

Friends of Waiwhetū Stream

General Presentation of the activities of
Friends of Waiwhetū Stream

28 June 2023





Our history



A very polluted degraded stream (image 1975)



Te Ātiawa kaumatua Te Riri Puketapu

2000

Working group set up



2011

FWS set up by GW and HCC

FWS structure

Committee meet every second Monday
at Pelorus House, 7pm

AGM - November

Chair: Michael Ellis

Deputy Chair: Rachel Tallon

Secretary: Grant Webby

Seven other members

- Approx 150 people on emailing list.
- Budget of \$30,000/year from HCC
- Facebook site and webpage





What we're most well known for





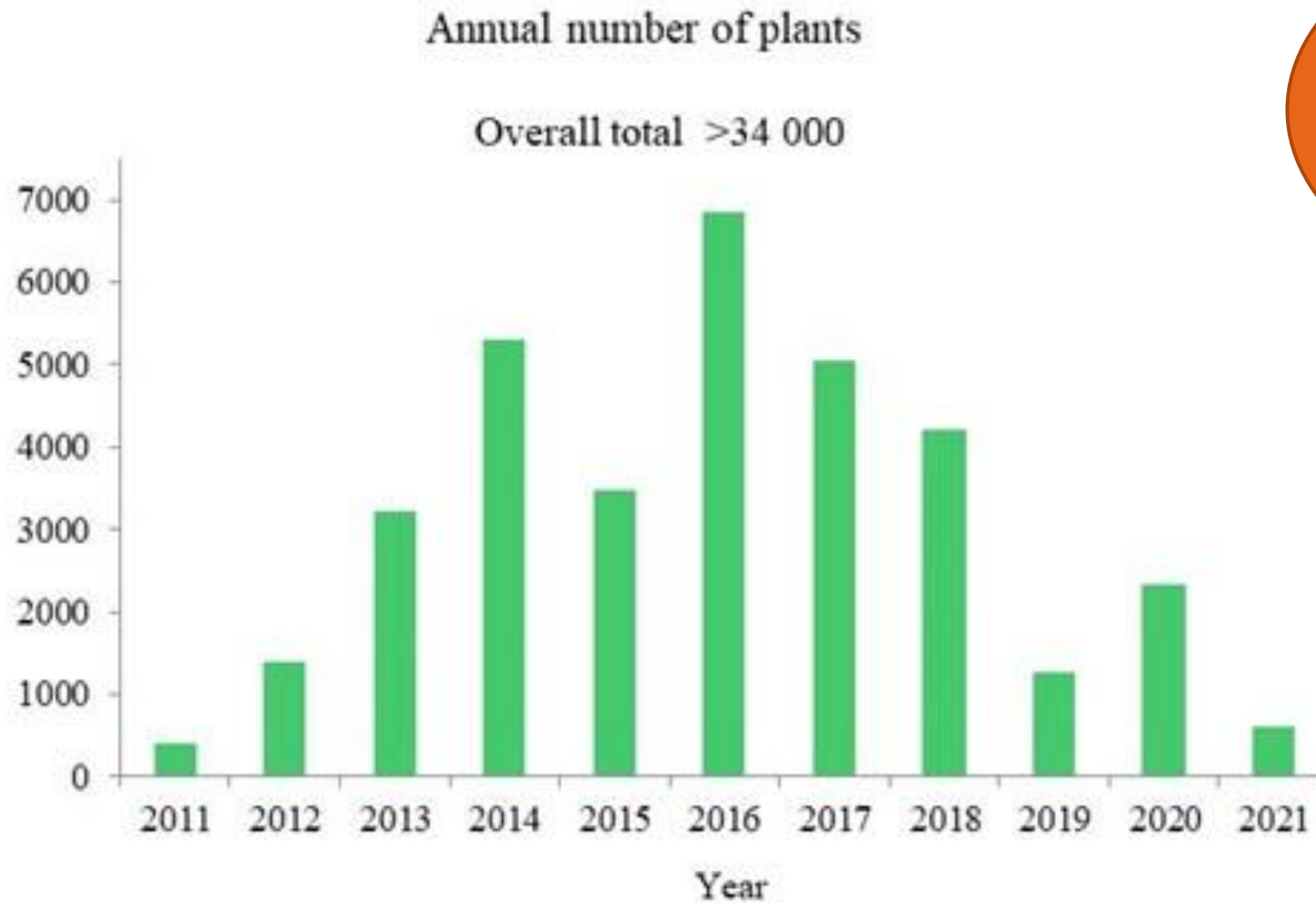
Key Issues: Flooding, ecosystem, water quality, access, bank erosion, aesthetics...

