

From the Deck

Autumn
2024

NEWMARKET STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

Inside:

- Summer in the valley
- Funding
- Planting 2024
- Weed control
- Water
- Progress

Image by Tushar Sharma, IMaGEN8

Summer in the valley

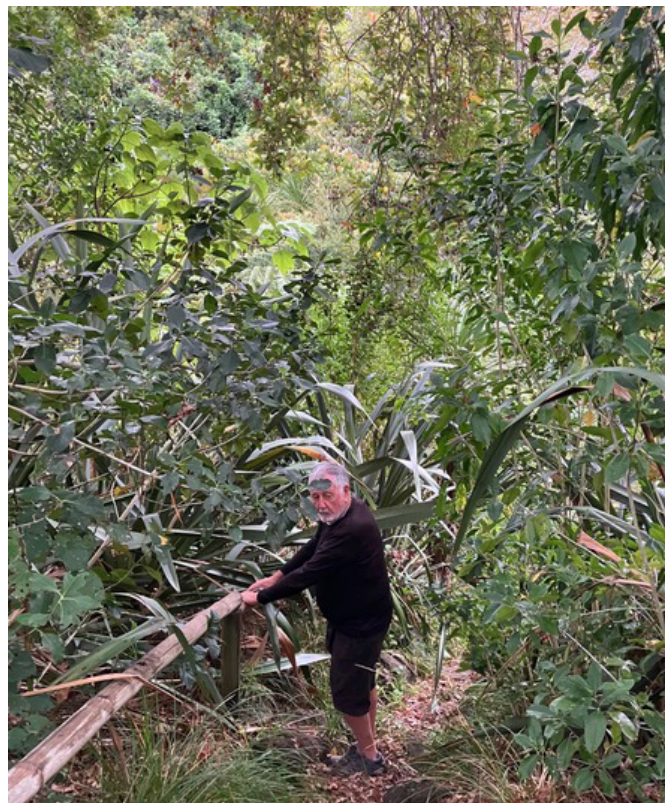
We've had a blessedly calm spring and summer. It's not only we humans that have loved it, the weeds have flourished, but so have some of our plantings! And the birds, tui, kereru, piwakawaka, ruru: they seem to many of us to have multiplied this year and are thrilling to see and hear.



Grasses planted in 2018 now established and holding soil moisture very effectively.



Two lovely Piwakawakas in the valley



Flax planted in 2018 has grown tall



Kahikatea planted in 2020



2 staked larger trees planted in the slip in Sept 2023



Cabbage tree planted in 2018



Puriri planted in 2018



Kereru hiding in the kawakawa

Funding

As we all know Council has had funding cut backs. At present our long term Council funding for the cleaning of the stream and the planting of its banks, our weed and pest control has been maintained though not at former levels. We have therefore been applying to our two Local Boards, Orakei and Waitemata for the alternative funding they offer. That way we hope to continue and complete the work which was begun in 2018 with our first planting.

We are grateful to the Remuera Residents Association for acting as our umbrella organisation, holding our funds. This means we don't have to become bankers. We can concentrate on the weeds!

And of course we are always grateful to Auckland Council, the Waitemata and Orakei Local Boards, especially Margaret Voyce and Alexandra Bonham for their very active interest in our valley. And our Healthy Waters contact Donna Carter with her specialised knowledge.



Planting

We have sufficient funds to undertake a planting in June this year. Now, in parts of the valley not affected by slips, we have built up our planting of grasses, flaxes, cabbage trees, keeping the weeds at bay – as much as possible as some will always be a problem. We can now build up the canopy trees, planting larger specimens. Thanks to Te Ngahere's expert advice, our planting this year will include the following: Native toetoe, Harakeke, Kahikatea, Karaka, Karamu, Mahoe, Manuka, Pohutukawa, Puriri, Ti kouka, and Titoki

The areas to be planted this year are still

being considered. We will plant where we are confident flooding will not destroy our work. We maintain a very cautious approach to the areas affected by slips. This year we will undertake a small amount of planting on those areas. Enough to test them out and hopefully - if there are no further slips - establish some strong roots into the areas immediately around the stream.

At this stage we are taking advice about the safety of getting we ourselves involved in the actual planting. Whether or not we are able to do this, we will organise a gathering and lunch in June/July.

Weed control

Because of the climate-induced slips and runoff from the roads that surround our little valley, and because of a particularly weed friendly summer, all of us will have noticed that the weeds have strongly re-established and therefore require more maintenance.

