



Keas flock to Oakley Creek!



Kea Scouts that is ... these keas were six and seven year old children, who walked along Oakley Creek as part of a national event on Sunday 19th May - the 'Keas in Action Hike'. From all over west and central Auckland, about 150 Keas, leaders and family gathered together at Phyllis Reserve and then set off downstream in a very long line. Afternoon tea was by the waterfall, then the group went on down to the open space for a few words from Wendy about the stream. On the return, fallen plane tree leaves were collected for making leaf rubbings later. All the Keas received a special badge for going on the hike and Friends of Oakley Creek did too!

Kea Scouts get involved in activities that allow them to interact with nature, create and learn to share through co-operation and team effort. Keas is a simple, flexible and positive group experience where the accent is on sharing and fun. Go to <http://region1.scouts.org.nz/> for more information and to find a group near you or phone 0800 Scouts.



Photos: A. Stanton

**My oh my!
Mystery member of
megafauna moves in
at Oakley Creek ...**

We're not sure of its dietary requirements yet - anyone gone missing?

Photo: W. John

Matariki - time to plant

Matariki is the Maori New Year, time of new life and new growth, signalled by the dawn rising of the Matariki star constellation (also known as Pleiades or the Seven Sisters). Historically, Maori would plant their new crops, trees and medicinal plants at Matariki and this timing is still relevant to us today. So please come and join us for our Matariki tree planting at Oakley Creek, on Sunday 7th July at 10.00 am. And, you might like to attend other Matariki activities around the city - for details see <http://www.matarikifestival.org.nz>

Waterview Precinct

The final version of the Waterview Precinct Plan, now endorsed by the Albert-Eden Local Board, and the feedback summary report is available at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/representativesbodies/LocalBoards/AlbertEdenlocalboard/Pages/albertedenplans.aspx



Dates for your diary

Bring your family and friends - and spread the word about:

Saturday 29th June, 9.00 - 11.00 am Annual Bird Monitoring - as part of the Annual Garden Bird Survey (which you can also carry out in your own garden, from 29 June - 7 July - see www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/birds/garden-bird-surveys) Meet at the Student Residence carpark in Unitec campus - access from Great North Rd, opposite Alveston St or through Unitec, Gate 4, Carrington Rd. Bring warm, wet weather clothing, bird ID book and binoculars if you have them, something dry to sit on and maybe a thermos and snack. The website www.whatbird.co.nz is also an excellent new resource now available to bird watchers.

Sunday 7th July, 10.00 am - noon: Matariki Community Planting

Sunday 4th August, 10.00 am - noon: Community Planting

See www.oakleycreek.org.nz or contact Wendy John, by emailing info@oakleycreek.org.nz or phone 815 3101 for more information.

SH20 Update by Wendy John

Things are moving apace on the motorway construction, with the preparatory work on target for the tunneling to commence once the tunnel machine is assembled on site. The machine parts will arrive in July. All of the stream realignments in Alan Wood Reserve are completed, with the initial stages of planting done. However, the level of flooding in this area has somewhat caught the Well Connected Alliance (WCA -SH20 construction consortium) by surprise, with eels getting above the silt protection fences during high peak flows, and their staff having to help them get back to the creek.

The WCA has provided plants for one of our planting sites this winter, and we are working with them on plans for future plantings over the coming years in a number of locations. The WCA is also working closely with the community, including Friends of Oakley Creek, on things such as the design of Waterview Reserve.

Lizard monitoring

This year's lizard monitoring in the Lizard Management Area, carried out by Kieran Miller from Tonkin & Taylor, on behalf of the Well Connected Alliance, has been completed.



Photos: W. John

A number of copper skinks (*Cyclodina aenea*) were sighted in the lizard refuges - including a baby (above left). It is encouraging that the copper skinks that were relocated from further up the catchment, as part of the motorway construction project, are breeding in their new habitat.

Friends of Oakley Creek AGM

Wendy's Chairperson's Report this year once again reminded us about the huge range of activities and number of people involved at and around Oakley Creek. It led to a wide ranging discussion with lots of good ideas being put forward about even more that could be done, so we need lots more help!

For now, please check the job list (right) to see if you are able to help us with any of the tasks.

