Kotahitanga mō te Taiao

Annual Impact Report 2025

Mihimihi

Tērā ia a Ranginui e tū iho nei, ko Papatūānuku e takoto ake nei, ko ā rāua tamariki maha e noho kōpapa ana ki waenganui, rātou ngā whakatīnanatanga o tō tātou ao hurihuri nei, e mihi ana!

E ngā mate o te tau, haere ki a Pōhutukawa, ki te rua o Matariki ki reira okioki atu rā. Hoki mai rā ki a tātou te kanohi o rātou mā, mauri tū, mauri ora!

Ki ngā kaitiaki toa o tō tātou rohe o Te Tauihu o Te Waka ki o Te Tai Poutini, o te raki o Kawatiri, koutou e poipoi nei i tō tātou taiao hei oranga mō ngā uri whakaheke, e mihi ana. Mokori anō kia rere ngā mihi ki a koutou e te hunga i whakapeto ngoi ki te whakakao mai i ngā whakaaro, i ngā kōrero ki te rīpoata taiao nei hei painga mō te katoa.

"Ko Te Tauihu o Te Waka o Te Tai Poutini, o te raki o Kawatiri, he whenua taurikura, he rite ki te ao nō tua whakarere. Kua hau tōna rongo i te tapu, i te huhua o te taiao nei. He kainga motuhake a Te Tauihu mō ngā momo e hia rau nei e kore e kitea i wāhi kē."

Tēnā koutou katoa.

There is Ranginui standing aloft, and Papatūānuku who is lying below, and their many children who are stuck between them, they are the manifestation of our evolving world, we must give thanks.

To those who have passed within the year, go to Pōhutukawa, to the company of the cavern Matariki. Let the deceased stay with the spirits, and we are the living faces of our loved ones who have passed on, let us stand together in life and wellness!

To the guardians of the top of the South Island to Kawatiri, northern Buller, those that nurture the environment so that it is prosperous for future generations, we give thanks.

Acknowledgements are also given to those who worked so hard collating information for this environmental report, that will not only benefit us, but will be an asset for the days to come.

"The top of the South Island to Kawatiri, northern Buller, is the most environmentally diverse and ancient part of New Zealand. It is home to hundreds of species found nowhere else in the world and these form unique natural communities."

Acknowledgements to all.

Contents

Front cover photos left to right:
Bucklands, Buller, West Coast. Photo: Tiana Williams
Whio (Blue Duck). Photo: Department of Conservation, Crown Copyright
Karamea Sunset. Photo: Olivia Wentzell, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

The Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance works across 3.4 million hectares of land and sea in the top of the South Island, championing a collaborative approach to caring for our natural environment.

Our Vision

Our extraordinary natural heritage is flourishing, having been restored over large areas, including where people live. People live in, care for and benefit from the environment in ways that bolster natural ecology and the communities that live within them.

Our Mission

To create a connected and aligned region that understands, protects, enhances and future-proofs the values of nature critical to the Te Tauihu/ Top of the South and Buller/Kawatiri, and this flourishing nature in turn enriches its communities.

Our Pathway Plan

This Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan (SIPP) defines the pathway we will take to achieve our Mission and Vision, and has four main work themes:

Helping our native species thrive

Restoring lowlands and connecting ecosystems

Restoring marine ecosystems

Te Kāhui Tangaroa - Iwi leadership

Our Values

Manaakitanga – To care for each other, to be respectful, and an act of reciprocity of natural resources to be shared with others.

Kaitiakitanga – Provision of active utilisation, preservation, conservation, maintenance, and management of the environs (including flora, fauna, aquatic and marine).

Mātauranga Māori – Acceptance and acknowledgment of Māori epistemologies within the construction of key concepts and projects.

Kotahitanga – Unity of purpose and collective agreement for achievement of outcomes and goals.

Rangatiratanga – The chiefly right to determine use and management of the natural environment.

Mauri – The principal life force of our environs is protected, including their tapu and wairua.

Arohatia – Duty of care and responsibility to this kaupapa, each other and iwi.

Co-Chairs' Report

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao (KMTT) combines the collective capability of iwi, central and local government in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to build climate resilience through nature-regenerative delivery at scale.

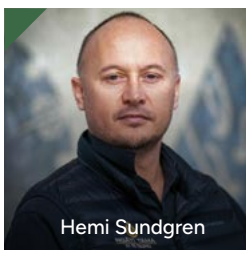
KMTT has prioritised its areas of focus over the 3.4 million hectares across the Top of the South Island to make the greatest difference for the resources invested. With our strategy and implementation plan in place, this year has focussed on the following areas:

- **Marine ecosystem restoration.** Under the Iwi leadership of Te Kāhui Tangaroa, partners have identified the Marlborough Sounds as the first place to focus resources. An early step will be to engage with local communities to understand their aspirations and the extent of work already underway, and identify where restoration in the area can best be progressed. For Pelorus Sound, this would extend from the advanced Te Hoiere catchment restoration project. In Queen Charlotte Sound, extensive predator control and of intensive restoration are underway so the opportunity exists to build on this momentum and ensure continuity between land and sea.
- **Restoring Lowlands.** Led by TNC, WSP (design and engineering provider) developed a catchment modelling tool to understand the priority areas to focus investment for optimal restoration gain. Working with partners, TNC has now selected the catchment for a pilot project which will explore options for sustainable financing and nature-based tools to build climate resilience. TNC has recruited a project team specialised in catchment restoration to build resilience against devastating extreme weather events. This learning will be shared widely.
- **Helping our Native Species Thrive.** The Department of Conservation (DOC) is leading a collaborative effort on ungulate (specifically goat) control across Northwest Nelson to achieve control down to sufficiently low numbers, so that forests can recover. If, with landowner agreement, control can be achieved to defendable boundaries (such as the Buller and Motueka rivers and coastline), goat reinvasion and internal recruitment could be lowered to a level where control becomes sustainable. This work will also align with our KMTT Predator Free approach for greatest impact. DOC is also partnering with councils for controlling wilding conifers across Mt Richmond Forest Park and Branch Leatham infestations.
- **Empowering action and building community connector hubs.** Through training and building collaborations, we have advanced this work alongside Tasman Environmental Trust and Kawatiri Nature Environment and Communities Trust.

We have also made significant progress in establishing KMTT as a legal entity. This development will allow us to receive and manage funds for project investments, while ensuring that the knowledge gained can be both owned and shared effectively. The legal structure will maintain continuity in our strategic efforts, as TNC transitions away from programme management to focus on key SIPP priorities. We are committed to ensuring this structure is adaptable and fit for future initiatives.

The upcoming year presents an opportunity to expand our donor network and forge new partnerships, fostering sustainable financing that will accelerate and scale up our regenerative efforts. We are deeply grateful to the individuals and organisations whose dedication and passion have made this work possible, significantly benefiting both nature and the communities they reside in. We also extend this appreciation to the people and projects who have aligned their effort with KMTT, the outcomes they are achieving are spectacular.


Martin Rodd


Hemi Sundgren

Co-Chairs
Martin Rodd and Hemi Sundgren
Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance

Programme Manager's Report

Tēnā koutou katoa

As we enter into our first full year of implementing our Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan, I reflect on how important collaboration is to our success. Kotahitanga mō te Taiao means working together for our natural world. And although the KMTT partners form the governance, the design and delivery of our work arises from both the KMTT partners and the wider community.

Our Strategy's mission to "create a connected and aligned region that understands, protects, enhances and future-proofs the values of nature critical to our region, and that this flourishing nature in turn enriches its communities," was always about more than any single partner, or any single group. It had to be about Kotahitanga, and building that collaboration requires commitment and a willingness to step outside our own corners.

This year I wish to commend those Projects that have worked hard to adapt to changing circumstances. Whether it be the completion of the Jobs for Nature funding, or the need to pivot due to changing priorities, new information, or additional challenges, you have risen to the occasion, used solid conservation planning tools to redesign your work programmes, and stepped into the space of collaboration – helping build more sustainable modes of working and identifying the big picture challenges we need to meet if we are to be successful.

Critical to this year's activities has been the development of the key work programmes outlined in this report.

A DOC-led approach to protect the top western corner of our island from ungulates grew into the recognition that we need to integrate both ungulate and predator control. And across those 800,000 hectares, existing and new KMTT-aligned projects have come together and worked on proposals for bigger solutions that not only cement the work underway, but also provide future-proofing models.

Across our region, key people came together to better plan and understand what an integrated KMTT Predator Free approach might look like – highlighting challenges and seeking solutions. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have spent a significant amount of resource in helping pivot the KMTT Restoring Lowlands, with extensive spatial models to help drive restoration, undertaking critical social research, and landing in on a pilot area that will benefit not only KMTT as a whole – but with a financing model that we hope can extend across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our iwi partners came together to form Te Kāhui Tangaroa – the iwi leadership framework to help provide a more coherent and collaborative approach to marine ecosystem restoration. With literally hundreds of activities occurring in our marine environment, aligning work programmes across communities, jurisdictions and legislative requirements takes a lot of committed negotiation and patience. Those difficult conversations are being had, and we are emerging stronger as we plan this work together.

Debs Martin
Programme Manager
Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance

'Coastal Giants' Photo: Sebastian Roche, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

Our Partners

The Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (KMTT) is a collaboration of 17 iwi, council and government partners, supported by The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand (TNC NZ) to recover and whakamana (empower) the mauri (life force) of the land, waters and people across 3.4 million hectares of land and sea in Te Tauihu/Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough, and Kawatiri/Buller.

The KMTT Strategy is a vision for the region's response to the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate breakdown, and our Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan is how we will act. We acknowledge the many conservation and restoration projects in this region that are aligned to our strategy, and which are a key part of our pathway forward.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō · Ngāti Koata Trust · Ngāti Wae Wae Arahura · Ngāti Rārua · Ngāti Kuia

Rangitāne · Ngāti Tama · Te Atiawa o te Waka-a-Māui · Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira

Buller District Council · Marlborough District Council · Nelson City Council · Tasman District Council · West Coast Regional Council

Ministry for the Environment · Fisheries New Zealand · Department of Conservation

In collaboration with
The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand

Mountain Mist. Photo: Cassie Mealey, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

Timeline

2016
Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance established

Matariki 2019
Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Strategy launched

2020
Partnership with The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand established

2020–21
Jobs for Nature funding received

2022–23
Restoration by design process

2024
Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan (SIPP) presented and accepted

July 2025
Te Kāhui Tangaroa established

August 2025
Predator and Ungulate Free Northwest Nelson work begins

December 2025
New KMTT Charitable Trust is agreed

December 2025
Restoring Lowlands Catchment Scale project launched

KMTT Projects 2025

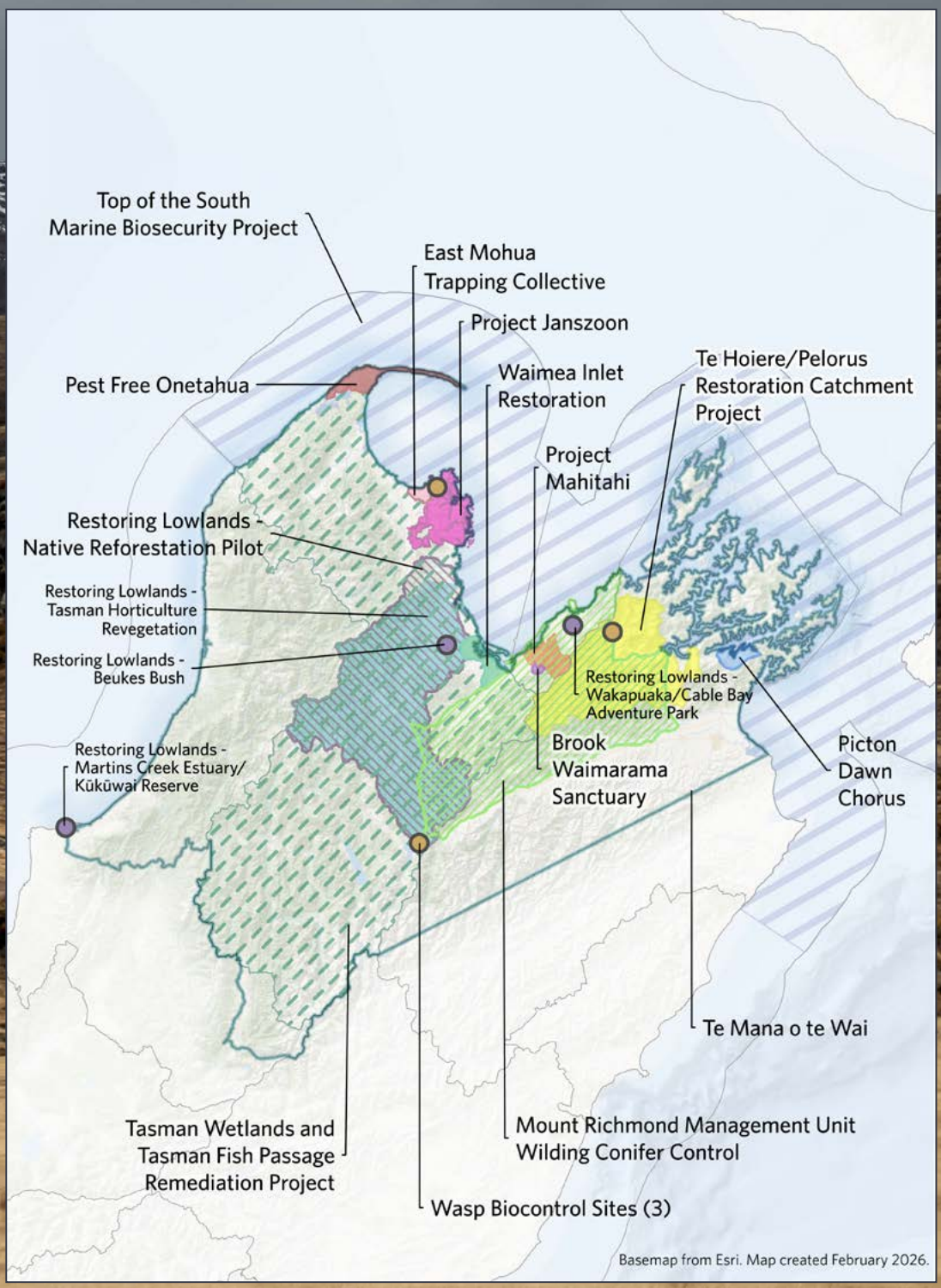
Completed projects this year

Project Mahitahi

Waimea Inlet Enhancement

Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees

KMTT Projects



SAP PROJECT

This icon denotes Strategy Aligned Projects – self-managed projects that have identified their alignment with the KMTT Strategy

SIPP PROJECT

This icon denotes projects that were developed through the Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan process and are now being initiated.

'Red' Photo: Bailee Barton, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

The Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan

A Pathway Forward

The KMTT Strategy articulates KMTT's vision, mission and values for environmental restoration across the top of the South Island: Te Tauihu and Kawatiri/Buller.

The KMTT Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan (SIPP) outlines how we collaborate and prioritise our work to achieve the outcomes and place-specific goals identified in the Strategy:

- **Native species, including those found nowhere else, are thriving.**
- **Naturally functioning ecosystems are protected, restored and enhanced.**
- **Wilderness is sustained.**
- **People flourish in harmony with nature.**
- **Ecological connection and resilience are protected, restored and enhanced.**

The SIPP is taking collaborative region-wide action with projects that are both transformative and long-lasting. It amplifies and supports existing efforts, mobilises the resources and community needed to achieve the desired outcomes, and looks to foundational ways of working to help initiate, implement and sustain the outcomes we need.

The SIPP empowers us to build on the gains made so far and create new projects to accelerate us towards our shared vision.

