

# From the Deck

Summer  
2021

## NEWMARKET STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT



Warmest Christmas and New Year wishes to you all. Thank you for your support in 2021 - our thriving planting is proof of your great work! But now, relax and have a wonderful holiday.

### **Inside:**

- Pests
- Planting
- Privet



# A Pitch for our project

If your soul needs soothing, and even if all you want is some delight in life, take a walk in the cool of the evening in our valley. While you walk, pat yourselves on the back and marvel at the growth of our plantings. It is staggering how quickly and how beautifully this former weed infested valley has become a rich home for native plants and birds and no doubt lizards (see below.)

Any time you go there, look out for weeds particularly strangling weeds, killers such as blue morning glory. There are still a few climbing up our plants. A quick tug can free the plants they are strangling. Standup weeding works well.



## Planned Planting

Due to the Covid lockdown, the final piece of punga and other plants planned for planting, along the Ada St side of the stream closer to Middleton did not take place. This will be done as soon as possible in the new planting season – around May or June.

# Privets

## Plans for privet in 2022

In the tree cutting season, autumn, Te Ngahere will continue with the removal of large privet trees in accordance with our budget.

Meantime, there are smaller privets establishing themselves every where..... If you want to tackle small privet on your own property, cut it back and use Weed Weapon Stump Stop by Kiwicare, easy to use. Carole and Penny both have some which you are welcome to borrow to paste on the cut surfaces.

If you have other weeds you'd like to tackle, try weed and plant database for good information:  
[New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Weedbusters](#)  
Forest and Bird also has an excellent [weed control guide](#).



# Rats

Like everything in our lives, our rat programme hit a bump with Covid. It will be restarted under Matt from Te Ngahere the week of Dec 6 th . Anyone from Te Ngahere who is working with us will be double vaccinated. Permission for access will be sought from owners of properties where rat tracking or baiting will take place. If you are already part of our rat group, you will have received an email asking if you want more details.

A reminder: putting left over bread outside to feed the 'birds' largely feeds the rats, they love it. If you have neighbours doing this, they may not be part of our group and will not get this email. You could encourage them to join us while gently pointing out to them that the rats who thrive on the bread will kill the birds and their eggs.



# Rosie and the birds

We have a Ph.D. student, Rosie, who is collecting data for her research. Our valley is one of the sites where she is comparing bird activity, using thermal cameras, in areas which have active animal pest control programmes against those which do not – unfortunately ours falls into the latter at the moment, refer above.

Two weeks ago, while working in the Waioata Reserve, she heard and saw a bird she didn't recognise – watch Rosie on [TVNZ 7 Sharp!](#)  
Enjoy!

Predator Free NZ have all kinds of information plus a [gorgeous poster](#) of native lizards.



Rosie showing the tunnel tracing footprints of increased rat activity



Silvereye and fantail nest in our valley

# Christmas gifts

Concerned by the waste associated with Christmas? And wondering how to buy gifts without buying rubbish?

We have the perfect solution for you – Buy Rubbish. Sustainable Coastlines will collect bags of rubbish from our seashore in the name of your beloved when you buy a gift of bags of rubbish! See their [website](#) or you could [buy a tree](#) for someone and help keep streams all over New Zealand clean. This would be a great way of

showing our rural compatriots that we support them.

**A thought for the future** Try to avoid pruning trees in spring when birds are nesting. Imagine having your house swept away from under you – same thing for a bird when its nest is pruned away in spring. Save the pruning for autumn.

## Other Groups

The Eastern Bays Community Network is a platform for community groups, organisations, agencies and entities acting for the common good within the Ōrākei Local Board area to come together and promote their work, share their stories with like-minded people and start collaborations and partnerships. To name only a few:

[Waiatarua Reserve](#)

[Eastern Song Bird Project](#)

[Ngāti Whatua Ōrākei](#): if you haven't been to their community garden, in the old Pony Club fields on Kepa Rd you must, its stunning! It's opposite the Kepa Rd Community Centre.

[Hapua Thrive](#): our neighbours – tirelessly working toward ACTION on the woeful sewage contamination of our harbour – a position which From the Deck supports. Below is an excerpt from Hapua Thrive's latest publication re Te Tinana/Wilsons Beach on Safe Swim Site.

“Despite years of work sewage continues to be discharged into the waterways around Hobson Bay in all weathers. Please [click here](#) for a hot off the press co-designed public health notice from Auckland Regional Public Health Services, Auckland Council and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei on how to keep safe around the waterways and maps showing the affected areas.”

[Econet](#): They do important work – measuring what is achieved in conservation NZ.

# Our Team

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

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[Photographs](#) from the restoration area



## Supported By



# Restoration Map

