



Oakley Creek Te Auaunga - urban biodiversity hotspot!

Morphum Environmental Ltd report exciting news on their website, <http://www.morphum.com/> A few weeks ago, they were monitoring the stream ecology with staff from Mahurangi Technical Institute for the Auckland Council, using an electric fishing technique. Downstream from the waterfall turns out to be an urban biodiversity hotspot, with some very interesting fish. They were pleased to find both shortfin and longfin eels, particularly as longfins are now listed as in decline. There were many redfin bullies 'with beautifully coloured fins and cheeks ... hanging out in the rocky riffles.' And, most exciting - a large and apparently heavily pregnant torrentfish! Torrentfish are also known as papanoko or shark bullies. The significance of this find is best explained by the scientists themselves.

Quentin O'Brien, Mahurangi Technical Institute:

'The single, apparently heavily gravid Torrentfish female, *Cheimarichthys forsteri*, caught in Oakley Creek on the 20/05/2011, during an electro-fishing survey, was approximately 120mm long and probably represents a 2 year old fish. This could be indicative of either a larger population that was not observed or of a relic population due to 'Urban Stream Syndrome'.

There are a number of constraints in surveying due to the timing of the survey that could well indicate that the former is the case in that:

1. Torrentfish in the Waikato region are known to breed in late summer/autumn.
2. Apparent downstream migrations of females to meet males are known to occur in other regions of the country.
3. Cooler temperatures reduce the efficacy of the electric fishing machine.
4. High conductivity levels at Oakley Creek reduce the efficacy of the electric fishing machine.

A relic population under a number of pressures primarily from urbanisation should not be ruled out. The only way for either theory to be confirmed would be an increase in monitoring with a range of methods utilised including electric-fishing, trapping and spotlighting.'

And, from the Morphum website:

'Torrentfish have quite particular habitat requirements, preferring swift flowing rocky riffles and are generally found in less-impacted waterways. Not much is known about these fish as they are quite secretive, but they are likely to eat midges, beetles and caddisflies.

The NIWA Freshwater Fish Database has records of fish found across the country and it appears there are not too many of these torrentfish in Auckland waters particularly not right in the middle of town. The only records in the Auckland urban area are in Meola Creek and are from two separate sampling efforts back in 1998 and 2004. These guys are pretty rare so it is very exciting to have them in our local creek.'



This apparently gravid (pregnant) torrentfish caused great excitement when it was found at Oakley Creek. When they emerge, the torrentfish larvae will be taken by the current out to sea, then survivors return to the stream as juveniles.
Photo: Morphum Environmental Ltd.

What is electric fishing?

by Justine Coup, Morphum Environmental Ltd

Electric fishing involves passing an electric current through the water in an effort to attract and stun fish. They are either pulled in the direction of the machine or they float to the surface where they are quickly caught in a net and identified. By this stage they are generally wide awake again (a matter of seconds) and they are released downstream of the sampling site.

Electric fishing must be undertaken by certified professionals, for both the safety of the fish and of the people standing in water with electricity!! The benefit of this method is that fish are caught quickly with relatively little stress. As the fish are stunned, they can be easily measured and there is less risk of them damaging their fins - as would happen if they were moving around in a net. Another example might be where a net is used to chase the fish around; the water gets dirty which is likely to induce more stress in the fish.

This method is useful for wadeable streams and is best used in conjunction with other methods (e.g. night spotlighting or trapping) as some species are less sensitive to the machine. Electric fishing does not work in water that is particularly deep or if the conductivity of the water is very high (often the case in urban streams due to pollution).

SH20 Waterview Connection Update

by Heather Docherty

Dates for your diary

Saturdays 13th & 20th August - Possum Monitoring

Sunday 14th August - Community Tree Planting

Sunday 4th September - Community Working Bee

Saturdays 17th & Sunday 18th September - Rodent Monitoring

Sunday 18th September - Auckland Heritage Festival Guided Walk

See www.oakleycreek.org.nz or contact Wendy John by emailing info@oakleycreek.org.nz or ph 815 3101 for more information about these activities.

