

# Restore Rodney East

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A COMMUNITY RESTORATION STRATEGY 2022 - 2027

***Supporting locally based environmental projects to realise their full potential***

Restore Rodney East

VERSION 1 – DECEMBER 2021 |

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Algies Bay RRA

Auckland Council Environmental Service

Friends of Awa Matakanakana (FOAM)

Leigh Penguins Group

Mahurangi College

Mahurangi East Land Restoration Project

Mahurangi River Restoration

Mahurangi West Pest

Matakana Community Group

Pest Free Leigh

Pest Free Warkworth

Puhoi Landcare Group

Rainbows End and River Environmental Group (REaREG)

Sandspit RRA

Save our Sandspit

Scrub Growers

Shorebird Trust

Takatu Landcare Group

Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary Society (TOSSI)

The Forest Bridge Trust

Viticulture Horizons

Warkworth Area Forest and Bird

Whangateau Harbour Care

CoSynergy (Facilitator)

Special thanks for the Rodney Local Board for their support and contribution of the development of Restore Rodney East and the RRE Strategic Plan



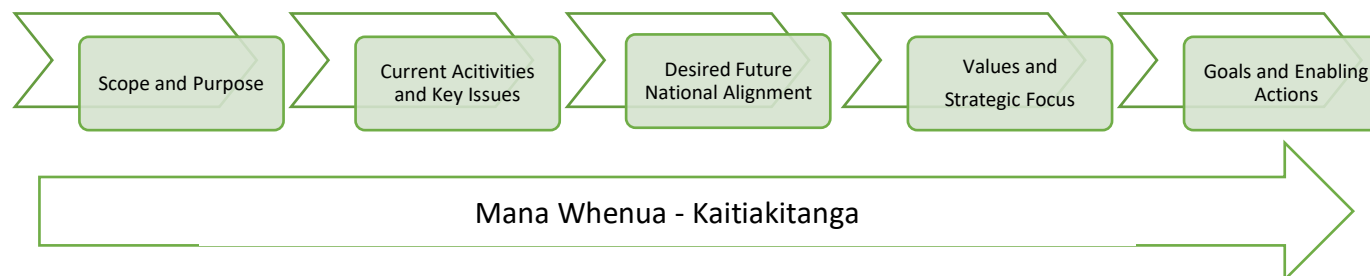
## INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade there has been a growing national awareness of the impacts of invasive species and human development on our precious and unique ecosystems of Aotearoa New Zealand. Local groups and organisations across Rodney East (as defined in the maps on pg8) have been working for many years to protect and enhance the natural environment and the many unique ecosystems our community values. Currently there are over forty local initiatives ranging from large landscape-scale programmes with fully formed governance and funding models, right down to individuals conducting heroic solo efforts to improve those ecosystems. An identified challenge is to ensure this effort and good work can be sustained and grown, and potential gaps and overlaps within and between activities are minimised. More than ever, we must acknowledge nurture and nourish current and historic work undertaken across Rodney East to improve environmental outcomes.

Restore Rodney East (RRE) is developing as a collaborative, landscape scale, community driven initiative aimed at supporting local conservation-based groups and projects to achieve their respective missions and goals. This includes better enabling and empowering local initiatives through seeking opportunities that make available a wider spectrum of skills, experience, leverage and resources to groups and their respective projects. This strategic plan will help guide the focus and activities of RRE, and provide a framework for collaboration. RRE can make a major contribution in helping 'lift the tide' for all groups, organisations and volunteers, assisting them to realise their potential for biodiversity across Rodney East.

## PLAN STRUCTURE

Over the next five years RRE plans to support and assist local projects in our area to maximise their prospects of success. RRE's plan contains our context, scope, vision, values, goals and priorities. Our plan is a living document for updating continuously as this initiative develops.



## BACKGROUND

In 2020 the Rodney Local Board and some community initiatives were starting to consider how best to provide and leverage greater support for all the good restoration work happening across Rodney East. Over 40 separate community and volunteer initiatives benefited the local environment at that time. With the intention to assist and support the many groups to restore Rodney East, the Rodney Local Board allocated funding for research in the form of an Ecological Connectivity Roadmap to support enhanced restoration of bird corridors at a landscape scale. They also provided funding for a facilitator to bring our many groups together to discuss and document how best to do this. As well, the Rodney Local Board allocated funding for an on-the-ground support role to assist with what came from community conversations.

## PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF RESTORE RODNEY EAST

The steering group defined the purpose of RRE as - ***Supporting locally based environmental projects to realise their full potential.***

The RRE initiative is driven by local groups, for local groups. It seeks ongoing support and input from all those involved in the restoration mahi. Key aspects of RRE are around better understanding, describing and enabling the wider perspective of the Rodney East ecosystems we wish to see restored. Also, supporting a strong volunteer base, enhancing information sharing and skills development, school involvement, leveraging greater support for Rodney East through a shared voice and seeking funding that supports the goals of local groups. All this to help ensure rich biodiversity is re-established, accelerating our efforts across our in-scope rōhe, on-land and within our streams, rivers & estuaries.

In mid-2021, with Mahurangi College providing a venue, over 45 community members involved in restoration attended an initial hui. A steering group was subsequently established and met over a number of months to discuss the scope, purpose and opportunities presented by collaboration. In recognition of the challenges, it was identified that ecosystem restoration within our rōhe would benefit from the creation of a strategic plan setting out the manner in which the RRE initiative could improve the potential success of all local projects to significantly restore ecosystems within the rōhe. A working group was formed and met online to further develop a draft plan during New Zealand's Alert Level 4 Lockdown.

While RRE proposes to become involved in a great many things in the pursuit of its vision, it is important to identify those things that it does not expect to do:

- RRE is an impartial, politically neutral initiative and therefore will not advocate or actively support one particular view over another
- The role of RRE is to support locally based environmental projects, this does not include work that is completed by the local projects themselves such as servicing traps, planting, weed control or other conservation activity
- RRE is a conduit of information and expertise and therefore will not directly advise on or critique technical information

Restore Rodney East takes a whole of ecosystem approach defining ecosystems as a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. Further in this plan where the term 'ecosystem' is

used it refers to the indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystems of Rodney East unless specifically stated otherwise. A comprehensive description and analysis of Rodney East's ecosystems is included in the publication entitled 'Indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystems of Auckland'<sup>1</sup>. Biodiversity in the Rodney East context is defined as the variation of life forms, plants, animals, insects, macroinvertebrates, fish and other fauna and flora that are represented across a range of indigenous ecosystems including forests, rivers, regenerating scrub, wetlands, estuaries, coastal saline areas and dunes. RRE defines threats to indigenous ecosystems to include (but not limited to) introduced pest animals and pest plants, non-indigenous insects, river pollution, excessive sediment, invasive fish species, trampling and grazing pressure, human impact and pathogens, (such as kauri dieback and myrtle rust).

The current geographic scope of Rodney East is defined by coastal catchments from Te Ārai at the northern boundary of the Auckland region, to Pūhoi, including Wenderholm Regional Park (maps on pg8). The area includes six principle catchments - Te Ārai, Cape Rodney, Tāwharanui, Mahurangi, Matakana and Pūhoi, which include many smaller sub-catchments. All of these catchments feed into the Hauraki Gulf.

The diagram to the right provides a simple overview of the key dimensions and purpose of the RRE initiative at a summary level. Each of these dimensions is set out in more detail in the Roadmap sections in the document below.



## MANA WHENUA

RRE seeks to support mana whenua through our many initiatives in their role as kaitiaki (guardians) of Rodney East and recognises the importance of building strong relationships. RRE also seeks to learn and incorporate Mātauranga Māori into its work to preserve taonga (precious species) and respect the environment through kaitiakitanga (guardianship). RRE seeks to build authentic and long-term relationships with mana whenua, in particular Ngāti Manuhiri. As such there is always a place reserved for Ngāti Manuhiri within and alongside RRE, and for ongoing kōrero which guides the initiative as it develops.

