



Year 1

January 2025

Impact Report





In summary

As the first year of Junior Landcare comes to a close, we reflect on the achievements made possible through this partnership, that we envisioned from our [launch](#). Throughout the year, children, teenagers, and mature adults came together to participate in a wide range of hands-on activities dedicated to caring for the environment, this journey has encompassed planting native trees, enhancing wildlife habitats, and creating community resources inspired by nature. It has also fostered meaningful connections between cultural traditions, land, and water. Above all, it stands as a powerful testament to the impact of collective action and environmental stewardship.

Looking ahead, we aim to build on this year's successes by expanding our legacy projects, introducing new engaging resources, and strengthening community relationships to foster a lasting commitment to physical, mental, social and environmental health among all generations in Aotearoa.

Nature Regeneration Legacy Projects	School and Youth Group Education Outreach	Resource Development	Stories of Impact
We have delivered 9 legacy projects across 9 regions, supporting catchment and community groups to further their environmental projects. We have also introduced a range of cultural and well-being aspects to this work.	Through 41 school visits and youth activation events, we have reached 2141 young people. These engagements range from citizen science demonstrations to flax weaving and nature-based education outings.	We have produced a range of resources including the updated Junior Landcare Handbook, a suite of 21 printable activities, a Bupa Grandkids Activity Book, a set of mindfulness videos and a video showcase of the impact of this programme.	The impact of this programme in its first year has been extraordinary. Junior Landcare stories have captured the spotlight in newspapers throughout Aotearoa, strongly connecting with the New Zealand public. These stories have captivated audiences across both traditional and social media platforms.



Our year at a glance



In **Auckland**: together with our partners, we built a community-led sustainable food garden, with disability access in Rosedale Park

In the **Waikato**: we held an intergenerational environmental education day, planted 65 natives, shared harakeke weaving at Bupa and established 3 citizen science programmes across the region

In the **Manawatu**: we planted 2,000 natives in the Ahimate Reserve and wetland and ran 2 citizen science activations

In the **Bay of Plenty**: we supported the launching of the historic Waka- Tauihu o te Rangi and provided Māori youth with the tools they need to keep this cultural practice alive

In **Wellington**: we worked with local partners to run two citizen science activations where the local community came out to learn about the fascinating river life