Members of last year's executive and committee were re-elected and we warmly welcome new committee member, Kim Maree. Wendy's report is available on our website, www.oakleycreek.org.nz

Subscription Reminder - it's that time of year again so please re-new your membership now - only \$10!

Subscription payment information is available at the end of this newsletter.

After the AGM, Justine Coup, Auckland Council, shared her knowledge about inanga, which was of great interest and relevance, now that we are helping to monitor these fish at Oakley Creek - see more about this below (Out and about...). Thanks, Justine.

To do list - can you help?

- + On the ground help at planting days / working bees e.g. laying out plants and assisting volunteers
- + Newsletter distribution - someone to deliver some printed copies of the newsletter each quarter, mainly around Mt Albert, Pt Chev and Avondale
- + Maintaining membership database and sending out membership notices etc.
- + Scrapbooking - the archival material (e.g. newspaper articles featuring Oakley Creek) needs filing
- + Plant nursery work - regular help is needed potting up seedlings
- + Activity promotion - someone to help publicise our activities e.g. media releases, posters / fliers, and someone to help put up posters
- + Website and facebook - someone to load content (training available)
- + Fundraising - help with preparing applications to funding bodies
- + Submissions - help with writing submissions on, for example, council plans and policies, development consent applications.

If you can help, please contact Wendy John, by emailing info@oakleycreek.org.nz or phone 815 3101, or 027 232 6454

Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre Garden Group

Each month the Buchanan Rehabilitation Garden Centre Group visit Oakley Creek to contribute to its restoration. This includes working in the nursery - potting on and weeding the young plants, and tree planting. In May, they carried out their quarterly water monitoring on the Wairaka Stream, just up from where it converges with the main creek. Thanks, Karen and team.

Weed control in Harbutt Reserve

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken by Te Ngahere in Harbutt Reserve over the last few months. Weed control has begun in an area at the south west end of the reserve, with plans for planting this in the future. Also, weed control continues in the Mahoe Rock Forest areas, with the first planting taking place in Area C of this rare ecosystem type, in July. It is very exciting to see such great progress. Privet, ginger, *Tradescantia*, climbing asparagus beware!



Wendy encountered the Unitec Early Learning Centre - Whare Pukeko group enjoying the creek recently.

Photo: R. Frankland

How do we choose which species to plant? by Adrienne Stanton

Oakley Creek Te Auaunga native restoration sites differ in various ways - underlying geology and its surface expression, soil features, aspect (which direction the area faces), slope, wind exposure, distance from the stream / moisture regime (e.g. is it subject to flooding, fresh water or tidal?) and history (e.g. was the area previously used as a rubbish tip?). These factors affect which species are able to grow at each site as well as which species are likely to originally have grown there. In addition, the stream's urban situation places constraints on what can be planted - heritage areas restrict planting (e.g. deeply rooted species cannot be planted in areas of archaeological significance); pathways and stormwater infrastructure require access; and safety concerns also restrict the use of some species, such as stinging nettle or bush lawyer.

In order to know which species can grow in particular conditions, scientific research is relied on - looking at species distributions (both historical and current, at a large and small scale) and at the results of growth experiments. Evidence from elsewhere is also considered, such as the experience from other restoration sites and from landscape architects and the plant nursery industry.

In order to work out which species might have originally grown at each site, historical surveys are consulted and similar, more intact near-by sites are inspected. These latter sites are known as reference sites. For example, plant ecologist Leslie Haines has recently suggested that Lowtherhurst Reserve, Massey, could be a reference site for cooler, steep, south facing, clay soil sites at Oakley Creek.

Another consideration in species selection is the successional stage of the planting. At a large open site under natural conditions, native pioneer species are the first to establish; then the plant community gradually changes in composition to a stable, mature community, if no further disturbance occurs. At Oakley Creek and other urban sites, exotic weed species are the first to establish, which is why we need to help! At our sites, planting at a more advanced successional stage is preferred:

- to shorten the process;
- because there is very low diversity and quantity of native seed near-by;
- to establish a diverse native seed source for future natural regeneration;
- because the plantings need to take public amenity objectives into consideration as well as ecosystem restoration - see article on nature deficit disorder below;
- to conserve native biodiversity; and
- as an educational and advocacy tool (for the public to care about conserving areas of high biodiversity elsewhere, they need to be able to relate to its value locally, rather than think impoverished ecosystems are normal and acceptable).