'Karamea Sunset' Photo: Olivia Wentzell, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

Helping our native species thrive
Tackle predators and problem ungulates in Northwest Nelson
Integrate ungulate control across the region
Maintain and expand wilding conifer control
Create a Predator Free KMTT

Restoring lowlands and connecting ecosystems
Increase healthy native vegetation cover to 15%
- Connect remnants via biodiversity corridors
- Restore riparian and coastal margins
- Improve climate resilience
- Control problem pests and weeds

Te Kāhui Tangaroa
Iwi-led projects across
Te Tauihu and Kawatiri

Restoring marine ecosystems
Restore healthy shellfish populations
Reduce sediment
Create blue economy opportunities:
- Blue carbon
- Sustainable fisheries
- Regenerative aquaculture

Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu
Ki uta ki tai
Protecting and restoring

Kotahitanga – Working together

- » Build strong, diverse restoration communities
- » Connect people and nature
- » Amplify existing projects
- » Grow impact investment
- » Work across sectors

Whakahau
Empowering action

People in Te Taiao Engagement Framework

Financing & resourcing strategy

- Build iwi capacity & capability
- Collaboration & training
- Community hubs
- Research hubs
- Tell our stories

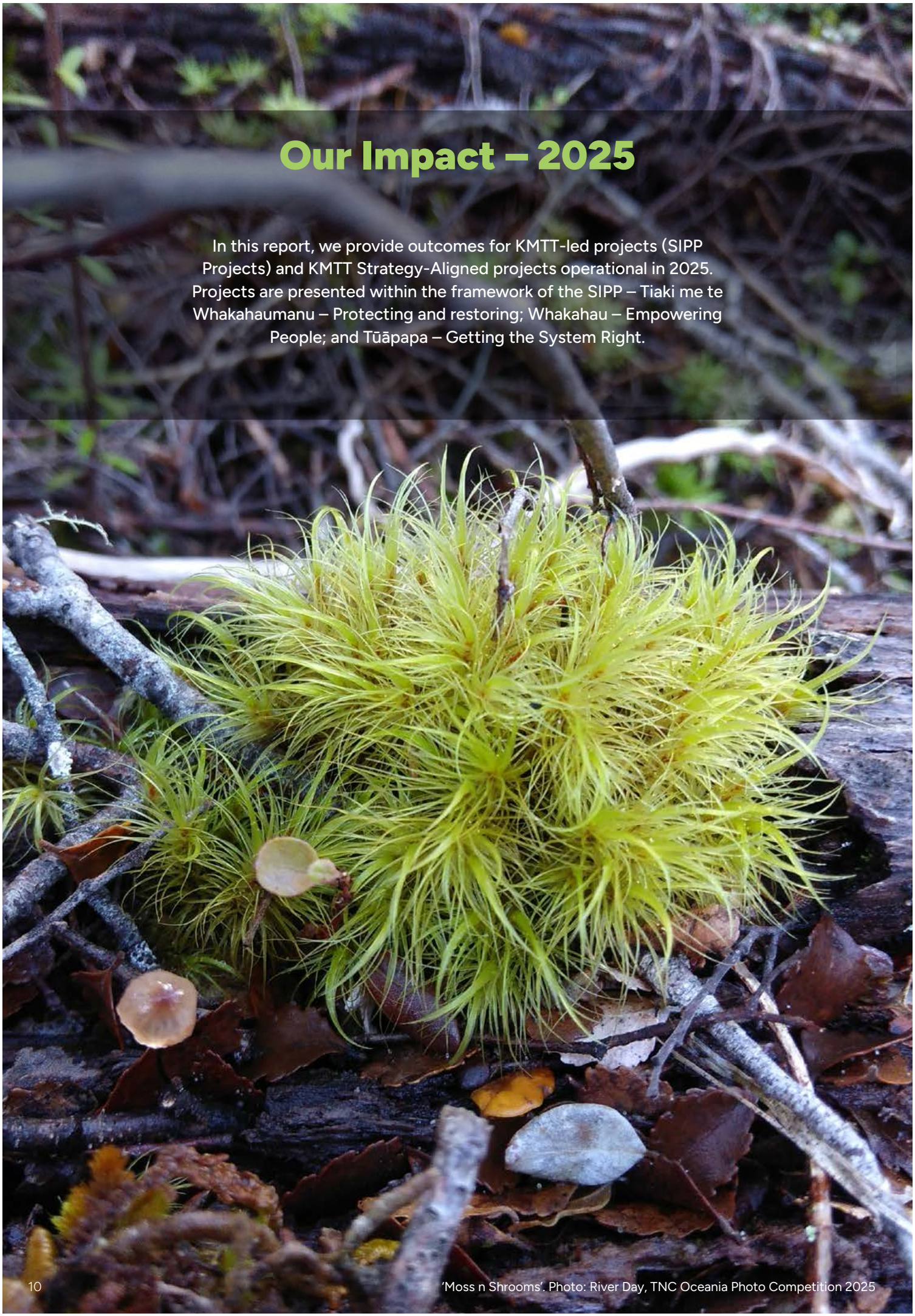
Tūāpapa
Getting the system right

- Governance & operations
- Iwi leadership
- Strategy integration
- Climate resilience
- Sustainable finance

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao
Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan

Our Impact – 2025

In this report, we provide outcomes for KMTT-led projects (SIPP Projects) and KMTT Strategy-Aligned projects operational in 2025. Projects are presented within the framework of the SIPP – Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu – Protecting and restoring; Whakahau – Empowering People; and Tūāpapa – Getting the System Right.



'Moss n Shrooms'. Photo: River Day, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu

Ki uta ki tai – Protecting and Restoring

Reducing the impact of invasive species, restoring and connecting fragmented landscapes, restoring our marine ecosystems and supporting iwi-led projects so that we can thrive in harmony with nature.

The SIPP identifies these workstreams within this Pou:

- Restoring marine ecosystems
- Helping our native species thrive
- Restoring lowlands and connecting ecosystems

Restorative planting at Beuke's Bush. Photo: Ruth Beuke

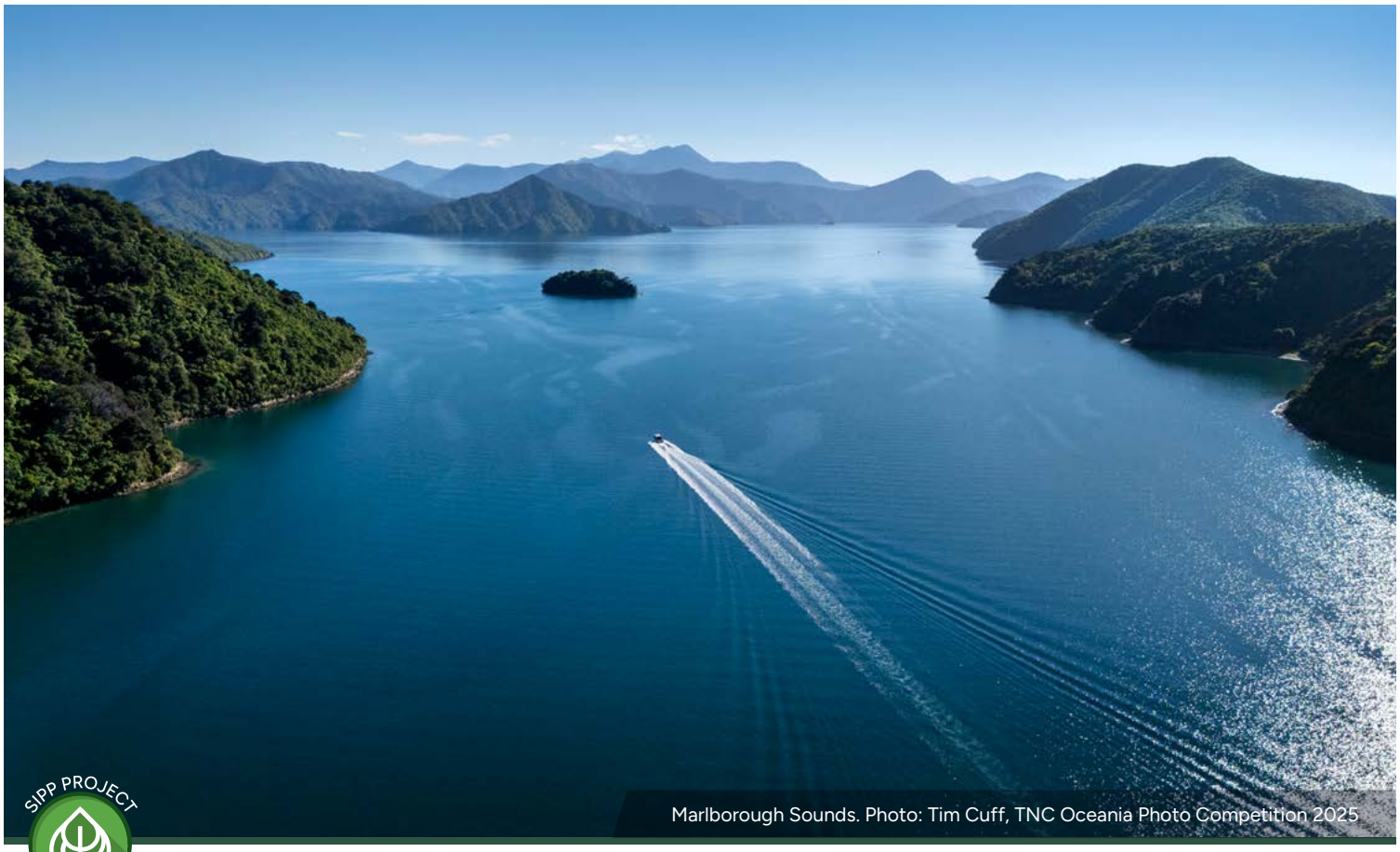
Heaphy Track, Buller Photo: Tui Thuy, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

Restoring marine ecosystems

KMTT's vision encompasses te taiao from the mountains to the sea, ki uta ki tai. The SIPP identifies a goal to restore our shellfish as a measure of ecosystem health through direct restoration and developing a sustainable blue economy with restorative aquaculture and sustainable marine harvesting methods. The establishment this year of Te Kāhui Tangaroa is a landmark step towards the vision of iwi-led restoration in this space.

KMTT is championing science and mātauranga Māori to inform and facilitate restorative catchment, riparian and marine management. By addressing knowledge gaps, improving our understanding of the state of the marine environment and identifying potential solutions to these issues, these projects are adding to the body of knowledge underpinning marine restoration across the top of the South.

'Takeaway lunch' Photo: Colin Marshall, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025



Marlborough Sounds. Photo: Tim Cuff, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

SIPP PROJECT

Te Kāhui Tangaroa

Te Kāhui Tangaroa's purpose is to enable an iwi-led forum for marine restoration. KMTT iwi are involved at many levels, from governance to operations, and this project focuses on leading iwi kaitiaki priorities, "Ki Uta ki Tai," acknowledging our rohe is interconnected through Wai Māori and Wai Tai. The marine space is the end of the line, and our whakapapa means we have an intrinsic relationship and responsibility to tiaki all our taonga across ecosystems and species. We are working to ensure we have the right tikanga, methodology, approaches, funding regime, tools and expertise to build the right team and resources to deliver these aspirations in marine restoration across Te Tauihu ki Kawatiri.

In 2025 the focus for Te Kāhui Tangaroa has been to establish the framework and parameters, Co-chairs Justin Carter from Te Ātiawa and Eugene Whakahoehoe from Ngāti Kuia were elected, and a budget and work plan adopted. Te Kāhui has also been exploring restorative aquaculture initiatives, engaging with other partners and projects. Te Kāhui has confirmed it will focus on the marine space, starting in the Marlborough Sounds. It will partner with and work strategically across government agencies, research institutes and community groups which align with Te Kāhui Tangaroa kaupapa and values. As the work plan unfolds, we are optimistic on the opportunities and clear on the wero as we look forward to seeing this work come to fruition to restore the mauri of our moana.

Te Kāhui Tangaroa is in the scoping phase as part of KMTT's Restoring Marine Ecosystems work, with key partnerships still being established.

KMTT Partners

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Waewae, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne, Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira

Wakapuaka raupo swamp. Photo: TNC NZ

Restoring Coastal Wetlands

Coastal wetlands play a critical role in storing CO_2 emissions, as well as providing protection against natural disasters, such as flooding and storm surges, while conserving natural habitats for native species. In the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, revitalising these valuable wetlands has become an international priority with restored coastal wetlands capturing as much carbon as native forests, and protecting coastal communities and endangered ecosystems from the impacts of climate change.

The Nature Conservancy's Global Blue Carbon Programme strives to create viable and sustainable conservation strategies for local communities by generating voluntary carbon and climate resilience and nature credits through the revival of these coastal ecosystems, supporting future restoration efforts and safeguarding these critical habitats.

The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand has published research using data collected at seven sites, including one in the Nelson region and one in Tasman, to assess the potential for funding coastal wetland restoration through blue carbon credits, and informing policy research.

Looking ahead, the programme is investigating a pilot restoration initiative, at a New Zealand site yet to be determined. This will showcase the development of a blue carbon project using climate finance initiatives in tandem with restoration efforts. and carbon documentation.

With Aotearoa New Zealand having the ninth-longest coastline globally, this endeavour could have a profound impact on coastal land use practices nationwide, charting a new course for sustainable environmental conservation.

KMTT Partners

Nelson City Council, Ngāti Tama, Ministry for the Environment
Supported by The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand

Key statistics

112,000
hectares of wetlands in New Zealand

88,000
additional hectares of saltmarsh, seagrass and mangroves suitable for restoration

91,680
estimated tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year total sequestration

Key statistics (Te Tauihu):

70
hectares of data collection area – Te Tauihu

12
months, quarterly – frequency of monitoring

3
types of data collected – including soil carbon stocks, greenhouse gas emissions, sediment build-up

“Abundance creates abundance”
– incentivising rehabilitation of soft-sediment fisheries

Can we incentivize marine abundance? That is the question asked by MBIE’s Endeavour Smart Idea funded platform, which is making steady progress on to explore different marine and terrestrial management options around the core themes of habitat, sedimentation, and fishing.

Dr Sean Handley, Marine Biologist at NIWA (now Earth Sciences New Zealand) is the team lead on the project. A wānanga for iwi to share knowledge about the changes observed in Te Tauihu generated potential questions to explore in ESNZ’s Atlantis Model, purposefully built to help restore the likes of shellfish including scallops.

A list of achievements for the project to date include reconstructing in “model-land” where Tasman Bay coral (a bryozoan) used to occur, using a sediment finger-printing method estimating the proportion of sediment deposited in the bays from different land-uses and compiling up-to-date fishing and scallop diet information in Atlantis.

Next steps are to prioritize the list of questions to code into Atlantis, so we can start generating some answers to the costs and benefits of the scenarios Kotahitanga mō te Taiao partners and other stakeholders have helped design.

KMTT Partners

Ngā iwi o te Tauihu

Te Tauihu Kūtai Restoration Project

Kūtai, green-lipped mussels, are important for our coastal habitats as they form the foundation of important ecosystems. They filter water, bind resuspended sediment, and create complex habitat that provides shelter to many other organisms. Along our coastlines in Te Tauihu we have some remnant kūtai beds, but they are functionally extinct on the seabed and are no longer providing those important ecosystem services.

Over the last six years we have been working in Te Hoiere, and more recently in Mohua, to understand methods to restore these important kūtai beds. Together with the Te Tauihu Fisheries forum, Manawhenua ki Mohua, the aquaculture industry and Marine Farming Association, and other project partners such as The Nature Conservancy and the Ministry of Primary Industries, we have completed a series of experimental kūtai restoration projects. A total of 65 tonnes of live adult mussels and 30 tonnes of shell material has been deployed across 13 locations testing a series of restoration techniques, along with the ecosystem services that the restored mussels provide, such as biodiversity.

This research has led to significant growth in the knowledge base for mussel restoration, informing site selection both in the intertidal and subtidal, deployment techniques, and monitoring methodologies. In addition, we were able to identify important restoration locations and methods to increase biodiversity, as well as habitat for recreationally important fish species, such as blue cod.

This project has had incredible community and industry collaborations, and we hope to continue this work through more funding in the future.

This project is a partnership between The University of Auckland, The Marine Farming Association, NIWA/ESNZ, Te Tau Ihu Fisheries forum, Manawhenua ki Mohua, The Nature Conservancy, The Ministry for Primary Industries, and the Marlborough District Council.

