

OURS.

THE MANAWATŪ RIVER LEADERS' ACCORD

The Manawatū River flows through all of us. It shapes our region and reflects our people. It is precious because it is OURS.

On Friday 11 March, the Manawatū River Leaders' Forum will release its plan of action to improve the river and catchment over the next five years. This Plan is a commitment by your Iwi/hapū, local government, industry, farming, environmental and recreational leaders to over 100 collaborative actions. It builds on work achieved under the first Action Plan launched in 2011 and we want you be part of the journey as we work together to improve our river.

JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS

Friday 4 March from 3pm – Riverside Clean-up

Join Accord signatories at Dittmer Reserve in Palmerston North for a riverside clean-up. We'll be donning gloves and picking up litter to create a cleaner streamside environment.

Saturday 5 - 6 March – Explore the Oroua River

Explore the headwaters of the Oroua River at the western Ruahine Forest Park, on the Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge Track a 1.5 hour return walk. Admire the work of the Oroua Blue Duck Protection Project volunteers and perhaps spend the night either camping 40 minutes off the track at flats beside the river, or at the rebuilt Alice Nash Heritage Lodge \$5.00 per person per night to the NZ Deerstalkers Association (Manawatū Branch). There are toilets in the car park, at the lodge and at the river flats. Please no dogs. From Apiti take the second right onto Table Flat Road, later left onto Petersons Road for approximately 900m then the first left.

Sunday 6 March 8am – Forest and Bird Hosted Gorge Walk

Bookings essential via the i-Site in Palmerston North by 4pm Friday 4 March.

Costs - \$18 per adult, \$9 per child (10-16 years) to cover transport.

Discover a landmark of awe-inspiring legend, geographical magnificence, and cultural wealth with two hosts from Forest and Bird. Hosts will enlighten your Gorge experience with fascinating geological, botanical, ornithological and even entomological tidbits along the 10km walk.

Sunday 6 March 11am – Federated Farmers Farm Open Day

Self drive or catch the free bus that departs from the Square in Palmerston North at 10.30am returning at 2pm. For any enquiries phone James on 027 434 9090.

Enjoy a free family day out at the Stewart Family Dairy Farm in Kelvin Grove Road, Palmerston North (Fonterra Supply Number 44699). Experience a working farm in action, find out more about environmental initiatives underway and pack a picnic to share with your family and friends.

See reverse for more events ►



COMPLETED UNDER THE INITIAL ACTION PLAN

98,595 plants planted
along waterways with **4,200**
planted at the source.

326.8km
of streamside fencing

98 Environmental Farm
Plans completed.

17 community projects
completed.

15 fish barriers to fish
migration removed
or fixed.

Six wastewater treatment
plants upgraded.

One of **NZ's largest** inanga
spawning sites identified at
Whirokino.

Tuesday 8 March 7.30pm – Choose Clean Water Tour Public Talk

Hear from spokesperson Marnie Prickett who has been touring the country talking to people about the impact of pollution on waterways as part of the Choose Clean Water Tour. This public talk is part of Forest and Bird's Monthly Talk Programme held at the Palmerston North City Library. Gold coin donations appreciated.

Friday 11 March 1.30pm – Manawatū Estuary Walking Tour and BBQ

Join students from Foxton Beach School at the Manawatū River Estuary in Foxton Beach to find out more about their involvement in a project with Wildlife Foxton Trust, Horizons Regional Council, Horowhenua District Council and NZ Landcare Trust to address pest control problems where the river meets the sea.

Friday 11 March 4pm – 7.30pm – Picnic by the River (Palmerston North)

Head down to Dittmer Reserve alongside Dittmer Drive in Palmerston North for an evening of family fun. In addition to a free sausage sizzle cooked by local leaders there'll be a range of free games and activities to enjoy. Have your say on where the bridge should go for He Ara Kotahi – the Palmerston North to Linton shared pathway, check out some of our waterways' fishy inhabitants and enjoy a bit of local entertainment. Bring your bikes, bring your blankets, bring your togs and bring your friends. We'll see you there!

Friday 11 March 4pm onwards – Manawatū River Festival (Taranua)

Join Te Kāuru at the new Kaitoki Walkway in Taranua for a community celebration of the River. There'll be a range of fun family activities as well as free BBQ and an opportunity to find out more about actions underway to increase accessibility and tell the story of the River. Be sure to pack your togs!

Friday 11 – Sunday 13 March – "Go Fish" Weekend (Fish and Game)

Celebrate the great NZ outdoors experience with a spot of trout fishing with the family at one of the great recreational fishing spots around the Manawatū catchment. To fish the catchment's waterways you will need a fishing licence. However, this is free for juniors under 12 years or for family groups there are Family Licences that are great value. Contact your local Fish and Game office to find out more on access points or www.fishandgame.org.nz.

Sunday 13 March 11am – Federated Farmers Farm Open Day

Self drive or catch the free bus that departs from the Square in Palmerston North at 10.30am returning at 2pm.

Enjoy a free family day out at the McKellar Family Sheep and Beef Farm Dairy Farm 'Woodchester' at 222 Lees Road, Feilding. Find out more about environmental initiatives underway, pack a picnic to share with your family and friends and learn more about stream inhabitants with Horizons' freshwater scientists. If it's a hot day pack your swimmers!

Wednesday 16 March 11am – Dung Beetle Release and Workshop

It's not only people working to improve water quality. Te Ao Turoa Environment Centre are undertaking a project with funding from the Manawatū River Leaders' Forum to combat diffuse discharge of effluent using dung beetles on the Stewart Family Farm. Find out more about this initiative at the next release and workshop. Contact Paul Horton for further info via paul@rangitaane.iwi.nz

Check out the full Action Plan online from midday 11 March at www.manawaturiver.co.nz.

**Kei te ora te wai,
kei te ora te whenua,
kei te ora te tangata.**

If the water is healthy,
the land and the people are nourished.

KEY ACTIONS GOING FORWARD



Reduce nutrient and bacteria from point source discharges



Reduce run-off of sediment, nutrients and bacteria from intensive land-use such as dairying and cropping.



Protect areas of habitat for native fish, birds and trout.



Reduce sediment run-off from erosion prone farmland, rural roading networks and areas of major earthworks.



Reduce the impact of flood control and drainage schemes.



Prevent overuse of water



Increase community awareness of freshwater challenges and achieve greater engagement in the clean-up.