

Our People



**Protecting and restoring
the mauri of Kaipara Moana**



Foreword

The Kaipara Moana is the largest natural harbour in the Southern Hemisphere, and a place of global significance. As Aotearoa's largest harbour system, the Kaipara Moana includes 6,000km of catchment across Auckland and Northland regions, and over 8,000km of waterways flowing into the harbour.

The Kaipara Moana has deep environmental and cultural values, with some of the rarest ecosystems in New Zealand, including sand-dunes, seagrass, freshwater and estuarine wetland ecosystems. As the nursery for much of New Zealand's snapper fishery, the Kaipara Moana also has major economic value.

The October 2020 signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for the Environment, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Te Uri o Hau, Northland Regional Council and Auckland Council was a joint commitment by the Crown, Kaipara Uri and Councils to protect and restore the Kaipara Harbour.

Kaipara Moana Remediation's long-term aspiration is to halve sediment flows into the harbour. As an environmental granting programme, KMR invests in projects to restore wetlands, fence off rivers and streams, plant and regenerate forest on erosion prone land. KMR contracts directly with landowners – farmers, land managers, whānau, hapū, trusts and other landholders – as well as with catchment and community groups to carry out these projects on their whenua.

KMR supports projects across the length and breadth of the Kaipara Moana catchment, from the headwaters of each river system through to the shores of the Moana itself. This recognises that it does not matter where the project takes place – everyone benefits when our valuable soils stay on the land where they belong.

These stories are from the people of the Kaipara Moana – their hopes, aspirations and reasons for partnering with KMR. We hope you are inspired by their stories. Come and join us!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Justine Daw', written over a light blue circular background.

Justine Daw

Pou Tātaki

Kaipara Moana Remediation



A globally and nationally important harbour

The Kaipara Moana catchment spans both Northland and Auckland.

600,000 hectares

2

regions

~3,500

sub-catchments

7

major river
systems

~92,000

micro-catchments

9

(planting)
eco-districts

16,200 kms

of river and stream-banks



○ Kawakawa

○ Kaikohe

○ Helena Bay

○ Whangārei

○ Dargaville

○ Wellsford

Warkworth ○

○ Helensville

These stories showcase the people taking action in KMR projects across the catchment.



Grae and Lou Roberts

Caring for the land is essential to farming success

Riponui dairy farmers Grae and Lou Roberts want to leave their land better than how they found it.

So, they have teamed up with KMR and Fonterra to begin a journey of fencing off waterways and planting the riparian margins in natives.

Almost 6,000 trees into their journey and the couple say they can't wait to see the growth progress on the 1.29-hectare plantation area in the next few years.

KMR has not only assisted with contributing to the cost of the planting but also the two wire electric fencing surrounding the area, support the couple are grateful for.

Despite being busy milking a 700-strong herd and raising a young family, sustainability and environmental values are at the heart of their operation which is why they have invested heavily in cutting edge effluent management.

They are immensely appreciative of being able to partner with KMR and Fonterra.

"We found out about KMR through Fonterra and pretty much left it to them to organise everything. All we had to do was help arrange the fencing and planting. We had been wanting to fence more of our waterways and bush on our beef unit, so this is a perfect opportunity," says Grae and Lou.

Fonterra's Mike Mitchell has been working closely with the Roberts and says they have demonstrated clear commitment and consistent evolution of improvement – traits important to Fonterra.

"Grae and Lou are putting in a big effort to do things right.

"It goes from on the ground discussions about priorities, to action on farm in line with those priorities. Fencing and planting at this scale is rewarding for everybody," says Mike.

"Working with KMR has been seamless."

Verdantia Research

A silvopastoral system solution



Space-planted tree trial underway near Glorit and the Kaipara Hills.

A trial to use space-planted native trees to stabilise moving hillsides while supporting sheep and cattle grazing is underway on two pockets of farmland in Auckland.

