

RESTORATION



Pungapunga WETLAND

PRESENTOR: KEVIN HUTCHINSON



Introduction

Pungapunga wetland today is a remnant of what was once a large lowland wetland system comprising of a mosaic of different wetland types, connected to a wild and untamed Waikato Awa. However even in its highly modified state this wetland still contains biodiversity values worthy of saving and protecting for future generations to enjoy.

Waikato RiverCare Inc. in partnership with adjoining landowners and network of supporters embarked on a mission in 2019 to secure funding aimed at increasing the extent of wetland habitat for Australasian Bittern.

Australasian bittern/matuku-hūrepo

New Zealand status: Native

Conservation status: [Threatened-Nationally Critical](#)

Population: Less than 1,000 in New Zealand

Found in: Wetlands in New Zealand, Australia, New Caledonia

Threats: Habitat loss, predation, disturbance



Key Outcomes



Create a more suitable and expansive habitat for Australasian Bittern.

Implement hydrological restoration.

Cost effective drainage inefficiencies.

Construction of project fences.

Removal of invasive species followed by planting.

Habitat that supports Australasian Bittern nesting and foraging behaviors.



CONSERVATION

Established QEII
wetland
extended to
support project



LAND AREA

50 ha project

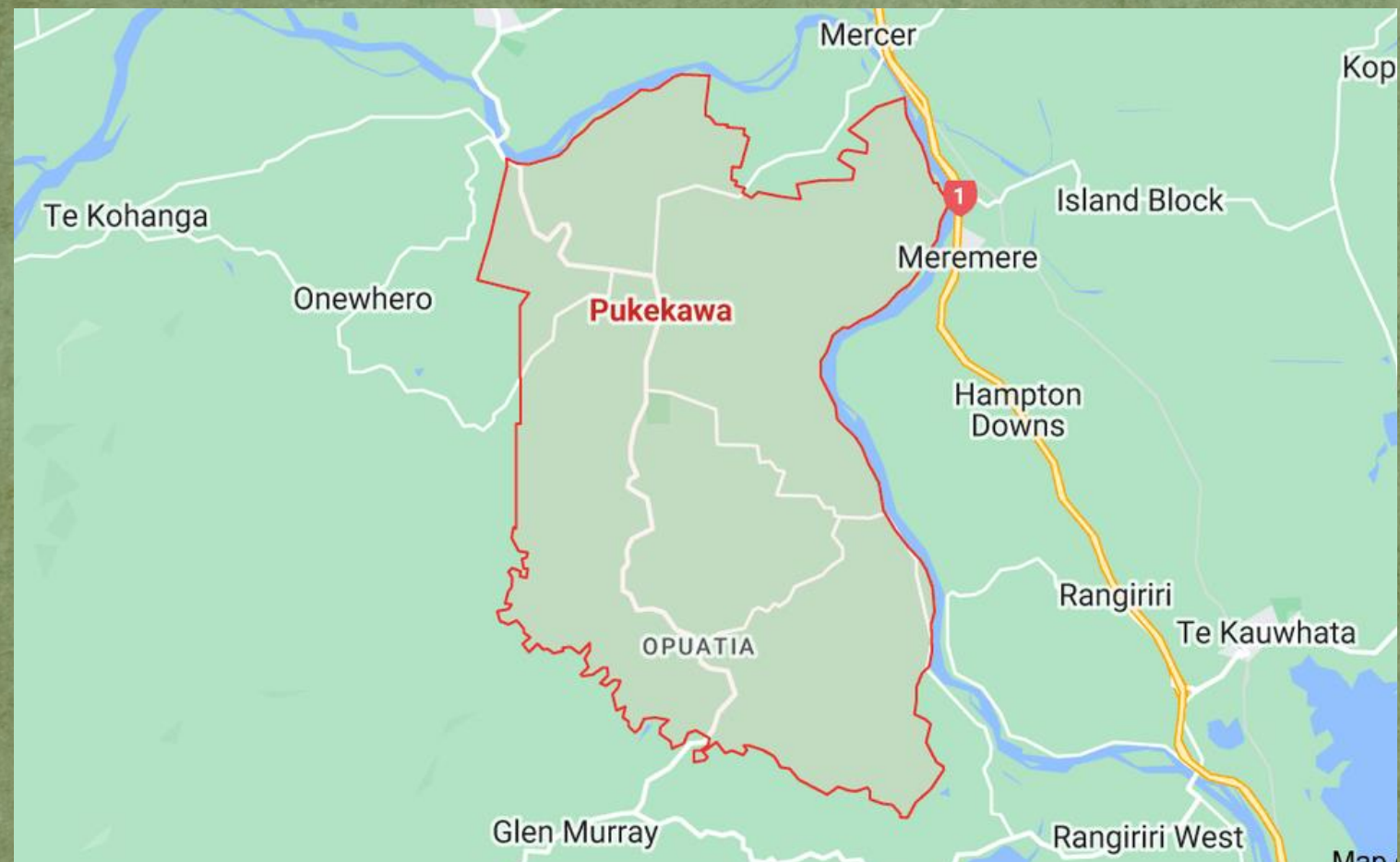
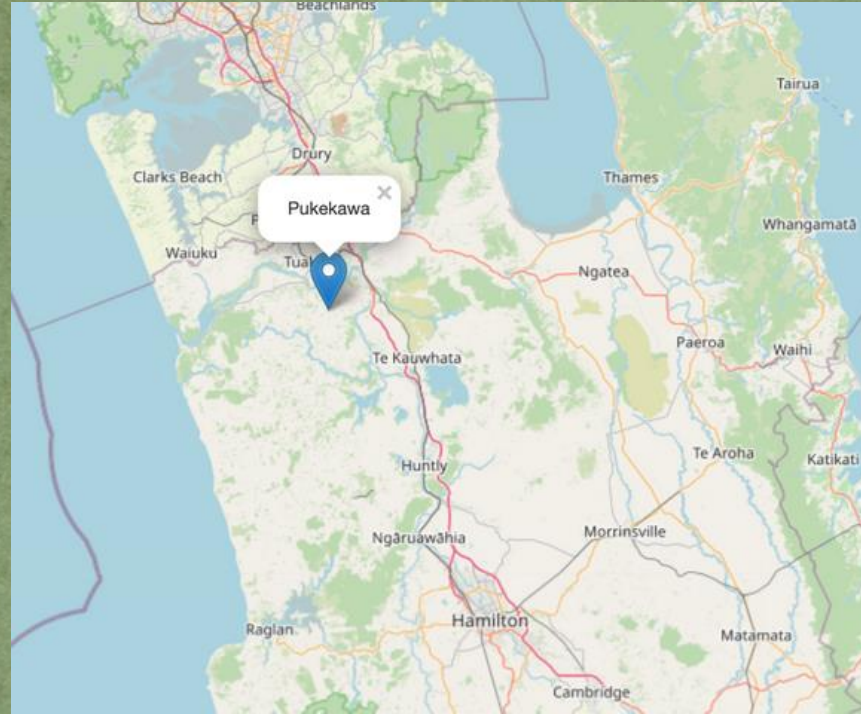