The final decision has been released by the Environment Court Board of Inquiry, granting consents for the NZ Transport Authority's SH20 Waterview Connection project, with a number of lengthy and detailed conditions. These conditions have been through much iteration, and now include specific details for which Friends of Oakley Creek have fought hard.

We have made a number of significant gains, including the condition on NZTA maintaining riparian plantings being increased from 2 years to 10 years, and the planting of a riparian area prior to the establishment of the construction yard in Waterview Glades. Environmental quality monitoring will be carried out more frequently and reviewed and shared amongst professionals.

Other gains that we and the wider community fought for include cycle/pedestrian connectivity between Alan Wood Reserve, Unitec and Waterview - including a crossing over the railway line by Pak'n'Save (Soljak Bridge) and one across the creek from Unitec to Waterview (referred to as the Alford Bridge). Also, NZTA will transfer 1.9 ha of land at the top NE corner of Alan Wood / Hendon Reserve over to Auckland Council for open space when construction has finished. The Friends are also specifically listed for inclusion in the Community Liaison Group, which will enable us to comment on detailed planting plans and the tree schedule amongst other things, once construction has begun.

The vent stacks will only be 15 metres high, but the Northern Portal will be moved across the road onto the edge of the Oakley Creek Reserve - close to the BP Service Station - to shift it away from Waterview Primary School.

The process was complex, with our lawyer, Douglas Allan, and expert witnesses, Shona Myers and Bronwyn Rhynd, being funded to work with Auckland Council and NZTA on the fine-tuning of conditions by a further grant from the Ministry for the Environment's Environmental Legal Assistance fund



Queen of all she surveys ...

Photo: W. John

Monitoring and Pest Control Update

Left: The rodent and mustelid monitoring team - a briefing from Alicia then they are ready to go.

Right: Carolyn Dwyer and John Dwyer (not related!) refuelling the rodent bait stations.

Photos: W. John.



Does rodent baiting work along Oakley Creek? by Alicia Warren

We have been using enclosed rodent bait stations containing Ditrac bait to protect lizards, weta and eggs or nestlings of birds from being eaten by rats. The bait stations are in 2 lines (one on each side of the creek) for a distance of about a kilometre. To monitor how well this system works at controlling rats, we needed to compare the section of the creek where the rodent bait is available to the area without rodent bait. To also take into consideration that rodent numbers go up and down a lot naturally, 3 times a year we put tracking cards, baited with peanut butter, out for a night. We put the tracking cards in both the baited and non-baited area from the railway line to Phyllis Reserve. We have 3 lines of ten cards in each of these areas.

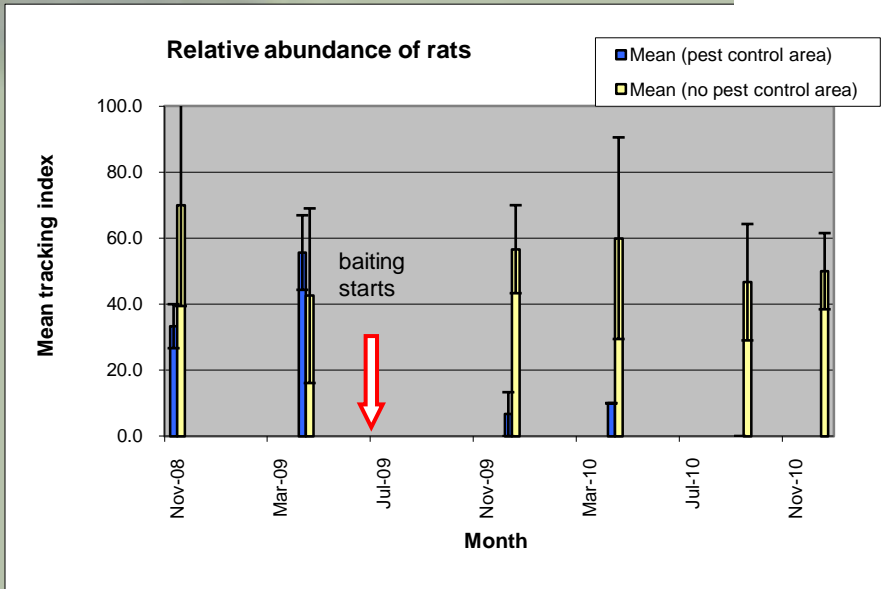
The tracking tunnel cards are made of a long rectangle of white card and they have ink in the middle portion of the card. The peanut butter is placed on a leaf in the centre of the ink. A rat who wants the peanut butter has to step in the ink. As the rat leaves, inky footprints are left behind on the white card. We've done this 6 times now.