## CURRENT SITUATION

### ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY OF RODNEY EAST

Historically, Rodney East was extensively forested. Mapping undertaken by the Department of Conservation<sup>ii</sup> indicates the central hill country areas were dominated by kauri, podocarp, broadleaf forest but also supported large expanses of taraire, tawa podocarp forest. Kahikatea, pukatea forest occupied much of the low-lying inland valleys along with small and scattered herbaceous wetland types. Towards the coast, pōhutukawa, pūriri broadleaf forest was common, while dune forest, mānuka gumland and bog/fen mosaics were likely dominant at the Ōmaha and Te Ārai dune systems. These inland vegetation communities would have then given way to saltmarsh and mangrove forest in tidal inlets and pingao-spinifex communities on the mobile sand dunes.

Ngāti Manuhiri are the descendants of the tupuna Manuhiri, the eldest son of the Ngāti Awa ki Taranaki warrior chieftain, Maki and his wife Rotu<sup>iii</sup>. By the late 17th and early 18th centuries, Ngāti Manuhiri and their Te Kawerau relatives came to occupy the eastern coastline from Takapuna to Te Ārai Point. By the time of European arrival/settlement in the area, much of the primary forest was gone and Rodney East was covered in mānuka/kānuka shrubland and areas of bracken<sup>iv</sup>. Over the last 150 years extensive areas of this shrubland has been cleared and existing wetlands

drained for pasture production and development. This land use change, in conjunction with the introduction of several animal pest species, has led to a substantial reduction in faunal diversity in the area from historical levels. Today, much of Rodney East's biodiversity is located in several high biodiversity areas, including Te Ārai, Pākiri, Tāwharanui, Scandrett, Mahurangi and Wenderholm Regional Parks, Leigh and Goat Island Marine Reserves, Kawau Island, Mt Tamahunga and a multitude of other high biodiversity value areas, which also occur on private land. Coastal marine ecosystems are subjected to a variety of human induced pressures and are impacted heavily by terrestrial run-off of sediments and nutrients, as well as through direct harvesting of some species. Most of the small estuaries along the Rodney east coast are impacted by sedimentation, which can reduce habitat and biological diversity and reduce the valuable services provided by these ecosystems.<sup>v</sup>

Thirty-six indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystems (and their unique regional variants) have been identified across Auckland, many of which are found within Rodney East<sup>vi</sup>. This existing network of terrestrial, freshwater, wetland, and coastal ecosystems host an abundance of indigenous species, fauna and flora, many of which are nationally 'Threatened' or 'At Risk'. Of particular note are breeding populations of tara iti (New Zealand fairy tern;

*Sternula nereis*), tarāpuka (black-billed gull; *Larus bulleri*), matuku (Australasian bittern; *Botaurus poiciloptilus*), and pekapeka-tou-roa (long-tailed bat; *Chalinolobus tuberculatus*) which are all classified as 'Threatened – Nationally Critical' (the highest level of threat classification for native fauna in New Zealand), as well as matuku moana (reef heron; *Egretta sacra*) which is classified as 'Threatened – Nationally Endangered' and tūturiwhatu (banded dotterel; *Charadrius bicinctus*), huahou (lesser knot; *Calidris canutus*), ngutuparore (wrybill; *Anarhynchus frontalis*) and taranui (Caspian tern; *Hydroprogne caspia*) which are all classified as 'Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable'<sup>vii</sup>. Pale flowered kumarahou (*Pomaderris hamiltonii*), an At Risk- Naturally Uncommon plant with limited distribution, occurs between Warkworth and Omaha. It can be observed on roadside cuttings where frequent disturbance provides ideal habitat. Tara iti is New Zealand's rarest endemic breeding bird with only approximately 45 individuals in New Zealand<sup>viii</sup> and the stream systems at Te Ārai in Rodney East are one of the few remaining breeding sites in the region. There are also good populations of pīwakawaka, kererū, and tūī, as well as kākā that disperse from Hauturu (Little Barrier Island) and Aotea (Great Barrier Island) back to the mainland.

These habitats in eastern Rodney also provide crucial migration pathways for native species, north-south between Auckland and Northland and east-west from the Pacific Ocean across to the Kaipara Harbour<sup>ix</sup> linking to the Hauraki Gulf Islands and the Hen and Chicken Islands to the north. The east to west flyway is critical to 'At Risk – Relict' tītī (Cook's petrel; *Pterodroma cookii*) to get from their major breeding colonies on Hauturu (Little Barrier Island) to the west coast productive waters, this is a very rare dispersal group for petrels which do not generally cross land masses. In addition to these regional pathways, the shores of eastern Rodney host kuaka (bar-tailed godwit; *Limosa lapponica*) which undertake the heroic non-stop international migration from Alaska to New Zealand each year.

As well as their intrinsic value and role in supporting biodiversity and providing essential habitat and food sources, this network of ecosystems

provide a range of ecosystem services including water, air and nutrient cycling, carbon storage and sequestration, and coastal protection. Almost 40% of those ecosystems are identified as being regionally Critically Endangered<sup>x</sup>, and the most recent State of the Environment report by Auckland Council concluded that several of Auckland's forest ecosystem types are severely depleted, with many of these remaining habitats are small and fragmented<sup>xi</sup>, requiring urgent conservation efforts to protect the high biodiversity values. Guided by the Ecological Connectivity Roadmap, a network of important forest and wetland habitats have been identified across Rodney East, mapped using kererū and matuku respectively as umbrella species for these ecosystems. Protecting and enhancing these habitats and creating buffer zones around them within the wider landscape, through managing critical pressures, is crucial to protect these high biodiversity values and the health of our remaining indigenous ecosystems.

One of the main characteristics of the Rodney East area is the vast coastline and several harbours and inlets, including Pakiri, Leigh, Omaha and Tāwharanui Coasts, Whangateau and Mahurangi Harbours, Matakana and Puhoi Estuaries, and Kawau Bay. These coastal marine receiving environments are inextricably linked with the terrestrial values. The distinct ecosystems provide many areas of high habitat diversity, with biological communities ranging from those dominated by large macroalgae, to those that contain dense epifauna, such as sponges, shellfish and tubeworms. As example, many of the soft-sediment subtidal areas, such as those in the sheltered arms of the Mahurangi and Whangateau harbours, display high taxonomic diversity and support ecologically significant communities. Many of the species living in coastal and estuarine soft sediments along the Rodney coast play important roles in the cycling of sediments and organic and inorganic contaminants, as well as being food sources for other animals like birds and fish. The values of these coastal marine receiving environments are inextricably linked with those in terrestrial environments<sup>xii</sup>



The below maps show the boundary of RRE and the current and historic ecosystems of across the area.



## THE MANY INITIATIVES ACROSS RODNEY EAST

Rodney East has a rich and diverse range of community groups, organisations and mana whenua partnership projects carrying out activities to restore ecosystems across the area. From Te Ārai in the North, to Wenderholm in the south, groups of volunteers and other more formal initiatives are carrying out a range of activities to remediate aspects of environmental degradation including:

- Pest animal control
- Pest plant control
- Invasive insect control (especially non-native wasps)
- Replanting (from riparian planting through to reforestation)
- Reduction of sediment run-off (through re-establishment of wetlands, fencing and planting of water courses)
- River restoration initiatives to reduce erosion including river and stream and estuarine monitoring
- Bird roosting support (both terrestrial and coastal) including regular bird counts and tracking, public awareness raising and other education & learning activities, and
- Fencing (protecting high value biodiversity from stock).

