

FROM THE DECK

NEWMARKET STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

Welcome to Autumn 2019 and a good time to look at the fruits of our labour 2018 :

- June 2018 - 1200 natives planted in the upper reaches of our stream.
- Nov 2018 - working bee to clear choking weeds on a drizzly day – picture number one below! Sustenance afterwards, picture below.
- Jan 2019 - Te Ngahere spray weeds - picture number three and four, the weeds longing to take over again.

So now we have two sides of the upper reaches of the stream planted and we will continue to fight the weeds.



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has given us access to their properties. Which is almost everyone whose property runs down to the stream. Pest - flora and fauna - control and its maintenance is crucial to the success of our plans.

Once again, none of this gets done without the support of our Local Boards, Waitemata and Orakei, and Auckland Council, Healthy Waters. These organisations supply us with the funding to employ experts, including

Te Ngahere te-ngahere.co.nz

Conservation Volunteers conservationvolunteers.co.nz

to guide us. Without them nothing is possible.



AUTUMN GATHERING

Sunday April 7th

4pm – 6pm

at 9a Swinton Close if weather is doubtful
or in the planted area below Swinton if the sun
shines. Either way you will see the fantastic results of your
support. You will hear :

Te Ngahere present briefly their wonderfully **detailed five-year plan** for our stream and valley. Scroll to the end of this newsletter and you will find their map of our stream with their analysis of the plant pests that need to go before planting can be sustained. Ongoing weed management is essential to success. Their plan is thorough, including projected planting.

Cameron Grey, expert on rat behaviour, who will once again outline best practice in our ongoing battle with these little beasties.

Snacks and drinks and convivial neighbours will round off the occasion. Please put this in your diary, and come if at all possible. We need your support.

Water

Recently we met with Healthy Waters supervisor Theresa Pearce, et al, who instructed us on water sampling and testing. Our results are entered into the Waicare database, thus over time, drawing up a picture of our stream & other waterways contributing to the improving health of our Harbours. If anyone else is interested in getting involved with this – or getting their kids involved – let us know. We are keen to share!

Carole assesses water

with help of Healthy Waters staff



One Sunday in June

Please diary working bee to plant 1200 – as last June – native plants. Possible dates are **ONE** of the last three Sunday's in June, 16, 23 or 30.

BIRD COUNT

Again in 2019 we will take part in the Landcare bird count.

<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/home>

along with the rest of the country! 2019 survey will take place from June 29 to July 7th. Contact Annabelle at annieclive@extra.co.nz closer to the time if you want to take part.

RATS

Are we getting on top of the rats? Even if we are....and reports indicate they are diminishingI am sorry to tell you they will be back. That is their habit and their nature. Until they are banished! We have just finished our first pulse of 2019. Our next will be in May. Our ideal is to have a trap/station on every property in the valley. If you do not have one yet, *we have free traps, stations, baits*. You do not have to have a trap. Stations are filled with bait and rats do not die inside them. If you do not have to touch a rat.

Traps give us a better indication of numbers, and emptying them just involves lifting the trap and opening it over your rubbish bin.....however I confess I do stations not traps. Whatever works for you....

Contact me, Penny, pjhansen48@gmail.com with any rat queries. Rat counts to Susan Buckland susan.buckland@xtra.co.nz

HELP

Do you know a graphic designer who could help us with our graphics? We need someone who supports what we are trying to do and would be willing to put together an attractive template so that text can be sent to them and they can input it with much less trouble than we have!

Networks

Since we began two years ago, we have slowly built a network of other groups working in our local Auckland area and more widely in NZ. Foremost is *Hapua Thrive* with *Margot Nicholson* an enthusiastic and supportive collaborator. *Luke Nuie* from *Parnell Heritage*, www.parnellheritage.co.nz, and the fabulous work they have done on Waipapa stream in Parnell. Also *Anna Dadson & Neil Henderson* from the *Kaipatiki project*, www.kaipatiki.org.nz

Upcoming events for these groups : we are invited:

• **Saturday 23rd March 10-1pm at the Waiparuru Stream in Grafton Gully.** Anna Dadson : biodiversity@kaipatiki.org.nz is organising this. Look at Auckland Council website for fascinating information about this historical part of Auckland: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/arts-culture-heritage/heritage-walks-places/docssymondsstreetcemetery/symonds-st-cemetery-bishop-waiparuru.pdf>

• And from Hapua Thrive, Margot Nicholson: “Our neighbourhood BBQ is booked in for **Sunday 24 March 5pm Hapua Reserve** Byo food/drink- bbq and bbq cook will be supplied. They will have some cool maps of the area, historical and recent to show people. Family, friends, and neighbours all welcome.”

Groups we have contacted in the wider NZ context are millionmetres.org.nz

songbird.org.nz

predatorfreenz.org

Weedbusters.org.nz is a great website: Thanks to Margot at Hapua Thrive for this info Privet ..

<https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/weed-list/tree-privet/>

Moth plant

<https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/weed-list/mothplant/>

with a nice summary by STAMP (Society Totally Against Moth Plant) here!

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/101406758/help-stamp-out-the-moth-plant-on-aucklands-north-shore>

Our contacts

• **If you'd like to know more about the From the Deck or the Newmarket Stream Restoration please contact:**

- Penny Hansen, From the Deck – pjhansen48@gmail.com
- Carole Davies, From the Deck - carolejdavies@gmail.com
- Susan Buckland - Pest trap recording - susan.buckland@xtra.co.nz
- Annabelle Couldwell - Bird Count Recording - annielive@xtra.co.nz

Te Ngahere plan of management units of our stream restoration, weed analysis

