Friends of Oakley Creek
Te Auaunga

October Update, 2013 Vol. 6, Issue 3

Huge progress at Harbutt Reserve

There are major changes afoot in the upper bush areas in Harbutt Reserve. Teams from contractors Te Ngahere have been doing some amazing 'initial weed control' work all the way up to where the creek comes under the railway line. This includes the removal of climbing asparagus, woolly nightshade, honeysuckle, jasmine .... and thinning out the smaller privets, without opening up too much canopy. The work has been funded by Auckland Council and follow up weed control will take place in the not too distant future. The intent is to encourage natural regeneration and to carry out some complementary planting in years to come.

Te Ngahere have also carried out more weed control in the remnant mahoe rock forest which has been funded by the Albert Eden Local Board. This work has enabled the community to begin planting the rock forest margins and understorey this winter.

Wendy John says, 'As they say, I am 'blown away', by all of this! I used to stand at the corner of Phyllis Reserve and look at the mass of weeds there, and think that we'll never get these areas, or any of the 'jungle' done. I was so wrong, and am so excited about all of this!!' New photo points have been set up in Harbutt Reserve, to monitor the changes to the vegetation.

Help needed please

Volunteers for regular involvement with the monitoring and / or pest control – training provided.

Regular volunteers for plant propagation in our nursery.

Watching the waterfall

Oakley Creek waterfall featured on the TV programme **Back Benches** in July. It was first up as one of presenter Wallace Chapman's favourite Auckland places - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilvsphAJKn4&feature=youtu.be

Photos W. John

Top: Te Ngahere workers in the remnant mahoe rock forest; above left: Auckland Council Parks Volunteer & Biodiversity Co-ordinator, Sarah Peters at the July community planting on the rock forest margin; and above right: Open Polytechnic tutor, Leslie Haines, helping a student with plant id.

Threatened species classification list

Friends of Oakley Creek does not currently have a comprehensive list of threatened and rare species within the restoration area. As part of our five-year strategic plan, we will be working on identifying threatened and rare species within the urban stream catchment and identifying ways to protect these species. As part of this, we are hoping a 'Bioblitz' can be undertaken in 2014, with expert scientific assistance, to identify the range of plant and animal species within the lower Oakley Creek restoration area.

We also aim to work with Auckland Council Biodiversity team to start introducing appropriate rare and endangered plant species as part of our diversity plantings in restoration areas that are now well established, and in other areas that reach a good level of maturity in the future.

Dates for your diary

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

Sunday **3rd Nov**, 10.00 am – noon: Community Working Bee

Saturdays **2nd, 9th & 16th Nov**, 9.00-11.00 am: Rodent Baiting

Sunday **3rd Nov**, 10.00am – noon: Community Working Bee

Saturday **7th** & Sunday **8th Dec**, 9.00-11.00 am: Rodent Monitoring

Sunday **8th Dec**, noon: End-of-Year Gathering / Christmas Party – Harbutt Reserve

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

Waterfall by torchlight. *Photo: M. Witt*

New weed display

Environmental consultants, ERM, have sponsored the development of a new weed information display for use along the creek, through their ERM Foundation. Look out for it at the next working bee.

Photo: A. Stanton

Alice on the move

The largest piece of the SH 20 tunnelling machine (about 250 tonnes) was moved from the waterfront to the southern tunnel portal in the middle of one night in late July. It travelled very slowly through the city on a 12 x 18 wheeled trailer, different parts of which could change height to keep the load level. It was towed and pushed by three truck tractor units, with a spare unit following on behind. It was an impressive sight.

Photo: E. Stanton

And that makes more than 50,000 since 2004 ... by Wendy John

The 2013 planting season on Oakley Creek has been another productive and successful one. We have seen some 6000 plants go in the ground, with the help of around 470 volunteers. Planters included members of the local community, students from Gladstone Primary School, Mt Roskill Intermediate, May Road School, Open Polytechnic and Manukau Institute of Technology, children from the Collectively Kids Early Childhood Education Centre, Conservation Volunteers, Green S Force, the Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre, A Rocha & Kodesh Community, St Jude's Scouts, Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation and Chorus.

Site preparation and the majority of the plants have been funded by the Albert Eden Local Board. The Well Connected Alliance sponsored plants for one of the plantings, as did Treescape and Te Ngahere. And the remaining plants have been grown in our nursery at Unitec and by the students at their nursery at Mt Roskill Intermediate.

We would like to say a special 'thank you' to everyone who contributed.

Strangely, one new plant arrived on a piece of foam rubber, apparently washed downstream.

Photo: A. Stanton

Conservation Week at the creek

It was a typically busy time at Oakley Creek during the time of Conservation Week in early September. Here's a rundown:

- Display about Oakley Creek in Pt Chevalier library

Wednesday 4th - BNZ 'Closed for Good' weeding in the Lizard Management Area

Friday 6th - Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp streambank planting

Saturday 7th September - the usual trapping, plus the final rodent baiting for this period

Sunday 8th – Mt Albert St Judes' Scouts infill planting and weeding

Monday 9th – May Road School planting at Freeland Reserve

Tuesday 10th – Conservation Volunteers – weeding, mulching and infill planting at Phyllis Reserve 'junction'.