It is possible for us to plant at a later successional stage because we plant saplings or large seedlings, rather than simply dispersing seed into the area - these larger plants can then grow rapidly, as they would naturally if suddenly exposed to a canopy gap caused by a treefall, for example. Any deep-shade loving plant species do need to be infill planted later, however.

Lowtherhurst Reserve, Massey - a model for some parts of Oakley Creek?

Photo: A. Stanton



How do we choose which species to plant? ... continued

So, a rich diversity of species are chosen for the specific environmental features of the site being restored, using the current best practice and knowledge - and modifying selections as new knowledge comes available. With this in mind, we welcome your input and discussion about the following:

Issues

1. Now that we know that plant specimens should be eco-sourced, so that natural evolutionary processes can occur and plants are suited to the local district, should we weed out and replace, for example, the native plantings of the 1980s of unknown origin, (e.g. above the Oakley Creek Walkway gabion wall)? Remember that garden centre sourced native hybrids will be just over the fence in neighbouring gardens.

2. We are restoring the tree and shrub flora and hope to further restore the understorey, but what about soil organisms? In areas of Oakley Creek that have been under exotic vegetation for some considerable time, such as the privet forest, the original soil biota has also probably been extensively modified. Of even greater concern, those areas which are ex landfill must be even more severely modified. What about mosses, liverworts and lichens? What about plant-animal interactions? We would like to restore whole ecosystem processes.

3. There are many exotic plant species at Oakley Creek and its environs, some of which many consider desirable - for example, the heritage oaks and open space rank grass. Exotic ornamentals, food plants and weeds grow on neighbouring private land. There is growing community demand for sustainable exotic species food production and permaculture in local parks generally and such plantings already exist at the neighbouring Unitec campus. What are the impacts of all these exotic species? Note that there may be some positive impacts in the short term, such as wattle as a nectar source (acknowledged at the Tiritiri Matangi Island Sanctuary) and the tall pines providing heron nest sites. How can the negative impacts be managed?

One solution may be to take a rigorous approach to the restoration of the mahoe rock forest (being a rare forest ecosystem type) and of the lower reaches of the stream (being the interface with the Motu Manawa Marine Reserve), plus buffer zones around these areas. While still aiming at best practice restoration in other areas, some compromise may be necessary.

4. Can we and should we also be restoring aquatic native plants into the stream?

5. What about climate change? It is predicted that as well as warming, the climate may feature greater extremes in future - perhaps plants, especially long-lived species, should not be locally eco-sourced, but sourced from northern island populations that may be more resilient?

6. Will we know when we are finished, when we don't need to plant any more native plants? (You can have quite a while to think about that one!)

Thanks to Leslie Haines, Wendy John, Melissa Marler, Helen Mellsop, Shona Myers and this year's Plant Conservation Network Conference for inspiring this article and questions for discussion.

Oakley Creek Te Auaunga find the phrase

Answer the clues then solve the hidden phrase - solution at the end of the newsletter.

1 2 3 4 5 2 3 6

I fly silently through the night

7 8 9

I love nectar and singing

10 6 9 11 6

I have scales and a tail ... and four legs

12 13 11 7 13 9 14

I flit about displaying my fine tail

5 8 6 4 6 2

My long toes are good for walking through the swamp, but I can also perch on punga

Phrase: 5 14 13 11 7 7 3 4 4 10 12 2 3 1 13 7 13 3 9 6 9 1



Open wide! Karo, Pittosporum crassifolium fruit at Harbutt Reserve - is it an appropriate species and how far will these seed travel?
Photo: A. Stanton

Proof it's a great place

Seattle musician Shenandoah Davis was filmed for the video for her song *Proof* at Oakley Creek in March last year and it is now online - the result is very cool! It was directed, produced, and edited by Ian Craig Young Brown - take a look at <http://vimeo.com/48381694>

Wendy met Shenandoah, who was touring NZ at the time, when they were doing some of the filming.

Welcome back cuckoo - the movie

If you were unable to attend the Welcome Back Cuckoo festival held at the waterfall last spring or want to re-live the experience, you can also now watch Sam Polkinghorne's movie online at <http://youtu.be/vIEQXqKkNGw> - thanks Sam!