KMTT Partners

Manawhenua ki Mohua, Marlborough District Council

Tahunanui Beach at sunset. Photo: Stock image

BioProtect project surveys coastal waters for eDNA

KMTT Partner Nelson City Council is collaborating with the Cawthron Institute to use environmental DNA (eDNA) surveying of Nelson's coastal waters to detect traces of DNA left behind by marine creatures, giving a comprehensive picture of who's living in our waters.

Nelson's BioProtect project uses eDNA sampling as a cost-effective alternative to traditional survey methods to detect even hard-to-find creatures, giving a much clearer picture of the diversity living along our shores.

The first survey in early summer 2025 covered coastal areas from the Horoirangi Marine Reserve and Wakapuaka taiāpure to Port Nelson, providing information on how different types of land use and marine management affect coastal biodiversity. It will be repeated in winter 2026, to capture seasonal variations in marine life.

Future stages of the project will introduce additional BioProtect tools, including spatial planning software that can help identify priority areas for marine protection and restoration efforts.

Funding and expert support has been provided by BioProtect, which is part of the EU's Horizon Ocean and Waters Project designed to help coastal regions develop smart, nature-based solutions for protecting and restoring marine ecosystems.

This project is still in the scoping phase as part of KMTT's Restoring Marine Ecosystems work, with key partnerships still being established.

KMTT Partners

Nelson City Council

Mai i Whangamoa ki Horoirangi, mai i uta ki tai

The ground-truthing of LINZ multibeam maps with habitat information in the Wakapuaka Taiapure and Horoirangi Marine Reserve is now in Phase 2. Working with Dan Crossett at the Cawthron Institute and Emilee Benjamin of the University of Auckland, we have located a 'restoration' area in the Taiapure and demarcated four 500m2 sectors, of which two are control sites and two are treatment areas.

Under a customary scientific permit, working with the Wakapauaka whānau, we have removed over 30,000 kina from the two treatment areas. Initially we will see what the natural recovery looks like and then we aim to introduce green-lipped mussels and kelp to the treatment areas.

The project is led by DOC, Ngāti Tama and NIWA. KMTT partners Fisheries NZ and Nelson City Council are involved in the steering group. The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand supported iwi development through providing support funding to enable iwi members to participate in the collection and analysis of data.

KMTT Partners

Department of Conservation, Fisheries NZ, Ngāti Tama

Divers inspecting a recreational vessel for hull fouling in Abel Tasman. Photo: Boffa Miskell

SAP PROJECT

Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum

2025 marked a period of strong delivery, strategic alignment, and expanded collaboration for the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership. Across eight workstreams, the Partnership continued to protect the region's marine environments through coordinated surveillance, rapid response, stakeholder engagement, and national alignment.

2506 vessels were inspected for hull biofouling and the presence of marine pests across the Top of the South between January 2025 – October 2025. This was a combination of council-led surveillance (generally targeting marinas) and the summer hull surveillance (targeting active recreational vessels). Five incidents of Mediterranean fanworm were detected in Marlborough and responses to these detections were led by Marlborough District Council.

The Partnership strengthened its communications and engagement efforts, supporting national campaigns such as *Protect Our Paradise and Clean Below Good To Go*, while also refining its stakeholder engagement strategy. A summer marketing campaign reached over 300,000 people through digital and print channels, reinforcing key marine biosecurity messages.

KMTT Partners

Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council, Marlborough District Council
Fisheries NZ, Department of Conservation, Ngā Iwi o Te Tauihu

External partners: Biosecurity New Zealand

Key statistics:

2,506
total vessels inspected

268
vessels inspected in Nelson

90
vessels inspected in Tasman

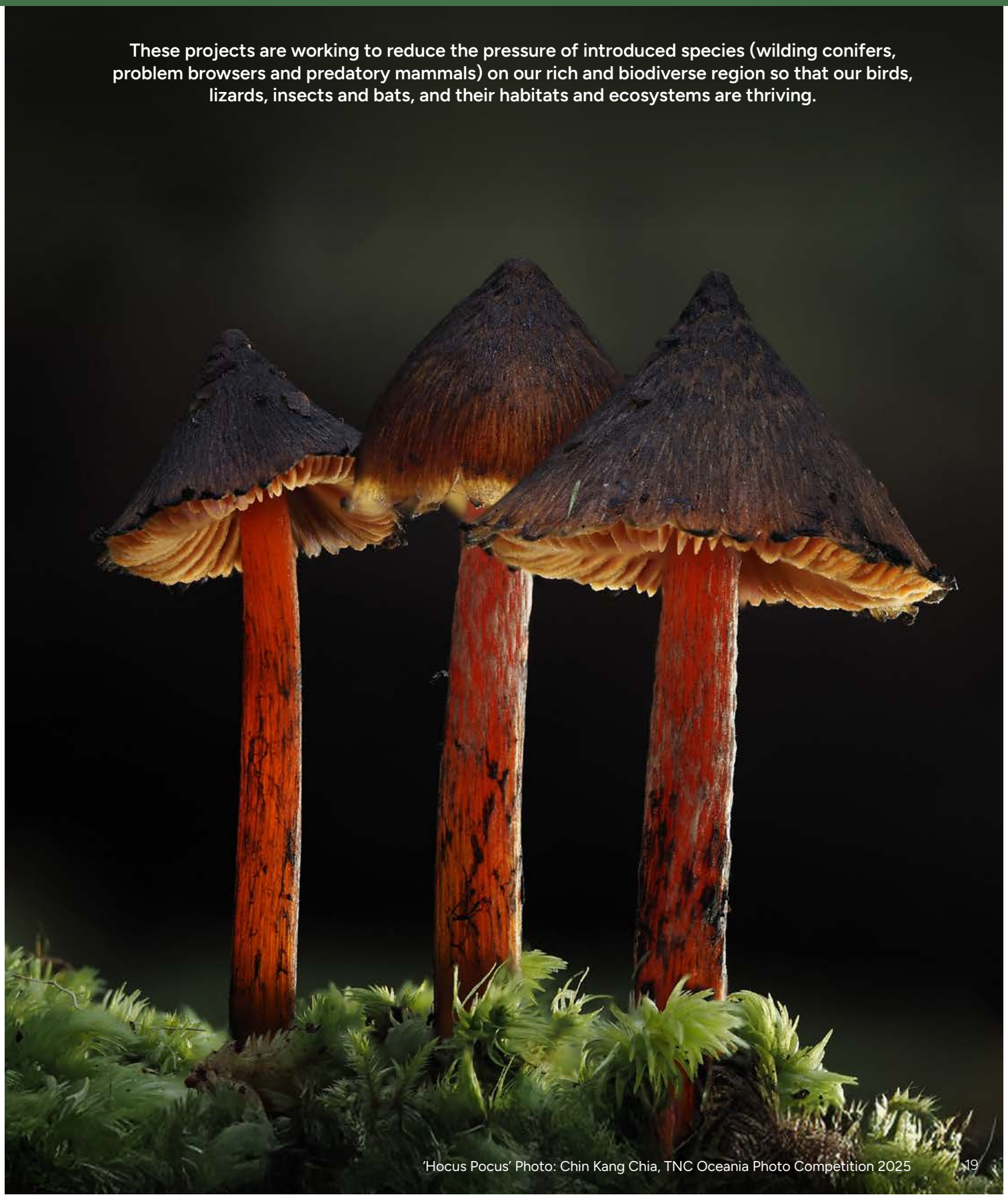
2,148
vessels inspected in Marlborough

5
incidents of Mediterranean fanworm detected in Marlborough

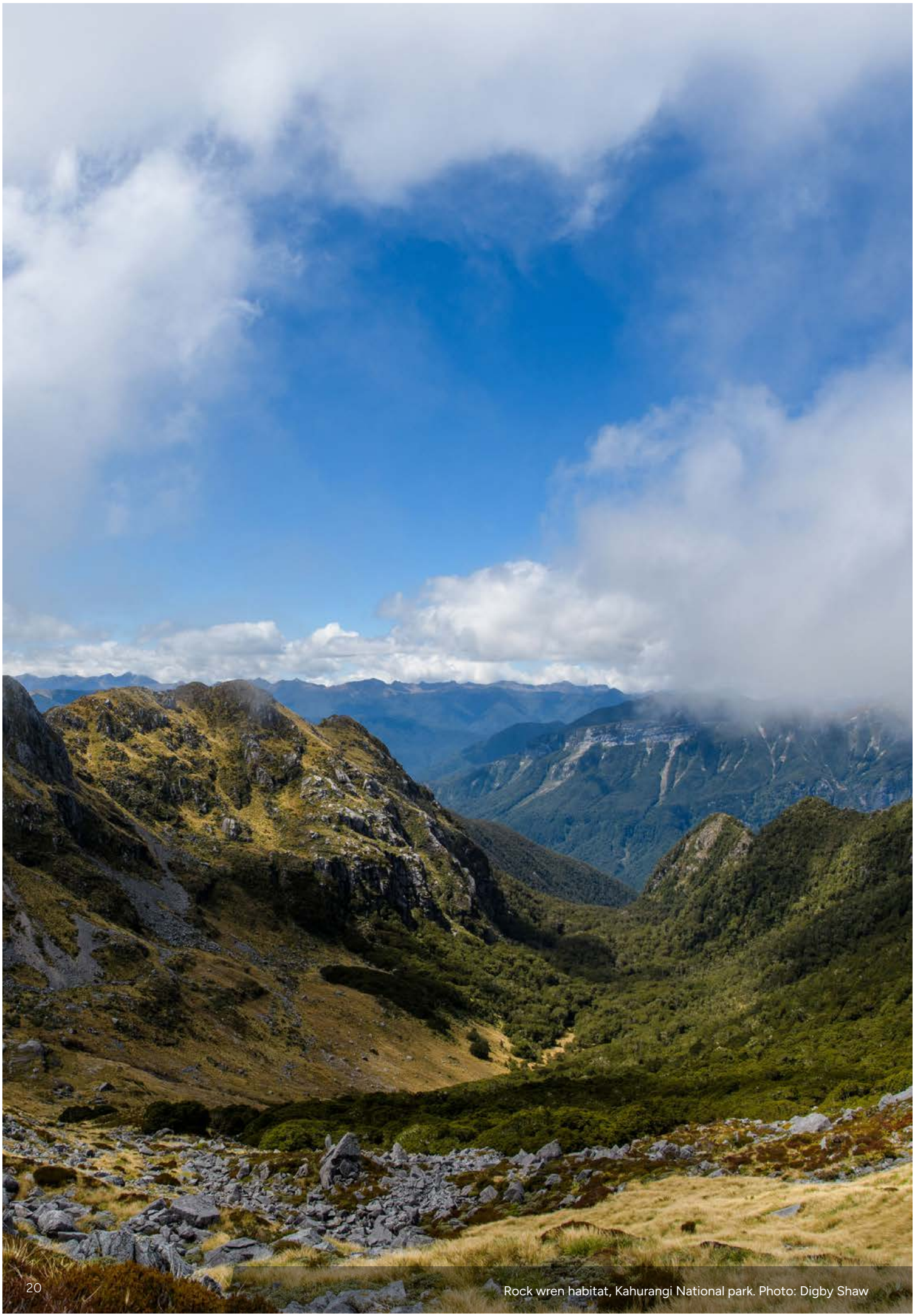
300,000
people reached through digital and print campaign, reinforcing key marine biosecurity messages

Helping our native species thrive

These projects are working to reduce the pressure of introduced species (wilding conifers, problem browsers and predatory mammals) on our rich and biodiverse region so that our birds, lizards, insects and bats, and their habitats and ecosystems are thriving.



‘Hocus Pocus’ Photo: Chin Kang Chia, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025



Rock wren habitat, Kahurangi National park. Photo: Digby Shaw

Northwest Nelson, bordered by the Motueka and Buller Rivers, is the subject of an integrated pest management project led by the Department of Conservation.

SIPP PROJECT

Integrated Pest Management across Northwest Nelson

Northwest Nelson sweeps from Onetahua Farewell Spit, bounded by the sea on the northern and western edges and on the east and south by the Motueka and Kawatiri/Buller Rivers. It is a cornerstone of Aotearoa New Zealand's natural heritage, holding profound cultural significance and some of our most endangered animals and plants, and loved by many seeking adventure and a connection to nature.

Invasive species present the biggest threat, and our Northwest Nelson project is focussing on the two key risks - predators, and ungulate browse. Several existing projects are protecting some of our smallest and rarest plants and animals like rock wren, giant land snails, takahe, kiwi, whio/blue duck and many more. The work is unrelenting and even when successful knockdowns are achieved, reinvasion is an ongoing issue. Ungulates are hindering both canopy and understory regrowth, and modelling in areas of high ungulate pressure shows eventual forest collapse. In 2024, the Department of Conservation took the lead on grappling with ungulates, but as we worked through our planning and engagement this year, it became clear that we need an integrated approach to predator and browser control. Not only is the management intertwined, but the outcomes are interdependent.

The past year has seen the DOC ungulate management team taking a laser focus on gathering information, mapping the ecosystems, starting to identify the hot spots, and beginning to build the road map that we are going to need to address this at scale. Simultaneously, a collective of key project managers involved in large-scale predator and ungulate control projects aligned to the KMTT strategy, and operating within Northwest Nelson, have come together to start to identify the opportunities to collaborate and build a phased, effective and maintainable landscape scale approach.

At over 800,000 hectares, this is no simple task, and over the coming year we'll be reaching out to other key projects, communities and landowners as we continue to develop a phased, collective approach. In the interim, the incredible work of many agencies, community groups, and volunteers will continue.

Integrated pest management is in the scoping phase as part of KMTT's Helping our Native Species Thrive work, with key partnerships still to be established.

KMTT Partners

Department of Conservation

Dr Bob Brown and Bronwyn Billens looking for hoverfly in a wasp nest at Wainui, Golden Bay. Photo: Blair Reid

SAP PROJECT

Wasp Biocontrol Agents introduced to Te Tauihu

Following the deployment of European hoverfly *Volucella inanis* at Ronga (Rai Valley) and Wainui (Golden Bay) in summer 2024, KMTT Iwi partners took a hands-on approach to monitoring progress, reflecting iwi aspirations for the whenua (significant sites) to enhance te taiao and protect taonga species.

For the first round of monitoring at Wainui in winter 2025, Dr Bob Brown from the Bioeconomy Science Institute (Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research Group) was supported by Bronwynn Billens from Manawhenua ki Mohua, who suited up and helped excavate the nests to check for signs of successful hoverfly establishment. At Ronga Valley, the team were supported by Tammy Hippolite and Molly Moses from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kuia in the hunt for wasp nests.

Manawhenua kaitaikitanga over the project was further enhanced by a hīkoi to the Bioeconomy Science Institute in Christchurch, to see firsthand the science and breeding facilities used in this programme, and to build connections between mātauranga Māori and science.

Whānau of Manawhenua ki Mohua, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō and Ngāti Kuia, as well as Tasman District Council - Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere, Marlborough District Council and The Nature Conservancy in Aotearoa New Zealand staff, spent the day at the biocontrol agent breeding facility.

In the second half of 2025, a renewed effort to establish the biocontrol agents got underway as Dr Brown travelled to the United Kingdom to survey wasp nests and collect hoverfly larvae to bring back to New Zealand. On arrival, the larvae underwent a strict quarantine and screening process in the insect containment facility at the Bioeconomy Science Institute's Lincoln site, to ensure they met all the requirements set out by MPI.

Once cleared for release, the hoverfly will be mass reared in situ in managed wasp nests, then translocated to release at the two approved sites in March 2026.

"It is not unusual to require several releases for a biological control agent to establish successfully," said Bob. "We learnt from the earlier releases that we need to minimise the disruption to the hoverfly as we transport them to a new location, and to have larger numbers of hoverfly ready to go," said Bob.

This work is a collaboration between Bioeconomy Science Institute (Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research Group), Tasman District Council - Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere, and the Vespula Action Group, as part of a Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Sustainable Farming Fund.

Support has also been provided by Manaaki Whenua's Strategic Science Investment Fund (SSIF) and The Nature Conservancy in Aotearoa New Zealand to facilitate the releases as part of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao strategy.