RESTORATION

Hydrology and
stock exclusion.
Companion
planting of low
land and forest
remnants.

Location

-37.382724,
175.017801



Project Scope

Pungapunga Wetland

Fencing



Key drivers:

- Constructed above flood zones to extend material life and reduce fence maintenance.
- Where possible fences constructed on parcel boundaries with appropriate class of fence



6km fencing



Four landowners

Challenging Terrain

Project Planting



RESTORATION

45,000 Plants

16 species

2 1/2 months planting

Weather disruptions



Success and Learning

- Early Engagement with Landowners
- Opportunities for Landowners to Contribute In-kind Support
- Use of Local Contractors
- Flexibility on Project Delivery
- Don't Give Up at the First Rejection
- Take a Long-Term Approach
- These projects Need to be Easier to do

The project's success will be measured by improvement in wetland ecosystem health and biodiversity (Booming Bittern).



Thank you



Waikato River Authority staff
QEII Trust rep: Robbie Bennett
The Billion Trees Project staff
New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust: Robert Sowman
Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust: Gwyneth Verkerk and Larnie Chrystall
Fish and Game: Dave Klee
Waikato Regional Council: Natasha Grainger

Special Thanks to:
Ngāti Naho Trust (Haydn and Crystal)
Landowners who worked with Waikato RiverCare to make this restoration project so awesome



Project Funders - Pungapunga Wetland



QEII **NATIONAL TRUST**

Ngā Kairauhi Papa Forever protected



Waikato **Catchment** Ecological Enhancement Trust





Waikato RiverCare Incorporated

Waikato RiverCare - We are a leading riparian restoration charity, based on the lower Waikato River and its associated catchments.

Waikato



+5 Images

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Our vision: Kia whakahii tatou ki ngaa awa o Waikato - Pride in our Waikato rivers


Our mission: Ecological restoration that enhances the Waikato River catchment for the wellbeing of our communities

More about us



Waikato RiverCare is a not-for-profit charitable trust, undertaking riparian restoration on the lower Waikato River and associated catchments.

The organisation has been operating since 1999, and officially became an incorporated society in 2001 and a charitable entity in 2008. Members include a range of organisations and people who all [Read more](#)

Latest donations



- 
Brett on 15 Sep 2023 **\$100**

Waikato RiverCare Incorporated
Thanks so much, Brett! We appreciate your support.



- 
Donors' tax credits TaxGifted on 23 Jun 2023 **\$33.33**

This donation is from generous donors who opted in to regift their tax credits via TaxGift. Aren't they awesome!

Waikato RiverCare Incorporated
Thanks very much!


- 
River Riders on 15 May 2023 **\$50**

Waikato RiverCare Incorporated
Thanks so much for your support, River Riders!





SCAN ME

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Australian Bitten

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