

Making Room for Rivers – Why it matters

F&B Manawātū July 2023 Monthly talk

Tuesday 11th July, 2023 @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library Palmerston North (George Street Entrance)

Speakers: Tom Kay, F&B Fresh Water Advocate and
Professor Ian Fuller, Physical Geography, Massey University



Pohangina River in Flood after Cyclone Gabrielle, 2023



Manawātū river in flood

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Professor Ian Fuller will give a short presentation about the science behind Tom's talk.

Tom will be talking about how the way we have managed our environment has exacerbated flooding and disaster risk, the impact of flood protection engineering on our rivers and communities, and the approach we could be taking instead.

Constraining rivers changes their natural form, reduces groundwater recharge, and destroys wetlands and other habitat for native fish and birds. Numerous rivers across Aotearoa have been straightened and constrained, with thousands of hectares of river and wetland habitat destroyed in the process.

Making room for rivers allows the land adjacent to rivers to flood safely, while providing for a whole range of other benefits such as riparian planting, wetland restoration and carbon sequestration, increased groundwater recharge, river habitat restoration for native fish and birds, and more recreation opportunities for people.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

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