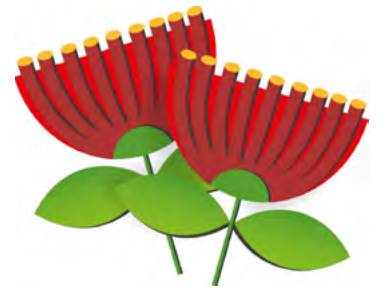


From the Deck

Summer
2025-26

NEWMARKET STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT



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- About From the Deck
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Hapua Thrive invitation

Saturday 22nd November 2025, 2pm to 3.30pm

Parnell Cricket Clubrooms between Thomas Bloodworth Park and Shore Road reserve

Hear about plans to restore the health of Waitaramoa / Hobson Bay and streams. Meet with decision makers, politicians, neighbours and local experts to have your say and get questions answered. Thanks to Hapua Thrive.

Image by Tushar Sharma,
Captured in the restoration area

Where are we at: About From the Deck

From the Deck arose in 2018 from our concerns about water quality in our stream, the Middleton Stream. Since then we have been on a steep learning curve. We have learnt that informed planting along the edge of the stream filters nasties and eases erosion; we have learnt about the necessity of maintaining that planting; the complex matter of flood control; the need to get rid of pest plants overwhelming native plants; the benefits of animal pest control : we all hear the birds : ruru, kereru, [shining cuckoo](#), piwakawaka, thrush, the ubiquitous tui.

We have now had eight years of support from the Auckland Council, our local boards, Orakei and Waitemata and the consistent support of councillors, Desley Simpson (Orakei), Richard Northey (Waitemata, now retired), and Margaret Voyce (Orakei Local Board) and Alexandra Bonham (Waitemata Local Board.)



Within the next two years we hope to have completed the planting that will enable our valley to flourish when some of us are long gone. The pest plants will have been overwhelmed by the native plants, but sadly nothing conquers the pest animals. Rats and possums will always need to be managed.



New Zealand Geographic: Making Gullies Great Again

We thought you could be interested to know we are not alone – [This article](#) in NZ Geographic is a great inspiration. And NZ Geographic is a beautiful, magazine. Look at subscribing if you can. Independent journalism needs all the support it can get.

Water Quality

Our planting has done something towards improving the quality of the Waitemata. But it is literally a drop in the ocean! Water quality is poor in both Newmarket Stream and Hobson Bay, with frequent sewage contamination from ageing infrastructure, especially during wet weather. In response, public health warnings have been issued for the area, and authorities are working on long-term fixes like the Hobson Bay Tunnel Project, while short-term measures like increased testing and repairs are in place. The upgrade project, described below, is part of the ongoing longer-term improvements.

Upgrade of sewage system and flood /slip remediation

This Repair Project began in early June 2025 and has now been completed. The scope is a large area at the top (western) area of the stream. A significant length (~50m) of the sewer pipes and two manholes were checked and repaired / replaced as necessary. In addition a large slip from the 2023 floods was remediated. The team has worked with From the Deck to replant suitable natives which have included irrigation timers to run sprinklers until the plants are established. Thank you to Watercare and their subcontractor Abergeldie.



Wastewater upgrades along the Middleton stream

The good news is that many of us have received notices from Watercare regarding the necessary wastewater renewal upgrades taking place along our stream. We have been in contact with them advising them of our planting. They have said that they are happy to meet with us and are also very respectful of the planting undertaken by From the Deck.



An invitation from Hapua Thrive

22nd Nov 2025, 2pm to 3.30
Parnell Cricket Clubrooms between Thomas Bloodworth Park and Shore Road reserve

Kia ora tātou,

Please join us with your neighbours, friends and whānau to:

- Hear more about investigations and plans to restore the health of Waitaramoa / Hobson Bay and streams.
 - Provide your ideas and support for how you would like to see Waitaramoa / Hobson Bay improve and thrive and what the opportunities are.
 - Meet with decision makers, politicians, neighbours and local experts to have your say and get questions answered.
 - Speakers from 2.10pm - 2.40pm with free BBQ and refreshments served after.
- Gratefully supported by Auckland Council, Ōrakei and Waitematā Local Boards, Watercare, Parnell Cricket Club and your neighbouring community groups.

Please also note we are working with Mountains to Sea to run another **free kayak event** from Te Tinana / Wilson beach, tentative date, Saturday 29 November, water quality permitting, more details to come.

Planting

Middleton Stream Slip Remediation Planting Report August

Below is an excerpt from the Te Ngahere report prepared by Braydon Burton. If you would like to see the report in full, please let us know and we can send it to you.

“The planting aims to reduce erosion risk at key points along Middleton Stream where significant slips have previously occurred. Two slip sites along Middleton Stream were remediated through targeted revegetation to stabilise soils, reduce erosion risk, and accelerate native habitat recovery. On the upper slip faces and drier mid-slope areas, fast-establishing coloniser species such as manuka, kanuka, karamu and mahoe were planted at close spacing to rapidly bind soil and provide canopy cover. Along the slip toes and wetter ground adjacent to the stream, species tolerant of periodic flooding and saturated soils, pukio, harakeke, toetoe, and kahikatea were used to secure banks and filter sediment. Ti kouka and karaka were interspersed through the mid and lower slopes for long-term structural diversity, while pohuehue was planted along exposed edges to provide low ground cover, suppress weeds, and reduce rain impact erosion. Across the 2 sites 843 plants were planted. This mix of deep-rooted colonisers, moisture-tolerant riparian species, and ground covers will help stabilise the slip faces once established and support the return of a self-sustaining native plant community.”

Braydon is no longer with Te Ngahere. We thank him for his great work for us, and wish him well.



Privet control

Te Ngahere has advised that their November visit marked the first of scheduled control rounds for this season. “The control involved a combination of cut-stump and foliar herbicide applications, depending on plant size and density. A large quantity of rubbish was observed along the north-western boundary of Section 3, appearing to have been dumped from neighbouring properties.”

Again, we plead with you not to put rubbish in our valley and to talk to your neighbours about this if they do not get our newsletter. Tell them to take their rubbish away, and also tell them our work is helping to stabilize the land and clean the stream. Invite them to join our group!



Rat update

“This year’s programme consists of three baiting pulses, scheduled for November, January/February, and April, to align with key breeding and foraging periods for target species. The first pulse, now underway, uses brodifacoum bait within established bait stations to achieve a strong initial reduction in rodent populations. Bait stations are being checked and re-baited as required to ensure consistent coverage and uptake. Subsequent pulses will focus on maintaining low pest numbers through the summer and autumn months, preventing reinvasion and allowing native birds, invertebrates, and seedlings to recover.”

Thank you to Edwin Ainley from Te Ngahere for these reports.

Parking in Newmarket: Changes are afoot to parking in Newmarket. You can have your say with [this link](#).

Eastern Songbirds Project: We had a visit from Jan Power who works with the amazing Eastern Songbirds Project and she [wrote a story](#) about us for their website

Fantastic groups working out west on our environment.

[Urban Ark](#)
[Matuku Link](#)

We plan a gathering for later in the New Year. Meanwhile we wish everyone the best for Christmas and the summer break.

Our Team

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

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