Rat and mice footprints on tracking cards.

Photos: A. Stanton

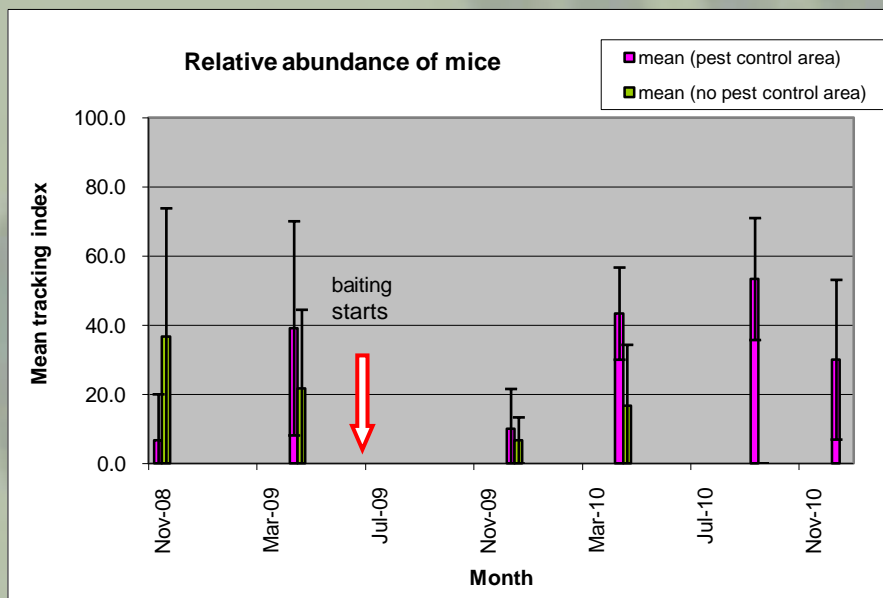
The Walkway area without rat bait has had an average tracking rate for 3 lines of between 40 to 70 per cent of the tracking cards showing rat footprints in all 6 time periods (see the yellow bars on the graph, below).



The area of the creek with rat bait showed similar abundance of rats in the 2 periods before the baiting started (between 33 and 56 percent). Baiting started in July 2009 and in the 2 periods during the next 12 months rat footprints were found on less than 10% of the cards in the baited area. And in the last 2 monitoring periods, no rat prints have been found on any of the tracking cards in the baited area (see the blue bars on the graph).

Our rodent baiting system is making a big difference to the number of rats living along Oakley Creek in the baited area.

Mice footprints on the other hand tell a different story.



Run, rat, run - an Oakley Creek survivor - for now!
Photos: DJ Court

In the no pest control area where rats have always been detected in high numbers, mice numbers have gone up and down between 36% and 0%. Similarly in the rodent baiting area before baiting started, the average tracking rate was 7% and 39% for the 2 periods. Since the rodent baiting started, the control of rats seems to have been good for mice. In the period only 5 months after baiting started, the mouse tracking rate was 10%, but in the next 3 periods has been between 30 and 53%. The Ditrac bait hasn't reduced the number of mice and the lack of rats seems to have been good for mice. (When the rats are away the mice will play.)

Does it matter that we have successfully controlled rats but not mice?

Rats are known to eat baby birds in the nest and even kill adult birds such as fantails while they are incubating eggs. They also eat lizards, invertebrates and seeds. Mice, being smaller, don't eat birds but do eat the smaller animals and seeds. So our rodent control has probably been effective protection for birds, but may not have been effective protection for the smaller wildlife such as lizards and invertebrates.

Can we keep mice as well as rats at lower levels?