Verdantia Research has teamed up with Kaipara Moana Remediation and Auckland Council to understand the performance of a variety of space-planted native trees on grazed pasture on working farms.

The three-year trial is being conducted on a long-established coastal sheep and beef farm near Glorit and on an inland beef unit in the Kaipara Hills.

Verdantia co-founders, Dr Tom Mackay-Smith and Dr Raphael Spiekermann, are working on trials to develop a planting model that could be adopted in Auckland and Northland to reduce landslides and minimise erosion using native silvopastoral 'space-planted' systems.

Tom also hopes that Verdantia's newly designed, robust tree guard will enable native seedlings to become more consistently established in the presence of sheep, cattle, deer and goats.

"For livestock farming in New Zealand hill country, it is challenging to find the balance between optimum productivity and the costs of environmental action," says Tom.

"We believe a potential solution could be found through native silvopastoral systems, where individual native trees are grown in paddocks at wide spacings of 12-20 metres."

Peter Nowell, Senior Healthy Water Specialist at Auckland Council, says the partnership with KMR and Verdantia provides an opportunity to do something different.

"If the KMR approach is of interest to you, then reach out and get planting next winter," says Peter.

"I would encourage people to talk to their neighbours about their experience with KMR."



Healing the land

Sarah Welch, Yvonne New and Jackie Nairn

Aucklanders Sarah Welch and Yvonne New had been after a bush block within easy driving distance of Auckland for many years.

When they couldn't find one, they bought 62 hectares of grazable grass hill country at Whakapirau, near Maungatūroto, and began planting pockets of natives to protect waterways, wetland areas and erodible hillsides.

With the help of on-farm manager Jackie Nairn, and through a partnership with KMR and additional guidance from Rural Design, strong progress is being made healing the land with Sarah, Yvonne and Jackie working hard on their environmental vision.

In a short space of time, there has been a diversity of planting, with mānuka, ake ake, harakeke, tōtara, pūriri, karaka, tītoki, kānuka, cabbage trees, karo, lemonwood, māpou.

Two hectares of stream on the southern boundary of the property have been planted out 10 metres either side.

The trees are taking exceptionally well. Jackie says the progress of late could not have happened without the funding and planning from the passionate and knowledgeable KMR team.

“Kaipara has become a bit of a sad harbour so it is exciting to think we can try to help restore the ecosystem a little bit. I feel

pretty proud of what we have done so far.”

Yvonne says she enjoys being amongst nature on the farm.

Everyone involved in the programme agrees that the land chooses how to heal itself.

She says that the input has been a gamechanger and working with KMR and Rural Design has been amazing.

“It is exciting seeing how well the trees are growing after only two years.”



Wai Connection

KMR and Wai Connection sign MOU celebrating World Water Day

Two highly respected environmental programmes are joining forces to boost and fast-track efforts to restore the mauri of the Kaipara Harbour.

The partnership was announced on the eve of World Water Day 2024 (22 March), with a theme of 'water for peace'.

KMR and Mountain to Sea Conservation Trust's (MTSCT) Wai Connection programme are finalising a partnership to better nurture the health of water in the Kaipara Moana catchment.

Both programmes have already worked together on community planting days alongside waterways in Paparoa and Parakai, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise efforts towards more collaborations around boosting waterway health in the Kaipara Moana.

KMR Pou Tātaki Justine Daw and MTSCT Co-Director - Freshwater Kim Jones, both agree that New Zealand communities care passionately about their local waterways.

"There's a strong call for support to build understanding of catchment issues, through localised support and funding to take action on the ground.

We are both focused on community engagement and connecting people in targeted catchment restoration and freshwater remediation, enabled by good science," says Kim.

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catchment issues, through localised support and funding to take action on the ground.

"We are both focused on community engagement and connecting people in targeted catchment restoration and freshwater remediation, enabled by good science."

