



Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

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SHAPING THE FUTURE

From its source in the Tararua Ranges the Ruamahanga River winds its way down the Wairarapa valley, through bush, farmland and towns until it meets the sea at Onoke Spit. It is joined by other rivers and streams on its journey.

The Ruamahanga is enjoyed by swimmers, walkers and fishermen, supports town drinking and waste water needs, is used by farmers and valued for its spiritual significance. But the river carries pollutants and sediment eroded from some of the 130kms of river banks – affecting river habitat along its length. Water quality decreases as the river reaches the lower valley and the Wairarapa Moana wetlands.

The Tipoki family has farmed around the lake for many generations. Vanessa Tipoki is a driving force behind local habitat restoration work, she is a farmer and advocate for environmental awareness. As a member of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee she remains concerned about the fragile environment of Lake Onoke and the condition of the Tauanui and Turanganui Rivers at the bottom of the catchment.

“Protecting Lake Onoke is crucial to maintaining our region’s native freshwater species and the bird life it supports. Many native fish are diadromous meaning they must migrate between freshwater

environments and the sea to complete their life cycle. Any degradation of Onoke’s estuarine environment has far reaching effects through Wairarapa’s river system,” says Vanessa.

“Onoke is a beautiful place as the number of local people and out of town visitors is testament. The lake and tributaries have special significance for Maori as a source of wellbeing and as a place of connection, where salt and freshwater meet.”

The landscape of the lower Wairarapa Valley has been modified significantly by townspeople and landowners over time. Balancing the needs of our native species and human use is challenging. The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee is working to understand how the catchment community wants land and water resources managed into the future. They will bring this information together into a guiding document for the Ruamāhanga River catchment.



TALK TO US

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee has a vision for the Ruamāhanga River catchment - a Wairarapa where water glistens.

We all want a resilient and connected community who are responsible for the water flowing through our catchment.

You can help shape the future of land and water management. Join the conversation online or talk to committee members at a meeting near you.

Want to know more? Go to:

<http://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/ruamahanga-whaitua>

Date	Venue	Time
Tuesday 5 July	Pirinoa Hall	6-8PM
Thursday 7 July	Kopuaranga Hall	6-8PM
Tuesday 26 July	Whangaehu Hall	6-8PM
Thursday 28 July	Gladstone Sports Complex	6-8PM
Tuesday 2 August	Kiwi Hall, Featherston	6:30-8:30PM
Thursday 4 August	Carterton Events Centre	6:30-8:30PM
Tuesday 9 August	Frank Cody Longue, Masterton	6:30-8:30PM
Thursday 11 August	Lion’s Club, Martinborough	6:30-8:30PM
Tuesday 16 August	WBS Room, Greytown Library	6:30-8:30PM