Naenae Channel Naturalisation



Ongoing efforts to soften the hard edges of the channels (without concrete removal). To enhance the ecology and aesthetics of the stream. Carried out with Naenae Nature Trust and with support from Wellington Water (supplying rocks)

Planting efforts



In 2022, a further
700 plants



Stream cleaning

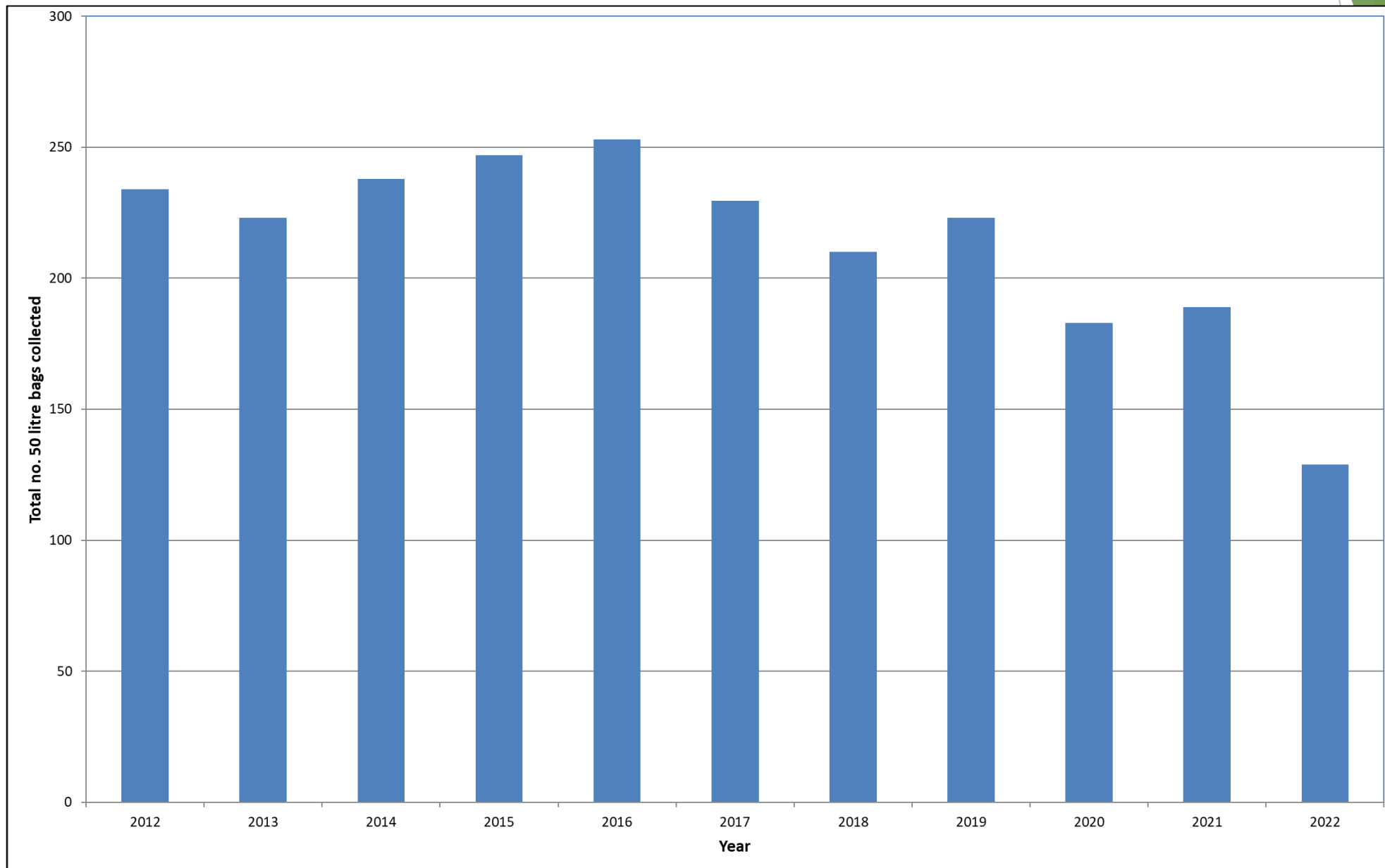


First weekend of the month, @20 volunteers clean the banks of the stream

Every 2-3 years a sweep is done of the stream bed



Annual Rubbish Summary (total no. of 50 litre bags per year)

