800 80 60 40 ext 8193.

VISION

Our vision is to restore and maintain for present and future generations, a healthy Mahurangi river and harbour, recognising environmental, recreational and economic opportunities as well as the uniqueness of the landscape and its location, the history of the river, the peninsula and the adjacent land and sea.

We value and want to protect:

- A healthy river and harbour.
- A healthy landscape.
- Enjoyment of the Mahurangi for public use and recreation.
- A commercial asset: using the land and water economically.
- The heritage of the Mahurangi through guardianship and advocacy.



Why clean up the Mahurangi?

In its past the Mahurangi region was home to many more many species of birds and fish. Not too long ago, as a boy, Mahurangi resident Temepara Morehu remembers fishing in the harbour. "It didn't take long to get your fill of fish. That doesn't happen in this day and age."

The success of the Mahurangi Action Plan is literally a matter of life or death. Dr Grahame Powell from Rodney District Council said when the ARC approached him to support the five year pilot it became clear how important it was. "The harbour was degraded, small fish and shellfish that live in the bottom of the harbour were disappearing," he says.

It will take up to 20 years before significant environmental improvements within the Mahurangi Harbour are noticeable, but recent encouraging evidence in juvenile shellfish numbers highlights the potential for the recovery of the harbour as the work in the catchment continues.

Priority objectives for the next five years are:

- Reducing sediment generation.
- Increasing vegetation cover.
- Improving water quality for commercial and recreational activities.
- Maintaining the attractive harbour and river for recreational users; locals and visitors alike.
- Providing access for a mix of recreational and commercial uses to both the river and the coast and from land and water.
- Continuing the sense that the Mahurangi is "a million miles from the metropolis".
- Protecting cultural heritage resources for future generations.
- Retaining and enhancing habitat areas and making new ecological connections.

There are over 20 actions that support these objectives.

Read the full plan online at www.arc.govt.nz key words Mahurangi Action Plan.

Get involved with other catchment projects

- Projects are underway in the neighbouring catchments of Hoteo and Whangateau.
- A riparian restoration workshop for the Whangateau catchment is being held on Friday 11 June at 109 Omaha Valley Road, Whangateau. Contact kim.morresey@arc.govt.nz or phone 0800 80 60 40 extn 8193 if you wish to attend. The workshop will cover values of the harbour, how to manage restoration projects, and what support is available.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

73.12km – of fencing installed to reduce sediment loss

135,191 – plants in the ground

2 alternative water supply systems

40 – farm plans developed

869 – hectares land protected

100 – environmental education events (e.g. workshops, field trips)

9600 – hours of volunteer contribution

5 – community projects supported

What you can do

- Read the full draft plan at www.arc.govt.nz key words Mahurangi Action Plan and offer feedback.
- Pop on into Halls (22 Queen Street) and have a look at the Mahurangi Action Plan display, join in our activities and enter our competition from 31 May – 11 June.
- See www.mahurangi.org.nz for community updates.

Want to do more?

- Landowners can apply for a Landowner Assistance Fund grant. Applications are open until 11 June 2010 for anyone interested in restoring the Mahurangi and reducing sediment. See www.arc.govt.nz for details. Key words Landowner Assistance Fund.
- Say Trees! Want to have trees planted on your site? Anyone interested in hosting a community planting day should contact us. For all further information or questions, please contact Kim Morresey on kim.morresey@arc.govt.nz or (09) 366 2000 ext 8193.



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Alternative currency scheme catches on locally

The Warkworth/Wellsford Green Dollars Exchange is planning a mid-winter/Matariki pot luck dinner this month.

Green Dollars administrator Dan Mohr says it will be an opportunity for members to meet socially, as well as giving the wider community a chance to find out more about the scheme.

Green Dollars is money-free trading system which facilitates the exchange of goods and services. The Warkworth Exchange utilises a Community Exchange System on-line database where members can log on and enter their own transactions and maintain their own lists of offerings and wants.

“Green Dollars has got off to a great start in Warkworth, with members being very satisfied with their trading,” Dan says. “Members are particularly happy with the egalitarian aspect where all services are being traded at G\$20 an hour, whether the trader is a gardener, baker or builder.”

Dan says one member saved herself considerable time when planning her son’s birthday party by ordering two large cakes through the Green Dollars scheme. She used some of her Green Dollars credit through selling her spray-free produce.

“Transactions cover a wide range of services and products.”

The pot luck dinner will be held in the Anglican Hall in Percy Street, Warkworth, on Sunday June 13, starting at 6pm. Guests are asked to bring a plate and their own drinks for a shared meal. Dan says the theme will be ‘world food’.

Info: Dan Mohr on 422 3720.



Dan Mohr shows that green money really does grow on trees.

Whangateau in running for Green Ribbon

Whangateau Harbour Care has been short-listed for this year’s Green Ribbon Awards, which honour outstanding contributions to protecting New Zealand’s environment.

The group is one of 27 finalists nationwide, chosen from 143 nominations across 12 categories, and the only nomination north of Auckland.

Environment Minister Nick Smith says the categories reflect the broad

range of environmental challenges that New Zealand faces and the extraordinary range of actions taken to address them.

Whangateau Harbourcare and Landcare Group is a volunteer organisation which promotes sustainable catchment management practises to protect the Whangateau Harbour. Its various activities include cockle monitoring, community displays and education days.

“The large number and diversity

of the nominations is a testament to the hard work and the many different ways that New Zealanders are working to protect our environment,” Dr Smith says.

“With so many outstanding and compelling nominations, it was difficult to pick out these finalists. I wish them all the best of luck.”

Harbourcare representatives Dr Roger Grace and Margaret Simpson will travel to Parliament for the awards ceremony this week (June 3).

Green trivia

- More than one-third of all energy is used by people at home
- Recycled paper requires 64% less energy than making paper from virgin wood pulp
- 84 percent of all household waste can be recycled.



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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – JUNE 5



Campbells Bay residents have declared war on gorse.

Beach residents tackle gorse

The foreshore at Campbells Beach is in better shape thanks to the efforts of a team of volunteers.

A working bee attracted 12 hardy souls who braved pouring rain to clear about 600 metres of gorse.

Baddeleys and Campbells Beach Resident and Ratepayers Association spokesperson Sue Crawshay says the workers used tractors, trailers, chainsaws and array of cutting tools and rakes to do the job.

“The foreshore has been planted with pohutakawa which will have a bit more space now the gorse is gone,” she says. “We also had a working bee on the traffic island at the beach removing agapanthus which were obstructing view of oncoming traffic at the intersection.”

The association organises regular “weed outs”, encouraging residents to get rid of pest plants such as woolly nightshade, gorse, agapanthus and tradescantia. Rodney District Council is assisting by providing



Don Hanley, loppers in hand.

bins to dispose of the plants.

“Don Hanley is our local hero who clears the kikuya from around the pohutakawa, on both the foreshore and the road approaches, with a scrub-cutter provided by the ratepayers association.”

Volunteers in action - June 8

Volunteer are needed to help with pest control programmes, general maintenance and other projects around the Mahurangi Regional Park. This is a new volunteer day, so be one of the first to be part of the committee involved in the running of Mahurangi Regional Park. Meet at workshop/park office at Sullivans Bay. Bring good footwear and weather-appropriate clothing. Coffee, tea, cold drink and biscuits will be provided, as well as training and equipment. Info: Sue Hill Phone 09 426 1200 or email sue.hill@arc.govt.nz Mahurangi Regional Park Tuesday Volunteers Day - June 8, from 8.30am to 12 noon.

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