

# KMR. Our People.



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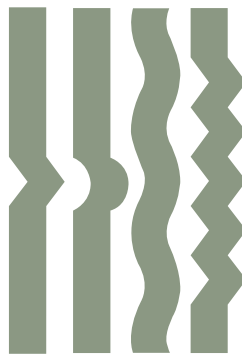
**JOBS | MAHI**  
FOR NATURE | MŌ TE TAIĀO



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
Manatū Mō Te Taiāo



**KAIPARA  
MOANA  
REMEDICATION**



This mahi is bigger than just the team delivering it. Everyone we work with has a story about the Kaipara, whether they be kaitiaki, landowners, nursery or fencer. With every individual, there is a connection to the moana, be it through whakapapa, going back generations, or a more recent connection with those inspired to live near and on the Kaipara.

Our work is focused on what we can do to improve the harbour and that includes acknowledging the connections people have with the moana. We also acknowledge the incredible work that began many years before this project, and which continues as people strengthen their ties to the moana and the whenua. These stories are from some of the people of Kaipara, sharing their hopes and aspirations and the reason they contribute to this work.



## Natasha Rogers

Procurement and Dispatch Supervisor – Te Ārai Native Nursery Ltd

### *A passion for plants*

#### **Natasha Rogers has found purpose in utilising her passion for plants in her homeland of the Kaipara.**

After three years away studying Botany at the University of Otago, Natasha missed her family and couldn't wait to come home – despite not having a job to step into.

But in the blink of an eye, she was part of the Te Ārai Native Nursery crew and is now a year into working on the KMR kaupapa, becoming increasingly involved in the organisation side of plant distribution.

Natasha is part of a team tasked with growing enough plants to supply four satellite nurseries due to be established around the Kaipara rohe in 2022/2023.

“It is very fulfilling being part of the movement (KMR) that is leaving the land and rivers better than how we found them,” says Natasha.

“I am very environmentally minded so this work sits well with me because we are also working with Iwi and creating jobs for locals.”

Natasha says the project gives her - and everyone else working on it - a sense of responsibility to restore the land and waterways leading into the Kaipara Harbour.

“I believe that generations to come will be grateful for the moves that the KMR project is making to restore the whenua. It will drastically improve biodiversity and populations of New Zealand native species within the area, and it will also indirectly help to preserve rural New Zealanders' lifestyles which are centred on the land, which will help provide for us. Generations from now will be still swimming in these rivers and walking through this bush.”

Having grown up in Wellsford, Natasha says it is fulfilling and satisfying to grow and distribute native plants to the various planting sites across the Kaipara.

“I help choose what species are most suitable for the different sites and then organise the allocation of those plants. It is important to me as I was raised in this area, and I recognise that much of the waterways and land has been abused by anthropogenic activities such as farming and urbanisation.”

The key to turning that tide is conversing and collaborating with local Iwi.

“No one knows more about the land and how it is supposed to function more than the local Iwi within the various rohe.”

“I think KMR is an exemplary project that takes into account all parties and what is important to them and I am not shy suggesting to people I know who fulfil the requirements to apply to KMR and get half their plants paid for. It's a great scheme.”

Outside of work, Natasha's downtime is no surprise. She is intensely interested in plants and their role within the ecosystem, especially fungi and their species-to-species relationships. She loves going on bush walks and being within the natural environment.



## Peter Yardley

Fisherman – Kaipara Harbour

Peter and son, Dylan

### **For nearly 50 years Peter and Christine Yardley have advocated for better environmental practices in and around the Kaipara Harbour.**

From working on farms overlooking the moana, to being on the water looking back up to the surrounding hillsides, Peter could see first-hand that land management practices needed to change dramatically if the Harbour was to survive ... and hopefully thrive, once more. The harbour was in such bad shape by the 1990s due to sediment build-up, siltation and over-fishing, that a return to good health at the time seemed like a pipe dream.

“A lot of farmers had moved from farming sheep to beef. People were grazing down to the low tide mark and cattle were all through the waterways so the water quality really declined,” says Peter.