Together, KMR and Wai Connection will help groups in the Kaipara Moana catchment identify issues in their local catchment area and find local solutions to them by providing advice, planning and grants for sediment remediation projects near waterways.

"Water is life and we all have an obligation to care for our waterways."



Hohipere Williams

A whānau effort in Pīpīwai

Hohipere Williams says being back on whānau land in Pīpīwai after growing up elsewhere in Aotearoa is immensely fulfilling.

Hohipere and her whānau are gradually moving back to establish papakāinga and be guardians of their whenua, while continuing farming, albeit from a te ao Māori perspective.

“It’s awesome that our mokopuna see the need to keep the water clean,” says Hohipere.

Working with the support of Te Kaitiaki o Ngā Uri e Whā Whānau Trust and KMR, priorities to reduce sediment washing into waterways have been identified, starting with fencing on both sides of the Pātūtahi river. Fencing will also protect forest remnants on nearby hills and allow them to regenerate.

This initial work will reduce streambank erosion and sediment flows from steep slopes, help stabilise a recent slip and create areas for future native planting.

“Our whānau and hapū intend to exercise kaitiakitanga, revegetating all of the river margins on the whenua and influencing nearby whānau and landowners to do the same.”

The Trust has mobilised whānau to get involved in restoring the ecosystem, focusing on te mana o te wai for drinking water purposes, traditional food species, and creating work for whānau.

While the extent of planting across pockets of the 22-hectare property is yet to be decided, tens of thousands of native trees will eventually surround a productive landscape.

Whānau are definitely thinking along the lines of diversifying incomes once the land is appropriately fenced - potentially cultivating food for sale, and developing agroforestry and market gardens.

“Our tupuna set this land aside for us, so our generation must use it wisely. It is about taking kaitiaki responsibilities seriously.”

“Making sure we have healthy awa for our tuna and all of our taonga species is so important.”



Webber Farm

Conservation Volunteers New Zealand Partnership

Kaipara Moana Remediation has again partnered with Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ) for a successful native planting day - this time on an award-winning South Head farm.

Webber Family Farm, owned by Ross and Eleanore Webber, was Regional Supreme Winner of Auckland Ballance Farm Environment Award in 2019.

Landowners Ross and Eleanore are stoked to be working with KMR as they have been an advocate of protecting the Kaipara Harbour for decades.

“The people at KMR are awesome. They have been fizzing to get in here and get planting.

“We need to get more people on board with KMR because the more of this sort of work we do, the better off our environment will be in the long-term and that’s great for the entire country and our wider communities,” says Ross.

The husband and wife team were pleased to add another 3,661 stems to their latest project with the help of CVNZ and KMR.

In total, the Webbers will plant 20,061 sedges, rushes, plants and trees in partnership with KMR on their 200-hectare (135 hectares fully effective) beef breeding unit.

“Decades ago, I was given the opportunity to be the guardian of this farm which was very humbling.

Eleanore and I have worked hard since then to fence off waterways and wetlands and gradually plant them out.”

“This partnership with KMR is very special as it gets us closer to completing what we set out to do.”



Hone Waiomio

Honouring past and future generations

Hone Waiomio is on a mission to honour his koro by revitalising the whenua on which his elders once walked.

His hard work and dedication is clear to see in the way he is bringing his six hectares alive at Akerama, near Ruapekapeka.

Revitalising a degraded puna/spring and small creak running into the Paiaka Stream, then into the Ngāruawāhine Stream.

Hone says due to stock having access to the creek and bush block for decades, there is some bank erosion which he plans to reverse.

Hone sees himself as kaitiaki of the block and surrounding whenua, extending his

plantings down into the wider landscape and, where possible, working with other local landowners to implement landscape remediation and te mana o te wai.

He is also clear on not wanting to use toxic chemicals for site preparation, instead preferring hand preparation for each plant and hand release.

Hone is learning as he goes and is loving his new life after years abroad.