We will be attacking the morning glory which is flourishing at the moment. We will take a continuous cautious approach to managing the privets some of which are crucial for stabilising banks.



Blue morning glory swamping newer planting

Pests

Rats
Some of you have been catching your own rats. Te Ngahere, our rat catchers, have re-established all 10 of our stations. They had been badly damaged by 2023 weather. As is usual, with restarting, the bait eaten was very low. Rats are wary creatures of new “things” in their territories. We expect more from the next pulse.

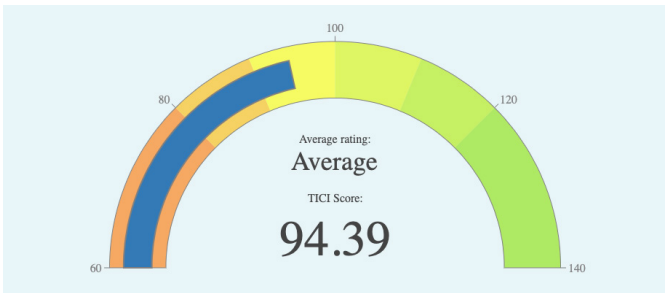
Privets
As part of our war on weeds the presence/resurgence of a significant number of very large privet trees is of serious concern as well as being hazardous to everyone who suffers from asthma or other breathing issues. We have already felled or poisoned several large privets but we also have to balance this with their bank-holding ability. This current growing season has sadly seen Privets expanding and multiplying throughout the valley and a significant proportion of our Council funding may be needed to get them under control.

Water

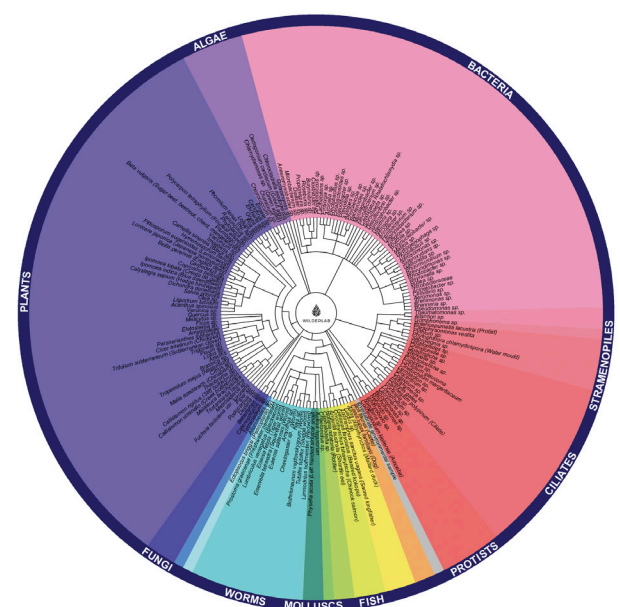
Thanks to Tushar, Warren and Rod, we did our eDNA tests last November using the kit from [Wilderlab](#). Some highlights:

- There is evidence of Kokōpu, Banded kokopu in the stream as well as Shortfin eel!
- Thrush and sacred kingfishers live/hunt in the stream catchment
- Stream condition is Average

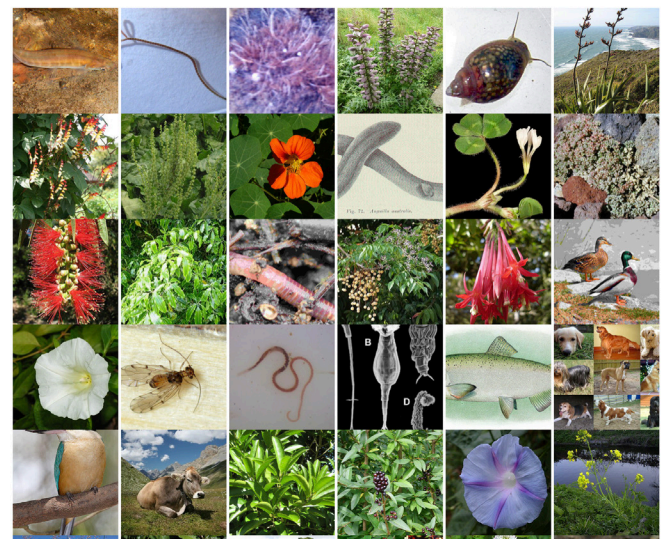
You can access the full report [here](#). This makes us part of a nationwide scheme to assess fresh waterways.