“The commercial fishing quotas changed the fishing landscape and almost overnight we went from about 30 local fishermen to 120 boats working the Kaipara, so the fishery stocks suffered.”

But, led by Iwi perseverance by a multitude of Kaipara locals, land management practices gradually began to change. Lifestyle block owners with an environmental drive moved into the area and riparian planting became the norm. As more large-scale farmers started fencing off waterways and wetlands and boosting native plantations, Peter began to see a gradual, but positive, difference in the Kaipara.

“Farmers, local fishermen and local Iwi really got on board working together when we realised - through working with scientists and our own observations - that we all needed to play a part and change our ways. So many farmers love fishing so it was easy to get them on board. That meant cutting down on nitrogen, not grazing to the low tide mark and keeping cattle off beaches, fencing off and planting waterways, foreshores, swamps and native bush.

He says the timing of the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme is perfect.

“I had a lot to do with Bill Worsfold and Willie Wright over the years and I shared their vision that to look after the harbour, people needed to be more environmentally-minded on the land. The sediment build-up in the harbour over the years was chronic and as a result, species were disappearing.

“It has been one heck of a journey and a lot of us have had to fight hard to get people to change their ways, but in recent years I have seen species coming back and the water quality is improving. I honestly didn't think I would see pollution in my lifetime, let alone the reverse. There is still plenty of work to do but we are well on the right track. I will certainly be applying to be part of the KMR programme and doing my bit to revitalise the Kaipara Moana.”

In recent years, Peter, Christine and their son Dylan have been gradually protecting parts of their 4-hectare Whakapirau property.

“When we came here it was an abandoned piece of land with 15 big bulls on it and the pugging of the soil was knee-deep. The bulls were in the native bush and ponds. Now there are only three steers, we have protected our ponds, fenced off areas of the property and planted over 2,000 natives. We will do even more planting and protecting because we have seen the positive difference our efforts in the past few years have made.

“Improving the Kaipara will be a slow process but we are on the right track and the water quality is already on the mend. The KMR project is really going to give that a significant boost. It is a great initiative.”

Peter says he founded his estuarine fishing career on Tiaki which he describes as a guardian of the Kaipara Harbour.

“We're providing the highest quality of flounder in New Zealand because of our focus on best practice, quality and sustainable fishing practices. I'd like to see all fish and shellfish species in the Kaipara at that level as the health of the Kaipara improves. It is a delicate balance but we are smart enough to do it and we will do it.

“There have been 30 years of voluntary labour going into getting us this far in repairing the Kaipara, now we are seeing our grandchildren coming through as enviro-children so they will continue the work of the KMR programme.”



## Storm Tautari

Director – All Out Contracting

### **Storm Tautari is eager to make his mark on the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme.**

The born and bred Whirinaki local has an affinity for the land that is firmly in his blood – not to mention a good dose of entrepreneurship dating back to his primary school childhood.

Given a lawnmower by a generous uncle, he established a local lawn mowing business and was on his way to saving money. When his sister wanted to loan \$20 he would oblige, only to charge her a \$10 loan fee.

Skip forward a couple of decades and in the space of five years since launching All Out Contracting, Storm has established a flourishing business specialising in the planting of native trees around our waterways.

While based in the Far North (Storm is of Ngāpuhi, Te Roroa and Ngāti Hine descent), he has put his hand up to be part of something he considers very special – the KMR programme – and is looking forward to bringing his team to the Kaipara and helping reinvent a beautiful harbour.

He says in recent years his kaimahi have developed a lot of skills and certificates relevant to their mahi, making his team of eight a highly effective unit. If you see them in action, you can't miss just how methodical and accurate they are in getting the job done.

Storm takes plenty of pride in the impact they are having on the environment and loves revisiting plantings a couple of years down the track to see the progress.

Storm says he cut his teeth working on the land straight out of school – an environment that was not for him.

“I have been working full-time since I was 14 or 15. I started out with my uncle building cattle yards and fences. He broke me in over three months before he started paying me \$10 an hour. I stayed with him for years doing riparian planting, forestry, and pruning. “We would do anything from building stables to fixing a doorknob for a client.”

Sadly, Storm's mentor passed away from cancer but he left a legacy by handing his contracts to Storm.

