Citizen science – understanding, participating, legitimating

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What is citizen science?

One definition:

- “projects in which volunteers partner with scientists to answer real-world questions” (source: Citizen Science Central: [http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/about/definition](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/about/definition))

- This could be rewritten, at least for today, to be:
  - Projects in which people (including students, the general public, others) partner with scientists to answer real-world questions
  - And as result this implies a strong degree of collaboration and integration, alongside innovation to make it work
Citizen science: environmental monitoring and education - applications

WATERWATCH
Kaitiaki Wai

A water monitoring programme especially for schools and community groups

- What is WATERWATCH?
- Our Vision
- WATERWATCH Objectives
- WATERWATCH provides
- Want more information?

What is WATERWATCH?

WATERWATCH is an interactive programme that involves school students and university groups in monitoring the 'health' of their local rivers or streams in a safe and ecologically friendly way. WATERWATCH is an outreach programme of Lincoln University.

Our Vision

To promote healthy waterways through outdoor educational experiences.
Citizen science: contributions to state of environment reporting

- Wetland bird monitoring at Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere
- Annual February bird count links volunteers with managers with scientists – 40 people involved
- Contributes directly, by counting wrybills, to state of the lake report, links to Selwyn-Waihora Water Mgt Zone reporting, links to MfE national State of the Environment reporting, links to world wide Birdlife International monitoring
Education potential of citizen science

• Enormous and relatively little tapped, at least in my view
• All levels of formal education, from kindergarten through primary, secondary and tertiary levels, to University(s) of the 3rd Age
• The populace at large – lay, business (including of course agriculture), government of all types and at all levels (local, regional, national)
• Some key question(s) for discussion:
  – How do we link CZ more fully into the education system and make it work for everyone’s benefit (e.g., Hurunui College kiwi programme in the Nina Valley)
  – How do we inspire our students to play leadership roles?
  – How do we get agencies to be really collaborative and link with educators when they are so busy just doing their jobs?