In May 2021 a community hui was held to seek interest in the development of an RRE initiative to support the work of local groups. Over 50

community groups and other organisations were invited to attend. The hui presented on the concept of RRE, discussed the scope of an initiative and shared the information collected in relation to current activities and the challenges and opportunities identified. A list of groups, the areas they are working, and their different aspirations are recorded in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 records some of the local plans and reports that have been developed to guide groups and organisations in their work. From this hui a steering group of over 20 representatives was identified and met to further discuss and take the RRE initiative forward.



Photo: RRE initial hui held at Mahurangi College, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Through discussions with the wider community and community-based initiatives the following challenges were identified as needing to be addressed to achieve enhanced biodiversity outcomes and accelerate the work for our many groups across Rodney East.

- Engaging with iwi and integrating mātauranga Māori
- Lack of a strategic and targeted approach with overlapping work in some areas and gaps in other areas
- Increasing requests from rural landowners
- Currently a lack of understanding of the funding landscape and pathways to access to upfront funding
- An aging volunteer base and lack of succession planning
- General lack of understanding about what each of the groups need and how to support each other with current initiatives
- Difficult for small groups to provide advice and expertise to their community – as needs grow
- Gaps in pest plant control, support for weed removal and impacts of domestic pets and lack of coordinated control of invasive insect (wasp) species
- Inconsistent and inadequate laws governing pest animals throughout Rodney East
- Need to address river and stream and thereby estuary and wider Kawau Bay ecological health.

Restore Rodney East was seen as an opportunity to make a major contribution in helping address these challenges and to assist groups of volunteers in whatever ways possible to achieve their maximum potential. These opportunities included:

- Providing a forum to share knowledge and ideas
- Initiation of education and learning opportunities
- Overlay mapping and dissemination of information about the initiatives on a holistic basis
- Providing direct support to projects if requested, such as to aid with initiation planning, removal of roadblocks, etc
- Add leverage for stronger engagement and performance of stakeholders (such as within Council and iwi), seeking of funding, for the benefit of all projects
- Helping to provide support for actions based on science-based inputs, outcomes and measurements
- Supporting a change in laws governing pest animal control so they are consistent and effective for all land in Rodney East.
- Enable more consistency & better metrics around planning and reporting of outcomes versus investment
- Developing a shared understanding of what resources are available, how funding is allocated and can be scaled
- Increase opportunities for community participation including sharing good news stories, letting people know how they can get involved and involving more schools and developing alternative education spaces in nature.

## DESIRED FUTURE STATE – ALIGNMENT TO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL STRATEGIES

Restore Rodney East aligns its approach to a desired future which supports the collective action of national and regional initiatives aiming to protect and enhance our unique ecosystems and their rich indigenous biodiversity.

The Department of Conservation hold a vision that not only sees the return of health to the natural world in a way that can be measured, but also for the return of health and vibrancy that can be felt, touched, smelt and heard, as well as an emotional reconnection with nature<sup>xiii</sup>. One aspect of implementation is the stretch goal of Predator Free by 2050. This is seen as *“an ambitious goal to rid New Zealand of the most damaging introduced predators that threaten our nation’s natural taonga, our economy and primary sector”*<sup>xiv</sup>. They partner with government agencies including Ministry for the Environment, Predator Free 2050, Landcare Research and Ministry for Primary Industries, as well as iwi and large landscape scale community projects to realise this goal. This year marks five years since the Predator Free 2050 goal was set and the ministry have released their first report against those goals.<sup>xv</sup>

Auckland Council has a regional vision of a Pest Free Auckland by 2050. This incorporates the council’s obligations as described in the Regional Pest Management Plan and the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy. This programme helps to direct conservation action toward islands, peninsulas, open sanctuaries and green corridors (both rural and urban) that will connect nature across Auckland. To do this council provides technical advice, best practice guidance, and access to funding support to help build the capacity of community groups, iwi, and landowners to carry out conservation action.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum is a collaboration between iwi, local councils and government agencies. The vision of the forum is Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi, the Hauraki Gulf is “celebrated and treasured”, is “thriving with fish and shellfish, kaimoana”, has a “rich diversity of life”, supports a “sense of place, connection and identity’ and a ‘vibrant economy”<sup>xvi</sup>. Their strategic approach focuses on enhancing integrated management through collaboration and informed decision making, addressing water quality through land use issues, and recognising ‘critical marine values’, advocating for protection, restoration and enhancement.

Te Tāruke-Ā-Tāhwhiri is Auckland’s Climate Plan, an urgent call to action for a collective response to *“avoid the worst impacts of climate change”*<sup>xvii</sup>. The primary goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through eight priority areas. While we can all contribute to improved climate related impacts through our daily activities (such as travel choice and growing food) the priority “Natural Environment” speaks directly to the mahi of our many initiatives across Rodney East. The Plan identifies priority actions including better understanding climate related risk, controlling pests and weeds, and restoring and expanding habitat. Action also includes promoting, progressing and funding current and emerging initiatives, programmes and groups committed to restoration and sustainability.

## VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Values and principles guide how we work together and provide a framework for shared understanding as we carry out our mahi. The following values and principles are suggested as an initial guide to the work of RRE.

<b>Values</b>	<b>Principles</b>
<b><i>Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi</i></b>	<i>Acknowledge Māori world view and seek to explore how to integrate mātauranga Māori into our work</i>
<b><i>Kaitiakitanga</i></b>	<i>Be environmental stewards and guardians, leading by example</i>
<b><i>Diverse and Inclusive</i></b>	<i>Recognise the diversity of groups and be open to everyone having the opportunity to participate without limitation, bringing people together and responding to community need</i>
<b><i>Integrity and Respect</i></b>	<i>Act with integrity and respect for others, committing to living our values as we deal with each other, as a group and with third parties</i>
<b><i>Science Based</i></b>	<i>Be informed and make decisions based on robust, scientifically based information</i>

## RESTORE RODNEY STRATEGIC ROADMAP 2022 – 2027

This section of the plan lays out a framework and roadmap for RRE. It describes the purpose of RRE and documents the vision and outcomes it seeks to work toward. The road map also articulates what RRE seeks to achieve over the coming five years and the objectives, activities and processes that support and enable the initiative to work towards that vision.

### STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

**Vision**                      **Rodney East Ecosystems Resilient and Thriving**  
*Enabling locally based environmental projects to thrive*

<b>RRE Purpose</b>	Restore Rodney East supports locally based environmental projects to realise their full potential		
<b>Outcomes What we want to see</b>	A strong and active community accelerates improving the health of our ecosystems through their role as environmental stewards	Rodney East ecosystems are resilient and thriving	We collaborate - sharing knowledge, expertise and wisdom
<b>Areas of Strategic Focus</b>	<b>Enable, Empower, Accelerate</b>	<b>Protect, Enhance, Expand</b>	<b>Collaborate, Connect, Advocate</b>
<b>Strategic Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop, support and celebrate our strong community volunteer base</li> <li>Enhance information sharing and communications across community groups, individuals, stakeholders and volunteers</li> <li>Support opportunities to develop skills.</li> <li>Encourage and support school involvement in restoration activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure Rodney East Ecosystems are thriving and sustainable by better understanding and supporting on the ground restoration initiatives</li> <li>Support local groups in enhancing and evaluating their conservation success</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable Restore Rodney East to flourish as an entity</li> <li>Develop and enhance working relationships across mana whenua, community groups and stakeholder organisations</li> <li>Advocate for Rodney East</li> </ul>

## STRATEGIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ENABLING ACTIONS

The following section sets out the three core priority domains for this RRE initiative. The sequencing in this document does not infer the hierarchy of priorities but simply sets out that there are three areas of priority action to be balanced. The strategic framework sets out high level outcomes describing a desired future, as well as goals identifying what we aim to achieve. The objectives describe how we will achieve the goals, and these are underpinned by ‘enabling actions’ or key activities that can be used to inform a work plan. This includes supporting existing programmes and initiation of new opportunities.