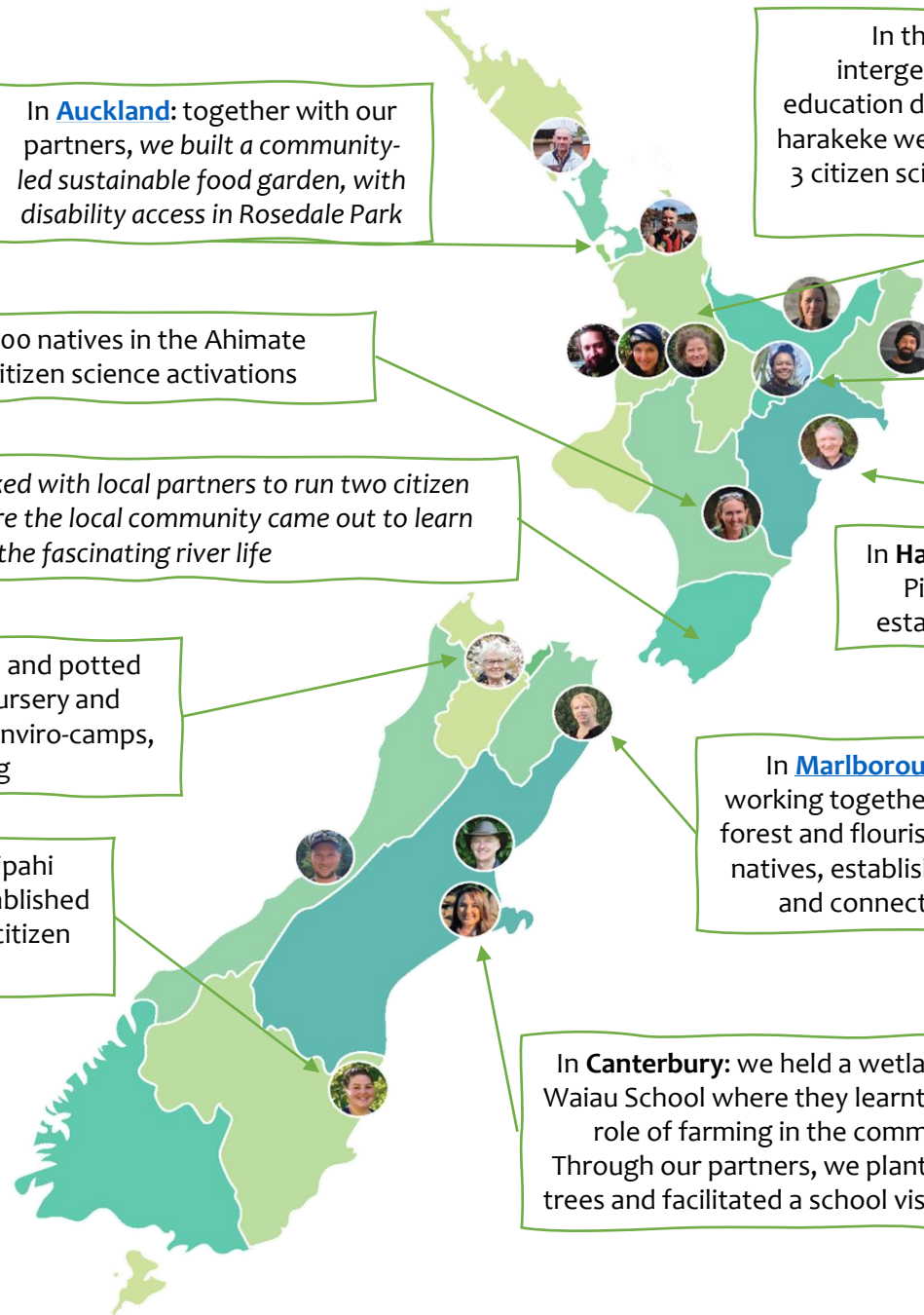
In **Hawkes Bay**: we restored a drain wetland together with the Pirimai Residents Association, planted 5,380 natives and established stream and biodiversity monitoring programmes

In **Nelson**: we planted 640 natives and potted 3,500 seedlings for the school nursery and supported Whenua Iti with youth enviro-camps, including forest bathing

In **Otago**: we improved the management of 5ha of Waipahi wetland through the planting of 730 natives. We also established a water quality monitoring programme and ran several citizen science activations

In **Marlborough**: we supported a network of land users, working together to achieve a connected landscape of healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife, through planting 600 natives, establishing a biodiversity citizen science programme and connecting a mindfulness expert with the project

In **Canterbury**: we held a wetland farm day for students from Waiau School where they learnt about wetland ecology and the role of farming in the community and the environment. Through our partners, we planted a shelterbelt of 1,800 native trees and facilitated a school visit from All Black, Ritchie McCaw