Wednesday 11th – Manukau Institute of Technology horticulture students planting at the top of the Lizard Management Area.

Friday 13th – Water monitoring at Mt Albert St Judes' Scout Den.

Photos and more details are in **Out and about** …, below.

Need an inspiring gift idea?

Give a tree to plant on Oakley Creek …

Just $20 gives:

- **a native tree** to be planted at Oakley Creek Te Auaunga on your behalf (or by your recipient or you)
- **an attractive commemorative card** with the details of your gift
- **Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga Membership** for one year

Email your order to **info@oakleycreek.org.nz** or ph 815 3101, Payment details are listed at the bottom of this newsletter.

Look out for puriri moths at Oakley Creek Te Auaunga …

A young manuka tree, about four years old, bears the typical diamond shaped burrow entrance scars formed by puriri moth caterpillars. *Photo: W. John*

Now is a good time to spot puriri moths, especially on an evening walk along Oakley Creek. This endemic species, *Aenetus virescens,* which is found throughout the North Island, is easiest to see from October to December, when most of the large, green adult moths emerge. Our largest moth species, puriri moth caterpillars grow to 100 mm long, while the female moth wings can span 150 mm and the smaller males 100 mm.

Puriri moths have a complex life cycle – eggs are laid in the leaf litter, where the young caterpillars feed on fungal fruiting bodies; after moulting, the caterpillars climb a suitable tree and burrow in, feeding on the live tree callus tissue around the burrow entrance, moulting and eating for several months or even five years; when mature, the caterpillar blocks the burrow entrance and pupates, then, after many days or months, emerges as the adult moth.

Many species of tree are suitable caterpillar hosts, both native and introduced, At Oakley Creek, look for burrows on the trunks of puriri of course, but also putaputaweta, wineberry, broadleaf, puka, ngaio and lacebark, as well as privet and oak.

Landcare Research have published a fact sheet with more fascinating details, photos and drawings, which can be seen at http://nzacfactsheets.landcareresearch.co.nz/factsheet/OrganismProfile/Puriri_moth_-_Aenetus_virescens.html

A peaceful sunset through the pines, but Te Auaunga has other moods too … *Photos: W. John*

The wind blew and the rain pelted down …

Damage from the major storm in late August included the fall of one of the large pine trees by the Plane Tree Bridge. It serves as a reminder to take extra care if visiting the creek during and after heavy rain and high wind.

Photos: W. John

Annual bird monitoring

The day dawned cool and clear on the creek – perfect for the volunteers, and the birds, for the annual bird survey, The method is based on the Landcare Research Garden Bird Survey. Armed with binoculars and bird guides, the observers noted down what they saw over the course of an hour.

Possums by Jane Shand

Total possum catch on the east side of the creek for the year to June 2012 was 15, and for the year to June 2013 was 24, so we are still catching plenty.

However, these trapping numbers, monitoring results and anecdotal evidence all suggest that possum abundance is much reduced from when we first started trapping in 2009, when 111 were caught.

Also from data analysis, we had an estimated extra 438 trapping nights. (that is using calculations where we reduce by half the number of trapping nights when a trap catches during the week). So I conclude that we are doing more work and being more effective in controlling our possums. Thanks to all the volunteers!

Possum trapping regular volunteer, Ron Lang, Haven /Kodesh Community

Possum monitoring – Margaret and Rosemary, Urvashi and, John - instructing Auckland International College students.

The rodent baiting team.

Dear Wendy,

I was delighted to attend the weta motoring yesterday. I had no idea what a weta looked like and I was so happy to see a few. ..... One thing I have learnt is to care for our insects and so I am going to make a small habitat for the insects to live in.

In one corner of my garden I am going to collect all my garden rubbish which will make a place for my insects to live in at the same time I will be making my own compost, which will take a while to break down. I am also going to hang up some bamboo sticks and let's see if I get some wetas to come into my garden. It is fun. .....

Thank you so much for all that you, and Margaret, have taught me. I have learnt a lot.

Mary Ann Britto

Native fish breeding

Wendy John visited the native fish breeding facilities at Mahurangi Technical Institute in Warkworth recently, on a trip organised by Wai Care. The native giant kokopu, a whitebait species, are mainly being bred for commercial purposes, to try to reduce the catches in the wild. The Department of Conservation has recently reported that this whitebait season is 'the worst in living memory', with overfishing and pollution cited as possible causes.

