Te Hiko
Centre for
Community Innovation

# The Ngahere Korowai idea

There is a collective of us asking:
**How might the community lead the transformation of the hills around Porirua East into a Ngahere Korowai?**

for more info or to join us in this kaupapa contact: Kena Duignan 021 190 3818
kduignan@wesleyca.org.nz

Te Hiko is an initiative of Wesley Community Action



Tucked in at the foot of these bare hills is a beautiful community full of amazing people who deserve big things. Winding through those hills is the roadworks to build Transmission Gully. A large part of these hills is part of Belmont Regional Park.

What if we could turn those bare hills into a protected ngahere that wraps itself around the Porirua East community to protect its residents into the future?

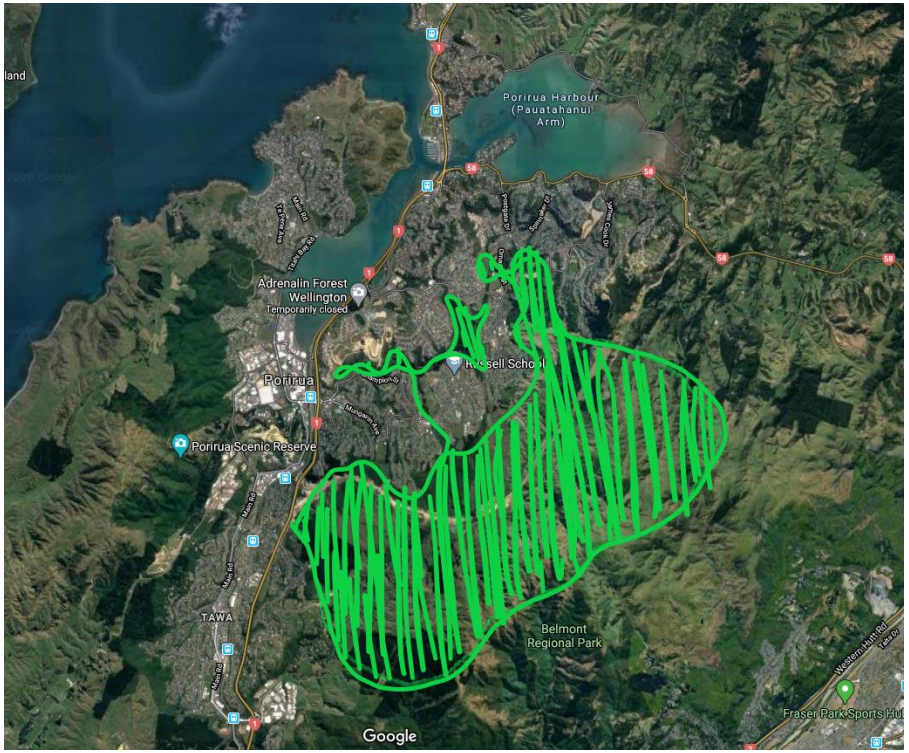
People of Porirua East want and deserve a close connection to te taiao / nature. This idea wants to deliver environmental equity – so that communities like Waitangirua, Cannons Creek and Ascot Park get just as much connection to Te Taiao on their doorstep as other communities across Te Whanganui a Tara already do.

Porirua is currently at the beginning of a huge redevelopment, with new housing and infrastructure. We have an opportunity to compliment that investment in the built environment, with investment in the natural environment.

A Ngahere Korowai would learn from the vision of the Wellington town belt and Zealandia and all the benefits they bring to the future generations of Porirua East (access to nature, low carbon development, compact city growth, employment).

This community has the ability and passion to contribute to a large visionary project like this Ngahere Korowai.

Much of this land is managed by Greater Wellington who have already committed to this Kaupapa.




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# The Collective

A collective of people and organisations is forming around this idea. We are having conversations about what this project wants to achieve and how to do that. We can see this collective starting to take more formal shape.

The current members who have been participating in the exploration of this idea include:

- Wesley Community Action
- Zealandia
- Ngāti Toa Rangatira
- Aotearoa Pasifika Men's Group
- Local people who are connected with Wesley House in Cannons Creek
- Porirua Regeneration Project (Kainga Ora)
- Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Porirua City Council

We have had interest and conversations from a range of others as well

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# Project draft aims

We are continuing to develop the aims of the project, with input from local people. The current identified aims are broad:

- Increase biodiversity (Flocks of Kākā and Kererū flying around Porirua East and the sound of Rūrū in the night)
- Owned and driven by Porirua East locals
- Access to Rongoā Māori plants and Mātauranga
- Opportunities for employment and skills training (including tree planting, track building, pest management, project management, communication, HR, teaching, local tourism)
- Increased water quality (watercress and Tuna in the awa around Porirua East)
- Ngahere korowai protected for future generations (legal protections)
- Flood protection (climate change resilience)
- Capturing pollution (carbon and air pollution from transmission gully)
- Increased pride in Porirua East (from the rest of the region too)
- Increasing peoples time in nature – including healing, restoring, rongoā, healthy tinana and wairua

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# Emerging workstreams

There are a number of potential workstreams in this project. We have identified some of the key ones below.

- Community nursery
- Pest trapping network
- Community planting and connecting
- Skills and employment
- Communication
- Funding for project coordination
- Legal protection status
- Citizen science projects (e.g. EDNA of mānga and awa)
- Work with community to hone exactly what we are aiming for (e.g. a Zealandia in Porirua/reforesting/protecting from urban sprawl?)

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# Emerging research questions

There are many areas of research that we need to engage in to help set the priorities for this project. Some of the identified ones are:

- What is the optimum size for building biodiverisity and what corridors are needed?
- What is the baseline? (biodiversity, water quality and time spent in nature)
- Where are the waterways and which need priority planting? What is our route to the harbour?
- What will transmission gully traffic do to air quality and can a ngahere korowai help protect?
- Where are priority planting areas for flood protection?
- How might lower income communities be able to collectively participate in the carbon market through protecting and reforestation?