Social Impact



60 events held with 2,912 attendees



41 school visits



2,141 youth directly engaged



14 experts connected to groups



31 organisations we are partnering with



Environmental Impact



11,215 native
plants in the ground



1 traditional waka
launched



3 wetlands under
improved management



8 citizen science activities
undertaken



1 sustainable food garden
built

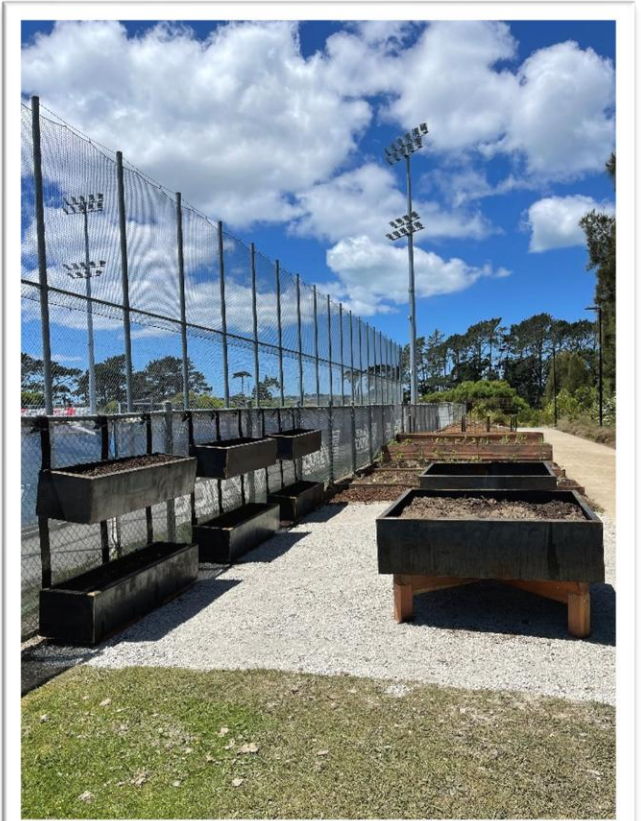
Legacy Projects





Auckland

Watch the
Video [here](#)



In Auckland, the restoration of Rosedale Park with **Te Hōnonga a Iwi - Restoring Rosedale Park**, exemplifies the effectiveness of intergenerational collaboration, with children participating in the Junior Landcare Programme from Westminster School. We partnered with a diverse group of organisations, including **Untangled Limited, Fox Property Maintenance Ltd, Upper Waitematā Ecology Network, Auckland Council, North Harbour Hockey** and the **Graeme Dingle Foundation** on this impactful project. Over 100 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to build vertical and raised bed sustainable community gardens, with disability access.

Four local schools joined 12 staff and residents from Foxbridge retirement village at Mystery Creek for an engaging day of learning with our project team. Together, they explored four key aspects of water quality: eDNA, chemical indicators, waste recovery, and the connection between drains and streams.

This collaborative event strengthened ties between the schools, Bupa, NZLT, the **NZ National Fieldays Society**, and three other contributing organisations: **Deep Dive**, the **Endangered Species Foundation**, and **Aquawatch**. It was a meaningful step toward fostering community partnerships and raising awareness about protecting our waterways.

Waikato

Watch the Video [here](#).



Bay of Plenty

Watch the Video [here](#).



The Ngā Niao o te Kaituna Project Team, consisting of **Dean Flavell**, **Haimoana Brown**, and Tireni Ratema (NZLT Poutuitui ā Rohe), had an incredible year. They engaged with rangatahi through weekly sessions and made impactful visits to schools, fostering meaningful connections and growth along the way. Te Puke High School – Te Kura a Iwi o Tapuika took part in several meaningful events, including the Waka Open Day at **Makahae Marae** and the Waka Launch Day. The latter event fostered a unique sense of community by bringing together students from Te Puke High School, Te Kura a Iwi o Tapuika, and residents from the Te Puke Retirement Village.



The Urban Reforestation Legacy Project in Napier brought together a diverse group of collaborators, including the Pirimai Ratepayers Association, **Biodiversity Hawke's Bay, Ravensdown, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Bupa, Trees That Count, Waiohiki Marae**, and others. As part of the initiative, we organised planting and educational sessions with students from Hereworth School, Puketapu School, and Porritt School in Taradale.

The restoration of the Cross Country Drain, shown here, highlights the project's transformative impact on the local environment.

Hawkes Bay





Ahimate Reserve in Palmerston North City, runs alongside the Manawatū River and has a long running restoration project in place with the **Ahimate Reserve Community Group** and **Palmerston North City Council**. This year, we supported the vision of the Ahimate Reserve Community group to regenerate nature on this land. We collaborated with Palmerston North City Council and **Enviroschools Manawatū** to engage with 3 local schools including Riverdale, Awapuni and Takaro School to undertake planting 2000 new trees over 2 days in the reserve, together with residents of Riverstone Retirement Village.