### Strategic Focus Area. **Enable, Empower, Accelerate**

This strategic focus area is about responding to the primary identified purpose of RRE, supporting local restoration groups and initiatives across Rodney East by enabling and empowering them to continue and accelerate their work. This includes supporting a strong volunteer base, enhancing information sharing and communications, developing skills and involving schools and young people.

<b>Contributes to our outcome</b>	<b>A strong and active community accelerates improving the health of our ecosystems through their role as environmental stewards</b>
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<b>Goal</b> <i>We aim to -</i>	<b>Develop, support and celebrate our strong community volunteer base</b>		
<b>Objectives</b> <i>We want to -</i>		<b>Enabling Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Scale group volunteering opportunities, drawing on our shared knowledge and insight of volunteer motivations, recruitment and retention	Facilitate a collective conversation and put together insights so groups can share learnings and act on them.	TBC
		Engage with the potential volunteer base through media and at events to alert more people to the opportunity to be involved within Rodney East initiatives.	TBC
	Celebrate local achievements in restoration	In conjunction with groups and stakeholders, develop an annual event that provides opportunity for reporting on and sharing success and celebrates our volunteers.	TBC

<b>Goal</b> <i>We aim to -</i>	<b>Enhance information sharing and communications across community groups, individuals, stakeholders and volunteers</b>		
<b>Objectives</b> <i>We want to -</i>	Identify and facilitate communication pathways to inspire, support and inform residents, groups and stakeholders	<b>Enabling Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
		Develop a communications strategy that reflects and responds to what groups and stakeholders need and how they would like to receive and share information.	Year 1
	Facilitate and support local initiatives to expedite funding applications, health and safety planning and other key tasks	Implement key elements of a communications strategy in order to provide links and information to anyone who will benefit which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adverse effects of weeds and other pests</li> <li>• environmental challenges</li> <li>• good news and success stories.</li> </ul>	TBC
		Establish an RRE funding and resource sub-committee to explore opportunities to seek funding, identify shared services and other ways in which RRE can be leveraged to support and accelerate local initiatives	Year 1
		Identify and establish a 'library' of templates, process examples and other materials to share with initiatives.	TBC
Provide a data set of individual skills and of those willing and able to share their knowledge between initiatives (sharing information – stock take and provide a data set).	TBC		

<b>Goal</b> <i>We aim to -</i>	<b>Support opportunities to develop skills.</b>		
<b>Objective</b> <i>We want to -</i>	Develop understanding of Te Ao Māori across our many groups	<b>Enabling Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
		Identify opportunities to educate and inform local initiatives in Te Ao Māori, tikanga and Mātauranga Māori knowledge.	TBC



	Optimise the value of our efforts by acquiring the best information, education, knowledge and skill into our rōhe's initiatives	Identify, attract and if possible, fund people (e.g. university or other environmental specialists and expert advisors) to conduct seminars, workshops and reviews in order to improve local competencies.	TBC
	Assess and enable opportunities for upskilling and training relating to any and all fields we are addressing	Identify the training and skill development needs of local groups, current available training opportunities and gaps in training and upskilling across the rōhe.	TBC
		Promote and provide information and links about current educational sources, training and upskill opportunities as per communications plan.	TBC
		Advocate for and work with groups and stakeholders to develop training and up-skilling courses and events where there are identified gaps.	TBC
		Identify individuals who can mentor and inform between initiatives on request.	TBC

<b>Goal</b> <i>We aim to -</i>	<b>Encourage and support school involvement in restoration activities</b>		
<b>Objective</b> <i>We want to -</i>	<b>Enabling Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	
	Support school involvement in understanding ecosystems and how school actions can help rehabilitate such ecosystems.	Use RRE's connections with local groups to support school requests for experiencing ecosystems of Rodney East and so help educate students.	TBC
	Support schools who wish to use Rodney East's ecosystems as part of their curriculum.	In conjunction with Sustainable Schools contact all schools in Rodney East to establish their existing use of Rodney East's ecosystems and arrange a hui for all schools to share experiences and determine their needs going forward.	TBC
	Maximise the opportunity for schools and students to be involved	Actively support school led involvement in initiatives subject to considerations such as health and safety.	TBC

Strategic Focus Area. **Protect, Enhance, Expand**

This strategic focus area gives direction to ensuring that ecosystems across Rodney East are thriving and sustainable. This includes developing a better understanding of a landscape scale perspective, assisting local groups seek funding to help reach their environmental goals and helping to provide support for actions based on robust science-based inputs, outcomes and measurements. It also provides opportunity for greater consistency & better metrics around planning and reporting of outcomes versus investment.

<b>Contributes to our outcome</b>	<b>Rodney East ecosystems are resilient and thriving</b>
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<b>Goal</b> <i>We aim to -</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure Rodney East Ecosystems are thriving and sustainable by better understanding and supporting on the ground restoration initiatives</li> </ul>		
<b>Objective</b> <i>We want to -</i>		<b>Enabling Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Add value to groups and projects across Rodney East by better understanding gaps and overlaps relating to ecosystems	Undertake actions to overlay the footprints of identified initiatives across the rōhe as defined within the Ecological Connectivity Roadmap, and then highlight areas of gap and overlap that could be addressed by new or changed undertakings.	Year 1
		Review information provided by identified initiatives to understand at an umbrella level how much, where and why (in terms of expected outcomes) ecosystem improvement investments are being made.	TBC
From these actions, identify whether there are opportunities to improve planning and reporting for initiatives which might help locals and stakeholders to better understand the macro/whole-of-rōhe impact and effectiveness of those investments.		TBC	

<b>Goal</b> <i>We aim to -</i>	<b>Support local groups in enhancing and evaluating their conservation success</b>		
<b>Objective</b> <i>We want to -</i>		<b>Enabling Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Help local groups seek funding to reach their environmental goals	Regularly update local groups on all current funding opportunities	
	Support the capability of local groups and stakeholders to make good decisions based on robust information	Create a “State of Rodney East” umbrella summation of the progress of the many initiatives undertaken within Rodney East to provide an objective view of progress towards our defined outcomes over time. (On a frequency to be determined).	TBC

Strategic Focus Area. **Collaborate, Connect, Advocate**

This focus area contributes to the sustainability of RRE as a collaborative initiative. This includes providing a forum for the sharing of knowledge and ideas through networking. It also includes advocating for local groups - facilitating access to advice or leverage including a supporting voice for funding or resource requests.

<b>Contributes to our outcome</b>	<b>We collaborate - sharing knowledge, expertise and wisdom</b>
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<b>Goal</b> <i>We aim to -</i>	<b>Enable Restore Rodney East to flourish</b>		
<b>Objective</b> <i>We want to -</i>		<b>Enabling Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Ensure RRE is supported by at least one dedicated FTE position	Work with Auckland Council to contract a facilitator to support RRE - to sit within Council until June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2022 and in the community from July 2022	Year 1
	Formalise ongoing governance of RRE	Develop Terms of Reference that clarify the role of an RRE Convening group to take the initiative forward	Year 1

	Develop a platform upon which RRE can flourish	Identify and confirm an organisation within the Rodney East community to provide ‘backbone’ support and umbrella RRE including holding contracts, funding, insurance and other umbrella support.	Year 1
		Review RRE strategic plan and assess if RRE is delivering the objectives and expectations of local groups and organisations	Year 2
	Ensure RRE is financially sustainable and review annually	Seek funding to support RRE through a diversity of funding streams including local and central government, philanthropic and corporate sponsorship.	Year 1

<b>Goal</b> <i>We aim to -</i>	<b>Develop and enhance working relationships across mana whenua, community groups and stakeholder organisations</b>		
<b>Objectives</b> <i>We want to -</i>	<b>Enabling Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	
Seek to develop meaningful working relationships with iwi to support their role as kaitiaki	Organise a hui between RRE and Ngāti Manuhiri to develop and build an enduring relationship.	Year 1	
	Actively seek mātauranga Māori advice and input from mana whenua to support the work of local groups.	TBC	
Seek to develop meaningful working relationships with community groups and stakeholder organisations	Actively seek advice and input from community groups and stakeholder organisations to understand how best to support their work.	TBC	
Maintain working relationships with Auckland Council	Keep channels of communication open with on-the-ground staff so they can continue to support the work of local groups and RRE.	TBC	