Mice are notoriously difficult to control in the wild. We are modifying our rodent baiting regime this spring to see if we can do better. Rodent monitoring in September and December will let us know how we are going.



Left: The 'Rat Pack' - John's title for our wonderful Unitec Biodiversity 'rodent baiting' team, John Dwyer, Rowena Gilchrist, Lynne Langiono-Lahina and Jett Blake, who all graduated on April 20th. Congratulations!

Right: John Dwyer & James Lawson help with the annual checking and maintenance of monitoring equipment along the creek.

Photos: left, L. Lachica; right, W. John

Save our longfin eels! - # 1

Laura Torre, Wai Care Community Coordinator South, advises that a longfin eel webpage, developed by Manaaki Tuna, is now up and running at <http://www.longfineel.co.nz/>. Manaaki Tuna is a multi-disciplinary group comprised of academics, teachers and researchers from Massey University, iwi, hapu and environmental groups.

This website also has a link to the save the longfin eel petition to the Minister of Fisheries, calling for a moratorium on commercial fishing of this endangered endemic species. The Department of Conservation has now classified the longfin eel as "chronically threatened in gradual decline". Signs of this decline include a reduction in the size of juveniles and a significant imbalance in sex ratio, with a great many more males than females.

Oakley Creek wildlife encounters



Photos: W. John

Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga AGM

Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga AGM was held on the stormy evening of June 21st. There was a good turnout of members and supporters who braved the weather - thank you. Wendy John was re-elected as chairperson, Richard Nightingale as secretary and Jane Shand as Treasurer. The committee members for 2011/12 are Heather Docherty, Ross Ihaka, Dorothy Maddock, Helen Mellsop, Adrienne Stanton and Alicia Warren. We would like to express thanks to Alicia for her years as Treasurer and to welcome Jane. Thanks too, to Sarah Ross for her contribution to the committee last year.

Some minor amendments to the constitution, to reflect the society's approval for charitable status and the society's growing range of activities, were approved by the members.

Justine Coup, Morphem Environmental Ltd, gave an excellent presentation after the meeting about the comprehensive Oakley Creek Watercourse Management Plan, which was commissioned by the Auckland Council and prepared by Morphem. We described this report in our last newsletter issue and a summary can be found at <http://www.morphum.com>. It was most useful and interesting to hear about Morphem's work and how the information can be used for the future. The report identifies key areas where improvements to the stream can be made to greatest effect for the resources and effort required. Thank you very much, Justine.

Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga wins Wai Care award

Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga received an award at the recent annual Wai Care Expo this year for 'Awareness & Advocacy - telling your story'. Auckland Central Wai Care Coordinator, Taryn Pearce, writes: "This is due to all the work you do within the Oakley Community and wider to raise awareness about stream/riparian/freshwater issues and the behind the scenes work you do to push for change, with council and other partnerships you have created."



Houhere, lacebark (Hoheria populnea) flowers at Oakley Creek. Historically, both Maori and European settlers used the lacey fibres of the inner bark for bandages and embroidery.

Photo: W. John

Dear Wendy ... letters from Waterview Primary School

'... I really enjoyed learning and planting. It was so fun that I wanted to go again ... Oakley Creek is the best.' *from Sabawon*

'... Thank you for doing planting with us. I really enjoyed it. My favourite moment was taking the plant out of the pot because you had to hit it ... Oakley Creek is fascinating I like going there.' *from Mason*

'Thank you so much for showing me how to plant trees ... There was only one part I had trouble with. It was digging a hole because I wasn't strong enough. But then I remembered what you told us. You said to push the spade down with all my might so I did and I was so relieved that I actually dug a hole all by myself without anyone helping me! ...' *from Stella*

'... I also thank you for telling me about the worms or I would have freaked out then killed all the worms I saw. I love digging the most... I hope we can come back and plant more trees and test the water. I can't wait to see the trees grow.' *from Koreese*



'Thank you for letting us plant. I felt really happy. It was really FUN!!!! ... I really want to grow my own garden ... I hope we come back again.' *from Chloe*

'Thank you for taking us to see the flowers. They were nice plants ... I had so much fun when I was digging the hole for the plants ...' *from Ben*

'... It was really fun. It was really interesting ...' *from Nick*

Waterview Primary School students helping with planting on the creek. Friends of Oakley Creek and Wai Care worked with three classes over a number of weeks on the importance of looking after our streams, with other practical activities including water monitoring. Photo: W. John.



