

TE HOIERE/PELORUS PROJECT

December 2021 Newsletter

Photo: Oli Wade

Aubrey embraces community approach to conservation

Aubrey Tai is excited to join the grassroots-driven Te Hoiere Project.

The newly appointed catchment care coordinator looks forward to working with Te Hoiere locals towards a common goal of running sustainable businesses while improving the health of land and water.

“This Project is not about spanking with a stick,” says Aubrey. “It’s a collaborative approach, supporting communities and landowners towards wise use of natural resources.”



Pest control has given hunting a new purpose for Aubrey, photographed on a recent trip to the Clarence Valley, South Marlborough

Born and raised in Murupara in the Bay of Plenty, Aubrey spent every spare moment fishing, eeling and hunting in the surrounding Te Urewera. Ngāti Manawa on his father’s side and Ngāti Whare on his mother’s, he was raised by his grandparents to appreciate and value the natural world.

“Living off the land taught me to respect the environment, to take only what you need. I was immersed in nature, seeing its vulnerability to multiple pressures and threats.”

The years between leaving Te Aute College in Napier and moving to Marlborough in 2011 began with seven years of service with the New Zealand

Navy then 10 years as a policeman. In Upper Hutt, Aubrey befriended a Council ranger who talked him into voluntary goat control.

“Hunting had always been about putting meat on the table. That started me thinking about conservation, giving me a new purpose.”

After postings in Stratford, Upper Hutt and Westport, in 1999 Aubrey left the police for Western Australia with his young family.

“There were plenty of jobs all paying well. If you got sick of one, the next week you could start another. I worked in manufacturing, ran a chain of pubs, did sales, started my own landscaping business and played rugby league.”

After 12 years of hard work, Aubrey was worn out, homesick and tormented by hunting stories from a mate in the Sounds.

“My boys had grown up, were independent and suggested, ‘why don’t you go home’ so I did, in 2011.”

Stints in the freezing works, on mussel farms and in forestry followed then a temporary position controlling weeds in the Marlborough Sounds for the Department of Conservation (DOC).

“I loved it, going out 6-7 days on the hills, working in wonderful places in a good physical job with a cool team and lots to learn.”

A major restructure in 2013 opened the door to a permanent position and eventual appointment as DOC Sounds biodiversity team supervisor. Work in compliance, cultural liaison and project management drew on earlier experiences and skills.

Aubrey’s happy to be joining Te Hoiere Project as it builds momentum.

Based at DOC’s Havelock field centre, Aubrey can be reached at 027 201 4527 Aubrey.Tai@marlborough.govt.nz

Catchment Enhancement Plan goes live

Plans are often dusty tomes stacked on hard-to-reach shelves.

Not Te Hoiere Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan - an interactive story-map only [a click](#) away. Distilled into its vision, aspirations and principles are multiple voices of people connected to Te Hoiere/Pelorus catchments, collected at meetings and surveys. This is our guide to restoring the mauri of Te Hoiere land, waters and coast which flourish, along with peoples' wellbeing and livelihoods.

You are invited to explore the Ronga, Tunakino, Opouri, Rai, upper and lower Te Hoiere, Whakamarino/Wakamarina, Kaituna and Linkwater catchments. Travel through time using aerial images equipped with a slider that overlays current and historic images. A community map captures people's experiences climbing Mt Fishtail, fly-fishing and swimming in Te Hoiere River, trapping pests in Pelorus Scenic Reserve, connecting with tīpuna and more.

Join a virtual field trip to Te Hoiere/Pelorus by watching LEARNZ videos that trace the river and Sound's history from ancient to present day. Or check out the sites for six ongoing water monitoring programmes.

Contribute your own photos, video-clips, stories or upcoming events via "something to share" on the About the Plan tab or contact Heli.Wade@marlborough.govt.nz 027 2744 421



The Plan reflects over 400 individual voices and 1400 statements collected through a process of 'planning by the community for the community'

Big gains to be made in small streams

Small streams should be the focus of water improvement actions in Te Hoiere catchments.

This conclusion was reached following a year-long baseline water quality study by the Marlborough District Council.



To gain a better understanding of baseline water quality, an extensive network of stream and river locations were monitored between August 2020 and July 2021

Smaller streams often have poorer water quality, says a report summarising sampling and observations at 113 sites from August 2020 through July 2021. All land uses had an impact on variables measured including pasture, forestry and native bush.

The Council is also close to completing a catchment condition survey. Maps are being created with layers of information including fences, stream crossings and potential areas for contaminant runoff.

The Ministry for the Environment helped fund both studies which will help people plan and prioritise solutions, through Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project. These could include fencing, stabilising hillsides, planting and dung beetle releases.

On-farm results are confidential to landholders but data will eventually be combined across catchments for public release.

To have you farm surveyed or talk about results contact Aubrey.Tai@marlborough.govt.nz 027 201 4527



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Te Hoiere Project brings together the community and the supporting partner agencies to look after Pelorus-Te Hoiere catchments from bush-clad tops to the sea – ki uta ki tai.

What's happened?

[Integrated Catchment Enhancement Programme](#) (ICEP) finalised and storymap website goes live, check out the plan for project aspirations and proposed future actions.



Volunteers plant 2400 seedlings at the Richmond family's property thanks to volunteers from Fonterra, Ravensdown, ANZ bank and Marlborough District Council along with Project supporters, neighbours and contractors. This work built on efforts started by the Richmonds six years ago, when their family started planting and fencing the banks of a stream and a wetland on their farm.

Richmond Family planting day October 19 2021

Dung beetle release at Linkwater. Max, Matt, Katie, and Isaac Templeman greeted the new arrivals to their family's farm. Want to know more? Contact Linkwater Catchment Group coordinator, Karen Morrison kaz.morrison@yahoo.co.nz



Dung beetle release, December 16 2021

What's happening?

Catchment care coordinator, Aubrey Tai, is out and about talking to landowners about catchment condition and water quality surveys.

Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project operates under the umbrella of Kotahitango mō te Taiao Alliance. To catch up with partners around Te Taiuhiu, read the Alliance's [final ePānui for 2021](#).

What's next?

Feb 13 2022 - Family Fish Fest Day, Rai Valley. Identify freshwater fish and insects and learn what makes a healthy stream. RSVP wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz

Like the Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project on [Facebook](#)