

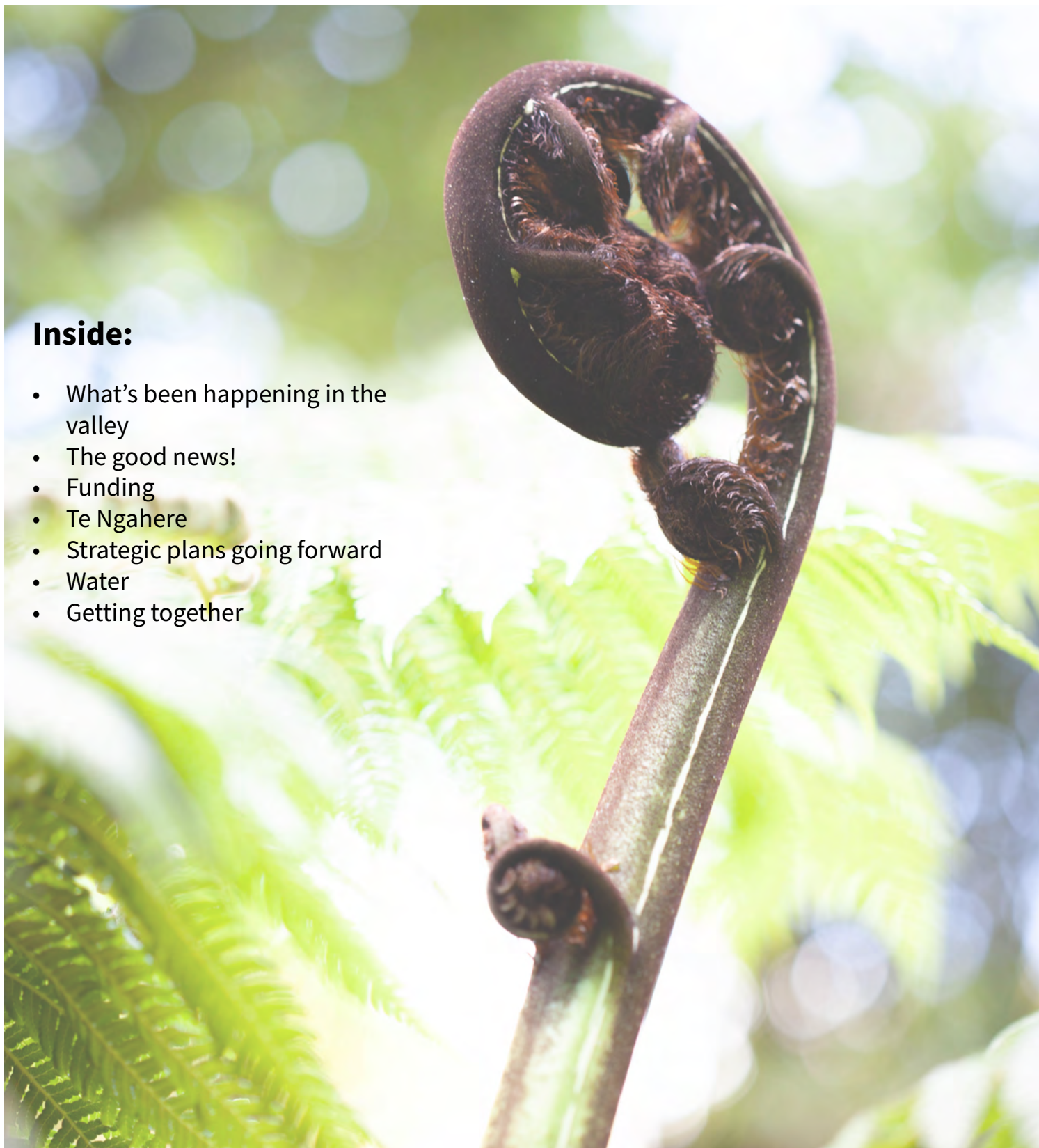
From the Deck

Winter
2023

NEWMARKET STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

Inside:

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What's been happening in the valley

Updates from January, February 2023

The serious damage to our valley came in some obviously vulnerable areas, others unexpected.