Dew jewel - on mapou.



The rise and fall of Oakley Creek.

Photos: W. John

Oakley Creek Limerick Challenge

For our puzzle section in this issue we present limericks inspired by the creek and challenge you to submit your own efforts to info@oakleycreek.org.nz or 4/65 Woodward Road, Mt Albert. We will publish these in the next issue - have fun!

A duckling who's no good at swimming,
One day found the creek to be brimming,
While out catching midges,
He was washed under bridges,
And into the culvert went spinning.

by Richard Stanton

There was an Oakley Creek skink,
Who scuttled right to the brink,
Of the bright waterfall,
Which was really quite tall,
So t'was lucky a beak 'saved' him, don't you think?

by Adrienne Stanton

Save our longfin eels! - # 2

Get your friends together for an evening to watch the excellent documentary, 'Longfin', directed and produced by Lindsey Davidson and Melissa Salpietra. You can find it at:

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/festival/play/6235/Longfin>

Global Radar - at Oakley Creek



Caught on film - A new 8 part series starring Te Radar screens on TV One from Sunday 7th August. Entitled. *Global Radar*, this new programme travels around NZ and the world to find ideas and inspiration on 'how to live in better harmony with our planet'. An episode on water, including footage from Oakley Creek, will be broadcast on **September 18th**.

Produced by Jam TV, the series aims to 'give us all the chance to see how people are making a difference to our world and to hopefully inspire more of us to join them.'

Further up the Creek by Dorothy Maddock

Some years ago, possibly in 2003, my friend, Robin Ingram, told me she knew where there was some maidenhair fern on a concrete block wall, up the creek, well beyond where anyone usually went. When a suitable day came along, Robin, Colin and I set off on a trip of exploration, upstream from the slightly developed path above the Cradock Street bridge.

In those days there was some maintenance done up in this area, even though it was not commonly used. It remained a treasure to those who wished to explore and those who could use the sewer pipe as a short cut to the supermarket.

Firstly, we came across a basalt-walled drain outlet, a work of the 1930s, and, a little further up, the sewer pipe with the obvious signs of use being a rough track uphill into the bush. Pushing on further we came to the outlet to the high-water overflow from Bollard Avenue - an excellent place for the graffiti artist. This had been put in, in the 1980s to ease flooding in Waitati Place and upstream of the Bollard Avenue culvert.



Quite close to the overflow outlet is the culvert where the creek comes through under the railway lines (*see photo, above left*), which are a good height above. Its facade is inscribed simply, "1949." This is the end of the line for the explorer in this area. One has to climb up a rather slippery track and emerge from the scrubby bush by the control box for the railway points.



It is about half way up this scramble that one can see, on the left, a concrete block wall with a rectangular hole in it, and with maidenhair fern clinging to it (*left*). When we first saw it we had very little idea what on earth it was there for. Also, there was a very large rusting pipe (*top right*), about 50cm in diameter, crossing the creek - another mystery!

Auckland isn't a very old city yet these relics seemed to have become quite quickly overgrown and known only to a few people.

Poking around in the Research Centre at the Auckland Central Library I found some clues. I already had a copy of part of an old White's Aviation photograph of 1940, of this area and it showed the railway line curved in a way that it isn't today. In old newspaper clippings I found some more answers.

Once upon a time there had been a railway bridge, described in *The New Zealand Herald*, 21st September, 1949, as being of "ironbark trestle piers with steel spans," across the creek. Standing by the wall, now, it is hard to imagine how the bridge would have looked. It is all so overgrown. It probably looked much the same as that which crossed the Whau River, up until the doubling of the railway lines, as the old Ministry of Works was in the habit of using the same designs where possible.

And the old rusty pipe? That turned out to have been part of the water supply for the city, which was abandoned when the railway line was straightened.

Oakley Creek is much more than just the Walkway ...