“I feel like I am away now with the progress I have made. As long as I can keep doing my bit for the environment, for society and the world, I feel like I am doing my bit.

“I remember growing up as a kid that Aotearoa was clean and green and I was really proud of that, but I reckon over time we have let that slip and we have a lot of work to do to rebuild the environment and get it right.”

Hone says he and his whānau are not just local kaitiaki but also mana whenua, with roles in the Akerama Marae community.

“I have wanted to heal the whenua and getting that chance is now healing for me.”



King Charles II Coronation Planting

Trees That Count Partnership



Working with Trees That Count (TTC), KMR collaborated to support the He Rā Tītapu - King Charles III Coronation Planting initiative.

As part of this initiative, KMR and Whangārei District Council planted 7,000 stems near the Hikurangi Sports park on the banks of the Mangawhero Stream, north of Te Kamo.

In time, these native trees will help to improve water quality, create precious habitat for native species and control erosion.

“It’s inspiring to collaborate on planting days. They provide a poignant moment for the community and all parties involved,” says Trees That Count CEO, Robyn Haugh.

Nationwide, KMR has recently become the largest recipient of Trees That Count trees, with over 92,000 trees donated through a strategic partnership with KMR.

Trees That Count Regional Advisor Paul Quinlan, says KMR are to be congratulated for running such a successful and professional programme over the past two years.

“Along the way, you make all of these connections with people and organisations which builds communities as well.

“Trees That Count is proud to be partnering with KMR to make a positive difference to our environment.

“Planting is such an inherently positive activity. It’s really about trying to change the future for the better.”



Kim Wallace

KMR, MSD and Environs Partnership

Three-way partnership creating new training and employment pathways.

A two-year partnership between Kaipara Moana Remediation, Ministry for Social Development and Te Uri o Hau Environs has uplifted a number of Kaipara Uri, including many rangatahi.

Last year alone, the partnership trained 65 people, and helped KMR achieve new heights in the number of people trained across the programme.

KMR has created new employment, totalling more than 325,000 hours – the same as a full year’s work for over 200 people.

Thanks to the work of Employment Coordinator Kaitiaki Kim Wallace and her passionate team, Te Uri o Hau Environs has run a number of training modules essential to protecting and restoring the mauri of Kaipara Moana – everything from kauri die back identification and management, controlled substances licensing, driver licensing, GIS mapping, light utility vehicle usage, Growsafe standards, first aid and te reo me ōna tikanga.

With MSD support, Environs has collaborated with KMR to provide employment opportunities for whānau living in the Kaipara Moana catchment, or who simply wanted to move back to their whenua in the catchment.

“To date, KMR has invested in training for 173 people, many of them from local hapū.”



Tāpora Land and Coast Care Group

Restoration of Manukapua Island

The team behind Tāpora Land and Coast Care Group are acutely aware of the importance of their mahi to care for and re-plant around 800 hectares across Manukapua Island.

In winter of 2023 when they first partnered with the KMR Whenua Whānui Fund, they planted a total of 22,500 native grasses in the area - with half of them provided by Trees That Count.

Tāpora Land and Coast Care Group's Leane Makey, says the team behind the mahi have created a raranga organisation who whakapapa to various whānau and hapū of the Kaipara and beyond.

Kia Puawai ai ngā taonga o Manukapua fostering the birds of Manukapua is a project and kaupapa of the Tāpora Land and Coast Care Group.

Manukapua, known as Big Sand Island, is found on the Western side of the Tāporapora Peninsula, which stretches out into the entrance of the Kaipara Moana.

"This is an inter-generational kaupapa and the key to collaborating and problem-solving to restore the health and mauri of the Kaipara Moana is through self-determination, local determination and capacity.

"We need the support by agencies, politicians, law and lore, institutions and KMR, iwi/hapū, industry to do these things," says Leane.