Armed with just a chainsaw, Storm took on a project to cut a 10km track through dense bush.

Then the work just kept on flowing with contracts with the Department of Conservation and the Northland Regional Council – from pest control on blocks up to 1000 hectares, to track maintenance and more.

“I was getting pretty busy so I hired my cousin and decided to keep hiring good, reliable people. Alongside my partner and fellow AOC Director Holli, we have eight full-time staff and a couple of part-timers. We have a number of projects on and a significant one of those will be completed by the end of this year – a 75-hectare

riparian planting of 300,000 trees. We are also completing a 50-hectare native tree regeneration project on the northern side of the magnificent Waipoua Forest.”

With KMR work on the horizon, Storm says his role in the business has changed somewhat.

“My role is about staying ahead of the boys and making sure everything is totally organised when they hit a job. While I love getting out there on the tools, as the business has continued to grow I find that I am just as likely to be having meetings in a café in between being on the land.”

And being on the land is what drives Storm to keep nurturing nature.

“I am in tune with Mother Nature. When you are planting a tree, it is screaming at you with energy and I feel that. It is such a buzz. Every tree, every time. I love the biodiversity and the new ecosystems we are creating. I love nature because we are all one really.

“I'm really proud of the boys on our team because they are starting to see a different way of life, they have the discipline to get up every day and get to work, and for me, it is really satisfying creating jobs for people.”

Equally satisfying is spending time with Holli and their children Tamatea and Aria-Mae (fondly called Mae Mae), four-wheel driving, hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities – important downtime for a man so driven and determined to make a difference in Te Tai Tokerau.



## Lance Nepia

Nursery Manager – Rural Design 1984 Limited

**When Lance Nepia (Te Uri o Hau) talks of growing up overlooking the Otamatea River from the vantage point of his whānau land, his passion for the area and the environment is clear.**

Now that he has the chance to play an integral part in the world's second-largest (and Aotearoa's largest) harbour restoration project in the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme, that passion is growing by the day.

Lance's best mate Blake Worsfold, Rural Design's General Manager, encouraged him to join the team six years ago and Lance is now in charge of a 20-strong team.

But it is a far cry from the adrenalin rush of his career as a professional chef.

"I grew up with Blake and his brothers but I moved away from the area to do a chef apprenticeship when I was 20. I quite enjoyed the lifestyle but after 15 years it was time to come back to the North," says Lance.

Lance is now settled in Mangawhai with his wife Nena, a local vet, and sons Tane (19) and Luca (14).

"When we moved back, I was running a food truck in the summer and came here to Rural Design in the winter to keep busy."

Lance ended up in the nursery and then took on managing the business unit.

"The business has grown really big, really quick and it has been cool to be part of the growth. You get to see a lot of local people working here which is pretty cool.

"Being able to get locals into something they might not have previously had a shot at and sparking an interest in them at the same time is really satisfying." - this needs more context around it, or delete it

"The Kaipara is a big part of me. It is my home and the KMR project is improving the health of the water and the fisheries."

While acknowledging there is a long way to go on the decade-long journey to improving the health and mauri of the Kaipara Moana in helping reverse ongoing environmental degradation by halving

sediment loss from land to sea, Lance says the kaupapa is fast heading in the right direction.

"I used to enjoy getting out there and planting with our crews but with our growth, I am very much here at the head office on a daily basis organising the nursery and our staff."

"The conversations about the KMR programme I've had are pretty positive. Everyone has the same love for Kaipara Harbour. It's about our kids, isn't it? We want them to go down and enjoy the harbour we did as children. It is about the future.

"I want to be able to say in ten years that I played a small part in turning the health of the Kaipara catchment and Kaipara harbour around – out of respect for my parents and my grandparents. And of course, our children are our future. We need to leave a legacy," says Lance.



## Jaiya Skipper

Supervisor – Te Ārai Native Nursery Ltd

### **Jaiya Skipper loves bringing the Kaipara Moana Remediation programme kaupapa home for his whānau through his role as a supervisor with Te Ārai Native Nursery.**

The charismatic 26-year-old is proud to whakapapa to Te Uri O Hau, Ngai Tahu (Ngāti Wai) and Ngāti Porou.

