

## STORIES OF THE MAITAI – WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

As Project Maitai/Mahitahi gets to the end of its fourth year, we're compiling a digital story map that captures the work that has been done as well as a longer history of the river that we all know and love.

The 20th Century was a period of great change in the valley, and we're looking for stories and archival photos (or even cine film or video footage) of the river from this period. If you've got any memories you'd like to share, please email them to [susan.moore-lavo@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:susan.moore-lavo@ncc.govt.nz), with your written permission for Council to use them in web, social media and print. As a thank you, anyone who sends in a photo, video or story will go in the draw to win a copy of Stella McQueen's book, *A Photographic Guide to Freshwater Fishes of New Zealand*.



Photo: Eileen Street

Charles and Dorothy Henderson 1925 Model T Ford Truck going through the Maitai Ford for a family picnic

Eileen Street nee Henderson at a family picnic in the Maitai Valley 1948



photo: Eileen Street

## TE WAIREPO UPDATE

It has been a busy few months for the Te Wairepo/York Stream project.

Race Unity Day on 18 March had a great turnout, and many people stopped by to talk with us about the stream. The Sambassadors performed a samba inspired by the stream and many people took a tree home with them to plant in the community. On 7 April we held a walking symposium taking

small groups along the path of Te Wairepo, from Victory Community Centre to Kawai St. Along the way we stopped at knowledge stations where local experts talked about a variety of topics, including weeding, planting, biodiversity, stormwater and the local history and stories of tangata whenua.



The Sambassadors perform at Race Unity Day



Walk the Chalk event



Trees were given out for the community at Race Unity Day



Walk the Chalk event

## MAITAI PLANT OF THE MONTH: TANEKAHA

Tanekaha/Celery Pine, or *Phyllocladus trichomanoides*, is a coniferous tree that grows to about 20 metres with distinctive "leaves" which are actually small, flattened branches resembling celery leaves.

This beautiful tree reaches maturity at between 200 and 500 years old! While not threatened, it is iconic in the Maitai Valley, which is unusual as it is more at home in the ecology of North Island forests, often in association with Kauri trees. Specimens of this beautiful tree can be seen in the mid and upper reaches of the valley.

Maori used tanekaha to make double pointed spears, due to the wood being one of the strongest and most flexible of native softwoods. Tanekaha was also used in canoe and house building, the bark was used for red dye, and parts of the tree was used medicinally for liver and stomach conditions.



## EVENTS COMING UP

### MATARIKI CELEBRATION

Victory Community Centre: 27 June, 3.30–8pm

### TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP – PREPARING THE GROUND

Victory Community Centre: 16 June, 1–4pm

### GROOM CREEK COMMUNITY PLANTING

Maitai Valley adjacent to Maitai Campground, 16 June, 11am–2pm. (Rain day – 23 June)

### PROJECT MAITAI EXHIBITION

Elma Turner Library, 1–8 June