The tributary at Roma Rd (far left) presents a new opportunity for restoration - watch this space!

Wendy has been liaising with the new Local Boards and is discussing ideas for further enhancing Oakley Creek Te Auaunga throughout the whole catchment.

She also presented our submission to the St John Vianney (left - 317 Hillsborough Rd) Proposed Plan Modification hearing, asking for the protection of this area which is in the headwaters of the catchment.

Photos: W. John.

Spider Spotting Safari

Armed with cameras and torches, a keen group of ten joined arachnologist, David Court, on a spider hunt along Oakley Creek in the dark of an evening in late March - because that's when the spiders come out to hunt. While there are more than 2500 different spider species in New Zealand, the evening's focus was on the big ones, the spider megafauna. There was no need to go far, with plenty to see in just the gaban wall alone. Cathy Casey, who was one of the avid photographers, reported that "... there were spiders everywhere! What a lot of fun spidering is."

Right: Auckland banded tunnel-web spider (Hexathele hochstetteri, Family Hexathelidae) Female. Native. This species, which behaves like a small tarantula, is related to the dangerous and notorious Sydney funnel web spider, but this one is not considered a threat to humans. It lives in a bright white silken tube within old insect burrows in tree trunks or in rotted-out tree roots. The abdomen bears attractive chevron-like markings. It preys mainly on ground- or tree-dwelling crawling animals. Its darker New Zealand sister Porrhothele eats snails and Hexathele may sometimes do the same.



Left: Nursery web spider (Dolomedes minor, Family Pisauridae) Female. Native. This spider roams in the undergrowth, capturing many kinds of small animals. When its eggsac has matured to a certain point, the female encloses it within a silken 'nursery' on the upper part of a branch and remains on guard against predators and parasites. Two other species on the mainland are more closely associated with water. The fourth and very large species is confined to the Chatham Islands.



Bottom left: Large sheet web weaver (Cambridgea foliata, an ecribellate species currently in the predominantly cribellate Family Stiphidiidae). Male. Native. This is the dominant sheet web weaver in forest and other habitats. It runs below the sheet and bites at any prey falling onto the web. The prey is then wrapped. The males have more strongly developed jaws than the female.



Earlier in the day, David found a harvestman, which is an arachnid but not a spider. It responded to him firstly with a threat and then played dead ...

Below: Shorter-legged harvestman (Soerensenella sp?, Order Opiliones = harvestman, Suborder Laniatores, Family Triaenonychidae). Native. There are well over 160 native shorter-legged harvestman species in several families in New Zealand.

Not nearly enough is known about this very interesting group and it is possible that this Oakley Creek species is not yet described. Even if it has been described, it might prove to be very localised in distribution and worthy of special study. This would be a good research project for a high school student with an interest in New Zealand wildlife.



Did you know? - the supports for the original bridges on Oakley Creek came from Rangitoto ...

Neil Clarkson, ex-Auckland Council, recalls that during the early to mid 1980s the Auckland City Council ran an Employment Department which was responsible for a large number of people working under the Government's P.E.P scheme. They ran many projects, from the implementation of the Greenprint Walkways to Kerbing schemes - where the old basalt kerbs around Auckland were lifted and re-laid. The Employment Department operated out of 305 Queen Street, but had a work depot in the Western area that was based at the old Chamberlain Golf Club house, just across the road from Western Springs.

In another such project, the Employment Department took on the dismantling of the army buildings on Rangitoto Island and the materials from this were transported back to the mainland. Some of the large timber beams, (believed by Neil to be hardwood, possibly jarrah) were then used in the original footbridges and board-walks that were built for the Oakley Creek Walkway. Thank you for this information, Neil.

The Waterview Counter-Memorial by Ilse-Marie Erl, Lecturer in Contemporary Craft, UNITEC



My recent Masters in Design project took me from the insular environs of the jewellery workbench to the social environs of urban Auckland. Through research I was drawn to a revised and expanded arena where jewellery processes may relate to an entire social body, rather than being limited to the creation of objects pertaining to a single body.