He is also kaitiaki of a block of a 4.8ha native bush block near Wellsford which keeps him busy.

“It used to belong to my great great uncle, so the actual land itself used to belong to us as an Iwi. It was sold and then my Grandad bought it back in the early 2000’s,” says Jaiya.

The block contains a number of native tree varieties from Kauri and Tōtara to Red Māpou (Matipo), Nikau, Silver Fern and more.

Jaiya began possum trapping in early 2022 and plans to keep that up to minimise damage to the species and give seedlings a better chance of regrowth.

He also collects seeds from his land to use in the Te Ārai Native Nursery, where he oversees the nursery production data and coordinates the health and safety of the growing business.

Te Ārai Native Nursery is one of many supplying plants for the KMR project and Jaiya has been with the business since 2022.

“I did some summer work here in 2016 and 2018 when I finished my Bachelor’s in Automotive Engineering at Unitec in Auckland. They extended my contract and presented me with a great opportunity, and here I am.

“This work is important to me because the plants we produce for the programme will be vital in restoring the Kaipara Harbour. My grandad was a local and his mother was born in Otamatea, so it feels good to be helping restore the integrity of my cultural home. “The KMR programme will jump-start the restoration process for the Kaipara and will lead by example so that other projects with similar goals

will follow suit using the same model and succeed. Improving the natural environment so that future generations will enjoy the natural beauty of Aotearoa makes total sense.”

Jaiya believes that the more people that know about the programme, the more they will want to become involved using their own skills and knowledge, and therefore help the programme to succeed.

“It certainly feels good to be part of a programme that aims to restore the natural beauty of the Kaipara.”



## David King

Te Ārai Native Nursery Ltd

### *Bringing rewards home to the rohe*

**David King has big plans for Te Ārai Native Nursery Limited which extend beyond growing millions of native trees to contribute to the Kaipara Moana Remediation Project over the next decade.**

As Nursery Business Manager for Te Ārai Native Nursery, he is one of a number of people who feel privileged to be involved in the KMR project.

David would like to encourage others to become involved in the project so they can make a positive difference to the environment and future wellbeing of the Kaipara Moana.

To achieve this, David is leading the team at Te Ārai Native Nursery to continue expanding and increasing the profitability of the business to allow for even more employment of tangata whenua.

“This project is providing the opportunity to potentially restore, re-create and preserve the environment for tamariki and rangatahi to enjoy and prosper in the future,” says David.

So far, more than 20,000 native trees have been distributed by the Te Ārai crew for KMR-funded planting projects ... and that is just the start.

“My objective over the next few years is to have this nursery grow but on top of that growing taonga and rongoā species for inclusion in KMR-funded planting projects. Hopefully, it will also encourage generations of mana whenua to become true kaitiaki and live sustainably on the land.” Since David teamed up with KMR in 2020, he has witnessed numerous milestones but knows there are many more to come.

Until late 2021, David was part of the KMR Nursery Strategy Team which was charged with engaging nurseries in the rohe who expressed interest in becoming suppliers to the KMR programme roll-out.

He then took the helm at Te Ārai Native Nursery to build the business and enable it to substantially contribute to the mauri of the Kaipara Moana.

David remains focused on earning the respect of the community and landowners whose properties flow into the Kaipara Harbour, so they become inspired to do their bit to restore the health of the Kaipara

Harbour catchment, and the moana itself.

“Working with central and local government, along with private enterprise to help financially underwrite the programme is also important,” says David.

His enthusiasm for the KMR programme is clear to see and David hopes his drive will encourage others to get involved.

He believes getting mānuka, harakeke and other species established in the ground now will give participating nurseries two or three years to grow bigger native species (before they are planted out under the protection of “cover species”) that will become the Mahuta of the forest.

Part of that means growing over one million native plants in 2023, including mānuka, harakeke, oioi, kānuka, tōtara, mataī, kahikatea, kohekohe and many more.

