

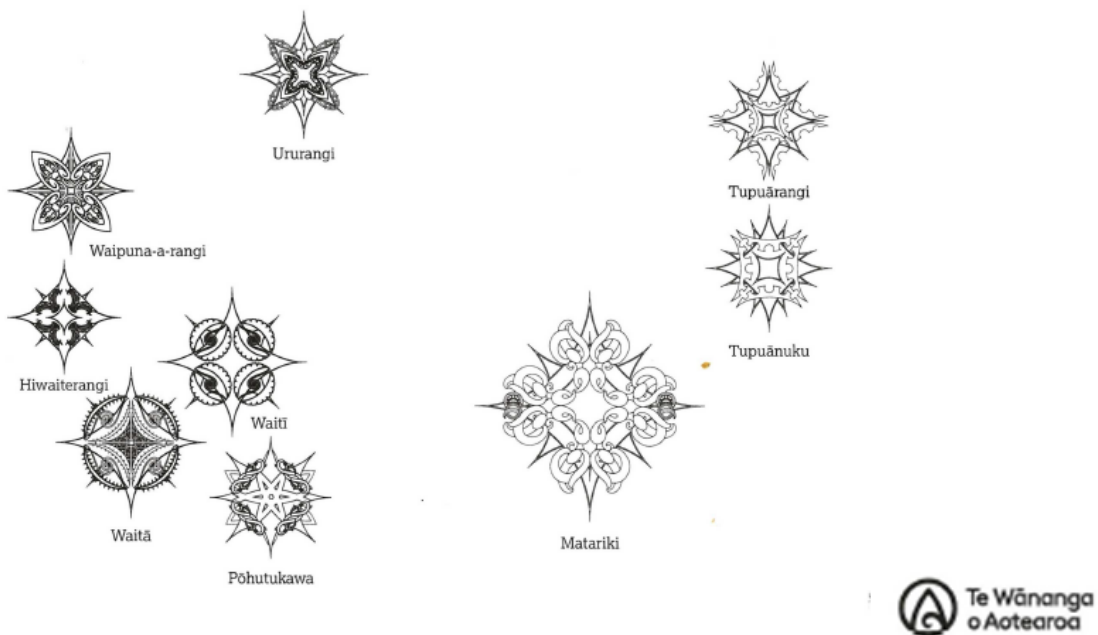


The *Networking for the environment in greater Christchurch* is a series of networking events for people working for environmentally focused organisations in greater Christchurch. The objective of these events is to create a space for sharing experiences, resources and tips for running a community-based organisation.

Te kāhui tūao (Constellation of Volunteers) Telling our Story Project

This project kicked off with a networking hui on 25th November 2019. The purpose of the hui was to start to capture the stories of the individuals and organisations they represent. Approximately 30 people attended. The goal for this project in 2020 is to keep building our story into a multi-media presentation that shows the collective impact of the environmental movement (past, present and future) to our communities, local and regional councils and visitors to this beautiful place we call home.

Te Iwa o Matariki:



“Contrary to popular belief, there are nine stars in the constellation of Matariki, rather than seven. They all hold dominion over particular areas of our environment as seen from a Māori worldview”

Image 1: Image and quote from Te Iwa o Matariki, Puka Ngohe Colouring & Activity Book. Permission for use is generously provided by Te Wānanga o Aotearoa (twoa.ac.nz)

The Matariki stars are the foundation on which we chose to build our Te kāhui tūao (Constellation of Volunteers) because this Māori worldview aligns with our areas of work, our



passions, and because light is a metaphor for leader and putting others first. What could be more fitting for people that dedicate their lives to protecting and improving our environment.

Collecting the Stories:

The goal of the Hui was to harvest the nuggets of wisdom for each star/environmental area. Participants worked in small groups and talked about key insights from their work in these areas, and explore the question “**Why is this work important to you?**”

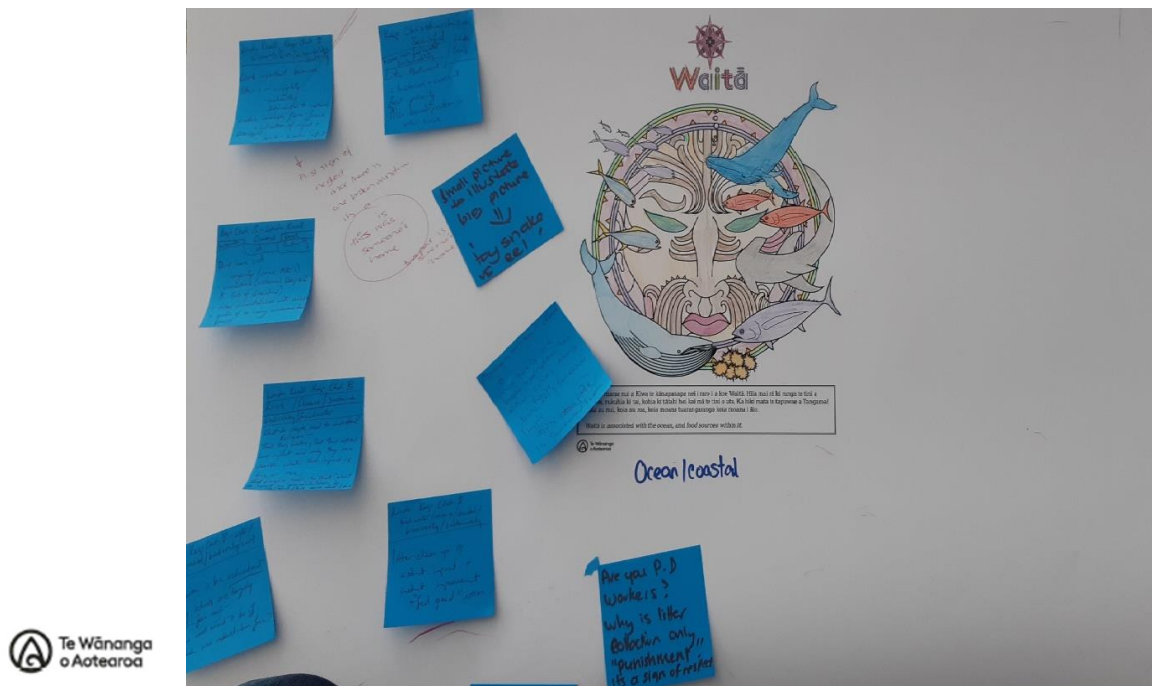


Image 2: Post-its and colouring-in for the Waitā Star for Oceans/ Coastal.

We generated a series of questions to get people to thinking about their “WHY”.

- What do you think is the most important discovery you’ve had over the course of your work in the environmental sector?
- Casting back, what is the leading insight that you’ve gleaned from all your environmental work?
- If people are going to tell the story of you and your organisation, what is the most important thing not to leave out?
- Knowing it now, what wisdom do you wish you’d had when you’d started out?
- It appears we are in the midst of a paradigm shift. Can you name the new understanding that is emerging in your work?
- What do the people need to comprehend on a really deep level to help them to live in a more connected way with nature and our environment?
- What makes you most hopeful?



Image 3. Participants talking about why working to improve the environment is important to them.

Creating our Constellation:

Post-it's were then delivered to the illustrators to create our Constellation of Volunteers in visual form. Many wonderful comments and ideas were presented on this day and not all of them could fit on the canvas. These will be available for viewing as part of the larger multi-media project in 2020, so watch this space!



Image 4: Megan from League of Live Illustrators harvesting ideas and creating the canvas