

The Roding Catchment Group

Tasman / Nelson | May 2026

Wai Connection Highlight Story

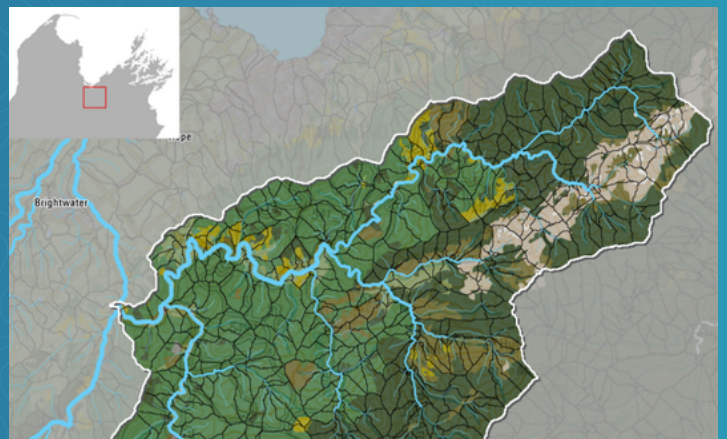
Roding Catchment / Tasman

Group Overview

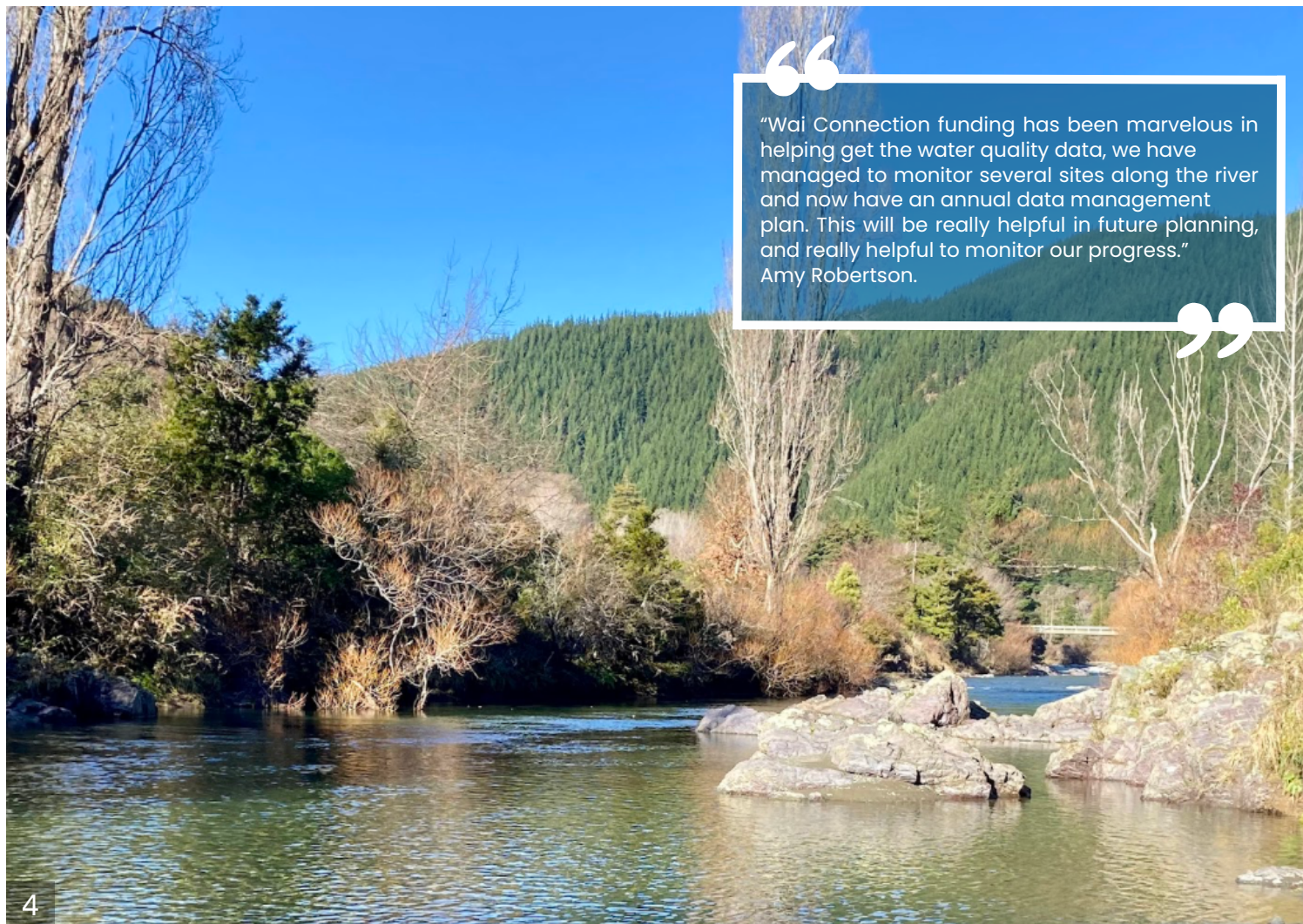
The Roding Catchment Group was established in the Aniseed Valley in late 2023 by concerned residents responding to significant weed infestations and potential water quality issues in the Roding River.