Leane and a wider team of volunteers get back to the land as often as possible to chip away at restoring the area.

"Our goals are to foster the manu of Manukapua through wetland restoration, re-planting our taonga species, education and active kaitiakitanga."



Anne-Fleur van Leeuwen

Spark IoT and Phathom

Efforts to protect and restore the mauri of the Kaipara Moana have received a boost thanks to the generosity of Spark IoT (Internet of Things) and Phathom.

Spark IoT and Phathom are providing the connectivity and technology which, along with the backing of KMR and the University of Auckland is making it possible for research leader Anne-Fleur van Leeuwen to focus her PhD on the effects of river sediment and nutrient dispersal in the Kaipara Moana.

“Phathom designs and manufactures Turbidity and Total Suspended Solids sensors for real time sediment monitoring,” says Phathom Sales Manager Emma Ford.

“We use four beams of light and a ratiometric algorithm to accurately and reliably measure sediment in our awa.

“We love to stay true to our roots and get involved in community projects like KMR, using technology to assist their mahi. If we can help measure sediment in the beautiful Kaipara, we can take accountability for improving its health in the future.”

Meantime, Spark IoT provided a Captis solar powered data logger that uses Spark’s Cat-M1 IoT network. The logger is connected to the Phathom sensor to ensure water quality readings are collected at 15-minute intervals and sent to the cloud daily for a more immediate, granular and cost-effective analysis.

Anne-Fleur is utilising the connectivity and technology to collect water, sediment and zooplankton samples.

These samples are used together with existing data and satellite images to understand:

- Where riverine nutrients and sediments go under different tidal and weather conditions, including storms such as Cyclone Gabrielle
- How the sediment and nutrient concentrations change within the river plume and if river plume dynamics can be linked to zooplankton species and mangrove accretion

She hopes her research will provide new knowledge to better identify areas affected by river sediments, and how this may change with climate change and on-land restoration efforts.

“All water has ‘mauri’ or life force – measuring if the mauri of the water is improving or declining using IoT is critical to the KMR project.”



Walker Family

Whānau complete significant coastal project

The family combination of Carol, Stan and Tracey Walker are justifiably proud of how they are giving back to the whenua at Ōruawharo, near Kaiwaka.

In particular, the family's partnership with KMR has resulted in an impressive coastal margin planting regime of natives in winter of 2024.

The Ōruawharo project was a joint effort between KMR, Te Ārai Native Nursery (eco-sourcing seeds and growing the trees), longstanding Kaipara locals the Rountree family working for Team Vegetation (site preparation for the project), and Kaipara Uri father/daughter team Paul and Ruby Paikea (planting close to 21,000 stems on the project whenua).

Their vision for enhancing the environment has been supported by the KMR Whenua Whānui Fund, which is aimed at supporting whānau, marae and community groups to participate in restoration efforts for the Kaipara Moana.

Taking advantage of extensive fencing already completed by the whānau, KMR worked with the family to support the planting of 20,600 native trees and grasses (mānuka, kānuka, tī kōuka and kāmaramu) in only two weeks!

While high levels of erosion and sediment are threatening the health and mauri of waterways and the Kaipara Moana, the Walkers are playing their part to change that.

In fact, their planting regime is one of the most comprehensive coastal margin planting and inland estuary fencing projects completed since the formation of KMR.

"Had the KMR team not pushed hard to make this happen we would have had to do it in increments and that would have taken years. We would love to do more planting as we have all the fencing in place," says Tracey.

"By doing what we have done for the land we have left something that will make a difference."



Te Toa Whenua Nursery

Iwi led nursery working alongside KMR

Te Roroa and KMR hosted a successful open day at the Te Toa Whenua Nursery near Waipoua in late September 2024.

Dozens of whānau turned up and took part in the event, acknowledging the importance of nurturing the whenua.