KMTT Partners

Tasman District Council, Marlborough District Council
Ngāti Kuia, Manawhenua ki Mohua, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō

Tuatara at the Brook Sanctuary. Photo: Justine Hausheer/TNC NZ

SAP PROJECT

Brook Waimārama Sanctuary

Established in 2004, the 690ha Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is a community-led project operated by a charitable trust, supported by 17 staff and more than 300 volunteers.

Kiwi pukupuku | Little-spotted kiwi reintroduction – In May, 41 Little spotted kiwi were translocated from Kāpiti Island into the Sanctuary, marking a major milestone for the Brook Sanctuary, our volunteers, staff, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira, who are the kaitiaki of the translocated birds.

Kākāriki karaka | Orange-fronted parakeet – A population count conducted in 2025 estimated that numbers now exceed 250 birds, more than double the population translocated between 2021-2023. This nationally critically endangered species is showing strong signs of success within the Sanctuary.

Tuatara translocation – In 2025, a further nine tuatara were released into a mouse-proof enclosure within the Sanctuary. An additional 35 are planned for translocation in 2026.

Flood event – The severe May 2025 weather event caused damage that compromised the Sanctuary's biosecurity systems. Fortunately, no pest incursions occurred, and our flood appeal campaign raised more than $115,000 within four days.

KMTT Partners

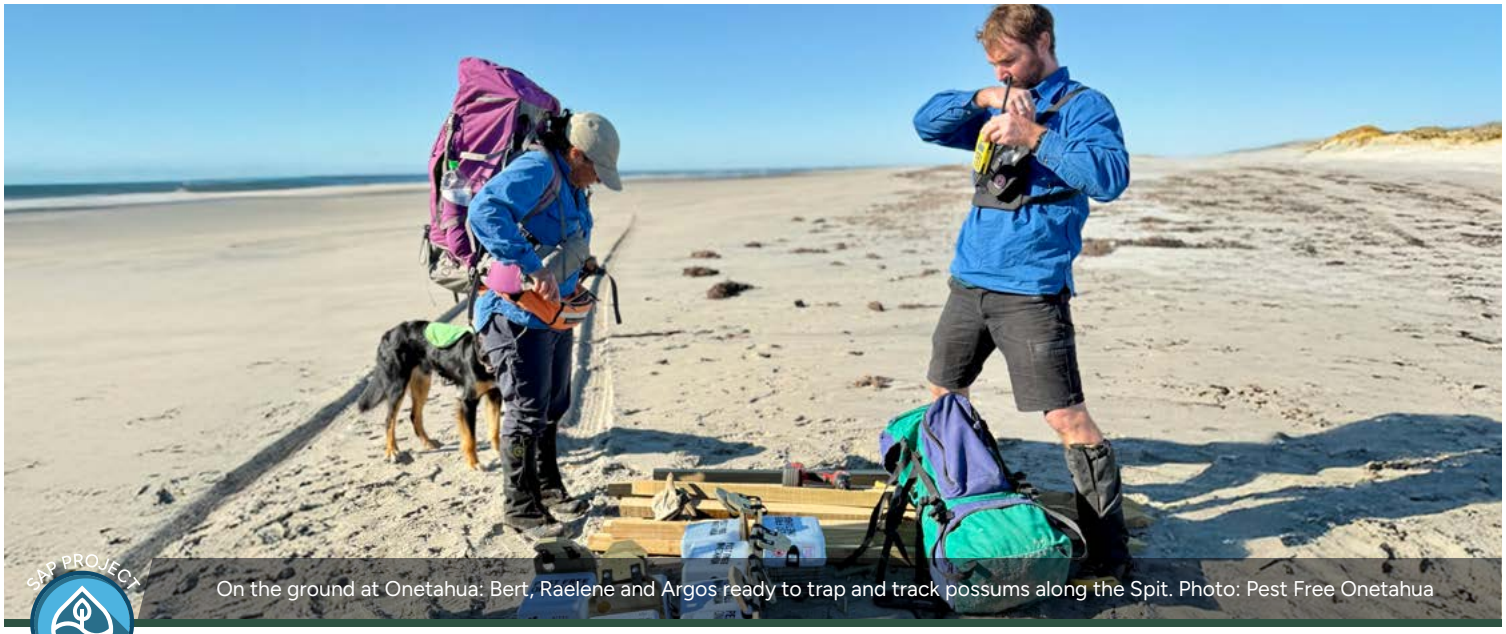
Nelson City Council, Department of Conservation
Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Toa Rangatira

Key statistics:

25,000+
volunteer involvement in hours in 2025

350+
native plant species recorded in the Sanctuary

300+
volunteers



On the ground at Onetahua: Bert, Raelene and Argos ready to trap and track possums along the Spit. Photo: Pest Free Onetahua

SAP PROJECT

Pest Free Onetahua

Building on last year's milestones, Pest Free Onetahua has continued to strengthen predator control across Farewell Spit. An intensive ground-based trapping plan, developed in partnership with DOC and Manawhenua ki Mohua, is now fully embedded resulting on significant steps toward creating a safer environment for the native species that inhabit this remarkable place.

Our trapping network now spans the full 22 km length of Farewell Spit, providing comprehensive coverage across dunes, wetlands, and coastal habitats. A dense bait station network is in place down 14 km of the Spit, with 8 km to go before the entire length is protected. The use of a drone for hare control, equipment dispatch and precision pre-feed application has significantly improved pest control efficiency in difficult terrain. Argos, the project's specialist possum dog handled by Project Lead Corey Mosen, is proving to be invaluable and has detected 206 possums to date, enabling significantly more effective pest control.

Construction has begun on the predator-proof fence, built in partnership with HealthPost Nature Trust. This fence will provide a critical barrier to pest reinvasion and help secure the gains made through intensive predator control. We are grateful to have received a $250,000 Lotteries NZ grant toward the construction of this important long-term infrastructure.

Ecological monitoring continues to deliver promising information with the resident kiwi still appearing on cameras, kororā (little blue penguin) seen all along the Spit, and endangered mokomoko (green gecko) remaining present in the scrub habitat.

This important work is made possible through the generosity of our amazing supporters, including The Rātā Foundation, Lotteries NZ and continued philanthropic funding through The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand.

KMTT Partners

Tasman District Council, Department of Conservation
Manawhenua ki Mohua

Key statistics:

4,100
predators removed

22,000
hectares of operational span

3,000
hectares monitored

Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors exploring nature in the park. Photo: Rick Field

SAP PROJECT

Project Janszoon

Project Janszoon is working through its final year as the generous support of Neal and Annette Plowman to transform the ecological prospects of Abel Tasman National Park reaches its conclusion at the end of June 2026.

Project Janszoon board and staff have worked with The Department of Conservation (DOC) to ensure the most positive and aspirational future for the park beyond that date. The strong partnerships we've built with DOC, manawhenua iwi and other partners like the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust, have been critical to ensuring the best outcome for the ongoing maintenance of the achievements of the past 13 years. Together we've controlled invasive wilding conifers, restored rare coastal habitats, reduced fire risk, targeted goats, and reduced invasive predators to the level where it has been safe to reintroduce taonga species such as kākā, pāteke and whio. We've seen bush robins return to the coastal track, and educated thousands of students, some of whom have gone on to careers in conservation. To say we are proud of these new kaitiaki is an understatement – they are our biggest legacy for the future.

We'd also like to thank the tourism operators, volunteers, supporters, park visitors and local landowners who have been part of our journey over this time – your positivity about our work has been much appreciated.

Project Janszoon is part of the Tomorrow Accord, one of several game changing conservation projects under an agreement with the New Zealand government. Once the projects achieve the agreed biodiversity outcomes, the government will maintain those gains. Project Janszoon is now at this stage. On 1 July 2026 we will entrust the future of our work into the hands of DOC, mana whenua iwi and local communities. The significant philanthropic investment and mahi by all involved has indeed transformed the ecological prospects of one of the region's taonga, as well as creating a community of kaitiaki who hold the park close to their hearts.

KMTT Partners

Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, The Department of Conservation

Key statistics:

823

goats culled in the Park and Halo

5,015

rats and mustelids trapped

859

FireSmart volunteer hours contributed

Outward Bound Shackleton Watch Volunteers, November 2025. Photo: Lee Crosswell

SAP PROJECT

Picton Dawn Chorus

Sanctuary: Following tracking tunnel monitoring this year, the fenced sanctuary remains rat-free. A regular crew of maintenance volunteers have kept the sanctuary looking nice, while keen trappers have continued predator control. A new track within the sanctuary is well underway and repairs are currently being made to parts of the access jetty.

Wildlife Management International has continued with its monitoring of kororā/little blue penguin at the site as part of their work for Port Marlborough.

A successful wasp baiting programme was also carried out in late summer/early autumn throughout the Sanctuary and on Wedge Point.

Halo: Predator control has continued across our peninsula sites adjacent to the sanctuary, with mustelid control continuing over the wider extension area. Over the past year, volunteers have worked tirelessly to obtain more AT220 traps to expand our automated predator control. As a result, we now have 211 of these devices in the field, with another batch arrived in November for summer deployment. This impressive effort has been well supported by the wider volunteer community, local businesses, Air NZ and Marlborough District Council.

Planting Group: The Ngahere Group has again been busy this year, planting out large areas along, underneath and adjacent to Victoria Domain over the winter months. Previously planted areas have also been maintained. This planting not only provides greater aesthetics to the area but also increased food for bird species into the future. This year the group has planted approximately 1480 plants.

Volunteer Involvement: Volunteers have been at the heart of the workload completed this year - working in the shop, trap building, planting, growing plants, maintaining facilities, entering trapping data, running various working groups and obtaining funding for the trapping network to push forward.

Visiting volunteer groups have added a real impact to these works. Outward Bound has been amazing, with several groups undertaking track clearing and other work. This was a huge help after the damaging weather events in spring. With their help, traplines, particularly within the sanctuary, have been cleared and are looking good for predator control over the summer and into the new year.

KMTT Partners

Marlborough District Council, Ngāti Rārua

Key statistics:

4,990

predators removed over the past year

200+

AT220's traps purchased with funds raised by volunteer fundraising events

1,480

new plantings added this year

Our J4N Wilding Conifer control work has finished but we have been able to reach new heights with further funding from MPI. Photo: Tasman District Council

SIPP PROJECT SAP PROJECT

Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Control

The last 12 months have seen further progress in tackling troublesome wilding conifer seed sources in the Mt Richmond Management Unit. This has been a collaboration between Department of Conservation, Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council and Ministry of Primary Industries. Substantial work has been undertaken in and around the Miner Catchment (a tributary feeding in the Hackett), Gordons area, the Wairoa Gorge and in the Red Hills.

Further work in coming months will see control work undertaken on the Beeby's ridgeline.

While we have now reached the end of Jobs for Nature funding for this project, we have continued funding from the Ministry for Primary Industries National Wilding Conifer Control Programme to continue our important work for the coming financial year.

KMTT Partners

The Department of Conservation, Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, Marlborough District Council, Ngā iwi o te Tauihu

Key statistics:

15,565

hectares - aerial control of wilding conifers (since 2020)

1,011

hectares - ground control of wilding conifers

Some of the Friends of East Mohua Wainui Volunteer group who have set up the first network on two large high biodiversity value properties in West Wainui Photo: East Mohua Trapping Collective

SAP PROJECT

East Mohua Trapping Collective

East Mohua Trapping Collective (EMTC)'s plan to create an overarching collaborative predator control plan for almost 9000ha of land between Takaka and Wainui, including expanding its trapping network into the Wainui Valley to adjoin the Abel Tasman National Park (ATNP), has taken some significant steps forward this year. EMTC networks have expanded and we now have three operative trapping and monitoring networks - Grove Reserve (147 devices), Motupipi Estuary (130 traps), and West Wainui (120 devices).

A number of predator control groups in East Mohua have agreed to come under the EMTC umbrella, including the Friends of East Mohua (FOEM), Mohua Penguin Trust, Paines Ford Reserve, Project Rameka and the Rangihaeata and Rototai Trapping lines (both formerly Forest & Bird).

Project De-Vine, as lead of EMTC, encouraged the Department of Conservation to run a Golden Bay Conservation Group forum. This was a great chance for all the trapping groups to share within the network.

We also note that Project Janszoon supports a trapping network halo extending out from ATNP to future-proof their predator control. As their work winds down, we've been able to source 450 bait stations from the ATNP. Combined with the addition of about 400 bait stations and nearly 500 mixed trapping boxes from ZIP Marlborough Sounds in 2024, this has reduced our need for funding for basic traps and bait stations and enabled more focus on network expansion and management.

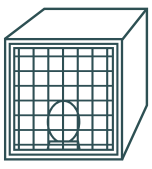
Towards the end of 2025 we ran a PledgeMe campaign to raise funds for Flipping Timmy traps and AT220 traps for possum and rat control in high-density populations and remote areas.

It has been hard to get larger-scale funding, and we are running on a shoestring budget, supported by donations and volunteers – to date numbering 21.

KMTT Partners

Tasman District Council, Manawhenua ki Mohua

Key statistics:

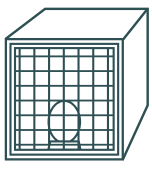


290

total devices put out by EMTC-owned networks

Kills for 2025

133 Possums; 4002 Rats; 43 Mustelids; 39 Hedgehogs

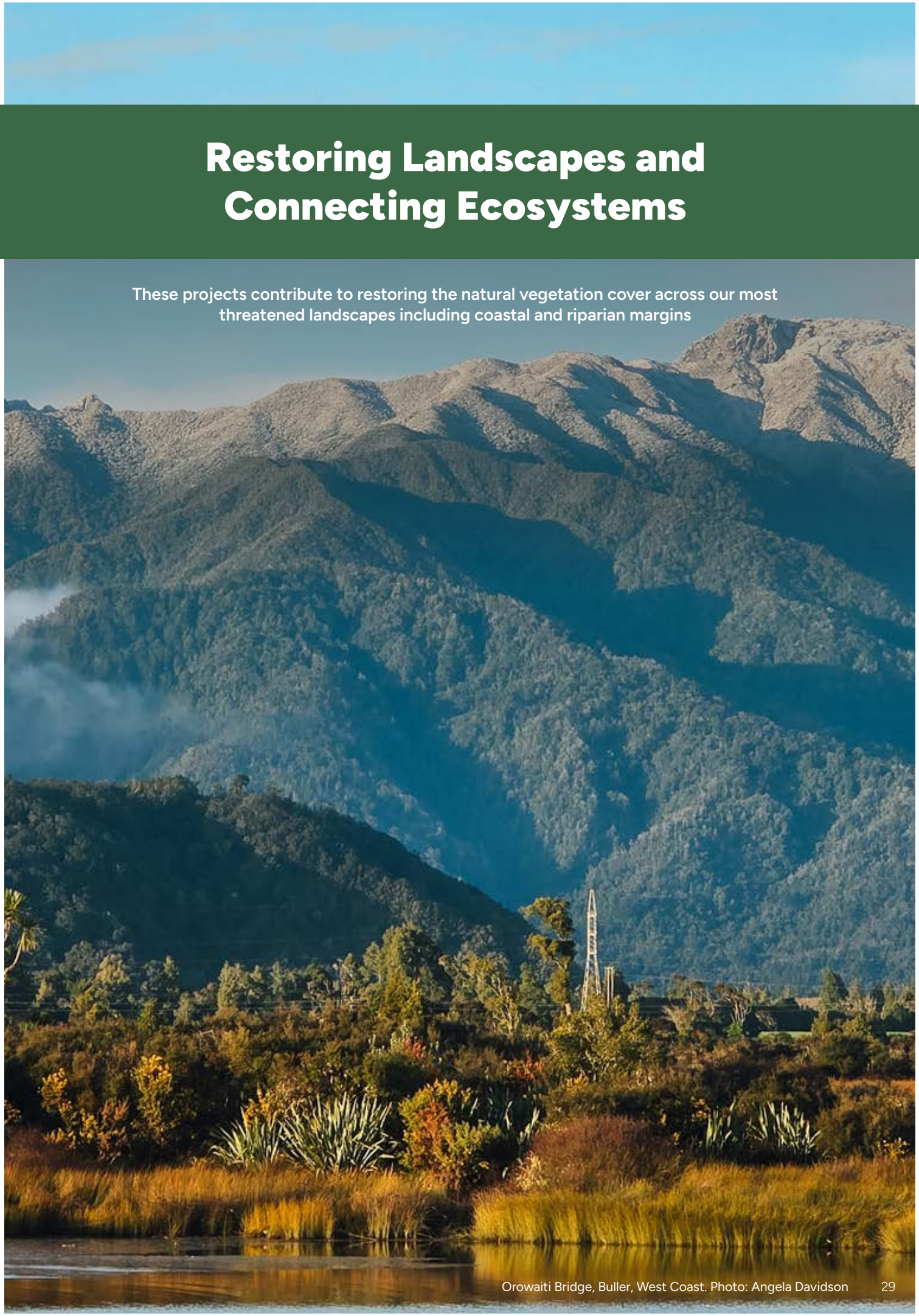


1,026

total devices across all EMTC-aligned groups in East Mohua

Restoring Landscapes and Connecting Ecosystems

These projects contribute to restoring the natural vegetation cover across our most threatened landscapes including coastal and riparian margins



Orowaiti Bridge, Buller, West Coast. Photo: Angela Davidson

Whararikі at sunset. Photo: Stock image

'Surprise Rifleman' Photo: Chad Cottle, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

SIPP PROJECT

Restoring Lowlands

KMTT and The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand are working together to restore native vegetation cover to 15% (10-13,000 ha) across the lowlands of Te Tauihu/Top of the South and Kawatiri/Buller.