The first weekend event welcomed around 80 attendees throughout the day, along with a few well-behaved dogs. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our local community while sparking genuine interest in volunteering for the Junior Landcare project.

The second Wellington Junior Landcare Community Day, held at Silverstream Park, was an outstanding success. The event brought together people of all ages and was organised in partnership with **Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust**, **EnviroSchools Wellington**, and **Pest Free Pinehaven**. Attendees enjoyed a variety of engaging citizen science activities, making it a memorable day of learning, connection, and environmental action.

Wellington

Watch the Video [here](#).





In November and December, our partner **Whenua Iti** hosted a series of Environmental Action Camps, featuring Forest Bathing – a Japanese mindfulness practice that fosters a deep connection with nature. Together with the **Moutere Catchment Group**, we planted 640 native trees and prepared 3,500 seedlings for the school nursery. See article [here](#)

Marlborough



In Marlborough, we partnered with **Grovetown Lagoon Restoration Project** and **Koru Wildlife Centre** as our legacy hosts. The two sites are within 500m of each other near Blenheim. We had over 200 participants attending across 8 events. The events focused on restoration techniques and restoration outcomes – exploring biodiversity through topics such as captive breeding, endangered species and biodiversity in our school/back yard. With most events we co-hosted with **Enviroschools** to support our goals and broaden our reach, and this strengthened partnership will be lasting into the future.

Watch the Video [here](#).



Canterbury

Watch Reel [Here](#)



While we didn't manage to get a full legacy project off the ground in Canterbury, we did hold a wetland farm day for students from Waiau School where they learnt about wetland ecology and the role of farming in the community and the environment. Through our partners at **Westpac**, we planted a shelterbelt of 1,800 native trees and facilitated a school visit to Amberly School from All Black, Ritchie McCaw .



A collaboration between the **Pomahaka Watercare Group**, **Enviroschools**, and NZLT gave six schools from Otago and Southland the chance to visit the Waipahi Wetland for a hands-on learning experience. Students contributed to wetland restoration by planting and mulching native species. They explored the wetland's cultural significance, learned about traditional resource uses like Harakeke weaving, studied native fish species, and examined how land use impacts wetland health.

As part of the effort, students helped plant 700 native plants donated by the Bupa Foundation. This initiative aims to enhance the Waipahi Wetland, leaving a lasting legacy for the catchment, nearby farms, and the surrounding community.

"Awesome to meet Devon (Briggs), great to plant trees in our school to remember Devon and Ric's event" Student from Te Akau School





In the media

Junior Landcare has been featured in numerous publications, including Rural News, Scoop, Waikato Herald, Central Otago News, West Coast News, Otago Daily Times, Interest.co.nz, Stuff, The Post, The Bay News, Te Awamutu News, and Cambridge News.

[Rural News Landcare Trust and Bupa Foundation join forces](#)

[Scoop NZ Landcare Trust and Bupa Foundation join forces for a sustainable future](#)

[NZ Herald Junior Landcare programme with Bupa Foundation and NZ Landcare Trust boosts youth focus on environment](#)

[West Coast News Rangatahi day out: nature economy pathways](#)

[Westland High School Development West Coast rangatahi day out](#)

[First new waka launched on Kaituna River for 100 years](#)