Local whānau and community members were invited to collect up to 12,200 donated native plants. They included ake ake (2,000 stems), karamū (4,000 stems), tī kōuka (7,000 stems) and 1000 mānuka trees for planting.

By the end of the day, more than 80 locals had collected an array of natives to take home and plant.

KMR and Te Toa Whenua staff were on hand to talk about the plants, best practice around planting, suitable planting sites and maramataka. People were encouraged to keep in touch with Te Toa Whenua Nursery for future guidance.

KMR Pou Tātaki Justine Daw says her team was proud to be part of this special day as KMR is founded on the notion of landowners of all types taking action across the catchment.

“The open day was a special occasion where people learnt about the whakapapa of the trees which they were able to take away, plant and nurture for future generations of rangatahi and tamariki.”



Stephen and Clare Dill

Cyclone Recovery



The 506-hectare Dill Farm, owned by Stephen and Clare Dill in the Kaipara Hills (North Auckland) was severely affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and other 2023 storms.

Stephen and Clare have been working with KMR for several years, most recently to retire a large area (40 hectares) of highly erodible land that was devastated during the extreme weather.

The Dills hosted KMR and the Associate Minister of Agriculture and for the Environment, Hon. Andrew Hoggard, to see their hard work to mitigate the resulting landslides.

The landowners showed the Minister and the KMR team a 40-hectare area of slipped and highly erodible hillsides, which is being planted with 91,000 native trees through KMR support.

The plants chosen for the planting – mostly mānuka, kānuka and tī kōuka (cabbage trees) - are well suited to keeping soil on steep, eroding slopes.

The visit highlighted that KMR projects to plant and regenerate forest on erosion-prone land also bring a variety of wider benefits and opportunities.

Planting slipped areas increases resilience to future extreme weather and reduces climate change risks on-farm, and native planting enhances local biodiversity and seed sources.

“We are creating a place that is the right thing to do for generations to come,” says Stephen Dill.

“It’s been really good to have Kaipara Moana behind us, just to give us advice and help us along the way with any questions we have.”



Fraser and Alice Chapman

The Chapman whānau championing inter-generational mahi

As a child growing up on the family farm at Porotū, Fraser Chapman dreamt of fencing off Mātukutuku Stream and planting it in natives.

Decades later, he is doing just that in partnership with Kaipara Moana Remediation.

In autumn of 2023, an area of land was fenced off specifically for a KMR project where thousands of natives were subsequently planted.

The 15 species included tītoki, kōwhai, karamū, karaka, porokaiwhiri, harakeke, kānuka and more.

“If you want to do this kind of work, jump on board with KMR. It’s so fantastic,” says Fraser.

“Dad and I already fenced off our waterways but wanted to fence off other areas to retire them from farming and we still had to get to planting natives.

“In years to come I really want to put in a whole lot of species – separate to mānuka and flax – including more ake ake, rimu and kauri.”

Fraser believes 100 hectares of hilly and less fertile land should be reserved for a beef unit, meaning they will look to reduce their dairy herd by around 100 cows in the next few years.

Of that 100 hectares, 40 already earmarked for retirement will be planted in natives over the next decade or two. Fraser says his family is thrilled to be part of KMR.

“Everyone is doing their part in good faith. That includes my father, brothers, sister-in-law, nieces, nephews and employees. They have all helped with the initial riparian planting.”

“There is no way we could do this so quickly without KMR funding and guidance.”



Ōtamatea X

Steep, eroding hillside finds new purpose

An end-to-end joint effort in partnership with Kaipara Moana Remediation, Kaipara Uri-led teams, Environs Te Uri o Hau and Kaipara businesses has proven a perfect environmental recipe.

In fact, the collaboration has resulted in more than 20,000 natives being planted on seven hectares of hillside - owned by Ōtamatea X - Ahu Whenua Block that runs down to Poutaka Stream, which flows into Ōtamatea River and ultimately into the Kaipara Moana.