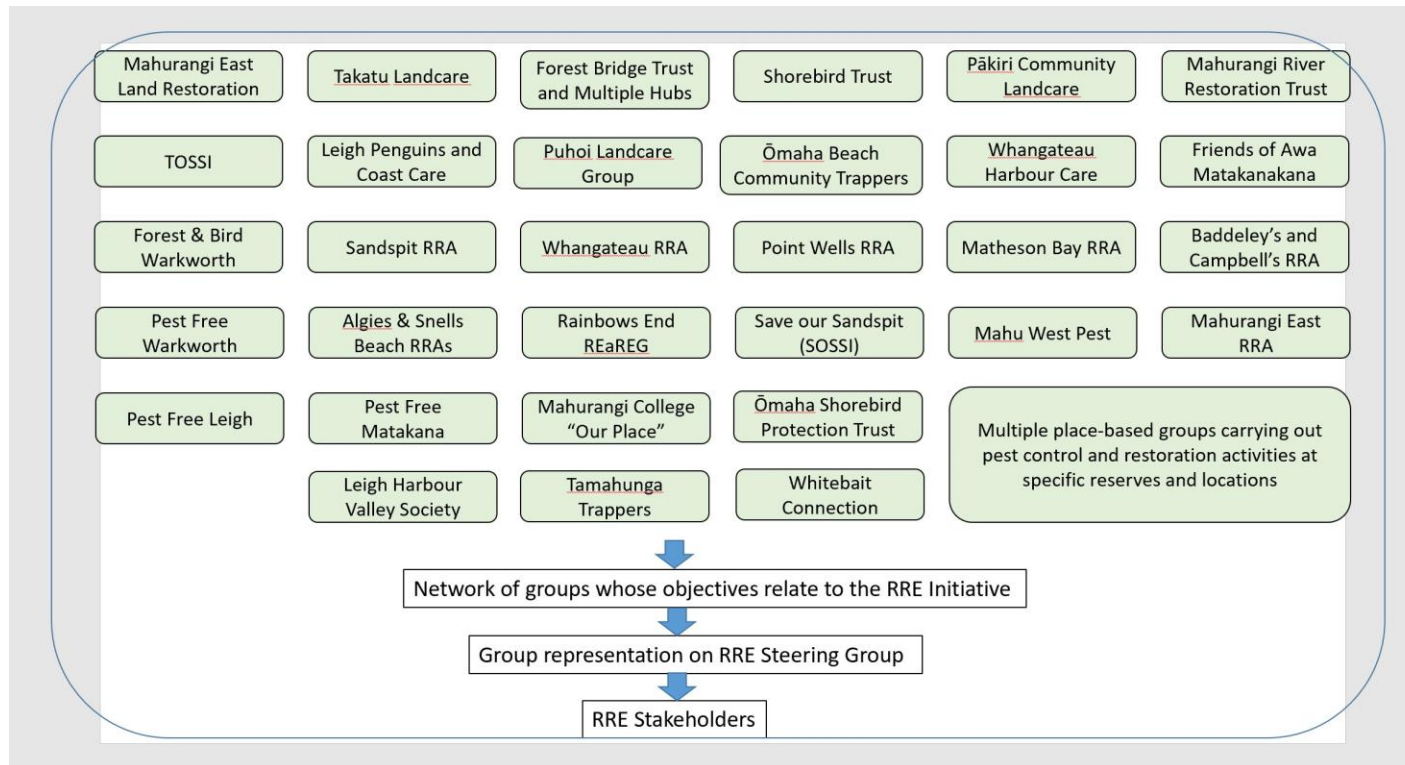
<b>Goal</b> <i>We aim to -</i>	<b>Advocate for Rodney East</b>		
<b>Objectives</b> <i>We want to -</i>		<b>Enabling Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Provide a forum among local groups and regional initiatives and stakeholders to respond with a united voice	Inform locals via available channels of the presence, goals and advantages of having the RRE initiative, particularly by way of the prospect of best communication between groups and with stakeholders.	TBC
		Facilitate regular network meetings where local groups and initiatives can share ideas, success and identify opportunities to leverage with a united voice.	Year 1
		Invite participants in ecosystem improvement activities to take advantage of the RRE initiative so as to benefit from such coordinated or concerted action that the RRE can deliver.	TBC
		Biannual face to face meetings with Rodney Local Board and other stakeholders as necessary to inform and report progress.	TBC
Facilitate leverage for stronger engagement and performance of stakeholders such as Council	Actively enable group wide issues to be escalated via the RRE steering group or internal council processes and via the Rodney Local Board to enable potentially better outcomes for Rodney East initiatives as a whole.	TBC	

# TAKING RESTORE RODNEY EAST FORWARD

## LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The following chart sets out the broad structure for this initiative in its key components:

1. The approximately forty individual groups working within the rōhe are a network supported by the RRE initiative.
2. It is suggested that going forward a convening group form from individual groups to provide guidance and direction to both the RRE facilitator and the initiative supported by a Terms of Reference - to be developed.



## PRIORITY SETTING AND ROADMAP PROGRESSION

When taken in combination and seen through the lens of the RRE initiatives objectives, the sum total of all the objectives and aspirations of the many groups and projects in our rōhe adds up to a very significant scope of work. The RRE initiative, particularly in the first period of its establishment, will not be in a position to address all the priorities of all those groups.

Year one priorities identified in this plan guide the steering group and RRE facilitator in implementing the strategy. With the limited resources that are available at least in the initial stage of the initiative there will need to be a “walk before we run” approach defined where baseline setup activities are in place before more ambitious objectives are attempted.

The proper place for the prioritisation process to be fully explored is within the more detailed action plan that will follow from completion of this strategic plan. However, as a starting point it is appropriate for this document to recommend that:

1. Cornerstones be put in place first - in particular this includes actions that build the foundations of RRE such as:
  - appointment of an RRE facilitator
  - Terms of Reference for and establishment of a convening group
  - identifying umbrella organization support
  - development of a communications plan
2. Also, completion of the stock-take of coverage of the region by the respective initiatives and conduct of a gap analysis to highlight where new or extensions to existing projects are required
3. Such early or quick wins as can be identified and agreed with the steering group should be enacted
4. Early scoping and planning be completed for production of significant critical artefacts, such as an annual report on the state of the rōhe collective restoration efforts
5. Collaboration and community information initiatives be triggered informing stakeholders and the public of the opportunity presented by RRE

## MEASURING SUCCESS

The RRE initiative does not directly implement work via projects that impact on the restoration goals within our region. But nonetheless the initiative has a set of goals and objectives as set out above that are expected to help support and assist the performance of those many projects per Appendix 1 working locally to control pests, weeds, and many other restoration activities.

Specifically, within the mandate and funding of RRE the initiative will not set out any “hard” measures of its own (such as “Reduce pest numbers by x”, or “Reduce sediment in this river by y%”). These types of outcomes are owned by the projects and programmes that RRE is to support. As per Appendix 1, RRE will overview the scope and high-level objectives of those

projects and where possible will provide links to the project materials containing evidence of their goals and measures. RRE may report from time to time on the rolled-up, region wide metrics and their progress as evidenced by the projects themselves.

Success of RRE itself will mainly be measured by the positive perception of stakeholders and locals that the local projects are being assisted to work together to create the most effective results on a holistic basis. Key metrics, such as feedback on the value of RRE as a mechanism for stimulating region wide interest in environmental projects as evidenced by increased willingness of volunteers to get involved in the groups’ activities, can be surveyed and reported on to stakeholders from time to time.

