

**Newsletter March 23**

Thank you to all the people who filled out the survey. It has been a real help to guide us where best to target our efforts.

If anyone has specific issues that they would like help with then we have access to specialized people who can give you guidance or just answer your questions. We are only a phone call away from some free advice.

I have been working closely with several farmers looking to take advantage of some money we have available from WRA to do riparian plantings or wetlands. This year’s allocation is closed. The benefit to our catchment is great when we can stop sediment and nutrients entering waterways and erosion along the banks of our streams. This bad weather we have had has allowed us to see where the rainwater is running and draining into our waterways and maybe you’ve seen some places where you could maybe make a small wetland and plant the area up to prevent this. **If you are interested in doing something at your place in the winter of 2024,** please make contact and we can have a look and see how we can help. The application goes in this August so we need to find you.

In Tokoroa, as part of the catchment, we have made a start on a project on the Whakauru Stream alongside the New Trade centre. This is a project alongside SWIFT, and we thank them for their support. We have been clearing the stream area during early February and looking to clear and chip the willows that are there in late April. We will put the call out for volunteers to help get the branches to the chipper and will plant the area in June.



We have registered with **Trees That Count** so if you have any spare Reward points with Farm source you can donate them, and we will get the money back to plant trees plus Fonterra puts in dollar for dollar, so this is a great opportunity to get plants for our catchment.

 

**Upcoming events.**

**Wed 5th April.**

Free Coffee and lunch from the cart with Adrian Brocksopp from Elemental Environmental and Environment Waikato Reps at Farm Source Tokoroa. These guys have a wealth of knowledge, and this is just an opportunity for an informal catchup one on one with them. So, bring your questions along to see how we can help in any way from the simplest or the toughest problems you are facing.

We will be there from 1030am till 130pm with all sorts of treats from the coffee cart.

 

**Wed 7th June.**

Bus trip and Pub lunch to look at trial sites and find out all about the new grasses and brassicas with the seed companies.

 This will be a great opportunity to hear how much is being done in this space. I went to Christchurch to see this, and I can highly recommend this as an informative and real opportunity to see what you do through simple steps with grass choices.

We are bring the grass seed experts up from the south island to tell us about the work they have been doing.

Because we are taking a bus there a limited spaces so get in contact and book your spot early.

I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Andrew Lennox