Ōtamatea X's Trustee Ngahuia Wright-Paikea says due to the steepness of the hillside, the parcel of land was not suitable for grazing on.

It was a no brainer to plant it into mānuka which, once established, will provide diversified income through beehives for honey.

Taking advantage of KMR funding to plant out steep, erodible hillsides with no track access is a common-sense decision an increasing number of farmers throughout the Kaipara Moana catchment are embracing.

The native species planted on the Poutaka Stream hillsides were locally eco-sourced and grown by Kaipara Uri at the Te Ārai Native Nursery and its companion nursery at Waikāretu (Poutō) Marae.

“Planting like this all helps if we are going to have this ongoing climate change.”





River Talks Day

A shared vision of restoration

The Kōareare Creek on the Ōruawharo Peninsula hosted the first River Talks day, a testament to the power of community-led kaitiakitanga.

Hosted by Liz Connelly and whānau, the event showcased the inspiring work of mana whenua in creating their own landscape remediation projects.

The KMR tent offered a deep dive into the 400-hectare Kōareare catchment, exploring its geological history, soil evolution, and the diverse ecosystems that once thrived there.

At the Wai Connection tent, the group reviewed fish traps and met the aquatic life, including a young eel, learning about the vital link between healthy water and healthy kai.

The day also featured an overview of seed saving and the role of seed keeper, followed by a whirlwind tour of regenerative design principles for abundant agricultural landscapes.

The event was further enriched by the presence of surrounding landowners and Kaipara Uri, who shared their own remediation projects supported by KMR.

The River Talks day also generated various expressions of interest for more local projects, including a coastal restoration project on a working dairy farm that saw 20,000 trees planted in the winter of 2024.

KMR played a key role supporting these local efforts, helping Liz and her whānau to fence and plant the Kōareare wetlands and waterway.

This community involvement highlights the importance of collaborative initiatives in achieving large-scale environmental restoration.

The River Talks day at Kōareare Creek was more than just an event; it was a celebration of community, culture, and the shared vision of a revitalised landscape.

“Participants envisioned a future where Kōareare is restored to a healthy, productive landscape that nourishes people and communities.”



Kaipara Moana Remediation Nurseries

Growing their expertise

Fifteen accredited nurseries that supply KMR projects have come together in an annual workshop to share their learnings and best practice under the KMR kaupapa.

The knowledge-sharing session was a celebration of the passion that local nurseries have for growing native plants and working with KMR to make a positive difference to the environment.

KMR works closely alongside its accredited nurseries, supporting them in their efforts to supply high quality plants to the many landowners and groups planting trees with KMR support. The hui covered good practice in biosecurity, health and safety, plant management and seed sourcing, as well as updating the nurseries on KMR's investment across the full landscape.

Facilitator of the nursery hui and KMR Planting Specialist Dave McDermott says the hui was extremely productive.

"It allowed everyone in the room to share their learnings, challenges and successes and map out how we can all work together better in 2025 and beyond, by sharing our knowledge, processes and systems," says Dave.

"Nurseries are a key connector in communities as they are intrinsically linked to local contractors and landowners. Our accredited nurseries are also essential to the success of KMR in the way they share their expertise and assist clients with queries about plants.

"They are big contributors to the KMR kaupapa and that is why the team at KMR aims to make it easy for the nurseries, contractors and landowners to get plants in the ground. It is all about working together and being adaptable to challenges and opportunities," he says.

Babylon Coast Garden's Halina Sneddon was among those present at the hui and says she got a lot out of the day.

The nursery specialises in growing mānuka, kānuka and harakeke on Babylon Coast Road, 20 minutes out of Dargaville.

"As we are new to the nursery industry, everything is a learning curve for us. When we bought the nursery, KMR was one of the first customers to visit us. KMR was extremely knowledgeable and supportive of our venture," says Halina.

"KMR has been excellent to work with and have also opened up networking opportunities for nurseries."



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