Featured Species Taxon Results Wheel of Life Stream Condition User Guide



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Some of us attended a recent meeting convened by David Seymour at St Marks Hall to discuss our troubled local water issues. The Auckland Council, Hapua Thrive, and Margot Nicholson, Healthy Waters, Watercare made presentations, all very informative, the conclusion being a general agreement to encourage a joint government/council approach to invest money to reduce unacceptable amounts of sewage going into the waterways in our area.

The Orakei Enviro Forum on May 26 continues our conversations about water. RSVP by Friday May 17.



ŌRĀKEI LOCAL BOARD

Enviro Forum

2024: Sea Water – Our Blue Horizon

Sunday 26 May, 3pm – 5pm

Hyundai Marine Sports Centre, 8 Tamaki Drive, Ōrākei

An opportunity for our local environmental groups to come together to celebrate their achievements, learn from experts, and network with like-minded groups and individuals.

This year's theme centres around our moana (sea). There will be presentations from Head of Sustainability and Environment for Ports of Auckland, Nigel Ironside talking about the port's Harbour Health initiatives, and General Manager Toi Taiao, Kingi Makoare (Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei) about the Ōkahu Bay Restoration Project.

Nibbles will be provided with drinks available to purchase.

Everyone is welcome.

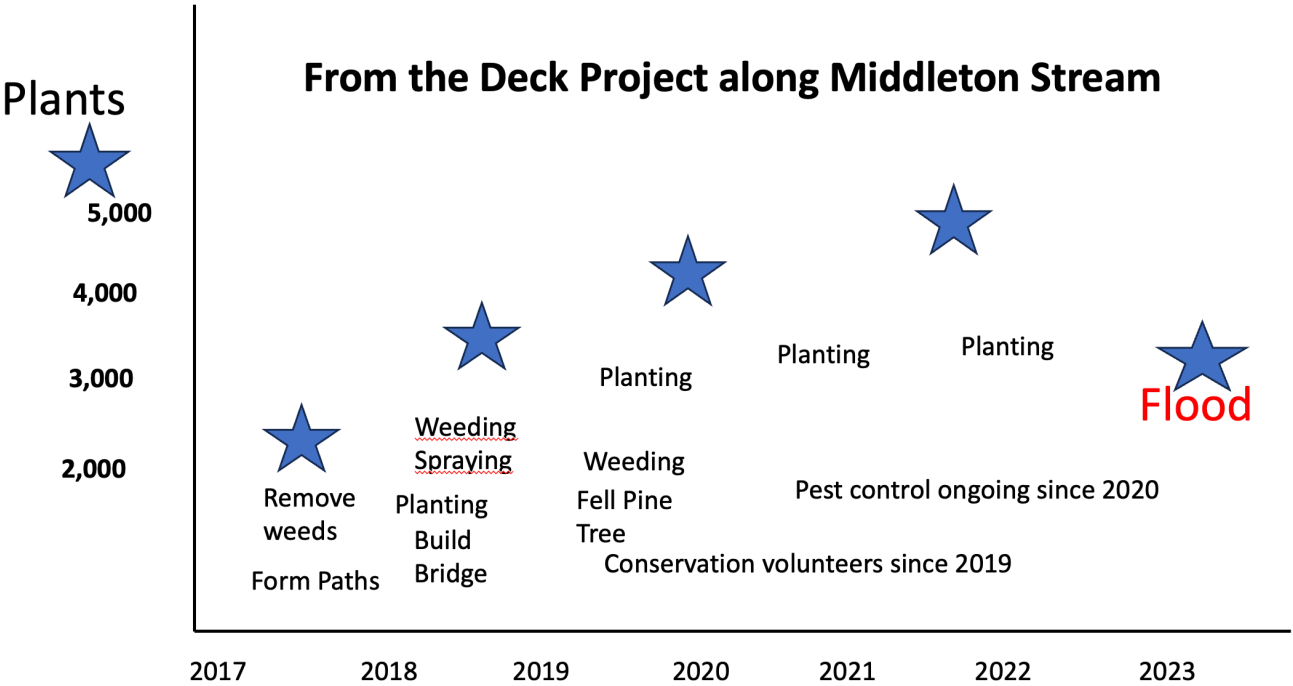
Please **RSVP to orakeievents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz before Friday 17 May** to secure your seat.

facebook.com/orakeilb



Our progress

Colin Harvey has put together a visual of our project to date. We used this when we talked to the Auckland Heritage Roses group who were interested in the work in the stream. We're including it here because we aim to increase our covid/climate change impacted progress back on an upward trend.



Our Team

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

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Visit us on Facebook @ [The Deckers](#)

Website: <https://fromthedeck.org>

[Photographs](#) from the restoration area



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