Feeding into the wider Waimea Catchment, the river is a vital waterway supporting native ecosystems, recreation, and downstream environments including the Waimea Inlet. The group is committed to improving freshwater health, enhancing biodiversity, and fostering stewardship of the catchment.

With support from the Wai Connection Project, facilitated by Tasman Bay Guardians, the group has strengthened its scientific understanding of the catchment while growing community involvement. Their work combines hands-on restoration, robust environmental monitoring, and education partnerships with local schools.



This integrated approach ensures that both ecological outcomes and community capacity are improved, helping to increase resilience, create informed outcomes and improve community capacity, this all contributes to building a resilient and informed catchment community for the future.



“Wai Connection funding has been marvelous in helping get the water quality data, we have managed to monitor several sites along the river and now have an annual data management plan. This will be really helpful in future planning, and really helpful to monitor our progress.”
Amy Robertson.

PHOTO CAPTIONS — 1. Havana planting a native tree at a community planting day 2. Joe laying out the hinaki for fish monitoring. 3. Sue and Segar at a community planting day 4. Roding River from Twin Bridges Reserve.



Creating a Knowledge Base for Catchment Restoration

A major focus of the Roding Catchment Group has been developing a strong scientific foundation to guide restoration efforts along the water way. With Wai Connection support, the group carried out baseline water quality monitoring at multiple sites including the Hackett Reserve and Twin Bridges Reserve, alongside nutrient testing at additional locations of interest.

The nutrient testing has shown that levels are generally within healthy ranges, providing a solid baseline from which to track changes and inform future catchment management.

They also implemented an overall catchment plan, a comprehensive monitoring plan incorporating SHMAK assessments, eDNA sampling through Wilderlab, and continuous temperature recording using HOBO data loggers. These tools provide detailed insights into stream health, biodiversity presence/absence and environmental trends over time, with the group already detecting a concerning trend around water temperature.

Participation in the Focus Catchment Mapping Series (FCMS), supported by EOS Ecology, further strengthened understanding of land use impacts and priority areas. A dedicated Wai Connection workshop helped the group interpret this data, ensuring it can be effectively applied to future restoration planning and decision-making.



Restoration in Action

On-the-ground restoration is a core focus for the Roding Catchment Group. A growing community nursery underpins this work, supporting eco-sourced seed collection, propagation, and raising plants to restoration-ready size. Regular working bees bring volunteers together for site preparation, planting, and maintenance across the catchment.

The 2025 planting season saw just over 7,000 native trees and plants established, marking a significant milestone. Building on this, the group is aiming to plant a further 6,000 natives in 2026, approximately 3,000 through Trees That Count (via Titoki Nursery) and 3,000 grown within their own nursery.

Riparian weed infestation has been identified as a key challenge. To better target this, drone mapping of the river stretch between Hackett Reserve and Busch Reserve has been used to identify weed species and prioritise control efforts. Alongside this, a targeted willow control programme is addressing flood risks within the river channel while supporting long-term native restoration along riparian margins.



Community Engagement and Education

Engaging the local community has been central to the group's success. The Roding Catchment Group has hosted events showcasing monitoring techniques such as SHMAK testing, helping to build local understanding of freshwater health, and even started a Facebook page to share achievements and knowledge with the wider community.

Strong partnerships with local schools have been a highlight. Through the Whitebait Connection programme, students from Hope School participated in hands-on freshwater education.

Partnerships with EnviroSchools and Tasman Bay Guardians have enabled planting and nursery programmes involving Hope, Appleby, and Ranzau schools. A standout achievement was a community pricking-out event, where 2,000 seedlings were potted into root trainers, ready for future restoration work in the Roding Catchment.

Through participation in planting days and hosting groups such as Waimea College, the Roding Catchment Group is helping grow the next generation of kaitiaki. Their involvement in the Waimea Inlet Forum and Waimea Catchment Group meetings ensures local efforts are aligned with broader restoration goals across the region, sharing their progress and learning from others.



Building Tools and Networks

The Roding Catchment Group has strengthened its organisational capacity through collaboration and resource development. With Wai Connection support, the group contributed to catchment-wide surveys to better understand community needs and aspirations.

The group successfully applied for pest control resources, securing 30 traps from the Menzshed and establishing a TrapNZ recording system to monitor pest activity. Monthly involvement in Hope School's Mātai Taiāo Fridays has further extended their impact, supporting seed collection, plant propagation, and biodiversity monitoring initiatives such as building tracking tunnels.

Regular management meetings every month ensure strategic direction and continuity, while representation at regional forums strengthens connections with other catchment groups. This collaborative approach helps align local action with wider environmental goals across the Waimea Catchment.

Next Steps

- Continuation of monthly water monitoring
- Expansion of targeted Willow control in stream bed
- Involving local iwi in planting days and sharing progress
- Annual catchment wide surveys
- Continuation of planting projects
- Expansion of trapping project with external training
- Continuation of community nursery and the working bees associated
- Looking for funding to allow for large scale planting projects on privately owned ex forestry sections.
- Continuation of relationship with Hope School, and providing support for their native community nursery



To learn more about the Roding Catchment Group, or how 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki te Wai' is supporting them, please contact:

The Roding Catchment Group

Managment Team

rodingcatchment@gmail.com

Rosalie Bennett

Tasman Bay Guardians

Wai Connection Support Coordinator

rosalie@mountainstosea.org.nz

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