

Collective Storytelling as a river restoration tool

THE ROLE OF CATCHMENT COMMUNITIES IN INSPIRING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

OUR AIM:

We spoke with five catchment restoration communities across New Zealand to explore how knowledge sharing via stories could inspire freshwater restoration action.

I think the biggest thing about these rivers is they are the best babysitter we've got

Restoration works because it is farmers educating farmers

The longest journey starts with the first step

For almost every river it is about human change

To effect change you need to show what worked and what didn't

Five unique Catchment Journeys emerged, with **3** Overarching knowledge sharing elements for river restoration

1 Collective storytelling

Catchment Journeys produced and shared by respected storytellers (community champions) can encourage further restoration in their communities.

2 Motivations for ongoing restoration

Catchment Journeys can motivate ongoing change, driven by land stewardship, proof or restoration progress, future generations, and community cohesion.

3 The good, the bad, and the ugly

Complete catchment stories (including successes, weaknesses and hardship experienced) can elicit emotions in our participants which encourages ongoing momentum to restore.