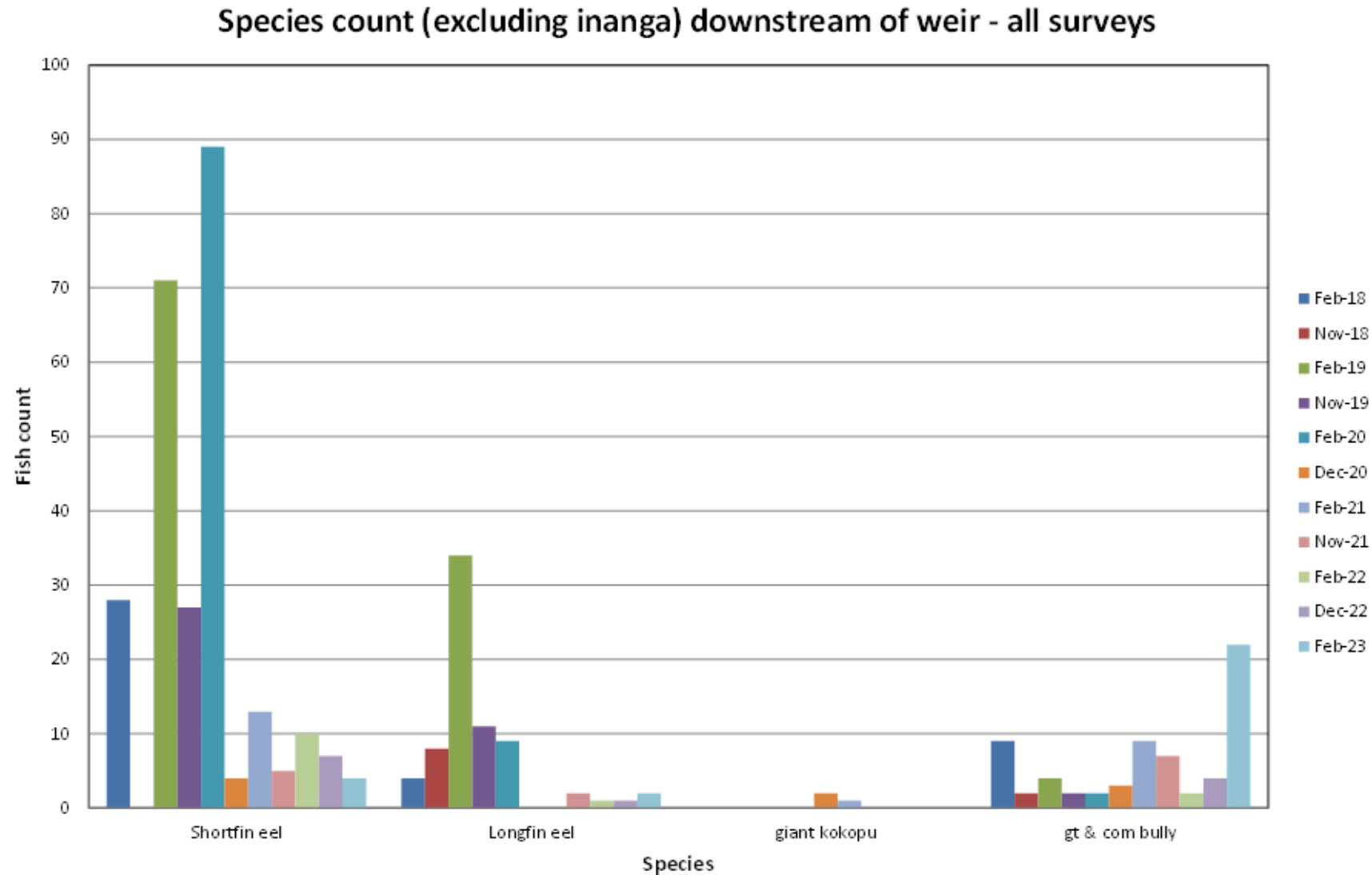


Citizen Science



Citizen Science, in conjunction with GW since 2017

Figure 1: Number of fish captured over time (excluding inanga) downstream of St Ronans weir – all surveys (2x a year)







Free-living caddisfly



Beetle larva



Eels



Common Bully

State of Health*

Measure	Compared to all NZ lowland urban streams
E.coli	In the worst 25%
Clarity	In the worst 50% but improving
Turbidity	In the worst 50%
Nitrogen	In the worst 50% but improving

Macroinvertebrate sampling (FWS)

The stream health is rated Poor to Fair - on the basis of number and type of macroinvertebrates found in our surveys



* <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/wellington-region/river-quality/hutt/waiwhetu-stream-at-whites-line-east/>

Stream
Advocacy and
community
engagement





History

- ▶ The Hutt Flock Mill. Photograph taken circa 1910 by an unidentified photographer.
- ▶ Demolished in the mid 1940s
- ▶ Approximately where California Garden Centre is.