KMTT's Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan identifies restoring lowlands and connecting ecosystems as a key workstream to restore nature in our region. Native cover in the highly fragmented lowlands (areas below ~500m above sea level) – where most people live, work, farm and recreate - currently is as low as 1% in some areas, so fulfilling the project goals will make a significant difference to the region's biodiversity, flood resilience and erosion control, as well as benefiting communities and primary industries through a healthier, more balanced natural environment.

Restoring Lowlands encompasses several projects, all with the same goal – enhancing and increasing native cover in the region's lowlands. Many of the lowland areas in question are privately owned, so working with landowners to find out what the barriers are to restoration, finding ways to incentivise restoration for different types of land ownership, and understanding where the best areas for restoration are, are important to achieving landscape scale restoration.

Several pilot research projects, including a catchment-scale feasibility study into sustainable financing opportunities for restoration, will build an evidence base that will inform successful on-the-ground projects. The partnership with TNC NZ provides critical funding and world-class research expertise that lifts this project well beyond traditional restoration models.

Restoring Lowlands picks up from the Restoring and Protecting Flora Project, which successfully carried out over 20,000 ha of weed control and planting at more than 150 ecologically significant sites across the region.

KMTT Partners

Department of Conservation, Tasman District Council, Ngā iwi o te Tauihu, Ngāti Waewae

The Moutere, Motueka and Riuwaka catchments are the focus of a catchment-scale feasibility study.

SIPP PROJECT

Restoring Lowlands - Research and Feasibility Studies

Catchment-scale feasibility study and restoration project

This native restoration feasibility study focuses on the Motueka, Moutere and Riuwaka catchments to find more affordable and effective ways of restoring the fragmented lowlands of the top of the South Island at scale. The catchment-wide pilot trials financial and non-financial incentives for private landowners to undertake native restoration.

This trio of catchments, which collectively drain the wide floodplain into Tasman Bay, was chosen as the study catchment for its engaged communities, variety of land uses and ownership, and reforestation potential.

The study will provide detailed information for TNC NZ and KMTT partners about the most effective incentive packages to support landowners, potentially including carbon markets and biodiversity premiums/credits.

The feasibility study is expected to take 9 months and will be followed by another year's project design phase with the aim of restoring ~3000-6000 ha, using the recommended sustainable financing mechanisms and non-financial incentive packages. The learnings will be applicable to reforestation projects across the KMTT rohe as well as other regions.

The study is partly funded by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Natural Climate Solutions Accelerator Grant Programme, which provides kick-start funding for innovative, equitable and scalable approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and storing more carbon on natural and working lands.

Native reforestation spatial modelling

A geospatial model to prioritise native reforestation sites across the KMTT rohe has been developed. The model incorporates over 40 data sets including ecological site values and viability, ecosystem services, climate resilience, connectivity and project feasibility, and can be used to identify the top priority areas for reforestation.

Landowner choice modelling

This social science study identifies opportunities and barriers for private landowners to undertake native reforestation. It involves interviews with landowners in the top of the South to find out what they need to make restoration a viable option on their land, followed by a wider survey of hundreds of rural landowners around the country.

St Canice's School Students assisting planting at Kukuwai Reserve. Photo: Taryn Swete

SIPP PROJECT

Restoring Lowlands - Restoration Trials

These on-the-ground pilots are investigating the impact of different partnership models, landownership/tenure, community involvement, and restoration methodologies for lowland forest restoration projects. The Restoring Lowlands team is allocating resources from various funders as outlined below, as well as additional funding secured through TNC's Accelerating Impact Fund earmarked for sites to be confirmed in 2026.

Kūkūwai Reserve, Martins Creek, Kawatiri

Following on from three years of weed control and restoration planting by the Restoring and Protecting Flora project, the Kūkūwai Reserve in the Buller River Delta is now under Department of Conservation (DOC) ownership, with restoration management being handled by the Kawatiri Nature Environment and Communities Trust (KNECT) with support from TNC and KMTT. An additional 5000 trees were planted at the reserve this spring to enhance a remnant kahikatea forest and saltmarsh ecosystem within the Buller River Delta. The reserve's value as a nature-based solution for flood mitigation, as well as habitat restoration and sediment reduction, makes it an important restoration project for the region.

Restoring Lowlands is collaborating on this project with DOC, West Coast Regional Council, KNECT, local schools, community volunteers, and planting contractors MBC Environmental. Trees That Count funded the trees for planting which were provided by local nurseries.

Plantings at Beuke's Bush. Photo: Elliot Easton

Beuke's Bush. Photo: Elliot Easton

Beuke's Bush, Moutere Hills, Tasman District

TNC and KMTT are providing further support for the community-led enhancement of an 11ha remnant of mature lowland podocarp forest in the Moutere Valley. In winter 2025, an additional 10,000 trees were planted at Beuke's Bush – 4,000 funded by Trees that Count and 6,000 by the Beuke Family. KMTT is providing funding for labour, plant guards and project coordination, through funding secured by TNC NZ. Tasman Environmental Trust and the Moutere Catchment Group are key partners to this project and will provide follow-up maintenance to the plantings over the coming years with support from the Lottery Grants Board.

Tasman horticulture revegetation project

In partnership with Tasman Environmental Trust, DB Breweries and TNC NZ, this project is supporting horticultural landowners in the Moutere and Motueka catchments systems - including many tributary streams and rivers - to plant natives and control weeds to connect remnant stands of native bush, enhance native wetlands and reduce sediment being carried out into Tasman Bay - ultimately improving water quality in the two river systems.

Tasman Horticulture revegetation project. Photo: Elliot Easton

Aerial view of Wakapuaka project area. Photo: TNC NZ

SIPP PROJECT

Wakapuaka natural regeneration project

This pilot project is investigating the use of drones to spot spray target weeds such as wilding conifers and old man's beard in areas of natural regeneration and exploring opportunities for longer-term natural regeneration and catchment-wide weed management. Two trial spraying operations were carried out in autumn and spring 2025. The final outcomes will provide information on cost-effectiveness, methodology comparisons between drone and ground control of target weed species, impact on non-target species and recommendations for scaling this method up for larger-scale hill country application.

Ruapaka wetland restoration

The restoration of a historic wetland at Ruapaka, in the Te Hoiere/Pelorus Catchment, has been a collaboration between KMTT Partners - Ngāti Kuia, Marlborough District Council and DOC, working through Te Hoiere Project with adjacent landowners and supported by Restoring Lowlands.

An ecological survey of the site in 2022 identified strong ecological and cultural values within the wetland, despite incursions by invasive weeds (old man's beard and willows in particular). Priorities for restoration have been weed control and planting of locally eco-sourced natives. Including support from Restoring Lowlands, a native plant nursery was established at Te Hoiere/Pelorus Bridge to support native restoration at this site and others in the area.

Ruapaka Wetlands. Photo: Elliot Easton

Extensive planting and enhancement within the Waimea Inlet laid a solid foundation for the future care and monitoring of this special habitat. Photo: Tasman District Council

SAP PROJECT

The Waimea Inlet Billion Trees

This project, supported by Minstry for the Environment Jobs for Nature funding, aimed to restore and enhance key estuarine and freshwater ecosystems by building on previous work undertaken through the Billion Trees initiative.

Thanks to valuable funding and the much-appreciated efforts of our community and local environmental organisations, the Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees (Phase 2) project concluded on 30 June 2025.

Over the life of the project 113,579 plants have been planted and maintained around the Waimea Inlet. This has been over an area of 20 hectares right around the estuary.

The planting has been in a mixture of different ecosystems including salt marsh, coastal wetlands (brackish and freshwater), lowland forest, coastal shrubland and inland riparian margins. A lot of the areas chosen for planting were of high ecological value with existing linkages to ongoing restoration efforts led by other parties.

The three initially identified sites of the project - Rough Island, Best Island and Dominion Stream have had a great deal of work undertaken but a number of other areas have also seen significant restoration work. Plant establishment across all sites has been very good, even in the face of adverse weather in June/July 2025. Weed control over 36 hectares around the estuary targeted a range of species, specifically in areas of restoration planting. The collaboration involved in this project has connected volunteer-led predator trapping programmes and volunteer planting days, with ongoing biodiversity benefits.

This project has been successful in enhancing biodiversity, improving ecological resilience, and supporting the long-term health of the Waimea Inlet ecosystem. While the project outcomes have been achieved, Tasman District Council remains committed to ensuring the focus areas will continue to grow. We are excited to see how the project positively impacts the Waimea Inlet in the future.

KMTT Partners

Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Ngā iwi o te Tauihu

Key statistics* (whole project):

113,579

plants, well over the expected 70,000 target

570

metres of new fencing erected to protect the new plantings

37

hectares of weed control with plans in place for long term maintenance

Saltmarsh restoration at Rough Island. Photo: Tasman District Council

SAP PROJECT

Waimea Inlet Enhancement

The Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, funded by Ministry for the Environment Jobs for Nature and Tasman District Council, comprises several sub-projects focused on the restoration of estuarine habitats. This funding, along with the much-appreciated efforts of our community and local environmental organisations, led to its successful conclusion on 30 June 2025.

The Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project undertook a range of restoration work to improve the health of the Waimea Estuary. These included:

- Small-scale stream restoration at Poorman Valley Stream and Reservoir Creek, using woody debris and gravel replenishment to improve in-stream habitat.
- Fencing 882 linear metres of watercourses and estuarine areas to protect plantings from stock and to prevent vehicle damage to the estuary.
- The enhancement of a coastal wetland in the lower Waimea River. This involved two phases of earthworks over several years, with a large-scale planting programme supported by targeted weed control and predator trapping in collaboration with Tasman Environmental Trust.
- Salt marsh trials using alternative methods at different scales around the estuary. These will inform further efforts undertaken in the region. Ongoing monitoring will continue after the project is at an end.
- Development of an estuary-wide weed management strategy and wide-scale survey. This informed a large programme of work around the estuary, and has resulted in a notable reduction of some of the most troublesome salt-tolerant weeds in the inlet.

Overall, the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project has had a profoundly positive impact on key sites, its legacy including the management strategy now in place. With the goals of the Inlet projects achieved, our Reserves team and Catchment Enhancement Officer will have ongoing oversight. We hope to continue the established relationships with landowners, volunteer groups like Keep Richmond Beautiful, and organisations such as Tasman Environmental Trust and Department of Conservation.

KMTT Partners

Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, Department of Conservation
Ministry for the Environment, Ngā iwi o te Tauihu

Key statistics:

31,289
plants planted in riparian, lake or wetland habitat

.77
kms of fencing completed

98.24
hectares of weed control

McKay Wetland spillway planted with *Carex sp.* to provide fast establishment. Photo: Blair Reid

SAP PROJECT

Tasman Wetland Restoration

The Tasman Wetlands project will be completed in June 2026. To date the project has carried out enhancement work at a total of 58 sites across the rohe, including nine constructed wetlands and hydrological restoration in three natural wetlands. This was an advance on the original plan for 47 sites. In total the project has achieved 396ha of weed control – 141 ha in 2025.

2025 was a quieter winter, with no construction work planned and just a final round of weed control to carry out in the last months of the project.

This provided time for the team to trial a method for constructing a wetland spillway at the McKay Wetland in the Aorere Valley, Golden Bay. Constructed wetland spillways are very vulnerable to erosion in their early stages.

After some innovative thinking, the team used Carex species specially grown in tiles similar to 'readylawn', to install on the spillway for fast growth and establishment and to avoid the use of synthetic geofabric and rock armoured spillways traditionally deployed in constructed wetlands.

The installation worked very well, and progress will continue to be monitored.

The trial harakeke geotextile basket plug installed in 2024 continues to perform well at Mangatāwhai/Black Valley wetland at Rotoiti.

Using videography as a reporting method also generated significant interest across the sector with presentations pending at several conferences.

KMTT Partners

Ministry for the Environment, Tasman District Council
Department of Conservation, Ngā iwi o te Tauihu

Key statistics:

25,194
plants

141
hectares of weed control

6,410
people hours

Significant effort has gone into consolidating and quality-assuring fish passage data from the Jobs for Nature project. Photo: Tasman District Council/ Kumānū

SAP PROJECT

Tasman Fish Passage

This five-year project is focused on restoring connectivity in Tasman waterways by assessing and remediating in-stream structures so our native fish can complete their life cycles. With strong support from landowners across the district, we remain ahead of schedule and on track for completion prior to, or by, June 2026.

As of October 2025, the project has achieved 94% landowner engagement, highlighting the collaborative nature of the project and the value of community partnerships. We've also trained 14 people, including two rangatahi, building local capability in freshwater restoration.

Recent trials in Dominion Stream and Williams Creek, building on earlier evaluation work, confirmed that cost-effective designs—flexible rubber and floating ramps—can significantly improve fish passage for key species. Effectiveness varies by species, in-stream structure type, and gradient, with flexible ramps benefiting climbing species like banded kōkopu and elvers, and floating ramps supporting swimming species such as īnanga and redfin bully. The evaluation report outlines the environmental conditions and structural characteristics where these methods are most effective.

This spring, an additional 12 sites are scheduled for remediation with floating ramps, further extending fish passage connectivity across the district and building on the successful methods trialled to date.

In addition to physical remediation, the project has contributed to national conversations around freshwater data management. Our experience consolidating data from multiple systems has informed future pathways for integrating regional and national datasets, including future alignment with fish passage related data from the AWM (roading maintenance) system.

As we enter the final phase of the project, significant effort has gone into consolidating and quality-assuring fish passage data from the Jobs for Nature project. This work has enabled integration into Tasman District Council's internal GIS environment, improving accessibility and supporting long-term planning.

This project continues to demonstrate leadership in freshwater restoration and sets a strong precedent for future fish passage work across Aotearoa.

