

From the Deck

Summer
2024-25

NEWMARKET STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT



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Image by Tushar Sharma, IMAgEN8

Rubbish

Our rubbish programme saw 10 tonnes of rubbish removed from our stream in October. Thanks to the Winter Readiness Fund from Making Space for Water – our Council's strategy to reduce flooding in our city. Thanks too to our marvellous contacts from Healthy Waters and the Council, especially Teresina Robredo De la Vega. And thanks to our own Warren who identified rubbish sites along the stream. For a full week the young men from Glasgow Contractors walked the stream hauling out all that rubbish, including our prize piece, a gun. Who can tell the story of that? Not something we expected. The extracted rubbish was sorted and some of it sent for recycling.

Please, please and this includes landlords and tenants, ensure that no rubbish is dumped or left lying on properties around the stream. All bin rubbish should be removed to landfills or recycling centres (check [this link](#) for disposal of other items). You can see in the photos it is too easy for that rubbish to find its way into our stream.

We are fortunate too to have the active support of our two Local Board reps – Margaret Voyce from Orakei and Alexandra Bonham, Waitemata. Our stream forms the border of these two Boards, hence the active involvement of both Boards.



Rat update

We have no definite rat deaths this quarter, and the amount of bait they are eating has decreased. We can only assume at this stage they have found plenty of food during our warm moist spring - stay tuned...

Planting

Our planting this year has emphasised flood resistant and quick growing plants and has included : forest sedge, karamu or coprosma robusta, mahoe, manuaka, pohuehue or muehlenbeckia, ti kouka or cabbage tree. Planting has taken place across the stream site, but particularly on areas affected by the January 2023 floods. This year, there has been no planting down at the Middleton Rd end due to proposed work on the culvert which would damage any planting.

Culvert and Manholes

The January 2023 flooding brought to light the very real problems with the broken sewer which became further exposed by erosion. The culvert at the bottom of our stream was also clogged with rubbish which took some time and expense to remove. Ongoing discussions and planning are taking place, with WaterCare, to manage and upgrade these areas.



Water

Just this morning as we put together our newsletter we read in the New Zealand Herald that Safeswim has red-flagged 30 Waitemata Harbour beaches – swimming not advised – and black-flagged 4 inner harbour beaches – no swimming. And this is just the beginning of the summer. Our stream work may be just a drop in the ocean so to speak but everything counts. Otherwise we will never have a clean harbour.

Submission to Council

We have sent you the information about the Let's Protect our Environment – which closed on December 8th. Another important issue is the shoreline adaptation for future rises in sea level due to global warming. This consultation ends on December 18th.

[Consultation link](#)

The Council website describes it thus: "We are preparing shoreline adaptation plans (SAPs) across the region in partnership with mana whenua and local communities. Shoreline Adaption Plans consider how we can respond to coastal hazards and climate change over the next 100 years by a) looking at how we can adapt council-owned land and assets like boat ramps, sea walls and coastal walkways b)promoting the preservation and restoration of the coastal environment for future generations.

Silt Fences

Partly because of the huge amount of building material that came out of the rubbish cleanup, we are concerned to make sure any building activity near our stream follows the proper protocols to ensure building materials and silt do not end up in the stream. This is a [code for small sites](#) from the Auckland Council.

Gathering

Our apologies re failed promises of a gathering before the end of 2024. Life took over, but we are signalling now, a **get-together on February 9th** when we plan to have Te Ngahere and Healthy Waters share with us their plans for 2025 and their assessment of the progress we are making with the stream.

Succession

Not the TV series but the From the Deck series – Carole and I would love to have some younger people join us/take over – whatever works best – the guardianship of our stream. Perhaps you know someone who could be interested? Perhaps you are interested yourself?

If you know of anyone please email: pjhansen48@gmail.com, carolejdavies@gmail.com

Shining cuckoo in our valley

On Sunday last we heard a shining cuckoo calling its distinctive call in our valley. What a thrill. All that work with pest control must be working. Hear the call on [this website](#) - its the male call that's so distinctive.

"We love our birds in the valley. Please give your cat a bell or two for Christmas."



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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