“My primary responsibility as Nursery Business Manager for Te Ārai Native Nursery is improving the infrastructure at the nursery so that it can act as the hub for three or four satellite nurseries around the Kaipara. That will help the KMR programme grow and create





**Te Ārai Native Nursery Team-Class of 2022**  
 L-R Standing - Frances Perkinson, Jaiya Skipper, David King,  
 Sitting - Natasha Rogers, Danae Parker, Kathleen Armstead

employment opportunities for those around the rohe.

“Our nursery is also charged with growing taonga and rongoā species for inclusion in the KMR Sediment Reduction Plans and setting up seed libraries to ensure continuity of seed availability. It is important to remember that the native plants need to be truly endemic to where they will go in the ground.”

David says the investment objectives set out in the KMR ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ are his environmental “bible” because they set out the kaupapa of the project - something everyone involved should keep in mind:

- Tiaki taiao (Natural Capital) “Primary objective being to restore mauri to the moana and enable it to be healthy, self-sustaining and naturally productive”
- Ōhanga (Physical and Financial Capital) “Create sustainable, resilient and optimised primary production in the Kaipara catchment and harbour”

- Manaaki Tangata (Human Capital) “Improve Kaipara Uri and local skills and capability to support innovation, effective land management and community resilience”
- Tātai Hononga (Social Capital) “Enable kotahitanga by empowering Kaipara Uri and local community participation, including Hapū and Marae, in local solutions”

“ This project is providing the opportunity to potentially restore, re-create and preserve the environment for tamariki and rangatahi to enjoy and prosper in the future



## Jacquie Knight

KMR Field Advisor – Paparoa

### **Jacquie Knight believes in embracing your local community, working together and caring for the land.**

Sit down and chat with her for a while and it becomes very clear where the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme Field Advisor's passion lies – making a difference to the environment.

Looking around her stunning Paparoa property and you can clearly see she has walked the talk while developing a once gorse-covered chunk of farmland into a native paradise. She has also developed a food forest, olive grove and vineyard, wetlands and more.

“In KMR we are a diverse and passionate group of people, working from where we already live, to help restore the Kaipara Harbour through helping with fencing and planting our local farmers' waterways,” says Jacquie.

She describes herself as bringing people together and is adamant that she wants local people working on the project.

“We are working within - and are a part of - small communities. People get to know each other and we do what we can to help each other.”

Jacquie believes the project is creating a sense of community and connection between schools, farmers, volunteer groups and the wider community – while making people more aware of the opportunities the KMR programme is creating to improve the environment.

Jacquie is a Restoration Specialist. She worked as a Restoration Manager at the Kaipātiki Project for six years alongside Char Wiapo (who is also involved with

the KMR project). She is now using her expertise to help restore the Ōtamatea area since returning to Northland.

“When the KMR project started, I saw a great opportunity to help out on a larger, and more coordinated scale and bring the schools along too. There is so much work to do in this area that it is important we all cooperate to get the best results. I see KMR as an ideal umbrella under which we can all work together.”

Jacquie is clear that the key to collaborating and problem-solving our way to improve the health of the Kaipara Harbour is genuine care for the moana, land and the people. This takes the form of good listening skills and regular communication, a good technical knowledge of restoration and wide relationships with the community.

“As a Field Advisor, I am here to work with landowners on their priorities for their land and make it an easy process. I advise them on how to reduce silt and other runoff from going into their waterways, and then into the harbour, through fencing and planting. Now is the time for people to get organised so they can get underway with fencing and be ready for planting next winter.”

And as an accredited KMR nursery, Jacquie also grows a range of appropriate plants to go into those farmer's fenced-off waterways, with an emphasis on the diversity of species so that there is habitat restoration going on as well as sediment control.

“As an Enviroschools Facilitator for secondary schools, I am connecting schools in the Kaipara catchment with

the KMR programme through developing curriculum-linked teaching units that have KMR's programme central to the learning. This will culminate in a KMR planting day at the end of the unit. We are also developing a nursery at Ruawai College to grow wetland plants for the area.

“In the future, I see the success of the KMR Project will mean a healthier harbour with returning kai moana, but also a better-protected land as trees will stabilise and restore the soils.

“Through connecting rangitahi with the project, I am looking to ensure they have both a better understanding of the environment around them and an active role in managing their environment.

