



Annual Report

JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024



Connecting people with te taiao | www.mountainstoseawellington.org

Everything we do is to inspire people in their connection and care for te taiao, and it is incredibly encouraging to see the enthusiasm from our community as strong as ever over the past year.

We continue to lead the Wai Connection project in Wellington and we are working alongside our communities providing technical advice, practical support, and hands-on engagement to help heal freshwater catchments across the region. We have grown our team to support the mahi of 44 groups across Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui providing hundreds of hours of community volunteer effort in field-based monitoring and focused restoration efforts.

Beyond the shoreline, Love Rimurimu, our harbour-based seaweed regeneration programme has achieved major milestones. The second year of planting saw 384 'green gravel' (seaweed inoculated rocks) in sites around Te Motu Kairangi and our survivors are now over 6m tall.

The ever-popular Explore programmes continue. More than 2000 students have been knee-deep, elbow-deep (and sometimes even deeper) in our harbours, rivers and coastline in the past year through our education programmes, and over 500 people dived into their local marine reserves during our free community snorkel days.



The first plant-outs at Worser Bay, September 2023

Volunteers continue to be a pivotal part of the work of the Mountains to Sea Wellington Trust. Parents, interns, official MTSW volunteers and community members have contributed an incredible 3500 hours supporting community science, restoration, education and events.

Thank you for your support this year, for being inspirations in your own right, and for being on this journey with us - from the mountains to the sea.



Community Snorkel at Taputeranga Marine Reserve



Featherston School students explore in Wairarapa Moana

Our work is supported through our partnership with the national Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust. We are the sole regional providers of its unique programmes in Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui.



By the numbers

Since 2008, more than 46,500 people have been involved in our programmes and projects. This year:

2129

hours donated by parents and MTSW volunteers to support explore programmes

94

school classes took part in our education programmes

44

freshwater catchment community groups supported

1162

students experienced their local marine environments

1286

hours donated to support events and action

34

community events and environmental action days held with over 1400 attendees.

589

people took part in our five community snorkel days

879

students explored streams, rivers and lakes in their rohe

217

students involved in follow-up environmental actions

384

seaweeds out-planted

1630

native seedlings planted



Kelp monitoring underway

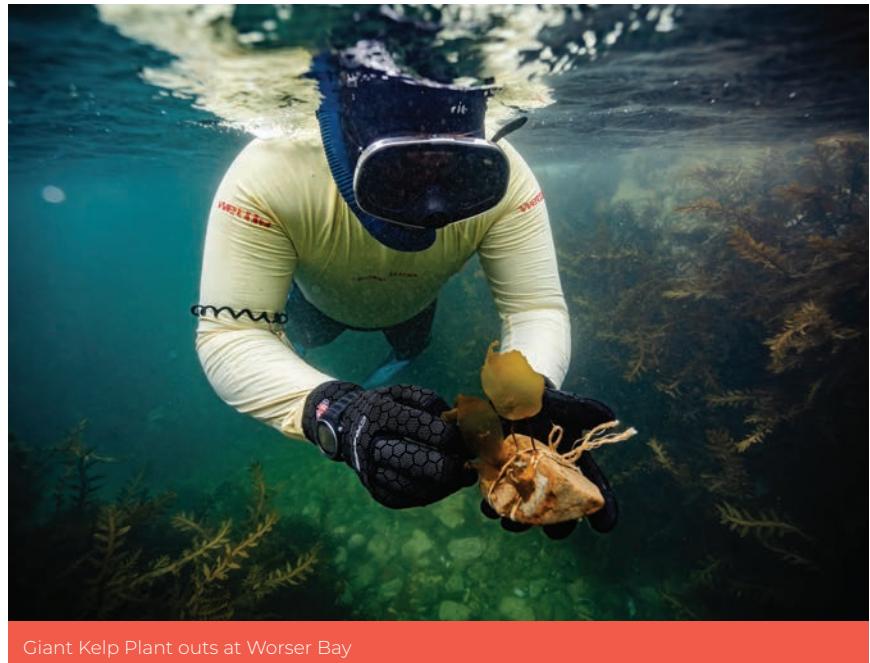


Fergusson Intermediate at Tunnel Gully

Our Highlights

Full Immersion

Our seaweed restoration team has been busy out and about the coasts of Wellington, learning about, and developing techniques for the restoration of our giant kelps. This past year, 384 seaweeds were planted out using 'green gravel' (seaweed-inoculated rocks). In April, we expanded the Kura Kelper group with 8 new students trained and certified in seaweed planting and monitoring. We even hosted a Seaweed Immersion day for others working in restoration across Aotearoa.



