



Motu Kakaho Island Restoration Project Phase 2



Muir Family - Stu Muir
 027 279 1724
 akastu@ps.gen.nz

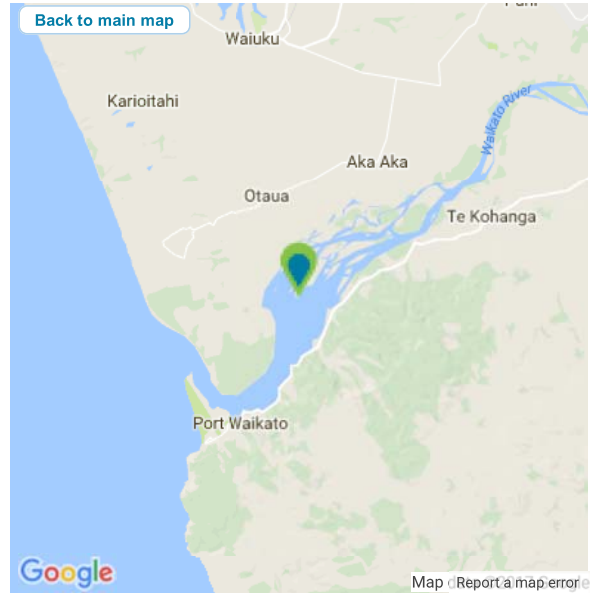
This is a whitebait habitat restoration project on Motu Kakaho island near the mouth of the Waikato River.

Motu Kakaho is a 200 acre, privately owned island in the lower Waikato River Delta. It's close proximity to the river mouth makes it an ideal area to restore as a whitebait habitat spawning area. This will be a multi stage and multi year project that will use the techniques and experience gained from the Papa and Mangati projects. The Motu Kakaho Restoration trust is comprised of several generations of the Potter family who wish to restore the island for future generations of their family and the wider community.

This year the aim is to open up the man made streams that bisect the island and reconnect them to the natural streams and out to the river. A series of tidal spawning ponds will be created. Thousands of native trees, flaxes and grasses will be planted and a series of straw bales will be used as spawning substrate until the plants establish themselves. We will return the island to a vibrant example of the original flora and fauna. To assist in this process we aim to eradicate both plant and animal species. A helicopter will spray the willows and pampas and we will trap and poison the possums, rats, and mustelids. Removing pest species is vital to the overall success of any restoration project. As Motukakaho Island is the first in the delta from the sea, its importance as a spawning site is huge."

This project received funding from the Waikato River Authority (WRA 16-035).

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