Wairaka Stream waterfall & fish ladder high flow.
Photo: W. John

Have you read ...

Have you read *The sound of a wild snail eating*, by Elisabeth Tova Bailey? It is a fascinating account of the author's sickbed study of a snail, brought to her on a violet plant by a friend.

And, you can hear the sound on her website, www.elisabethtovailey.net

Nature Deficit Disorder by Nigel Mather

Nature Deficit Disorder (NDD) is a term I wasn't familiar with. So I googled it. And this is what I found out.

The term NDD is credited to Richard Louv, who developed the hypothesis that a wide range of behavioural problems are resulting from people spending less time outdoors¹. In particular his theory is relative to children.

The theory is based on extensive interaction with parents and children around the USA over a 10 year period. Here are some of the things he says about what makes it so destructive and debilitating:

- Children develop a limited respect for their immediate surroundings.
- Can result in development of attention disorders and depression. There are numerous examples of improvements in psychological development following increased exposure to nature and the outdoors, including the website listed below².
- Lower school performance results from development and mood disorders.
- Child obesity continues to be a growing problem.

This is all pretty serious sounding stuff. Surely there would be some significant causes of a disorder that created problems such as these. Not really, it seems. Here are some of the key reasons, according to Louv:

- Parents. Parents have a large amount of control over their children's lives, and may be over-protecting their children. This may be based on parents' growing fear of stranger danger, which is heavily fuelled by sensationalist media.
- Loss of natural surroundings, particularly in urban settings. The 'look but don't touch' mantra, and 'stay on the trail' protections may be limiting true interaction with the environment.
- Lure of the screen. Computer, phones, television provide an increasing number of reasons for children to stay inside. Apparently, American children spend on average 44 hours a week with electronic media.

Nature deficit disorder is not a recognised medical disorder, but there is a growing body of evidence which suggests human interaction with nature has a significant link to wellbeing. Even English romantic poets in the 18th century wrote about nature's healing ways, and Chinese Taoists understood that gardening was beneficial to health². And who doesn't feel invigorated by spending some time in the garden, walking at the local creek (particularly Oakley Creek), getting windblown at a local beach, or hiking to the top of a nearby peak? The concept of using interaction with nature and green spaces to improve mental wellbeing has also been given a name: Ecotherapy. But that is another topic of another time.

¹Louv, R. 2005. Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder. Algonquin Books.

²http://www.canadianliving.com/moms/family_life/are_your_kids_really_spending_enough_time_outdoors_2.php

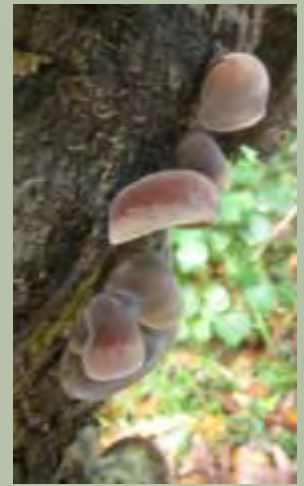
³Fletcher, K, 2012. *Ecotherapy in Pontiac*. The Equity, May 30th 2012.

Red-vented bulbul - pest bird alert



Red-vented bulbuls are the size of a starling. The one key feature that distinguishes Red-vented bulbuls from other birds commonly found in New Zealand is a small patch of bright red feathers beneath the tail. The Red-vented bulbul also has a very distinctive call, which can be heard at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/red-vented-bulbul

If you see this bird in the Auckland region or anywhere in the country, please immediately report the sighting by contacting the Ministry for Primary Industries Pest and Disease free phone 0800 80 99 66.



Autumn fungi.

Photos: W. John



What fish live in Oakley Creek?