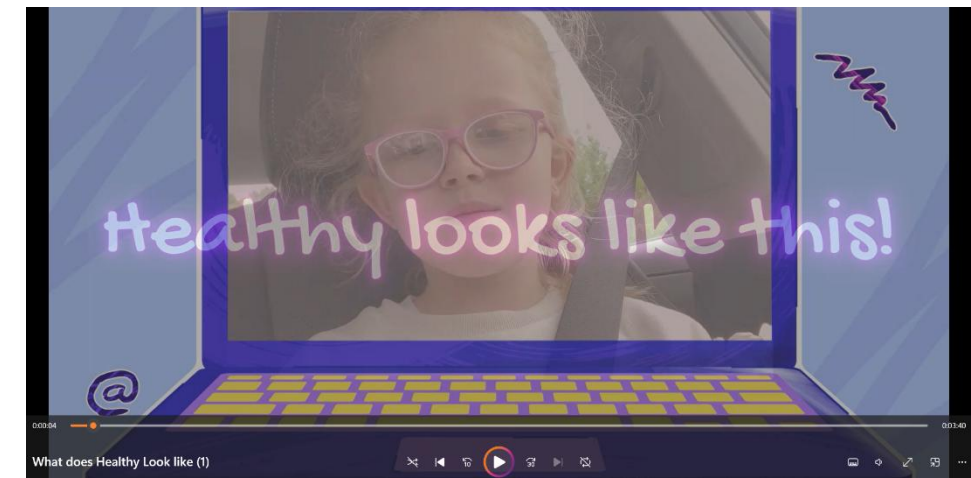
Campaigns

Between October and December, we ran a fantastic campaign with Bupa Foundation and Paralympics NZ to arrange a visit from a Paralympian to two lucky winners of the competition.

The question we asked kids was:
“What does healthy look like?”

Devon Briggs spent 2 hours in Q&A with the students from Te Akau School and planted a few natives. The teachers are keen to adopt a stream, get NZLT back next year and do more with their local catchment group.

William Stedman gave an excellent talk to the kids at Hiwiniu School on the challenges he's overcome, and what it takes to be a paralympian. The kids learned about the Junior Landcare programme and why it's important to look after nature, the health and the people around you.



[Watch the video here](#)

Looking ahead...

Northland: Adjacent to the Bupa Totara Gardens Village in Tikipuga is a stormwater retention wetland administered Whangārei District Council. The residents and staff from Totara Gardens expressed an interest in improving the wetland function and biodiversity potential as a legacy project. We have received approval from council to proceed in 2025.

Totara Gardens RV

Auckland: To be confirmed early 2025. *Sunset Village RV, Hugh Green RV*

Waikato: To be confirmed early 2025. *Tararu, St Kildare and Foxbridge RV*

Bay of Plenty: Ngā Niao o te Kaituna is a Tapuika Iwi legacy project, growing Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship). Waka- Canoe building is the main vehicle to engage rangatahi (youth) with waterways through mātauranga Māori practice. Te Paamu Marae - Ngati Marukukere is the host of the 2025 Ngā Niao o te Kaituna Project. This is due to the successful pilot programme hosted by Makahae Marae - Ngati Tuheke in 2024. The 2025 project will be based onsite at Te Paamu Marae involving the respective hapū members. *Te Puke RV*

Hawkes Bay: To be confirmed early 2025. *Willowbank RV*

Manawatu: To be confirmed early 2025. *Riverstone RV*

Wellington: To be confirmed early 2025. *Fergusson, Crofton Downs RV*

Nelson: To be confirmed early 2025.

Marlborough: Junior Landcare programme has become an integral part of our Wairau Nature Network. Year 2 will build on the Year 1 programme, however this time we plan to partner with Forest & Bird Marlborough's Taylor River Revegetation Project. The programme will once again be extended over the year and include a mini-bioblitz, community planting day, a seed collection and propagation workshop and stream health surveys.

Canterbury: To be confirmed early in 2025. *Rangiora and Prebbleton RV*

Otago: The Pomahaka Catchment Group will be restoring biodiversity and habitat of a tributary of the Pomahaka River on Clutha District Council land through native plantings to create a native fish (galaxid) sanctuary. Working alongside local schools Tapanui Primary School and Blue Mountain College, and local kindergarten Kids Way, the project will facilitate a legacy for the community to recreate and connect with other forms of native biodiversity (insects and birds). *Gore RV*





Thank You!