Damage occurred during that dreadful deluge on 27th Jan. 2023, prior to Cyclone Gabrielle. There are two major slips which cannot be remediated with planting at present. Refer photos 1 & 2 for the Eastern Slip, photo 3 for the Western slip. Downstream (refer 4, 5, 6) the Middleton Rd culvert was blocked by debris and our stream scoured banks right out on the Ada St side, changing its course and impacting on the Bassett Rd side.

We engaged a Geotech engineer from Soil & Rock who did a walkover assessment with Richard Mairs from Te Ngahere, inspecting the whole area and subsequently advising where it is feasible to plant. If you'd like to see the full Geotech report please contact us.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 5



Photo 4



Photo 6

The good news!

As a result of the weather, our planting for 2023 has been delayed but in late July, just last week, Te Ngahere planted the upper reaches of the project with about half of the larger trees in photo 7. Further planting will take place downstream in the first week of August.

- Puriri
- Titoki
- Kohekohe
- Kahikatea

Here's an argument for our planting and its power: A canopy of trees can catch 40% of the rain, filtering it before it lands on the ground. Consequently, we had no damage where there was well-established planting. Watch this [video](#) to see this in action in our valley.

Funding

We continue to be grateful to our Local Board members, Margaret Voyce from Orakei and Alexandra Bonham from Waitemata. Both are keen and knowledgeable supporters of conservation work in the city.

Throughout the storms and desecration to the stream they have been our lifeline to help from the Council, Watercare and Healthy Waters. Without them, finding the right people to approach with the issues we faced would have been much, much more difficult. As well, our local boards have continued to support us with funding for our weed removal, maintenance



Photo 7

of planting, pest control, additional planting and the more-necessary-than-ever expertise from Richard Mairs and his team at Te Ngahere. We could not do this without them. We appreciate very much the work our local representatives do for our communities.



Photo 8

Te Ngahere

We have a changing of the guard at Te Ngahere. Richard Mairs who has been our guide and lead for the past several years is leaving. We are very sad to lose him and wish him well in his new position at Auckland Council. He will be succeeded by Matt Sutton who has been our pest control lead. We look forward very much to working with Matt.

Strategic plans going forward

Planting

See 'The good news'.

Weed control

Currently, a small amount of spot spraying and as time goes by, more freeing up of planting will be undertaken. Blue morning glory and others can be dealt with but angel's trumpet and any that help stabilise land will not to be moved at present. Slip sites will grow many weeds but they will not be moved from those sites as they may – no guarantees - stabilise the land.

Privet

Remaining privet in the valley will not be removed at present – except for small specimens that can be pulled out – as the privet left is holding steep banks and stream banks.

Pests

Our previous report, spring 2022, showed a significant reduction in rats in our valley. However, the storms over summer dislodged the bait stations so they were just hanging by their attachments, refer photo 8.

Matt's team began again at the beginning of May 2023 and they have recently completed weighing the baits and bringing them in. This showed there had been an increase in rat numbers as bait consumption was high – 2.65Kgs eaten compared to 1.45Kgs in May2022. The next pest pulse is due to begin in August.

PLUS we caught a possum!!

Water

Clean Water in Hobson A Pipe dream?

To highlight this issue, we have worked with Hapua Thrive to set up a meeting of Epsom's political candidates on Saturday August 5th at 2-3.15pm at Newmarket Playcentre, 2 Hapua St.

eDNA work will be reactivated once there is some clear weather ahead. It has been

held up by storms at end of 2022 and subsequently by Gabrielle in 2023.

For anyone who has an interest in the idea of managing Auckland's water, here's an interesting [interview](#) from RNZ, Kathryn Ryan, March 10.

Getting together

We expect to have a get-together at some point in the spring but will let you know closer to the time. We'd like it to be a combined social and work occasion but this will depend on our ability to work in the valley which is determined by safety issues, stability of the land and areas that are workable.



Our Team

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

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