This investigation of social value and meaning latent in contemporary jewellery practice engaged me in unanticipated notions of preciousness. The research culminated in the creation of a **counter-memorial** in the Auckland suburb of Waterview, a neighbourhood in which 115 houses and a park will be destroyed to make way for a state highway extension. Guided by discourses on counter-memorials articulated by theorist James E. Young, and the work of practitioners such as Jochen Gerz and Rachel Whiteread, I responded to a community confronted by major urban development. Processes typically employed within my jewellery making practice, were transferred and applied within the setting of a public walkway.

This investigation of social value and meaning



115 elements, **core samples from homes to be destroyed** or **car head and tail light plastic**, were implanted, without official sanction, in trees in the northern end of Oakley Creek Walkway. Remnants of places where people currently live or the machine that will lead to their destruction have been transposed to function not only as a geological information system, but as social, historical and political signifiers. **A trail of trees** has been activated as a **loquet of community memory**, and might now be understood as **public jewellery**.

This work is dedicated to the residents of Waterview who have been or will be displaced in the course of progressive city planning.

They're coming ...

From Sarah Ross: "A kaka flew into a puriri tree on Allendale Rd beside me today. I couldn't believe it."

How long has it been since kaka have visited Mt Albert? This is very exciting news! Please let us know of any sightings at Oakley Creek.



Web fungi (far left) and Amanita muscaria (left).

Photos: W. John

Weed Watch

This section of the newsletter features details about weeds that threaten the native plants along Oakley Creek. You can help by tackling these at the stream and in your garden, if present. In this issue:

Arundo donax, Poaceae - Arundo grass, Giant reed



This widespread Eurasian grass has been nominated for inclusion in the top 100 of the 'World's Worst' invaders according to the Global Invasive Species Database and it flourishes along Oakley Creek too. Arundo grass looks like bamboo but has softer drooping canes, especially around the outside edges of the plant. The canes grow 6 to 8 metres in length while its large rhizomatous root mass can be 1 metre thick and can spread over several hectares! Fortunately, the fluffy purplish inflorescence rarely sets seed in New Zealand, so far. Arundo grass is well established in the northern North Island and occurs as far south as Haast, spreading from root fragments.

Favouring sunny and damp riparian areas, especially places with high nitrogen levels, this grass tolerates a wide variety of soils and salinity. Its fast growth rate means it readily smothers native species and can block waterways, causing flooding.

Overseas, Arundo grass is used as an ornamental plant and for industrial cellulose production. It is also used to make reeds for woodwind instruments and, historically, organ pipes. However, some musicians have developed serious contact dermatitis from this species.



Ruairi Flynn
(Unitec Biodiversity Student) & Toby Ross
(Duke of Edinburgh Award Community Service)
- regular volunteers removing arundo grass on the creek.



Plant Me Instead is the title of a useful book produced by the Department of Conservation. Published in 2005, it is written for the lower North Island, but still contains much that is applicable to Auckland. On the left of each double spread, a common invasive weed is described and then, on the right, a list of native and some non-invasive introduced plants that could be used to replace that weed. All the plants are illustrated with colour photos,

For example, suggested replacements for **arundo grass** are: the wetland rushes, *Juncus pallidus*, *J. gregiflorus*, and *Baumea articulate*; the giant umbrella sedge, *Cyperus ustulatus*; the reed, oioi, *Apodasmia similis*; the grass, pukio, *Carex secta*; and the NZ flax, harakeke *Phormium tenax*-plants which, in this case, are all natives.

Plant Me Instead is available for loan from Auckland City Libraries, call number 632.5.

Control: Cut the arundo grass close to the ground and spray the regrowth, while it is still short, with herbicide. Several repeat sprayings will be required. Dig out the root mass and dispose of all plant parts at a refuse transfer station or by burning - note that dry arundo grass is very flammable. Gloves and protective clothing should be worn when handling arundo grass as the leaves have sharp edges which can cut. Skin contact with this grass can also cause dermatitis.