## NEXT STEPS

This strategic plan has been created to expedite the creation of the RRE initiative and is expected to inform the more detailed work plan and prioritised set of activities that will follow. There are some constraints to our original process for development of the plan due to Covid19 Alert Level 3 & 4. At the time of writing the next steps are:

- Working group to produce a final draft to go to Rodney Local Board with input from RRE Steering Group and wider hui participants by the end of September 2021;
- Establishment of an RRE Convening Group and presentation to the Rodney Local Board by RRE in October 2021;
- An additional hui and presentation to the wider community to present the RRE Strategic Plan and share the Ecological Connectivity Roadmap;
- Concurrently, work will commence on development of a work plan to be undertaken by the appointed RRE facilitator;
- Thereafter the RRE initiative itself will be maintained as a work in process.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The below list sets our definitions of terms used through-out this document

- 1. Biodiversity** – Biodiversity in the Rodney East context is defined as the variation of life forms, plants, animals, insects, macroinvertebrates, fish and other fauna and flora that are represented across a range of indigenous ecosystems including forests, rivers, regenerating scrub, wetlands, estuaries, coastal saline areas and dunes.
- 2. Ecosystem** – is a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. Further in this plan where the term 'ecosystem' is used it refers to the indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystems of Rodney East unless specifically stated otherwise. A comprehensive description and analysis of Rodney East's ecosystems is included in the publication entitled 'Indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystems of Auckland'.
- 3. Pest** – Pests are invasive non-native species that pose a threat to the unique biodiversity of indigenous ecosystems. They can include animal, plants, insects and pathogens. Examples of pests include rodents, mustelids, feral cats, goats, ginger, privet, non-native wasps and pathogens such as kauri dieback.
- 4. Threats to Indigenous Ecosystems** – threats to indigenous ecosystems to include (but not limited to) introduced pest animals and pest plants, non-indigenous insects, river pollution, excessive sediment, invasive fish species, trampling and grazing pressure, human impact and pathogens, (such as kauri dieback and myrtle rust).
- 5. Principle Catchment** – while it is acknowledged that there are many sub-catchments, RRE defines a principle catchment as a natural drainage area defined by Auckland Council and can be described as an area of land, bounded by hills or mountains from which surface and groundwater flow into streams that join and ultimately have the same outlet to the sea.
- 6. Rodney East** – The current geographic scope of Rodney East is defined by six principal coastal catchment areas stretching from Te Ārai at the northern boundary of the Auckland region to Pūhoi, including Wenderholm Regional Park. The area covered by Rodney East is defined by the maps on page 8.

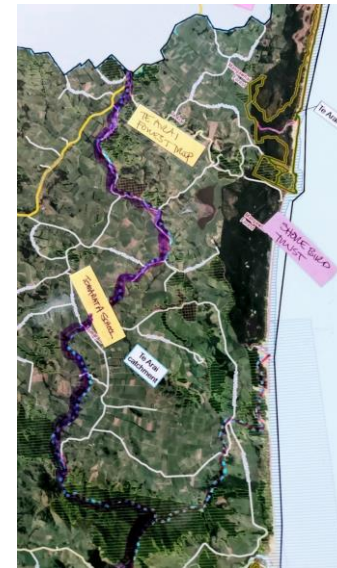
## APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES

### TE ĀRAI

Te Ārai catchment is furthest north of Rodney east and defines the boundary between Northland Regional and Auckland Council. This area is within both the rōhe of Ngāti Manuhiri (and Te Uri O Hau). It is coastal, with shoreline running the entirety of its eastern boundary, and bordered in the south by the Cape Rodney catchment and the west by the Hōteao catchment. Much of the area is rural farmland, with Mangawhai coastal forest and patches of DoC reserve including a coastal strip. There are several regionally significant dune lakes in the area, Te Ārai Point Regional Park and both terrestrial and marine Significant Ecological Areas (SEA).

- **Shorebird Trust** has an initial focus on the Mangawhai to Pākiri Coastline. The Trust has established the Te Ārai Ecological Sanctuary which aims to conserve and enhance the biodiversity health of the Te Ārai area. They carry out and support predator control and partner with other conservation organisations to help make informed decisions on having a positive impact on the recovery of the Tara Iti (NZ Fairy Tern) and other endangered species. This includes research and teaching collaboration with Massey University and supporting DoC's NZFT Recovery Group efforts and University of Canterbury in Tara Iti genetic research. In collaboration with Boffa Miskell and Tara Iti Golf Club, the Shorebirds Trust received grant funding from Rodney Local Board and Foundation North to develop a comprehensive plan for a Predator Control buffer zone from Mangawhai to Pākiri north. This plan is currently being implemented from Black Swamp to Te Arai. The future plans include extending the predator control area south to Pakiri North, incorporating also the land behind the Te Ara Links golf courses under development.

**The Forest Bridge Trust** are also working on a project in the Te Ārai Scenic Reserve. The Trust have a larger vision to create a connected landscape of healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife from the Kaipara Harbour in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east. This includes an initial five year goal to achieve a predator controlled corridor of land, the Central Bridge, across 54,000 ha connecting the existing wildlife sanctuaries at Mataia Restoration Project in the west to Tāwharanui Regional Park in the east. Their approach is to halo out from local 'hubs', providing practical land-owner centred support and expert advice where needed. The Trust also supports landowners with fencing and communities with predator control in other areas and runs a CatchIT schools programme.



Te Ārai

## CAPE RODNEY

The Cape Rodney catchment borders Te Ārai in the north and Tāwharanui to the south. It includes a long coastal margin with land set aside for the development of Pākiri Regional Park. It borders the Hōteio catchment in the west and is one of a number of catchments of Mt Tamahunga. The area includes forestry, small areas of DoC reserve – including a coastal strip, SEA and farmland. Communities within this area include Pākiri and the small township of Leigh, which is the gateway to the Leigh Marine Reserve and Goat Island.

- **Leigh Harbour Valley Society** is a local group of concerned landowners who work together to restore the coastal bush and walkways. This mainly involves pest plant and animal control and planting on wetland areas and along the coast.
- **Leigh Penguins** and **Coast Care** are both Forest and Bird projects located in Cape Rodney. A community collaboration with support from conservation agencies, the projects aim to create a safe habitat for penguins and seabirds.
- **Pākiri Community Landcare** work with **Trees That Count**, **Waicare** and **Trees for Survival** programme and facilitate community and school planting projects and carry out trapping. The group’s mission is to create a lush native bush between Pākiri Regional Park and River. The group are



**Tāwharanui**

also looking to create a public walkway access from the Pākiri village and school along Pākiri river to the beach.

- **Pest Free Leigh** are also an active group in this area and support other local groups such as Mathesons Bay Residents and Ratepayers. Their aim is to create a Pest Free Urban Leigh with a trap in every backyard. They see Leigh and surrounding communities as a stepping-stone from the islands and a potential source of healthy populations of bellbirds, skinks, kākā and kiwi. They are keen to give more support to the rural community.
- **The Forest Bridge Trust** are actively supporting local groups (eg PF Leigh) and rural landowners. Part of this catchment is actively being added to the core Tamahunga buffer zone (targeted pest control to provide a predator control buffer around Mt Tamahunga) in the 2021/22 financial year, and eastern parts of the catchment will become part of the wider Tamahunga buffer zone
- **Whitebait Connection** work with a number of groups across Rodney east, including Pākiri Landcare. They also work closely with Friends of Awa Matakana and Whangateau Harbour Care providing Wai Care monitoring. They have also been approached by other groups across Matakana and Mahurangi about trapping mice around inanga spawning areas. They are keen to work with Ngāti Manuhiri to provide training to continue water quality monitoring in the area.