Native fish

Longfin eel *Anguilla dieffenbachii*
Shortfin eel *Anguilla australis*
Torrentfish *Cheimarichthys forsteri*
Banded kokopu *Galaxias fasciatus*
Inanga *Galaxias maculatus*
Common bully *Gobiomorphus cotidianus*
Redfin bully *Gobiomorphus huttoni*
Common smelt, cucumber fish *Retropinna retropinna*

Introduced pest fish

Goldfish *Crassius auratus*
Koi carp *Cyprins carpio*
Gambusia/mosquitofish *Gambusia affinis*

Koi Carp - please report any sightings to us asap (text 027 232 6454 or email info@oaklycreek.org.nz) - date / time / location - photos would be good, too

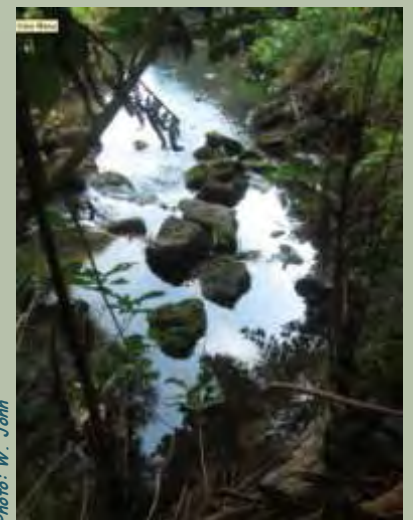


Photo: W. John

Near my back yard by Dorothy Maddock

Sometimes it happens that what is quite near to your home lies undiscovered and, as a result, undervalued.

I did not get to know the part of Oakley Creek that flows about two hundred metres from our place, at its nearest point, until about 2001. Then, I was amazed at how near it was, and, at the same time, so far away. At that time I had to go right down Bollard Avenue almost to the intersection with New North Road and follow the creek back upstream to the peninsula, which is below Odyssey House and which was formed thousands of years ago, flowing around the end of a tongue of lava from Mt Albert.



New planting

When it seemed safe to do so, because of recent rain, in early May I took some small plants over to the park and put them in gaps where I hoped they would be happy. One of these, a hangehange, I planted in a part of the tongue where I knew there could be flooding.

Floating plants (right) and flood debris (far right).



A few days later the heavens opened, and there was brief flooding, leaving lots of washed up debris against the trunks of trees and almost smothering some small plants. In the afternoon, in a break in the weather, I took the camera with me when I went to inspect the area. I photographed the rubbish around the sign put in by the Well Connected Alliance and a raft of plants caught up in the high water. Then I thought I would photograph the hangehange, but . . ."Change the batteries". With a click and a quiet whirr the camera turned itself off and that was that. Grrrrrrrr!

The hangehange was quite safe, as it has turned out, but its picture is yet to be taken.

Planting impressions by André Hendriks



May community planting at Harbutt Reserve

Photo: W. John

On my first weekend as a new resident to Auckland, I was asked if I would like to help at the Creek with planting trees. All good with me, I love to be outside, doing something towards the community. And the most important part - I didn't have to go to Rotorua for a mud treatment, all for free in Auckland when you're planting trees.

It was my first time helping with planting trees. And it's been good, sure I will be back for more. Next time when I am walking next to the Creek, I will see some trees, planted by me. Pretty cool.

It was a good morning and I loved the passion people have when they're doing these things. My background is being a farmer boy in Holland and I've done a lot of work in the past with helping a group who were maintaining a local forest - mainly cutting down trees for firewood! So something new to be planting them.

Loving the stream by Alasdair Rigby

Office staff put on their gumboots and old clothes after work recently to clean up the Oakley Creek tributary that runs behind the Stoddard Road Well Connected Alliance offices. They picked up rubbish and cut down 'weed' trees. It was all in aid of the 'Love the Stream' project, to leave this previously unloved backwater a better place. The stream banks will next be sprayed out and planted with natives.

Right: One of the team members removes an old TV from the streambank; and below: The Love the Stream team in front of the skip packed with unwanted vegetation. Photo: Well Connected Alliance



From the history stream ...

A report to the Avondale Community Board in March 1995, from Auckland City Council (Horticultural Officer):

2.3 Community Input

Contrary to the Wiseman-Dare Report, there has been public input into the direction of Oakley Creek Walkway by way of the Friends of Oakley Creek which was formed in 1993. Although the group was initiated by the Parks Section, council officers encouraged the community to run the group with Council providing the necessary resources. Unfortunately the group has not progressed since late 1993. Oakley Creek Walkway has also received help through community working bees organised by the Kiwanis Club, Community Planting Days, Waterview Primary School and a Community Clean Up held in 1993.