Photos: top left: A. Stanton; above: W. John

Out and about

Photos: W. John



Site Care removing weeds - Site Care is the name of the organisation that is contracted by the BP service station to maintain their land on Great North Rd. In this picture, the guys are 'in the bush' removing woolly nightshade, moth plant vines and pods, tree privet and other weeds. Wendy contacted BP to remind them of their responsibilities, asking them to remove weed seed sources - particularly to prevent the moth plant from spreading into the west side of the creek below the service station. They then got on to the weeding promptly - thanks BP and Site Care.



Gladstone Primary School

Rm 40 - Oakley Creek 30.5.2011

Gladstone Primary School students enjoyed being at the creek again in May, making the most of their neighbourhood. They had a busy time, water monitoring plus observing and drawing nature. during a joint session provided by Friends of Oakley Creek and Wai Care. The insect in the photo above is a damselfly nymph, found during the water monitoring.



One Tree Hill College students posed for this photo after a hard day's work in Harbutt Reserve, clearing moth plant pods (below left).

Photo: Dawn Gasparo



Site prep for replanting in drilling sites. Watch out below!



Left: Youth Environment Leaders Forum (YEM) - Oakley Creek was chosen as one of the field trip locations for a group of students from the national Sir Peter Blake Youth Environment Leaders Forum, to carry out Stream Ecological Evaluation (SEV) monitoring with Wai Care

Invertebrate monitoring is a popular activity at the creek.

Above left: Ex Friends of Oakley Creek Committee Member, Dominic Hutching with Sophie Hyson, University Students.

CVNZ local team: 'There's flax in them thar weeds' - clearing morning glory from around harakeke in Phyllis Reserve (below).



Film crew at the waterfall
Left: 'Yellow' film crew filming Friends of Oakley Creek for publicising through the Yellow Pages Community Participation programme - <http://auckland.yellowlocal.co.nz/waterview/>

Te Whare Wanaanga o Awanuiarangi environmental studies students (and Wendy, right) went on a 'history tour' of Unitec Campus and the Oakley Creek Te Auaunga Walkway, led by their kaumatua, Matua Abe Rangi,



May Community Planting - the first of the year.



Collectively Kids looked for Badjelly the Witch on Oakley Creek (left). We have had two planting sessions and, apparently, Badjelly the witch helped with one - so she was in the children's good books for that day.



Dealing with the woollies - the end of a hard day's work - Jean Barton, Keith Ayton (left) and Kit Howden gave their time, yet again, to Oakley Creek and 'attacked' the woolly nightshade and wattle in Phyllis Reserve. What a great team - thanks!



Auckland Council Parks Volunteer Co-ordinator, David Bowden (above), made the finishing touches to the specimen trees planted in War Memorial Park, Mt Roskill, with the participation of **Wesley Intermediate students**.



Buchanan Rehabilitation Team and the **CVNZ local team** have done a great job of laying the new floor for our area in the nursery shadehouse at Unitec (left) - it looks really impressive, thanks!



We need more of these - the rain garden below the car park at Keith Hay Park in the Oakley Creek upper catchment. *Photo: A. Stanton.*



ASB Community Trust

Te Kaitiaki Pūtea o Tamaki o Tai Tokerau

supported by ASB

We gratefully acknowledge the support of WWF-New Zealand, ASB Community Trust, The Trusts Charitable (Portage Trust), Auckland Council and Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS).

Next Newsletter

News, articles, contributions and comments for the next newsletter are welcome and can be sent to info@oakleycreek.org.nz

New Members Welcome, Donations Too!

We would welcome more members (\$10.00) and/or donations towards the work we are doing to protect and restore our wonderful urban 'taonga' - Oakley Creek Te Auaunga. Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible.

Contributions can be made directly into our bank account:

Friends of Oakley Creek - Kiwibank - A/c 38-9003-0978224-00

or cheques, made out to 'Friends of Oakley Creek', can be sent to: 4/65 Woodward Road, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025.



Friends of Oakley Creek

Te Auaunga

Chairperson: Wendy John Treasurer: Jane Shand Secretary: Richard Nightingale
Committee: Heather Docherty, Ross Ihaka, Dorothy Maddock, Helen Mellsop, Alicia Warren.
Newsletter Editor: Adrienne Stanton
Ph. 09 - 815 - 3101

info@oakleycreek.org.nz

www.oakleycreek.org.nz