KMTT Partners

Ministry for the Environment, Tasman District Council, Ngā Iwi o Te Tauihu

Key statistics:

6,500

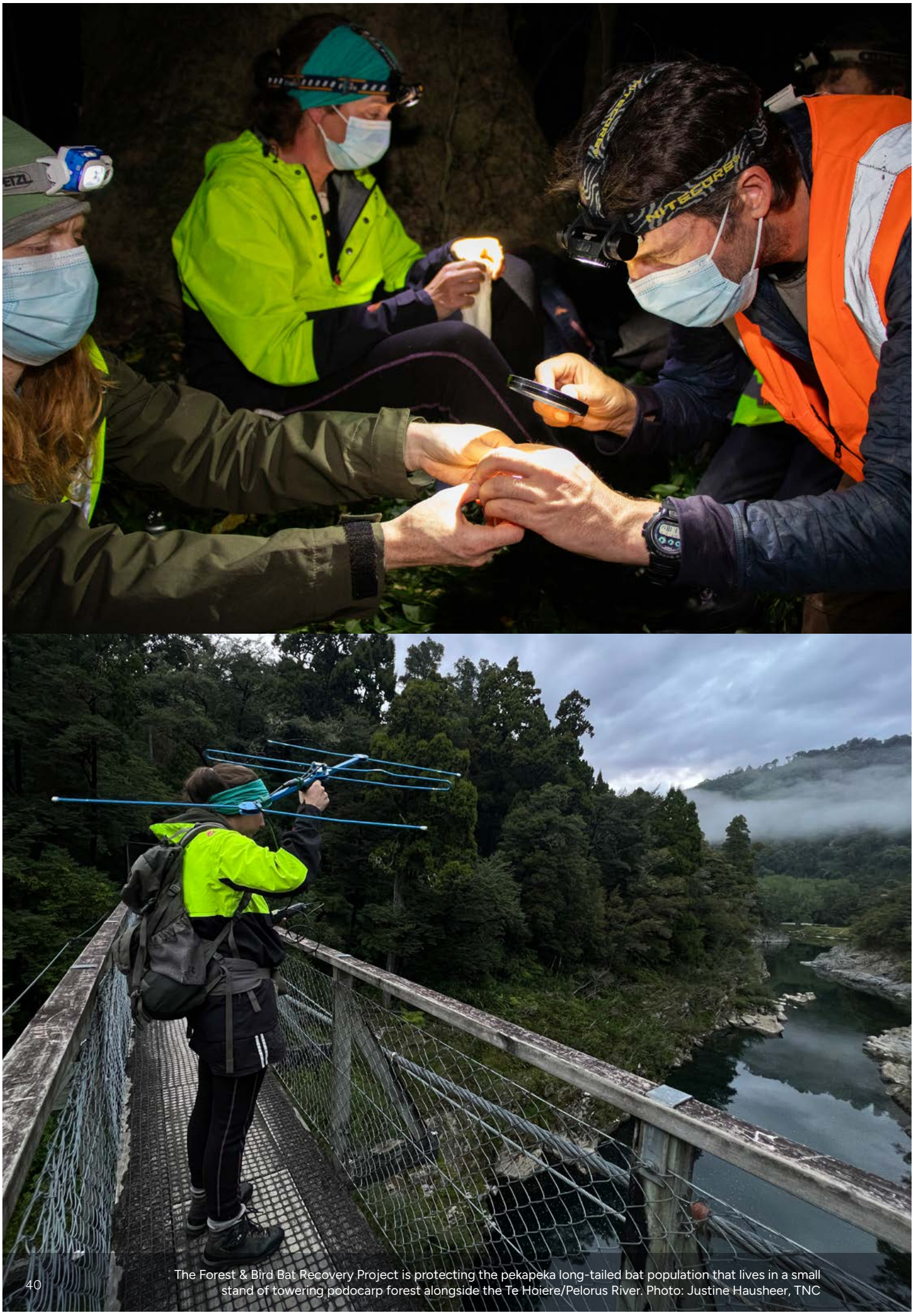
in-stream structure assessments for fish passage across the Tasman District

125,700+

hours of work

1,000

remediations completed, improving access for native fish species



The Forest & Bird Bat Recovery Project is protecting the pekapeka long-tailed bat population that lives in a small stand of towering podocarp forest alongside the Te Hoiere/Pelorus River. Photo: Justine Hausheer, TNC

Te Hoiere Project celebration brought together partners and the community at the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve to acknowledge Project achievements. Photo: Te Hoiere Project

Te Hoiere Project

It's been another year of working together to restore the mauri of our land and waters for Te Hoiere Project. Efforts with the community to fence waterways and wetlands have continued, and work to address barriers to native fish migration has accelerated. Over the past year the Project extended offshore into the estuary for the first time with a working group developing an aspirational restoration plan for the Motuweka/Havelock Estuary - the receiving water of Te Hoiere.

A new monitoring report published in June 2025 showed changes in land management are resulting in water quality improvements. Mitigation efforts, such as planting and fencing riparian margins, are leading to lower concentrations of nutrients and E. coli levels at multiple sites, as well as reduced turbidity and phosphorus levels, indicating reduced erosion and runoff.

Knowledge sharing has flourished with the Department of Conservation's Ngā Awa programme holding its national hui in Te Hoiere this year. Meanwhile, education with tamariki has stepped up with nearly 160 students engaging with nature through the Project, with most of these students coming from the catchment area.

Through the Top of the South Wood Council, the forestry industry has continued its work with support of the Project, receiving accolades from the Marlborough Environment Awards and wrapping up a land transition study. This study explores options for landowners who may be interested in transitioning parts of their land from forestry to alternative uses, such as permanent native forest.

Te Hoiere is nearing the end of its major funding with Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment and is actively working on a strategy to build a sustainable project structure and funding model.

KMTT Partners

Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne o Wairau
Marlborough District Council, Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment

Key statistics:

48,013
native plants planted

18.4
kms of fencing protecting riparian/wetland

35
fish passage barriers assessed

5
fish passage barriers remediated

Jobs for Nature funding of Project Mahitahi trained and employed many conservation staff and supported work throughout the catchment. Photo: Nelson City Council

Project Mahitahi

Project Mahitahi Jobs for Nature funding from the Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment wrapped up this year, with all restoration targets successfully met. This funding has enabled great strides to be made in pest plant and animal control at sites throughout the catchment and saw more than 150,000 native plants installed over the years.

Community engagement, a key component of the project, helped raise awareness of the unique and valued biodiversity of the Maitai Valley and the challenges faced to protect and restore its ecosystems. In January, a Maitai BioBlitz attracted around 75 eager participants and identified more than 350 species. An *Explore the Mahitahi* event during the Tuku 25 heritage festival in April invited the community to learn about the history of the Mahitahi and the progress made through recent restoration efforts.

2025 also saw celebrations for the field staff and volunteers who have contributed to the project over the years; a sincere thank you goes to all those whose passion and dedication has made an incredible difference to restoration in the valley. The training and upskilling of conservation staff was a standout success of the Jobs for Nature programme, and Te Tauihu will continue to benefit from this legacy for years to come.

KMTT Partners

Nelson City Council, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Rārua, Te Ātiawa
Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation

Key statistics:

4,650
trees planted

515
predators trapped

26
hectares of weed maintenance

Tuna/Freshwater eels. Photo: Colin Marshall

SAP PROJECT

Te Mana o Te Wai

The Ministry for the Environment-funded Te Puna Korero – Implementing Te Mana o Te Wai finished up in August 2025.

The protection and enhancement of freshwater is one of the highest priorities for ngā iwi o Te Tauihu. Freshwater management is a critical area where ngā iwi play a vital role as kaitiaki. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) required councils to:

» Manage freshwater in a way that gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai

» Actively involve tangata whenua in freshwater management

» Ensure that Māori freshwater values are identified & provided for

This presented a significant opportunity for ngā iwi to work with the three councils (Marlborough District Council, Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council) to co-design a freshwater planning framework to give effect to NPS-FM provisions relating to iwi/Māori.

The two core areas of focus for ngā iwi representatives included:

» Working with council policy staff to co-design the changes to regional policy statements, regional plans and/or district plans required to implement the NPSFM where those provisions relate to tangata whenua in their role as kaitiaki of wai, and

» Working with iwi, hapū and whānau to gather and prepare the information, tools and resources required to support and inform ngā iwi freshwater policy work with councils.

Ngā iwi needed a lot of information, tools and resources to support and inform the policy work with the three councils. To achieve this, we used the MfE funding to set up 'Te Kāhui Waipuna'. This iwi-led part of the project aimed to build ngā iwi capability and capacity in the freshwater management space through:

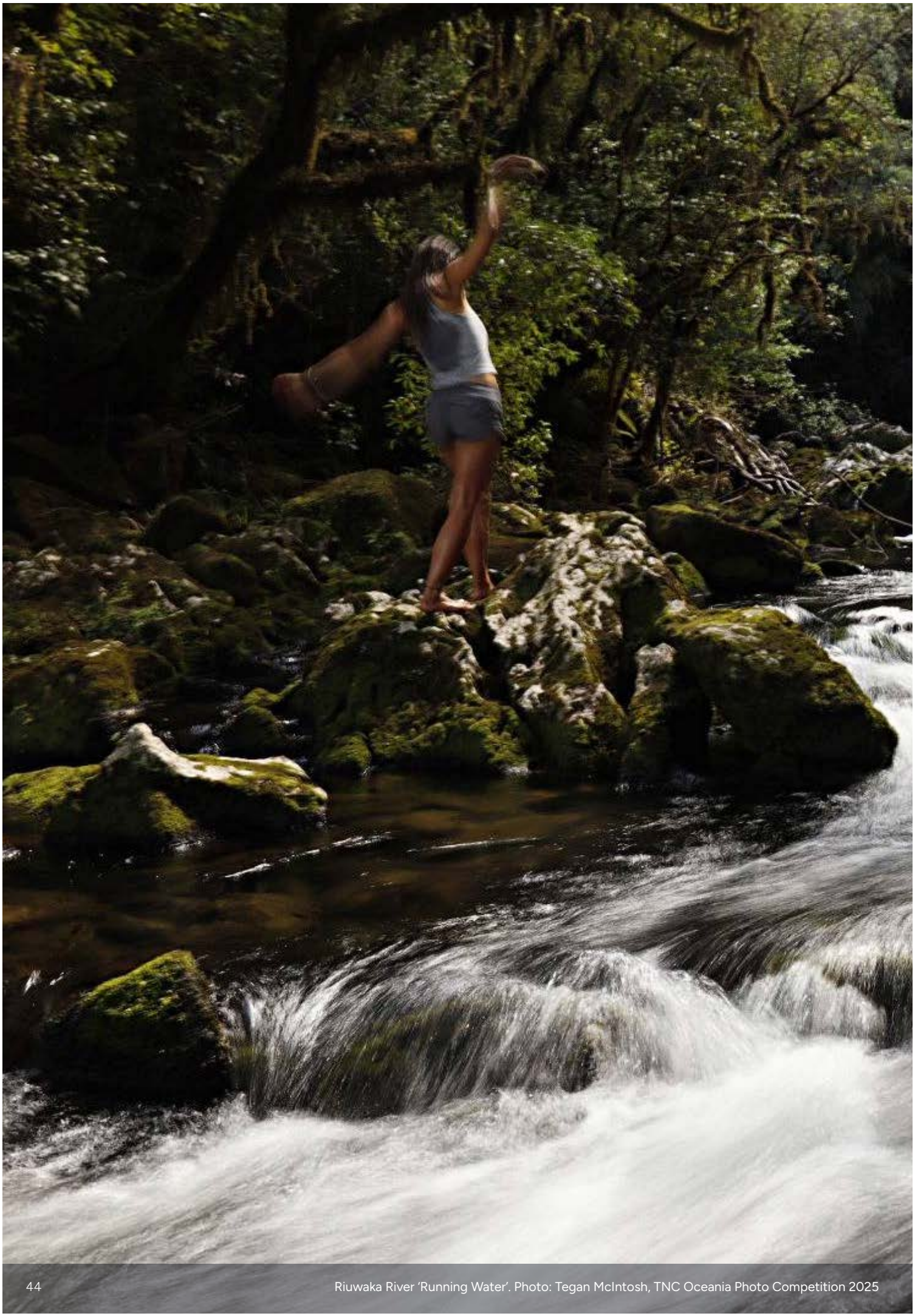
» wānanga with whānau and hapū to gain a better understanding of associations, perceptions, and expectations around the implementation of Te Mana o te Wai.

» development of tools and resources including a geographic information system, cultural monitoring frameworks, kaitiaki training programs and the like.

» recruitment of staff and development of organisational infrastructure to support all of the above, including expertise in project management, administration, kaitiaki education and training, data management, GIS, Te Ao Māori.

KMTT Partners

Ngā Iwi o Te Tauihu, Nelson City Council, Marlborough District Council, Nelson City Council



Riuwaka River ‘Running Water’. Photo: Tegan McIntosh, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

Whakahau
Empowering Action

Inspire – Connect – Nurture – Empower is our framework to support communities, groups and individuals growing connection with environmental restoration across our landscape, as reflected in our vision: "people live, care for and benefit from the environment in ways that bolster natural ecology and the communities that live within them." By empowering action across our community, Whakahau supports the work of Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu – Protecting and Restoring – Ki uta ki tai.

Tuna monitoring at Lake Rotoroa. Photo: Kylie Batt

Checking tuatara burrows, Brook Sanctuary. Photo: Justine Hausheer, TNC NZ

Connecting People and Te Taiao

Conservation Planning develops community of practice

Our training during 2024 in the international Conservation Standards resulted in a strong Community of Practice across the KMTT region. Since then, the training has been adopted in a number of projects, helping drive well-considered initiatives for success.

Led by one of our key Community Connector Hubs, Tasman Environmental Trust, we have hosted two practitioner gatherings, where we shared knowledge, hot tips, and even the use of AI to support the planning process. Ongoing training in online tools, and the use of a modular approach to planning has been helpful this year – enabling even existing projects to utilise the Conservation Standards tool as they undertake adaptive management reviews.

Research Hub

This year we drafted a Research Strategy for KMTT, to drive better collaborative approaches between research agencies, researchers, and the conservation community at large. From this strategy will come a reviewable plan that will clearly identify the research priorities for our KMTT partners and the KMTT projects.

There are many thorny problems to solve if we are to successfully tackle the twin biodiversity and climate crises whilst supporting our local communities. From social research to iwi-led research kaupapa, aligning our research priorities and strategies will help us avoid duplication and improve applied research to help achieve priority goals and outcomes. In the past year we have already collaborated with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Trust and NIWA (now the Bioeconomy Sciences Institute), and Cawthron Institute, to help unpack some of our key challenges.

Always be Naturing

Closely aligned with our Inspire – Connect – Nurture – Empower framework, the Department of Conservation (DOC)'s engaging and creative campaign to get more New Zealanders out "naturing" is something we are taking to heart – and giving life to across KMTT. Through a collaboration with our Community Connector Hubs, and with our social outreach, we are working closely with DOC at a regional level to help turn local efforts into tangible realities for our nature and for our community. We're excited to see where this will lead, and of course, we want you all on board.

Community connector hubs

Kawatiri Nature Environment & Communities Trust (KNECT)

In 2022, KNECT, a Charitable Trust, was founded by 11 Kawatiri locals, comprising scientists, engineers, planners, teachers, and business professionals who share a love for our district's rich biodiversity and wild landscapes, and a vision for a resilient Kawatiri where both people and nature thrive.

Our strength lies in our connections with a broad range of organisations, projects, and initiatives across the district, united in our efforts to support our communities and our natural environment.

We are committed to the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao's Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan and are thrilled to play a role in bringing it to life in Kawatiri as a Community Connector Hub.

KMTT Projects

Restoring Lowlands - Kūkūwai Reserve, Martins Creek, Kawatiri

Tasman Environmental Trust

Empowering Communities Across Te Tauihu

At Tasman Environmental Trust, everything we do starts with people and place. Our vision is of connected, healthy ecosystems and communities woven through the landscape. We are deeply bound to this place, and our work is grounded in a simple belief: when local people are supported to care for the environments they love, powerful and lasting change follows.

For more than 25 years, TET has walked alongside community conservation groups to support, guide, and share the load. We welcome diversity, value relationships, and look for the opportunities that come from working together. This collaborative approach is at the heart of everything we do.

In 2024/25, that collective effort was remarkable. Together, our communities planted 53,310 native trees, deployed and maintained 4,435 traps across landscapes and coastlines, and contributed 11,797 volunteer hours to help nature flourish. Beyond this hands-on mahi, we supported 125 community events and volunteer opportunities, hosted 62 workshops and planning hui, and delivered 314 touchpoints of engagement communications. Behind the scenes, our Hub team kept the wheels turning to deliver 99 funding applications and reports, and processing 3,059 financial transactions to ensure every project had what it needed to succeed.