Does anyone know someone who was involved back then? Chris Kiwi remembers that the Kiwanis Club symbol was imprinted into the concrete at Phyllis St Reserve, where the path leads from Metro to the Walkway, by the wooden seat.



For the bees and the butterflies - plants for your garden

To foster native **butterflies** at Ambury Park, Jennifer Lawn, Conservation Ranger, reports that the following species are being planted. You may also like to plant some of these in your garden.

Plants to feed butterfly larvae (caterpillars):

Stinging Nettle *Urtica incisa*
Tree Nettle *Urtica ferox* (Dangerous plant)
Kowhai *Sophora chathamica*
Broom *Carmichaelia australis*
NZ pellitory *Parietaria debilis*
Australina pusilla

Plants which provide good sources of nectar for adult butterflies:

Shrubs

Tawhero *Weinmannia silvicola*
Rangiora *Brachyglottis repanda*
Tauhinu *Ozothamnus leptophyllus*
Koromiko *Hebe stricta*
Hebe macrocarpa
Kumerahou *Pomaderris kumeraho*
Tauripo *Rhabdothamnus solandri*

Vines

Scarlet climbing rata *M. fulgens*
NZ jasmine *Parsonsia heterophylla*

Trees

Akepiro *Olearia furfuracea*
Five finger *Pseudopanax arboreus*
Toothed lancewood *P. ferox*
Lancewood *P. crassifolius*
Houpara *P. lessonii*

Urban Trees for Bees is a project which encourages planting nectar rich species to increase bee populations and hence plant pollination - http://podcast.radionz.co.nz/ideas/ideas-20130414-1007-ideas_for_14_april_2013-048.mp3 In addition to some of the nectar plants above, they promote the following natives as being good for bees:

Cabbage tree *Cordyline australis*
Harakeke, flax *Phormium tenax*
Lacebark *Hoheria populnea*
Pohutukawa *Metrosideros excelsa*
Rewarewa *Knightia excelsa*



From far left: Umbrella Moss covered rocks, tree fern and streamside ferns.

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 them at the stream and in your garden, if present. In this issue:

Ligustrum sinense, Oleaceae - chinese privet



- + small tree, up to 5m tall
- + forms a dense canopy or sub-canopy preventing native seedling establishment
- + tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions, including shade
- + leaves are oppositely arranged, dull green, oval tipped and often have wavy margins
- + densely hairy shoots, young branches and stems, including the underside of leaf mid-ribs
- + masses of white trumpet shaped flowers have four petals, pink or purple anthers and are arranged in panicles
- + highly fragrant flowers produce pollen which may trigger asthma and hay fever
- + related to olives, but dull purple-black fruit and leaves are **poisonous**
- + fruit are eaten by birds, dispersing seed
- + abundant seed are only viable for a year or less
- + native to China, Taiwan and Vietnam
- + introduced to NZ as an ornamental and hedge plant and became naturalised by 1950



Control: Pull or dig out seedlings. Cut trees as close to ground level as possible and paint the stump with herbicide. Cutting the trunk and injecting herbicide is another option. Check stumps for re-sprouting and check area for re-invasion by seedlings.

Photos: far right, N. Henderson, WeedFree Trust; remainder, A. Stanton



Wildlife encounters



From left: A 'strange dark fishing bird' ... or shag; urban bird's nest ... ; spot the wildlife on this Hoheria flower - there's more than one ...

Photos: W. John

Pondering poroporo

There are two types of poroporo at Oakley Creek, *Solanum laciniatum* and *S. aviculare* var. *latifolium*. The following excerpt by Kristy Hall, Mike Wilcox and Wendy John, is from *Field Trip Report: Oakley Creek Te Auaunga, Waterview Saturday, 16 May 2009, Auckland Botanical Society Journal Dec 2009 Vol 64(2)*:

'*Solanum laciniatum* became popular in cultivation during the 1970s and due to its rapid growth and bird dispersed fruit it is now a common native urban 'weed'. This species has all but replaced the locally indigenous *S. aviculare* var. *aviculare* which is now close to, if not extinct within urban Auckland (de Lange, pers. comm.). The closely allied *S. aviculare* var. *latifolium*, a mostly northern offshore island race of *S. aviculare* is also naturalised within the Oakley Creek catchment. *S. aviculare* var. *latifolium* has acute (pointed) tips to the leaves and small seeds <2mm long, unlike *S. aviculare* var. *aviculare*, which has emarginate (notched) tips and larger seeds >2mm long. There are also some difference in flower and stem colour. The leaves of both varieties may be entire or pinnatifid (lobed) even on the same plant. *S. aviculare* var. *latifolium*, like *S. laciniatum*, has bird dispersed fruit. It seems likely that the plants seen in the Oakley Creek catchment have established from plantings made locally in the grounds of the former Mt Albert Research Centre.'



