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**The student’s experiences have led to deep learning and an even deeper commitment to sharing their knowledge of our river, and sustaining it as a community resource.**

Charlotte Verity, Teacher Beckenham Te Kura O Puroto



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**The relationships with schools has been strengthened with Te Ara Koropiko West Spreydon and Beckenham te Kura o Puroto, with participating staff and students, evident in time and conversation when I visit for the JNS programme.**

Elissa Smith, Junior Neighbourhood Support, SLG member

Student Leadership Team



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**I’m Scott from Cashmere High school.** I’m passionate about the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River because I’ve spent the large portion of my life living by it and have many memories of spending time near it. For example, in my childhood going with my mum feeding the ducks bread even though you’re not supposed to do that now.

I’d really love to help improve the health of the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River so that future generations can also enjoy it as I did.



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**I’m Matilda from Our Lady of Assumption School.** I’m passionate about the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River because it’s a very special place for me because it brings life to the reserve. It is such a cool place to be because you can feed fish and eels.

I want people to know how much pollution goes from the storm water drain into the Ōpāwaho River. Also many people’s belongings go into the river. I found a phone case, sunglasses and a screwdriver. Please make sure you look after our natural river.



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**I’m Ben from Beckenham Te Kura o Puroto.** I’m passionate about the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River because I live near it, my school is right by it and it has always been a special place for local iwi too.

I really want people to know how special it is both past and present and how we can improve it and keep it special for ever and ever.

# Healthy Ōpāwaho

## Project milestones report

**Empower young people to lead community action for a healthy river.**

Healthy River, Healthy Community.  
 Oranga Awa, Oranga Tāngata.

### Values-based approach

**Whanaungatanga** – The student leaders have formed a team and developed a tikanga – the students take turns delivering a shared karakia at the beginning of any meeting.

**Kaitiakitanga** - the student leaders show respect for the places, are learning about the cultural narrative of the place, or living things and taking action.

**Rangatiratanga** - All five schools will monitor drains for litter and use this as a tool for advocacy encouraging local businesses that border the awa to change their waste practices.



Te Rūnanga o NGĀI TAHU



Opawaho Heathcote



Environment Canterbury Regional Council



## 2018 September

- First Community workshops held to introduce the CCEM model and scope interest for a project focused on the awa.

## 2019 January

- First meeting of the CCEM Steering Group – DOC, CCC, ECAN, TRONT, OHRN around the table.

## 2019 April

- Deed of Grant signed with DOC to accept Seed Funding. Tim and Chris from CDHB join the Steering Group.

## 2019 August

- Sally Airey appointed to the role of Healthy Ōpāwaho co-ordinator.

## 2019 October

- First workshop with interested student leaders.

## 2020 February

- Initial student leadership team formed from six schools.
- Community mapping exercise completed.
- Noho Marae – 16 student leaders, three teachers, two parents, five SLG. It was for many the first time experiencing a pōwhiri. Each student did their mihi, connected and brainstormed ideas for the awa.

## 2020 April

- LOCKDOWN! Held several online meetings to maintain/nurture new connections.
- Awareness/wellbeing baseline data gathered via online questionnaire.

## 2020 July

- Students identify their passion projects: e.g. photo competition, stormwater litter traps.
- Co-ordinator and student leaders present to community boards.

## 2020 June

- Communications workshop – seven SLT attends telling effective stories to create calls to action.

## 2018 October

- Mapping exercise reveals over 100 schools located within 1km margin of the river.

## 2019 March

- Two members of SLG visit to Kids Greening Taupō.



## 2019 June

- Elissa from Junior Neighbourhood Support and Bethany - CACB join the Steering Group.



## 2019 September

- Levi Robinson-Collier joins the Steering Group.

## 2019 November

- First teacher workshop attended by 14 teachers from eight schools.
- First student leaders identified.
- Community connections strengthened.



## 2020 March

- Hīkoi from Ngā Puna Wai to Ihutai along the awa with 16 student leaders, four teachers, nine family members, 13 community representatives sharing values and awareness, taking micro-actions.
- Field trip to Pūharakekenui/Styx River to showcase a long-running community riverside project, 10 SLT, plus three additional students from Thorrington plus six community representatives.
- Pechakucha information evening with four experts presenting to eight SLT, one teacher and parents.

## 2020 August

- DOC seed funding runs out. Waterways team contribute funds to continue coordinator programme until November 2020.
- Student leaders from three primary schools attend restoration workshop, then plan their own local planting events with wider school.
- Scott organises installation of a Litta Trap at Cashmere High School – passion project.
- Three HO students led 65 students in a half-day riparian planting at Centennial Park along the Waimokihī/Ōpāwaho/Heathcote.
- Three HO students teach weed ID to six other students then worked alongside contractors to remove weeds between the two ponds.
- Planting beside Cashmere Brook within (Cashmere High School) 30 August.