This past year, TET supported 26 community-led conservation projects across the top of the South Island. From neighbourhood backyard trapping groups to large catchment-scale collaborations, these projects show what's possible when communities are empowered to lead. They build friendships, resilience, and a shared sense of purpose, to strengthen the social fabric of our region.

Behind every tree planted and trap checked is someone who cares deeply for this special place. We're endlessly grateful to all our volunteers, landowners, funders, partners, and manawhenua who make this collective impact possible. Together, we're restoring nature and connecting communities across Te Tauihu.

KMTT Projects

Pest Free Onetahua
Restoring Lowlands – Beuke's Bush

'Warm night, moth's delight'. Photo: Carey Knox, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

Tūāpapa

Getting the System Right

This system refresh will ensure that governance, operational and funding structures are fit for purpose. It will provide a point of focus to measure outcomes and ensure climate resilience is embedded in our work. It will support and uphold actions to improve iwi leadership across te taiao.

Tuatara monitoring. Photo: Justine Hausheer, TNC NZ

NZ Falcon with prey. Photo: Deb Corbett, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

Governance and Operational Review

During 2025, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our legal and operational structure. Leaning into the aspiration for improved iwi leadership, we have initiated both Te Kāhui Tangaroa (iwi leadership in the moana) and are establishing a new legal entity for KMTT – the KMTT Charitable Trust. Reporting to the KMTT Governance, the Trust will have appointed Trustees and will be the legal vessel through which the delivery of the KMTT Strategy and Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan (SIPP) will be achieved. It will undertake the functions currently hosted within The Nature Conservancy, TNC Aotearoa New Zealand. It enables us to have greater ownership, flexibility and local responsiveness to ensure our actions are impactful and kaupapa driven. You'll see a new website, and greater visibility of our projects. It will have the capacity to host projects in the stand up phase and be a vehicle for integrated financing and fundraising options. The full transition to the new entity will be operative in the middle of 2026.

Our relationship with TNC has evolved, to focus on the major landscape-scale delivery outcomes we are seeking – like Restoring Lowlands. We appreciate that our key focus areas of work under the SIPP align so closely with TNC's own strategic plan, securing an ongoing relationship with a partner of such international experience in these complex systems.

We also want to acknowledge the huge support we have had from Rātā Foundation over the past year, supporting our evolution, and enabling improved equity in our iwi leadership.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework

Winter 2025 brought us Alyssa Laffin from the University of Wisconsin – Madison on her applied practical placement for her master's degree, to drive the backbone of our Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Framework. This was no easy task, with so many collaborators, projects, and varying timeframes. Alyssa has driven a simple, yet effective framework for measuring our progress. Using international standards, and the international MiradiShare, Alyssa has created a platform that enables multiple projects to be visible and accessed by multiple parties. The reporting mechanism will go live for KMTT projects in 2026. We thank the Nelson DOC office for hosting Alyssa during her time here.

Building Climate Resilience

Inherent in all of our work is the need to understand and build in both climate resilience and meaningful solutions. Our work in this space is focussing on ensuring all projects are developed with this as a conscious decision point at the forefront of their planning. For example, Restoring Lowlands is deliberately addressing climate challenges in how the lowlands are restored – from reduction of sediment, to improving flood resilience.

Remaining up to date with the challenges the climate poses to biodiversity, and how we tackle it, was the focus of the much-awaited forum hosted by KMTT partners, Tasman District and Nelson City Council.

Partner Statements

DOC Kiwi project - monitoring Kiwi on Motuara Island, Marlborough Sounds. Photo: Belle Gwilliam, DOC, Crown Copyright

Cultural Tuna monitoring at Rotoroa. Photo credit: Kylie Batt

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō

Mai i te tihi o Pourangahau ki ngā puna tapu o Rotoiti, o Rotoroa e whāngai nei i te awa Kawatiri o huri kōpiko atu kōpiko mai. I ngā maunga whakahī ki te au o Tangaroa ki te uru, ki te tōnga o te rā. E kokoia e Apa e.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō holds a deep and enduring relationship with te taiao. Our whakapapa connects us to the whenua, wai, and all living things within our rohe. It is through this connection that our responsibilities as kaitiaki are understood and upheld.

Guided by the principles of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kaitiakitanga, and whakapapa, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō is committed to protecting, restoring, and enhancing the mauri of our lands and waters for future generations. These values shape how we engage with others and how we approach our shared responsibility to care for te taiao.

Through our involvement in the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance, we continue to bring an iwi lens and mātauranga Māori to regional environmental kaupapa. Our current priorities include work across the Nelson Lakes District, Waimea Inlet, Te Anamāhanga, and the West Coast/Kawatiri — places that carry the stories and mana of our tūpuna. Our tūpuna established inland trails linking the Nelson Lakes to Te Tai Aorere and Te Tai Poutini via the Kawatiri River, connecting us to mahinga kai and coastal food sources.

KMTT Partner Projects

Waimea Inlet Enhancement, Te Mana o Te Wai, Wasp Biocontrol Programme
Tasman Wetlands Restoration, Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Restoring Lowlands

Kairuku wānanga ki Little Kaiteretere. Photo credit: Te Ātiawa

Te Ātiawa o Te-Waka-a-Māui Trust

E titia nei e Te Ātiawa, i te iti, i te rahi, te katoa
To shine as Te Ātiawa, the few, the many, all of us

Tamarau nō runga i te rangi
Heke iho ki raro ki te whakamarimari
Tē tatari ai, ki te hurahanga o te tāpora o Rongoueroa
Taku kuia e, taku kuia e!
Te ara o taku tupuna i tohia ai au
Ko Te Ātiawa no runga i te rangi

In the late 1820s, sections of Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui migrated south and settled in Te Tauihu o Te Waka-a-Māui (the Northern South Island) and established mana, rangatiratanga and customary rights over whenua and moana at Tōtaranui (Queen Charlotte Sound), Kura te Au (Tory Channel), Waitohi (Picton), Anamahanga (Port Gore), Te Tai o Aorere (Tasman Bay), Whakatū (Nelson), Motueka, Mōhua (Golden Bay) and Te Tai Tapu (Whanganui Inlet).

Our steadfast dedication to driving transformational change throughout Te Tauihu will deliver enduring benefits for future generations. We value our strong alignment with the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and remain committed to providing active leadership within this kaupapa.

Te Ātiawa continue to play an active leadership role across several environmental and restoration initiatives, including KMTT Governance, Te Kāhui Waipuna, Te Kāhui Tangaroa, and providing oversight of the Mahitahi Project and Pest Free Ōnetahua through Manawhenua ki Mōhua.

In 2025, we proudly launched Kia Haukura te Kopakopa – the Purple-Ribbed Mussel Restoration Project and the Ngā Kāhui Kaitiaki mō Kaimoana Monitoring Project in Tōtaranui, further strengthening our commitment to the health and resilience of our coastal ecosystems.

We are also continuing to invest in our Kairuku Strategy, training whānau as Kaitiaki Divers to build capability and capacity as guardians of the moana.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Mana o te Wai, Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Project Mahitahi, Pest Free Onetahua, Project Janszoon, Restoring Lowlands, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum, Wasp Biocontrol Programme, Te Tauihu Kūtai Restoration, East Mohua Trapping Collective

Wairau River. Photo: Ngāti Rārua

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua

Te Runanga o Ngāti Rārua is the mandated iwi authority for Ngāti Rārua with deep, living whakapapa across Te Tauihu o te Waka-a-Maaui and Kawatiri. Our marae, whanau and whenua surround the awa, takutai and ngahere that Kotahitanga mō te Taiao seeks to restore.

Through KMTT we bring our Tūpuna Tana Pukekohatu aspirations of *"Kia atawhaitia te tangata i muri i a ahau, kia pal te noho"* – Live well and be kind to all peoples, from creating the conditions for people and te taiao to thrive together. Our role is to uphold Kaitiakitanga, embed mātauranga a iwi alongside science, and ensure our people inherit healthy freshwater, estuaries, wetlands and coastal ecosystems.

Ngāti Rārua kaimahi and kaitiaki are active across landscape, freshwater and marine projects, partnering with councils, agencies, hapori and other iwi. We are committed to long-term, relationship-based mahi outlined in our **Poipoia Te Aō Tūroa** / Environmental Plan that reconnects our people with place, grows local capability, and restores the mauri of our rohe from maunga to moana and back. In doing so we give practical effect to our responsibilities as kaitiaki and Tiriti partners.

KMTT Partner Projects

Project Mahitahi, Waimea Inlet Billion Trees, Waimea Inlet Enhancement, Tasman Wetlands, Tasman Fish Passage, Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Control, Te Hoiere Project, Picton Dawn Chorus, Pest Free Onetahua, Restoring Lowlands, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum, East Mohua Trapping Collective, Te Mana o te Wai, Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Project Janszoon, Wasp Biocontrol Programme, Te Tauihu Kūtai Restoration

Rangitāne o Wairau

Rangitāne o Wairau have inhabited Te Tauihu since the 16th century, establishing a rohe extending from Waiau Toa to the Wairau. Guided by the enduring principles of Kotahitanga - Kia mahi tahi, kia kauanuanu tētahi ki tētahi (Working together, respectfully, as one) and Kaitiakitanga – Tiakina ā tātau taonga kei ngaro (Embracing our responsibility to protect, preserve, and enhance our taonga), our kaupapa continues to centre on Te Taiao – our environment. Toitū te taiao ki tua o ake tonu atu, ensuring the integrity and sustainability of our environment for generations to come.

This year marks a significant milestone with the release of **Te Aropipi - Taiao Strategy**, our first comprehensive environmental strategy and Taiao Management Plan. Te Aropipi gives expression to our rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga, sustained and practised across generations. It outlines our values, challenges, and aspirations as we strive to protect our whenua, wai, and ecosystems. The strategy also creates opportunities to strengthen relationships with councils, communities, and the Crown by providing insight into Rangitāne history and whakapapa, and a platform for engagement, kōrero, and collaboration. This document has been formally lodged with all three Te Tauihu councils, with a social launch planned prior to Christmas.

Work has continued on the Wairau Wetlands Cultural Values Mapping and Management Project, now nearing completion. This initiative brings together mātauranga Māori, cultural narratives, and scientific data within one platform to create a holistic understanding of the Wairau Lagoons and their significance as one of Aotearoa's most important coastal wetland systems. It will inform future management, restoration, and monitoring efforts across the wider Wairau catchment.

Our collaboration with Marlborough District Council (MDC) on the reconsenting of the Blenheim Sewerage Treatment Plant remains a priority. The consent has been lodged, but significant changes in the national environmental and resource management framework have required a renewed and adaptive approach. Throughout this process, Rangitāne o Wairau has maintained a strong advocacy role, ensuring cultural and ecological values of the Wairau Lagoons are recognised and upheld. This partnership has strengthened our relationship with MDC and reinforced the importance of upholding principles once embedded within Te Mana o te Wai in local decision-making. Our involvement has helped shape assessment frameworks that better reflect the interconnectedness of the Wairau system, from plains and wetlands to coastal margins, positioning Rangitāne o Wairau as a key partner in developing long-term solutions to protect and restore the mauri of this important taonga.

Rangitāne o Wairau continues to support the work undertaken by the Te Hoiere Project as it transitions into an enduring restoration programme. Over the past year, the project has advanced riparian and wetland restoration with more than 76 km of fencing and extensive native planting, alongside predator control and biodiversity monitoring. Our strategic priorities remain focused on planting, improving water quality, enhancing biodiversity within the catchment, and restoring areas for future generations. Through these efforts, we uphold our commitment to the mauri of Te Hoiere and to collaborative action that weaves mātauranga Māori with science for long-term resilience.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Hoiere Project, Te Mana o Te Wai, Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Restoring Lowlands,
Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum

Wānanga team at Moawhitu, sampling water quality and monitoring tuna populations. Photo: Ngāti Koata

Ngāti Koata

Ehara taku toa, I te toa takitahi, Engari, he toa takitini
Success is not the work of one, but the work of many.

Ngāti Koata delivers many environmental functions which contribute to the Kotahitanga vision, but most are not KMTT recognised programmes. The three main ones include a species (e.g. tuatara, Hamilton's frog, various seabirds) kaitiaki role on its offshore islands in the Marlborough Sounds (jointly with the Department of Conservation (DOC)); a habitat and iwi cultural restoration role at Moawhitu on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island (also jointly with DOC) and in Nelson's Maitahi River catchment (jointly with Nelson City Council (NCC)) on lands administered by the iwi, and a role in the resource management system to support culturally significant sites, waters and land ecosystems across the region. Of these, only the Maitahi project (now complete) is specifically identified as a Kotahitanga site.

Te Taiao is essential to life. Ngāti Koata's kaitiaki role requires the iwi to help nourish and support that life within its rohe, especially where we have unique cultural obligations and places of deep significance.

This year has seen the completion of the Maitahi restoration programme, which is a Kotahitanga mō te Taiao project. It was funded with Crown support through Jobs for Nature, where we have worked closely alongside NCC to enhance, revegetate, control weeds in, manage traplines in and help control wild animal numbers in the riparian margins and some covenanted areas with Ngāti Koata administered forests in the Maitahi River catchment.

The iwi is responsible for around 2500 ha of forested land in the Maitahi River catchment and a further 1500ha in the Wakapuaka River catchment, representing the largest private owned forest in Nelson City. We are always looking to find ways to better enhance te taiao, as well as derive economic returns for the iwi. Much of this land is accessible to residents and visitors to Nelson City, and is used extensively for walking, cycling and other outdoor activities in association with the Council.

Associated with this, on Kākā Hill the iwi is a co-investor in the Kākā Hill housing development, which seeks to both provide housing for iwi and Nelson residents, and also seeks to significantly enhance the cultural and environmental values of that part of the river catchment and of Kākā Hill.

Another iwi taiao programme includes the ongoing investment, funded by DOC, in enhancing habitat for the critically endangered Hamilton's frog on Takapourewa/Stephen's Island. This island sanctuary supports the great majority of the tuatara population in the wild, but the dense population of these taonga prey upon more vulnerable species such as Hamilton's frog and some critically endangered beetle species. We are now in the final year of extending a tuatara-proof fence and enhancing the rocky habitat of the small but significant population of frogs, now the largest population of this species.

Another major Ngāti Koata taiao project is the long-term multi-decade restoration of Moawhitu, a former 1757 ha farm on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island. It was purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund in 2006 and is under restoration, with DOC support and considerable Crown and other partner funding and effort. This has involved planting of nearly 150,000 plants to recloak the catchment, improving water and habitat quality in the lake and restoring water levels and revegetating a wetland. For Ngāti Koata, the aim is to restore the native vegetation of the catchment, the mahinga kai of the site and the cultural connection to the place.

KMTT Partner Projects

Project Mahitahi, Waimea Inlet Billion Trees,
Waimea Inlet Enhancement, Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Control,
Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum, Te Mana o te Wai, Te Kāhui Tangaroa

Te Hoiere River. Photo: Melissa Banks

Ngāti Kuia

Tāku ara ko Matua Hautere
Te Hoiere te waka i topetope ai ngā ngaru
Ka puea ake Te Kaitiaki a Kaikaiāwaro i Te Moana o Raukawakawa
I arahina ia ki ngā kokoru o Te Tauihu o Te Waka ā Māui
Ka hoea te awa ka tau kite wai pāpaku, ko Te Herenga
Ka piki i a Maunganui ki te pīnakitanga o Parikārearea
I reira ka poua tūāhu ki te one, ka poua tūāhu ki te rangi ka hua ake ko Maungatapu
I tapa te awa ko Te Hoiere
He wai-Māori mā te tini e whakarauika nei,
Ko Ngāti Kuia – He iwi Pakohe – He iwi karakia e

Ngāti Kuia are the first people of Te Tauihu and the descendants of Māui, Kupe, and Matua Hautere.

While the challenges we face today differ from those of our tīpuna, our responsibilities as tangata whenua remain unwavering — to our ancestors, our whenua, and future generations.

Our work is grounded in whakapapa and guided by the principles of kotahitanga, whanaungatanga, and manaakitanga. We uphold the ethos of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao, recognising that collaboration strengthens our ability to protect and restore the natural environment.