Poroporo at Oakley Creek: the narrow leaved Solanum laciniatum - forest (above) with flowering and fruiting (far left and top left); broad leaved S. aviculare var. latifolium - young plant (bottom left).

Photos: W. John

Summary

Solanum aviculare var. *aviculare* - type in decline; not present at Oakley Creek,

Solanum aviculare var. *latifolium* - originally restricted to Three Kings and some other northern offshore islands; now present at Oakley Creek.

Solanum laciniatum - common; present at Oakley Creek.

Out and about ...

Photos: W. John (unless otherwise stated)



Regular volunteer, John Maskell (above) refilled the **rodent bait** stations in the Lizard Management Area. More members of the rodent baiting team are John Stevenson, Luis Lachica and John Dwyer (right).



A biscuit break for **Oakley Creek holiday adventurers** - at the waterfall.

Photo: H. Wadsworth



Mt Albert Baptist Church - Love Where You Live did a great job of clearing vines from around the plants above the waterfall.



Japanese volunteer **Hidea Motodane** with a giant climbing dock at the **April community working bee** (above and left).

Conservation Volunteers local team and Vision West - after a hard day's work on the creek.



Open Polytechnic students weeded the burn site area which they had planted late last year. They also took a walk along the creek to learn about the different plantings.

Gladstone Primary School - Water Monitoring & Planting 18.4.2013



Thanks to Kath Read from **Wai Care** for assisting on this busy day with **Gladstone Primary**.

Jagjeeta Kaur and daughter Guntaas carried out their regular **water monitoring**. Guntaas also transplanted a baby puriri.



The elusive inanga.

Friends of Oakley Creek is participating in a new initiative - to identify and enhance potential inanga spawning sites in urban streams around the wider Auckland Region. Inanga (*Galaxias maculatus*) are classified as being in 'rapid decline'. We undertook observations at the spring tide salt water wedge (the upper reach of salt water into a freshwater stream) during the months of March, April and May. While a considerable number of inanga were spotted, there were no signs of spawning activity. However, according to freshwater scientist, Justine Coup, there are lots of inanga in the creek, which indicates that they should also be spawning there.



Mt Roskill Intermediate Student - Tree Planting 10.5.2013



Mt Roskill Intermediate students continued their great work, planting natives next to the creek, adjacent to the school.



Morphum Environmental, Friends of Oakley Creek and Well Connected Alliance met up to check areas of an Oakley Creek tributary for **potential restoration** (left).

Cesar Lador & Jerry Xie, Morphum Environmental, carried out an **erosion assessment** of the creek on behalf of Auckland Council Stormwater (right).



Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi ecology students learned how to undertake water quality monitoring.

Brent Druskovich (far right) carried out **archaeological assessment** of planting sites for the coming year, as required under the Historic Places Trust.





A Rocha, along with other Friends of Oakley Creek volunteers and a small group of Open Polytechnic students, planted a steep slope at Harbutt Reserve. John Stevenson, very kindly helped to move and lay out the 300 plants, which were funded by the Albert Eden Local Board. It was quite a challenge on the steep slope, but the team did a great job. *Photos: R. Pattimore*

Oakley Creek Te Auaunga find the phrase solution

Clue solutions: morepork, tui, skink, fantail, pukeko.
Phrase: Plant trees for Matariki!



We gratefully acknowledge the support of ASB Community Trust, Ministry for the Environment, WWF-New Zealand, The Tindall Foundation, Auckland Council, Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS), The Lion Foundation and Environmental Resource Management Foundation (ERM).

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.



Chairperson: Wendy John Treasurer: Jane Shand Secretary: Nigel Mather

Committee: Heather Docherty, Ross Ihaka, Kim Maree, Helen Mellsop,.

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