Giant Kelp Plant outs at Worser Bay



Water quality testing for Wai Connection

National Wananga in Wellington

In late September, we hosted the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust for our national Wai Connection training wānanga. With support from the Ministry for the Environment, more than 80 passionate participants from MTSCT delivery organisations and Landcare NZ gathered in Porirua to dive into all things freshwater. For the second half of the week, we headed to Seatoun for a Love Rimurimu immersion experience, completing our journey from mountains to sea, and hosted by Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Mokopuna.

Live Streaming

Our incredible new Wai Connection team is making waves. With their expertise and passion, they've strengthened our ability to drive positive change and to have an even bigger impact across Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui. The team have hosted 30 community events and 31 action-packed workshops, helping to develop and deliver 13 research and restoration plans. They rolled up their sleeves to help plant 1,630 native seedlings. It's been a year of teamwork, growth, and plenty of muddy gumboots.

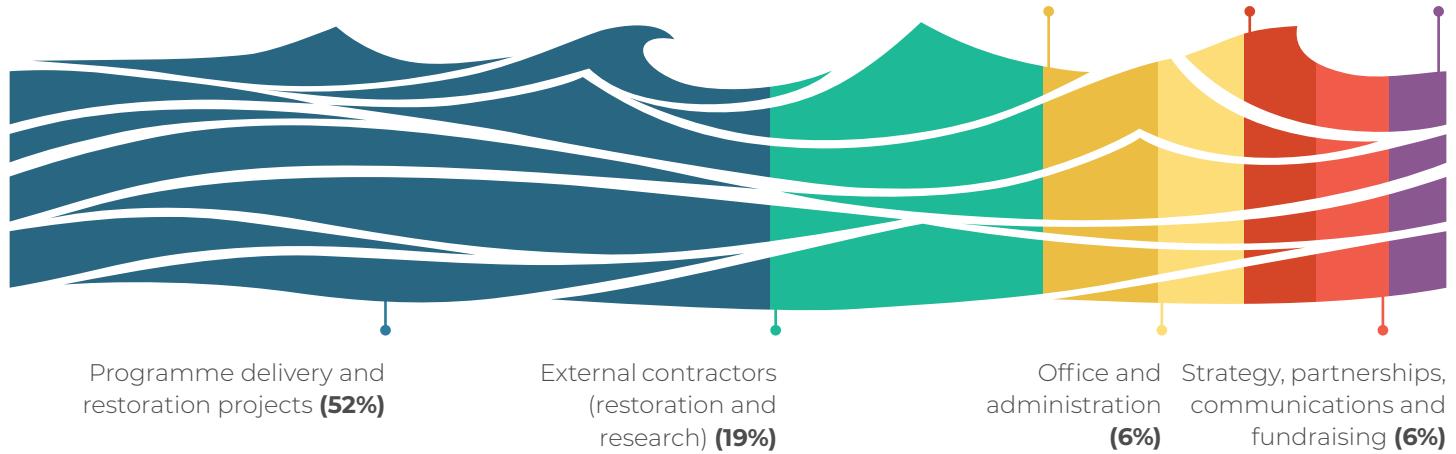


Water monitoring as part of the KETE project in Porirua

How we used our funding

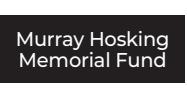
(1 July 2023- 30 June 2024)

Total: \$1,762,418



Thank you!

Mountains to Sea Wellington would like to acknowledge all the amazing people who have helped us grow over the 2023-24 year. Special thanks to the many volunteers, funders, trustees, and staff who share our vision of a community connected with te taiao.



Our full performance report for 2023-24 can be found on the Charities Commission website at www.register.charities.govt.nz/Charity/CC54455. To stay in touch, sign up to our newsletter at www.mountainstoseawellington.org or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.