# CONNECTING THE WAITOA



Fonterra

BLUEBERRIES

TATUANUI SCHOO

# CONTEXT

The Piako Catchment Forum (PCF) is a community group in the heart of Matamata Piako and Hauraki Plains. The Forum is focused on the restoration of the Piako Catchment and its local communities.

We are interested in developing and maintaining open communication, networking and education which supports the restoration of our whole catchment and communities.

In 2018, we initiated a project called "Connecting the Waitoa" alongside NZ Landcare Trust and Waikato Regional Council. The project seeks to reconnect the remaining lowland forest remnants and wetlands linked by the Waitoa River between Waharoa and Waitoa.

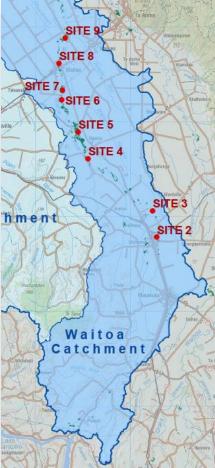
# **ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

The remnants provide the best examples of the formerly extensive lowland forest ecosystems of the Hauraki Plains and which are now extremely rare (around 98% of kahikatea forests have already been lost).





Figure 1: This is LJ planting trees in Hawes Bush with his whanau on a recent visit. He named the trees he planted and gets his grandmother to check on them regularly.



#### FOCUS

- Create ecological corridors to enhance biodiversity through protecting and enhancing kahikatea and totara remnants.
- Riparian planting and wetland restoration to connect fragments.
- Connect with landowners, community, iwi hapu and marae, schools, industry, etc, to help protect and restore these rare habitats and also to reconnect them.

# CONTRIBUTE TO COLLECTIVE IMPACT

What can you, your group or organisation do to restore nature?

Are you doing something already and want to let us know?

We'd love to hear from you.



# **Piako Catchment Forum**

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