**Cape Rodney**

## TĀWHARANUI

Tāwharanui catchment wraps around the Whangateau Harbour. A majority of the harbour is classified as a marine SEA. It is one of the larger areas and includes a significant area of DoC reserve – Ōmaha Forest, which also extends into the Matakana catchment on the western boundary. The area includes Tāwharanui Regional Park – a fenced bird sanctuary, as well as a small fenced shorebird area at Ōmaha spit. There is also a stand of Kahikatea swamp forest on DoC reserve near Ōmaha, as well as many other terrestrial SEA. Within the area are rural and semi-urban communities which include Ōmaha, Whangateau, Point Wells, Takatu, Ti Point, and Baddeleys Beach.

- **Ōmaha Beach Community Trappers** buffer the coastal areas undertaking predator control in urban areas with a vision for Ōmaha to become predator free.
- **Ōmaha Shorebird Protection Trust** is a local community organisation whose mission is to help protect the shorebirds and their habitat on Ōmaha Spit. This includes extending a predator proof fence at the northern end of the spit which in association with the irreplaceable food source of Whangateau Harbour creates a shorebird sanctuary. Shorebirds using it include New Zealand dotterels, banded dotterels and variable oystercatchers together with migratory birds such as godwits. Fairy Terns have also been sighted, possibly seeking nesting sites should their population increase. The Group carries out pest animal control and shorebird monitoring.
- **Takatu Landcare** is a community organisation with a vision of the Takatu Peninsula being a pest and weed free buffer zone for the Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary. They provide expert advice and support as well as undertaking pest animal and weed control and bird monitoring. They have identified gaps and supported the establishment and development of other local groups in the area. This includes sourcing materials, providing advice and bringing groups together including holding coffee meetings for to share success and challenges.
- **Takatu Wetland Restoration Group** is a local group with a focus to start the process of restoring the Takatu Wetland which Auckland Council has listed as a significant ecological area. First steps are eradication of the invasive spiky rush which contributes to silting up followed up by planting

to prevent some of the run-off from surrounding pasture land. Auckland Council has scheduled a freshwater survey of the upper reaches of the wetland.

- **Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary Society (TOSSI)** has a vision to create an open sanctuary where wetlands and forests are regenerating, treasured species thrive, sheep and cattle graze and everyone is welcome. TOSSI works in partnership with Auckland Council to maximise the success of the sanctuary. Projects include coastal forest and wetland revegetation and restoration; public plantings and volunteer workdays; preserving the pest-free status; re-introduction of threatened species, monitoring threatened species; and education and advocacy in schools, local community and the media.
- **The Forest Bridge Trust** are also actively supporting local groups and several large rural landowners in this catchment. The Tawharanui Catchment is also part of their work to provide a buffer of protection for the existing kiwi at Tawharanui Regional Park and those species that disperse from the park.
- **Whangateau Harbour Care** is a local group with an aim to protect and enhance the marine biodiversity of the area for future generations. The group has advanced a process to develop a Korowai Kahurangi which includes the whole of Omaha Bay from Cape Rodney to Takatu and all the catchment areas feeding into the Bay. The group undertake planting and trapping, including Estuary and Horseshoe Islands, and coordinate cockle counts in Whangateau Harbour. Other active groups in this area include Whangateau and Point Wells Resident and Ratepayers groups.
- **Tāwharanui** also has a number of other groups supporting restoration and pest control in this area, organising local planting and pest control activities including Point Wells, Whangateau, Baddley's Beach and Campbells Bay RRA.

## MATAKANAKANA

The Matakana catchment forms around the Matakana and Glenn Eden Rivers. Mt Tāmahunga, including Ōmaha Forest sit on the boundary to the north, one of three DoC reserves that border the catchment. This includes Dome Forest on the western boundary, primarily located within the Hōteio catchment. There are also many terrestrial SEA and the lower reaches of all three rivers and estuary are classified as marine SEA. The area is largely rural with farm and lifestyle blocks with the main settlement being Matakana and smaller communities at Buckleton's Beach and Sandspit. Sandspit is the gateway to Kawau and other smaller islands.

- **Friends of Awa Matakana** (FOAM) are a community organisation helping to protect and enhance the waters of the Matakana and Glen Eden Rivers and Sandspit Estuary. The group carry out regular water monitoring and data collection across the catchment, which covers around 5600 hectare, and are undertaking riparian planting along the rivers. They have a 3-year action plan to undertake river restoration and other sediment reduction intervention projects. FOAM plans to work with council to identify highest erosion locations, implement erosion protection measures and to install better catchment hydrology and river water quality monitoring equipment.
- **Pest Free Matakana** is a newly established community group establishing trap lines around Matakana and Matakana River. It is currently focused on trapping animal pests around the Matakana village and downstream of the waterfall.
- **Rainbows End and Rivers Environmental Group** are involved with planting, reserve maintenance, and pest and weed control on the Green Road peninsula, including Rainbows End. They are currently working with Forest Bridge Trust on a pest control plan for the whole peninsula
- **Sandspit Resident and Ratepayers Association** are a local group who carry out local planting and pest control around Sandspit. They also undertake track resurfacing.

## MAHURANGI

Mahurangi catchment is formed around the Mahurangi River and like other areas is made up of a number of sub-catchments feeding into the extensive Mahurangi

- **The Tamahunga Trappers** work with the Department of Conservation to protect native plants and wildlife present in the Ōmaha Forest. They encourage recolonisation of birds by trapping rodents and mustelids and complements the control of possums, goats and pigs carried out DoC, Auckland Council and iwi in the reserves. Recently the society has been granted consent to translocate kiwi back to the area.
- **The Forest Bridge** Trust are establishing 2 hubs in this catchment (Matakana East and Green Road – which is with REAREG). They have also developed family friendly trap lines with Matakana School families, which is part of both the TFBT schools programme and growing the Tamahunga buffer zone. The originally planned Tamahunga South hub is now being developed as part of the Tamahunga buffer zone, which supports Tamahunga Trappers with their planned translocation of kiwi to Mt Tamahunga.
- **Sandspit** also has other local groups working in the area supporting restoration and trapping activities including - Save Our Sandspit and Sandspit Road Group.



Matakana

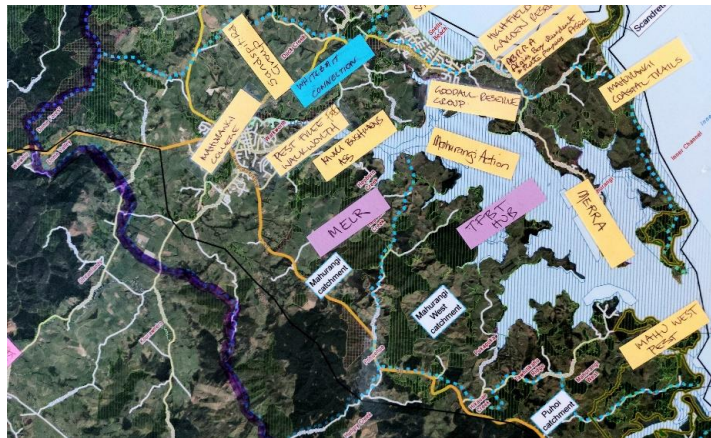
harbour and channel. The northern boundary is almost completely boarded by the Dome Forest – a part of DoC conservation land. There are other small areas of

DoC reserve within the catchment as well as terrestrial SEA. The upper reaches of the Mahurangi river and channel are classified as marine SEA. State Highway 1 runs across the catchment – north to south – and development is currently underway to realign this stretch of road moving it further west toward the catchment boundary with Hōteō. Warkworth sits centrally within this area and is the main centre for Rodney east as a whole. Ngāti Manuhiri offices are also based here. There are several regional parks in the Mahurangi, Scandrett, Mahurangi and Te Muri. Snells Beach and Algies Bay sit within a small coastal catchment on the eastern side of the Mahurangi Peninsula. Mahurangi West is furthest south and includes a small settlement and proposed marae of Ngāti Maraeariki. It has a relatively large cover of terrestrial SEA and is bordered in the south by the Puhoi catchment.