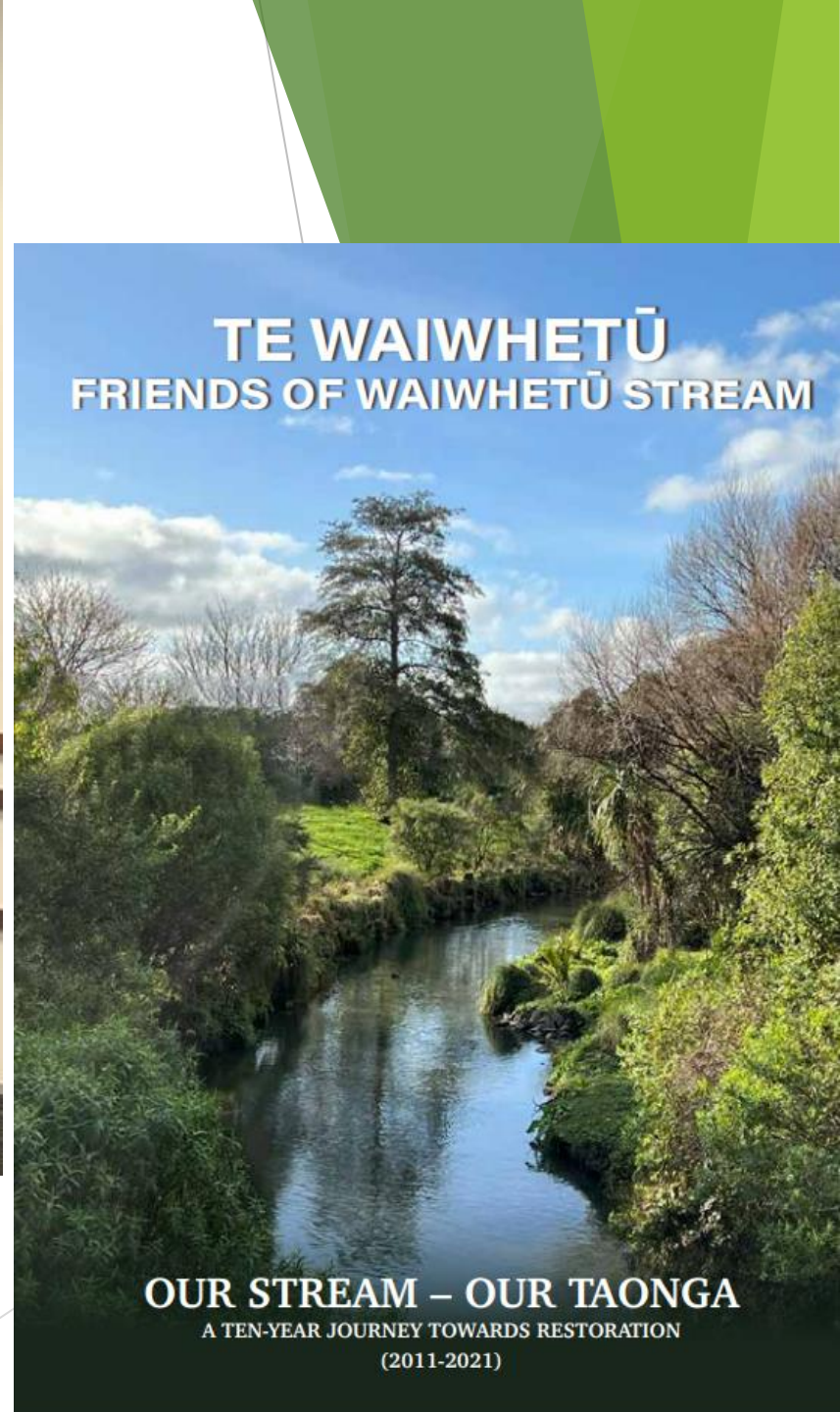
Image credits: Ref: 1/2-082492-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

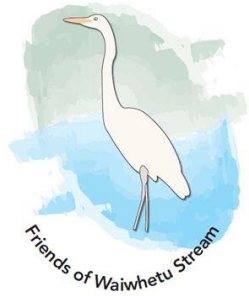


Henry Steele and Ros Wech



Tui Lewis and Marilyn Merrett





Questions / Pātai