“I also think the project will result in a closer relationship between the whole community and the environment. The ideal result is a higher quality of life for all of the Kaipara from the soil up!”

Jacquie is also bringing her whānau, friends and others in the community along on the KMR journey.

“I organised a planting day with the local schools at the first farm I completed a Sediment Reduction Plan to help the farmer get the necessary plants in the ground but also because I saw it as a great opportunity for rangitahi to learn about how KMR is helping farmers to mitigate environmental impacts of farming.”



## Henderson Brothers

### The Green Team

**Growing up in Karamu near Ōtamatea, the Henderson brothers naturally lived on the Taiao of the Kaipara gathering kaimoana and spending time in the ngāhere.**

However, when Tāne Henderson moved home from Australia he noticed the Kaipara Harbour had rapidly declined since his childhood. "The sediment has taken over the pipi beds and the oysters, and places where I used to go with big oyster beds, are now covered in sediment."

Whetu Henderson has observed a large range of new invasive species moving into the harbour such as mantis shrimps, Chinese fighter crabs and carpet muscle which have grown from sediment running into the Kaipara.

The brothers were raised in a shearing background and started The Green Team working in environmental protection and restoration around the rohe.

"For the last five years me and my brother Whetu have been running The Green Team and I just love it. I love restoring the land! Coming back after two years and seeing the trees have grown and a naked block of land that was pine slash now covered in something amazing," Tāne said.

"What I enjoy most about this mahi is we are out with our whānau every day. It's a good thing we are restoring the land back to the natural beauty that it once was.

"If you look at books of settlers who came up the Kaipara who not being able to hear anything because the cicadas were so loud - it would be great to get back to that one day," Whetu said.

The brothers were inspired to work on the Kaipara Moana Remediation project so their children will one day be able to enjoy a childhood similar to theirs - being able to hunt and fish off the land. They believe the opportunity to help plant and restore the land to control the sediment will change the course of the environment for the Kaipara Moana.

"It's a food source for us living so close to the harbour and knowing there is something being done about it now, it's good and it makes us quite proud to be a part of this project," Whetu said.

"I think this project is invaluable, not only is it restoring the awa, it is restoring the people. There are not many employment opportunities around here so it increases employment for our rangatahi or anyone for that matter that wants to get involved in the kaupapa so they can provide for their families."

“ The opportunity to help plant and restore the land to control the sediment will change the course of the environment for the Kaipara Moana.



## Shona Oliver

KMR Field Advisor – Taupaki

**Shona Oliver sure is passionate about her work. As a Field Advisor to the Kaipara Moana Remediation programme, she is loving her involvement in fencing and native planting projects.**

“It feels like we are contributing to something that is so important to the people and the planet. It will be inter-generational, but we are starting here!” says Shona.

The KMR Programme has been established to plant 20 million native trees in the 6,000km<sup>2</sup> Kaipara Moana catchment over ten years. As New Zealand’s largest harbour restoration programme, KMR aims to significantly reduce sediment flowing into the Kaipara Harbour.

“This is just the first wave. The first plants in the ground this year are nursery species that will also help to stabilise the banks of waterways. There is a lot of thought that goes into the planting.”

Shona was on the second KMR Field

Advisor training course held at Atiu Creek in March 2022. KMR has now run several of these four-day training courses, training 51 people to date. Shona is loving working with landowners who want to make a positive difference to their local environment. Her enthusiasm for KMR is clear to see, especially the work with whānau, marae and community groups.

This work involves creating Sediment Reduction Plans for whenua in multiple ownership or with community groups working on public land - both of which may be eligible for funding via the Whenua Whānui fund. This funding recognises the coordination and communication time that is involved with bringing people together as part of the project, while also giving an opportunity for hands-on and in-kind involvement in the restoration work itself.

In essence, KMR’s Whenua Whānui Fund is aimed at supporting marae and community groups to participate in restoration efforts for Kaipara Moana.

The aim of both the Landowner Grant

and Whenua Whānui Fund is to restore the mauri of the whenua and Kaipara Moana. This is done by developing Sediment Reduction Plans to fence and exclude stock from wetlands and streams, identifying planting areas and significant ecological areas which would benefit from stock exclusion, and calculating the cost of the work.