- **Forest and Bird Warkworth** is the local branch of the national Forest and Bird organisation. They provide expert advice and umbrella support to local restoration initiatives including Mahu West Pest, Leigh Penguins and Coast Care near Leigh. They also umbrella Pest Free Warkworth who undertake pest control, aiming to have a trap in every 5<sup>th</sup> property. They also have a kids nature experience programme.
- **Mahurangi College** takes a multi-pronged approach in enhancing student learning around concepts associated with *Kaitiakitanga* (our-place) including ecosystem restoration, pest-animal and pest-plant control. The learning is centred around the Mahurangi Forest Restoration Project and is curriculum-based. Initially the Living Classroom project is based around College grounds, View Road Bush Reserve and Falls Road River Esplanade Reserves. Council has conducted an Ecological Site Assessment which supports schools activities.
- **Mahurangi East Land Restoration (MELR)** is a new initiative aimed at reducing sediment to the Mahurangi River catchment over the next five years. The project is being jointly designed and delivered by Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and Auckland Council. The partnership has \$5 million to deliver a programme comprising 206.6 km of rivers and streams that discharge into the Hauraki Gulf. There is funding and

support available for community groups and landowners for fencing of waterways, riparian plantings and wetland conservation and development. The programme also supports forestry block owners and small construction sites to reduce sediment and has a pilot improve the runoff and erosion of unsealed roads. MELR's focus is on both the Mahurangi and Mahurangi West catchments.

- **Mahurangi East Resident and Ratepayers (MERRA)** have a vision of a Pest Free Mahurangi. They have been carrying out pest animal control at Mahurangi East settlement and would like to work with others to reduce plant and animal pests. They are also concerned with erosion and associated sedimentation.
- **Mahurangi River Restoration Trust** have a vision to restore the Mahurangi River to full health. They are working alongside the council and iwi and are specifically focused on, and have funding to, remove silt from the river over the next three years
- **Mahurangi** has other local place-based groups carrying out pest control and restoration activities across the Mahurangi include Goodall Reserve Group, Highfield Garden Reserve, Kauri Native Bushman's Association, Stingray Bay, Algies Bay and Snells Beach Residents and Ratepayers Association.
- **Mahu West Pest** are a local community group focused on pest animal and weed control and restoration. They have a vision focused on recruiting, training, equipping, supporting and motivating a sustainable group of community volunteers. Mahurangi West Pest is currently trapping across 3500 ha from Pukapuka to Puhoi. They work with members of Ngāti Maraeariki a local iwi who whakapapa to Opahi Bay and the wider Mahurangi.
- **The Forest Bridge Trust** also have a 'hub' in the Mahurangi West catchment supporting local landowners (McElroys Reserve and surrounds). Support was also provided for MERRA in the development of their predator control programme.



Mahurangi



Pūhoi

## PŪHOI

The Pūhoi catchment area sits primarily on the western side of the current and developing SH1 and is bordered by the Hōteo catchment in the west. It has a relatively large forested area as well as farmland and lifestyle blocks. The catchment narrows where it meets the motorway, along which runs the Pūhoi river meandering out to the estuary and ocean. On the northern side of the river is Te Muri Regional Park and south Wenderholm Regional Park. Numerous terrestrial SEAs and Dunn's Bush QEII covenant.

- **Mahu West Pest** currently carries out pest management activities across the lower reaches of the catchment on the east of SH1 and north of the Pūhoi River. They are also conducting pest control in the Hungry Creek area which is a tributary to the Pūhoi River.
- **Pūhoi Landcare group** is concerned with environmental issues, pest control and weed management in and around Pūhoi, the Pūhoi River and upper Ahuroa valley catchments some 13500 hectares. With a

major focus on covenanted land, land-owner assistance, training and education to enforce, design and envelope a sustainable ecosystem that will support and enhance natural regeneration of birds, wild-life and flora.

- **The Forest Bridge Trust** have a hub at Dunns Bush and have also been supporting local effort to enhance community capacity to scale-up predator control around Dunns Bush near Pūhoi.

Other organisations active in supporting landowners and working on public land across Rodney East include:

- QEII Trust
- Auckland Council
- Department of Conservation

## APPENDIX 2 – LIST OF LOCAL PLANS AND REPORTS

Below is a list of some of the local plans and reports that have been developed to support groups and organisations with their work.

Animal Pest Management Plan for Sandspit Road Group: Auckland Council, January 2019

Area 4 Hub Trapline for Mahu West/Pest: Auckland Council, May 2021

Area 5 Hub Trapline for Mahu West/Pest: Auckland Council, May 2021

Bullock Track Hub Trapline for Mahu West/Pest: Auckland Council, Feb 2021

Buffer Zone Predator Control Plan for Shorebirds Trust: Boffa Miskell, August 2020

Christian Bay Lewis Trapline: Takatu Land Care, Oct 2019

Christian Bay Trapline: Takatu Land Care, Oct 2019

Christian Bay West Trapline: Takatu Land Care, Sept 2019

Christian Bay Webster: Takatu land Care, Nov 2019

Connecting the Dots: The Forest Bridge Trust

Ecological Connectivity Roadmap: Boffa Miskel: July 2021

Ecological Management Plan for Sandspit Reserve and Brick Bay Drive Reserve, North Auckland: Wildlands for Sandspit SOS Inc: November 2014

Ecological Site Assessment: Auckland Council for Forest Restoration Project Mahurangi College: May 2019

Ecological Survey and Prioritisation of Biodiversity Management on Local Parks within Rodney local Board Area: Auckland Council, Jun 2014

Hungry Creek Hub Trapline for Mahu West/Pest: Auckland Council, Jul 2020

Jamieson/Opahi Hub Trapline for Mahu West/Pest: Auckland Council, Nov 2020

Mahurangi Action Plan 2010 – 2030: Auckland Regional Council and Rodney District Council: 2010

North Omaha Reserve Shorebird Protection Plan: Natural Logic Environmental Management: September 2019



Omaha Peninsula Community Pest Free Operational Plan: November 2018

Overarching Biodiversity Plan for Mahu West/Pest: Auckland Council, Sept 2020

Predator Controlled Areas in the Central Bridge 2020 and update 30 June 2021 : The Forest Bridge Trust, 2021

Tara Iti Predator Control Best Practice for Shorebirds Trust: Boffa Miskell, July 2020

Takatu Ridge Trapline: Takatu Land Care, Nov 2019

Takatu Wetland Restoration Plan: Thomas Civil & Environmental Consultants, May 2015

Waikauri Bay Trapline: Takatu Land Care, Oct 2019

Watercare Trapline: Takatu Land Care, Nov 2019

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<sup>i</sup> Singers, N (2017): Indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystems of Auckland

<sup>ii</sup> Singers, N. J. D., & Rogers, G. M. (2014). A classification of New Zealand's terrestrial ecosystems. Publishing Team, Department of Conservation.

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.govt.nz/assets/Documents/OTS/Ngati-Manuhiri/Ngati-Manuhiri-Deed-of-Settlement-21-May-2011.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> Lindsay, H., Wild, C., & Byers, S. (2009). Auckland Protection Strategy. Nature Heritage Fund.

<sup>v</sup> Marine Ecology state and in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland to 2019: State of the Environment Reporting : <https://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/2018/tr2021-09-marine-ecology-state-and-trends-in-auckland-to-2019.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> Singers et al (2017). Indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystems of Auckland.

<sup>vii</sup> Robertson et al. (2017). Conservation status of New Zealand birds, 2016 (New Zealand Threat Classification Series No. 19)

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/nz-fairy-tern-tara-iti/>

<sup>ix</sup> Auckland Council (2021). Ecological Connectivity Roadmap: Restore Rodney East - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5f1968bccd99463494df1f109370804f>

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