This year, we have focused on advancing Ngā Kanohi Kārearea, our Iwi Environmental Management Plan. Once finalised, this plan will provide a strategic framework for safeguarding our taiao and ensuring the wellbeing of our people for generations to come.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Hoiere Project, Wasp Biocontrol Programme, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum, Te Mana o te Wai, Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Project Mahitahi, Brook Waimarama Sanctuary, Restoring Lowlands

Wakapuaka Inlet from above Cable Bay. Photo: Nelson City Council

Ngāti Tama

Tama tū ki te Tauihu
Tama ora ki te ao

Ngāti Tama ki Te Waipounamu Trust is one of the eight iwi entities and kaitiaki of Te Tauihu, committed to upholding our enduring responsibilities to te taiao through whakapapa, tikanga, and intergenerational duty.

As an active member of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (KMTT), we champion and support collaborative iwi-led approaches to restoration that honour both mātauranga Māori and contemporary environmental practice.

Our contribution to KMTT is expressed through meaningful involvement in regional planning, Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan development, and hands on restoration initiatives such as the Wakapuaka Whangamoa project, which has protected taonga species, strengthened cultural connections, and supported tikanga-led implementation across our rohe.

We continue to build whānau capability, engage in wānanga to deepen understanding of our ancestral lands, and support KMTT's unified vision of thriving native species, resilient ecosystems, and communities living in harmony with nature from the mountains to the sea.

Through Kotahitanga mō te Taiao, Ngāti Tama affirms our commitment to collective action that restores the mauri of our environment and strengthens the wellbeing of current and future generations.

KMTT Partner Projects

Integrated Pest Management across Northwest Nelson, Te Mana o Te Wai, Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Wasp Biocontrol Programme, Restoring Coastal Wetlands, Project Janszoon, Whangamoa ki Horoirangi, Restoring Lowlands, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum, Pest Free Onetahua, East Mohua Trapping Collective, Te Tauihu Kūtai Restoration

Ngāti Toa Rangatira Representatives carrying pukupuku into the sanctuary for release. Photo: Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Trust

TE RŪNANGA O TOA RANGATIRA

Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira

After almost a century-long absence from Te Tauihu (top of the South Island), 41 Kiwi Pukupuku (Little Spotted Kiwi) were released into the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary in Whakatū (from their Kāpiti Island breeding ground). The first 20 were released on 7 May 2025 following a mihi whakatau by Hohepa Potini with Minnie Clark, with 20 more released on 11 May. One further male was released on June 10th.

Whakatū based Poutiaki mō te Tauihu, Matt Hippolite highlights that the arrival of the Kiwi Pukupuku marks a significant milestone, culminating a vision that has spanned two decades. These treasured taonga have been nurtured by whānau in Kāpiti and returned to the Whakatū community. Matt saw this as an opportunity to bring ngā iwi o Te Tauihu and community together as we all share and ensure the protection and well-being of these taonga.

A MOU between the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary and Ngāti Toa Rangatira is in place to ensure the overarching wellbeing of our taonga and to maintain good working relationships. A new DOC Wildlife permit has been granted for the collection of shed Kiwi Pukupuku feathers for cultural use purposes.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Control, Te Mana o te Wai,
Brook Waimarama Sanctuary, Restoring Lowlands, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum

Kawatiri/Buller River Mouth. Photo Nomad AV

Ngāti Waewae

Ko Tūhua te maunga
Ko Arahura te awa
Ko Tūhuru te wharenui
Ko Papakura te wharekai
Ko Arahura te marae
Ko Ngāti Waewae te hapū
Ko Poutini Ngāi Tahu te iwi

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae is based at Arahura, a short distance from Hokitika on the West Coast of Te Waipounamu and is a hapū of Ngāi Tahu. We are known as Poutini Ngāi Tahu, the Ngāi Tahu people of the West Coast. Like all partners in the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance, we too are committed to working in partnership to align and integrate the efforts of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance members.

We acknowledge the unique landscape of Aotearoa, and the myriad of work that needs to be done to achieve interconnectedness between environment and people so that we may look after the environment for the environment to look after us in return.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Kāhui Tangaroa,
Restoring Lowlands

Blue cod in the Marlborough Sounds. Photo: Tony and Jenny Enderby

Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

Healthy and abundant ocean ecosystems contribute to thriving communities and benefit the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) works to ensure fisheries resources are managed to provide the greatest overall benefit to New Zealanders.

FNZ works closely with iwi, stakeholders and the community on fisheries management initiatives for the top of the South Island that align with KMTT's strategy. Some examples include the following:

» Requesting input on habitats of significance to Fisheries (HoPS), as part of our new NZ-wide HoPS work. Te Tauihu and Te Waka a Māui Iwi Fisheries Forums raised the potential for complementary overlaps between potential HoPS and planned mātaitai - areas managed locally for customary and recreational fishing purposes.

» Two fisheries sustainability reviews, which included public consultations on catch limits and other fisheries management measure adjustments to fish stocks for key top of the South fisheries such as snapper and shellfish. A new Blue Cod management strategy for Marlborough Sounds is also currently under development.

FNZ looks forward to continuing to work together with other KMTT partners on important marine-focused projects to help address environmental challenges for the top of the South Island.

KMTT Partner projects

Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum, Whangamoa ki Horoirangi

Fungi. Photo Tegan McIntosh, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

Ministry for the Environment

Manatū mō te Taiao

Manatū mō te Taiao / Ministry for the Environment is pleased to partner with the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance to help champion a collaborative approach to caring for our natural environment.

New Zealand's top of the South Island depends heavily on the natural resources that underpin the economy. These resources support the health, wellbeing and prosperity of urban and rural communities and are under pressure. If future generations are to enjoy the same resources as current generations, it will take an ongoing collective effort by businesses, local government and their communities, Crown's Treaty partners, and central government. It is these groups that make an impact on the ground.

The vision and mission of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance is aligned with our operating principles. As Aotearoa New Zealand's lead advisor on the environment and climate, we enable people and places to thrive, now and in the future. Hei kaitohutohu matua o Aotearoa mō te taiao me te āhuarangi, ka whakaahei mātou i ō tātou iwi me ō tātou wāhi ki te puāwai, ināianei, hei te anamata hoki.

KMTT Partner Projects

Waimea Inlet Billion Trees, Waimea Inlet Enhancement, Tasman Fish Passage, Te Hoiere Project, Project Mahitahi, Tasman Wetlands, Restoring Lowlands, Restoring Coastal Wetlands

Tomtit in the Kahurangi National Park. Photo: DOC, Crown Copyright

The Department of Conservation

Te Papa Atawhai

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is proud to be a founding partner of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao, working collectively to restore and protect the natural landscapes of Te Tauihu and beyond. In 2025, DOC has continued to explore how integrated pest control can be applied across Northwest Nelson, with a particular focus on reducing browse pressure. This work is critical to protecting biodiversity and supporting ecosystem resilience.

DOC also contributed technical advice and ecological data to support the development of a GIS-based mapping and modelling tool. This tool is designed to help identify priority areas for landscape restoration, enhancing strategic decision-making across the region.

In support of regional knowledge sharing, DOC hosted a predator control webinar on behalf of KMTT, showcasing current techniques and practices. We also launched the *Always be Naturing* campaign, which aims to inspire and engage communities in alignment with the People in Te Taiao strategic vision.

Together, we continue to build momentum for nature-positive outcomes through collective action.

KMTT Partner Projects

Mount Richmond Wilding Conifer Control, Project Janszoon, Te Hoiere Project, Waimea Inlet Enhancement, Integrated Pest Control across Northwest Nelson, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum, Pest Free Onetahua, Waimea Inlet Billion Trees, Project Mahitahi, Tasman Wetlands, Restoring Lowlands, Whangamoa ki Horoirangi, Brook Waimarama Sanctuary

Project Mahitahi Tuku25 Event. Photo: Te Uru Rakau

Nelson City Council

Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

Recent weather events remind us of the power of kotahitanga among partners as we work to protect and restore our landscapes. The scale and urgency of the challenge will need our ongoing collaboration and coordinated action.

Te Kaunihera o Whakatū – Nelson City Council's Project Mahitahi benefited from five years of Jobs for Nature funding, which ended this year, transforming dense weed infestations into thriving pockets of native vegetation and planting more than 150,000 native trees and shrubs in the Maitai valley.

Nelson City Council and Cawthron have joined the EU's BioProtect project, establishing Nelson as a partner region. Partner regions must establish a community of practice, and KMTT has been included as the backbone of this network. BioProtect provides partner regions with funding, tools, and support to help inform purposeful spatial planning and restoration in the coastal environment. The first phase of the project was an eDNA survey of Nelson's coastal area completed in December 2025, with a winter component planned for 2026. This data will help to better understand the biodiversity values of our coastal habitats, with a cost-effective survey method and the involvement of local citizen scientists.

Work continues across the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments, and we look forward to continuing engagement with our partners to address the cross-cutting, landscape-scale issues that require our coordinated response.

KMTT Partner Projects

Project Mahitahi, BioProtect, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum, Waimea Inlet Billion trees, Waimea Inlet Enhancement, Mount Richmond Wilding Conifer Control, Te Mana o te Wai, Restoring Lowlands, Restoring Coastal Wetlands, Whangamoa ki Horoirangi, Brook Waimarama Sanctuary

Council staff monitor water quality for the effectiveness of mitigation efforts—fencing, planting and dung beetle release by the Te Hoiere community Photo: Marlborough District Council

Marlborough District Council

Marlborough District Council is a committed member of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance, sharing the vision of restoring our natural environments while strengthening our communities' connections to the land.

Planning has been underway for Marlborough's involvement to help implement KMTT's Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan, especially Te Kāhui Tangaroa (iwi-led projects). Here, iwi partners like Ngāti Kuia and Te Ātiawa will lead a project to restore the mauri of marine ecosystems focussed on Te Hoiere (Pelorus) and Tōtaranui (Queen Charlotte) Sounds. Still in conceptual planning, this work will build on community aspirations; work of other agencies, including the work of the Council's Coastal Environmental Science and Policy team; and work undertaken by Te Hoiere Project.

Te Hoiere Project is a landscape-scale partnership between Council, manawhenua, the community and Government agencies to improve freshwater in the catchment and receiving waters. In addition to facilitating parts of the project such as riparian fencing, planting natives, and fish passage remediation, Council has also accelerated science and monitoring to better understand sediment, groundwater and hydrology in the catchment.

To help our native species thrive in Te Tauihu, Council is also active in wilding conifer control and the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership. It's also undertaking broadscale planning with KMTT members to strengthen biosecurity across Council boundaries, such as ungulate control. Council looks forward to working with KMTT to align priorities with statutory plans in the future, such as Council's review of the regional pest management plan and future biodiversity strategies.

We look forward to strengthening our relationships as a member of KMTT, creating a better future for our environment and communities.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Hoiere Project, Wasp Biocontrol Programme, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership, Picton Dawn Chorus, Mount Richmond Management Unit Wilding Conifer Control, Te Mana o te Wai, Restoring Lowlands, Te Tauihu Kūtai Restoration

Work around the saltmarshes at Rough Island has been one area of focus within the Waimea Inlet Enhancement project. Photo: Tasman District Council

Tasman District Council

Te Kauniherea o te tai o Aorere

Our work in 2025 has provided much satisfaction for all involved with our numerous projects under the KMTT banner.

Our achievements and successes over the last 12 months have enabled us to bring several projects to completion while the remainder are continuing to thrive as they move closer to completion.

We are proud to see so many positive outcomes coming from our work, often with meaningful collaboration with our various partnerships throughout the community. Moreover, we're pleased to be able to align with the goals of the Alliance's Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan.

In signing onto the Alliance in 2017, Tasman District Council shared the strategic outcomes of thriving native species, naturally functioning ecosystems and enhanced ecological connections and resilience. With support from Jobs for Nature – Mahi mō te Taiao funding we are seeing these values come to fruition in the progress of our work, while our connections made through iwi, landowner and stakeholder partner relationships has reaffirmed the benefits of our involvement.

KMTT Partner Projects

Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Control, Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project,
Waimea Inlet Billion Trees, Tasman Fish Passage,
Tasman Wetlands, Wasp Biocontrols, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum,
Restoring Lowlands, Pest Free Onetahua, Te Mana o te Wai, East Mohua Trapping Collective

Denniston, Buller West Coast. Photo: Don and Ali Parish

Buller District Council

Te Kaunihera o Kawatiri

Buller District Council is proud of its partnership with KMTT and the collaborative approach the Alliance brings to its work. Buller is the smallest district in the KMTT rohe with a population of just 9,700 people, and we are fortunate to benefit from the strong relationships that exist between partnering organisations.

Although small in population, the Buller District Council brings to KMTT a large territory rich in biodiversity and wild, intact landscapes.

Our communities forge strong connections with the places they call home, but we know that to care for the wellbeing of the natural environment around us, we need to first be able to care for the wellbeing of our people. KMTT understands this and provides scope to focus on outcomes that benefit our people as well the natural world around us.

KMTT Partner Projects

KNECT (Kawatiri Nature, Environment and Communities Trust)
Restoring Lowlands – Kūkūwai Reserve, Martins Creek, Westport

Scott's Beach, Buller West Coast. Photo: Nic Kyle

West Coast Regional Council

West Coast Regional Council is proud to be part of this groundbreaking partnership that has the potential to greatly benefit the Buller economy and environment, and impact the whole West Coast.

It has been an amazing journey to be a part of, from considering the Kawatiri Nature Environment and Communities Trust's initial drivers to recognising and acknowledging our region's cultural significance and attributes.

Each step we have taken on this journey has helped us fine-tune our goals. Buller's significance to the unique biodiversity of the top of the South means it plays an important part in the vision of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao.

Mutualism. Photo: Sze-Wing Yiu , TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025

The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand

Te Papa Ao Tūroa, Aotearoa

Restoring forests and waterways

Connected, thriving landscapes improve our natural environment and the wellbeing of communities. Aotearoa New Zealand has the highest proportion of threatened species of any country in the world. Sediment from soil loss and farming activity affects marine ecosystems. The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand (TNC NZ) works at the top of the South Island to restore critical lowland forest habitat, through our support for the KMTT Alliance.

This region represents many rare ecosystems increasingly at risk due to biodiversity loss and climate impacts. Protecting what is left, and restoring forests and waterways, will help create corridors through our landscapes, allowing native birds, insects, fish and mammals to move around and access food and shelter. TNC NZ supports multiple KMTT projects as we explore long-term potential for transitioning and restoring farming, forestry and horticultural land back into connected lowland habitat.

TNC NZ has also hosted KMTT operations, and in doing so, has provided support for many KMTT projects

KMTT Partner Projects

Restoring Coastal Wetlands, Restoring Lowlands, Wasp Biocontrol Agents, Pest Free Onetahua, Restoring Marine Ecosystems

With thanks to the following donors for their support of our work across the Top of the South:
Rātā Foundation, DB, Simplicity Foundation, Tareen Filgas Foundation, Z Energy, VOW Foundation and Lloyd Morrison Trust

Debs Martin (KMTT), Beth Endres (DOC), Steve Merito (Rātā Foundation) and Sky Davies (TET) at an event to acknowledge Rātā Foundation Support

Acknowledgements

Rātā Foundation

Rātā Foundation – working together for a better future

We acknowledge the significant support from Rātā Foundation which has enabled the growth and development of KMTT, and improved equity in our iwi leadership, particularly with Te Kāhui Tangaroa.

To recognise this support, leaders from KMTT projects across the Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman regions gathered in early August to celebrate three years of working with Rātā Foundation, and the contributions it has made to our achievements in that time.

Rātā Foundation has supported the development of our Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan, contributed to the establishment of Te Kāhui Tangaroa, and provided funding for restoration planting following on from weed control as part of the Restoring and Protecting Flora work.

In addition, KMTT acknowledges invaluable support for the KMTT Programme Management Team from the following agencies:

The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand

The Tindall Foundation Contributing to a stronger New Zealand

COMMONLAND

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao

Kakariki Karaka - Orange Fronted Parakeet. Photo: Deb Corbett, TNC Oceania Photo Competition 2025