Shona says the key to her work is listening to landowners and hearing their ambitions, while also working out what is reasonable and feasible. A fortnight after planting is completed, Shona returns to the land to review and assess the work, and does so again six months later. This is to check on plant survival rates and to see if plants have been successfully established by keeping them free of smothering grasses and weeds.

“It’s about working in partnership with people to see what is achievable over the next 1-3 years. KMR offers a great model that contributes up to 50% towards the costs, so why wouldn’t landowners



take advantage of that? I am finding the landowners coming on board feel as if they have a big commitment to protecting their land.”

Shona is clearly passionate about our environment and she demonstrates that with the care she gives to nature on her 8ha Taupaki lifestyle block – land surrounded by streams feeding into the Kumeū awa and out to the Kaipara.

“It keeps me feeling at home. I like caring for our whenua. I grew up on a dairy farm in Nukuhou – Eastern Bay of Plenty. The Nukuhou awa runs through the farm, out to the Nukuhou Salt Marsh and Ohiwa Moana, awakening my passion for the taiao,” she says.

Outside of the KMR mahi, Shona also works with communities in Rodney West, engaging in pest-free initiatives.

“While a separate kaupapa, I believe that the future riparian planting as part of the KMR project will not only stabilise banks and filter sediment, but they also have the potential to become important wildlife corridors and habitat.” Shona says the

Kaipara Moana has been clearly impacted by 190 years of land use change across its massive catchment. By clogging up the moana with sediment and changing the natural process within the harbour, the aquatic ecosystem has been destroyed, she observes.

She is adamant we need to turn this around.

“Yes it will take decades, but every contribution counts. If we all do our bit we can begin to restore the mauri of the Kaipara.

“We all need to listen to understand how to work together to restore the Kaipara Moana. That’s because we all bring different knowledge, skills and aims. Let’s see how we can help and support each other to get the best outcomes for the land and the sea. We have to listen to, and work with, whānau and landowners to achieve their aspirations for their whenua.”

Shona also sees that impact extending to tamariki and rangitahi in future.

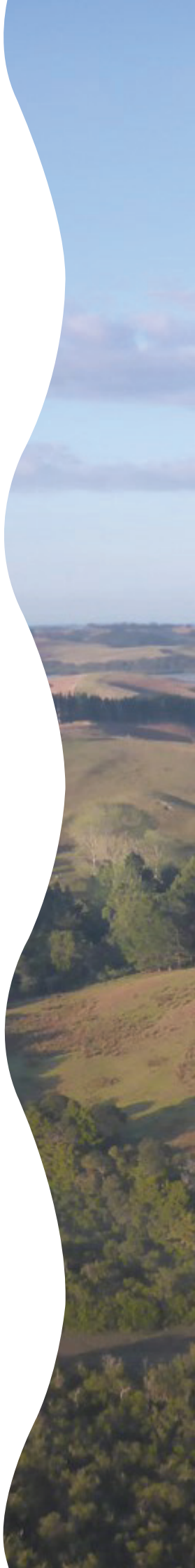
“They will be able to see that kaumātua stood up and fought for the health of the

Kaipara, and know they can get involved too and that there are some great career pathways developing. In the future, I hope they can look to the Kaipara and see it returning to health - an environment providing sustainable kai and one we hand to them to care for into the future.

“For me, this all starts at home. Practice what you preach, care for the land, the awa that flows to the moana. Talk about the opportunities in the community at the marae and with whānau because we are all in this together,” says Shona

Landowners in the 640,000ha Kaipara Harbour catchment are encouraged to do their bit. Farmers, iwi/hapū and community groups who are interested in fencing off riparian and wetland areas and preparing land for planting over spring and summer are invited to complete an expression of interest at: [kmr.org.nz/landowner-expression-of-interest/](https://kmr.org.nz/landowner-expression-of-interest/)

# Restoring & protecting the mauri of Kaipara Moana.







KAIPARA MOANA  
REMEDICATION

[kmr.org.nz](http://kmr.org.nz)