Giant kokopu, Galaxias argenteus – eggs, larvae and juvenile fish. Giant kokapu, are the largest members of the whitebait family worldwide, able to grow over 30 cm in length and weigh more than 500g. Like their Oakley Creek banded kokopu cousins, the small fish grow up at sea, then return to freshwater streams to breed. Giant kokopu is a threatened species and rarely found north of Waikato. *Photos: W. John*

The Mission Swamp Farm by Lisa Truttman

Oakley Creek through Roskill was a swamp mostly between Mt Albert, May and Stoddard Roads, stretching west towards Owairaka. The 280-acre swampland belonged to the Wesley Mission trust from 1850, and thus called Mission Swamp. Farming was difficult there. Members of the Pakuranga Hunt chasing hares from Alberton, dreaded the moment when the quarry slipped under the fences to the swamp. It meant a wet muddy time for man and horse before the return home.

The Wesley Trust began to subdivide the farm in 1923, and most was taken over for state housing (and the future War Memorial Reserve) in 1942. But the Mission Swamp had a couple of connections with the skies as well. In 1930 some suggested it as an airplane landing strip. And in 1929 a meteor blazed across the skies until it came to the Mission Swamp where it fell – with a muffled "plop".

- reprinted with permission from *Really Roskill*, Issue 7. June 2013.

In early days the direct journey from Mt Albert to Blockhouse Bay was impeded in the vicinity of Stoddard Road by swamps which formed when lava from Mt Albert deflected and blocked the flow of the lower reaches of Oakley Creek.

Alan Esler, *Wild Plants in Auckland.*

Fungal photo study - on logs left for lizards and invertebrates at the MU3A open space.

Photos: W.John.

How do they do it? – a visit to Glenfern and Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Sanctuaries, Great Barrier Is

by Adrienne Stanton, Friends of Oakley Creek and Mary Flaws, Motutapu Restoration Trust

As the lucky winners of a Department of Conservation sponsored prize at the Auckland launch of the Nature Space website, we excitedly flew to possum free Great Barrier Island in late August. We were to visit the inspiring restoration projects at Glenfern, near Port Fitzroy, and at Windy Hill Rosalie Bay, in the southeast, to compare notes and learn.

Sanctuary Stats

Glenfern

- 260 ha
- 5 landowners
- 2km Xcluder predator fence
- 40 km of track with 1200 tracking tunnels and bait stations

Windy Hill Rosalie Bay

- 620 ha
- 16 landowners
- 80+ km of trapping track with 5000 trap or bait stations

Notable natives: black petrel, Cook's petrel, pateke, kaka, kereru, Duvaucel's gecko, striped skink, chevron skink, paua slugs and the regionally rare plants, *Pimelea tomentosa* and green mistletoe.

At Glenfern Sanctuary, while we watched kaka and tui feeding in the garden, Manager, Emma Cronin, explained how the sanctuary was established by the late Tony Bouzaid. He instigated planting and pest control on his own land, and then worked with neighbours to include the whole Kotuku Peninsula, resulting in the building of a pest proof fence across from Port Fitzroy. The fence is a leaky one, with incursions occurring along the coast. It was a major disappointment when rats re-invaded Motu Kaikoura after the rat eradication project on that island and then swam on across to the Kotuku Peninsula. However, the intensive trapping means pest numbers are much reduced compared to the inland area beyond the fence, which is also monitored.

Up the hill, a pateke paddled across a pond surrounded by a wetland under restoration. The new plantings, carried out by an Auckland school group, had suffered with the summer drought as well as having to contend with rabbits and kikuyu. However, squares of weed matting and wire netting rabbit protection provided some relief. Glenfern grows its own plants from seed collected locally. Living on an island with a small population means that volunteer labour is limited, so planting density was lower than at Oakley Creek or on Motutapu.

A new pond and planting for the Glenfern wetland restoration project.

These cave weta live under a puriri log.

Walking through the gully forest remnant and regenerating bush, which included infill planting to increase diversity, was wonderful. Huge puriri trees sheltered petrel burrows and weta. A highlight was crossing the swing bridge to climb right into the canopy of a mature kauri, estimated to be around 600 years old.

Judy Gilbert of Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust is known as the rat lady. The main activity at this sanctuary, which has diverse mature and regenerating coastal broadleaf podocarp forest, is pest control. We walked through part of this fantastic forest and saw the extensive network of traplines and bait stations, and the monitoring methodology. A wealth of data has been generated and pooled with that from Glenfern, analysis of which has allowed techniques to be carefully refined. For example at present, poison bait is placed in plastic bags held by rat traps within boxes constructed from old pallets, which are aligned with tracks along contours. Advances in new electronic data recording technology are also being assessed. The result is an impressive regenerating forest understorey and many happy kaka!

As well as targeting rats, pigs are shot and cats are trapped – the latter only on the boundaries in winter, with summer populations being allowed to remain in order to control the rabbits.

Like Glenfern, Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Sanctuary started with one property owner, the communally owned Little Windy Hill, and expanded to include neighbouring properties. The Trust negotiates a

As at Glenfern, Windy Hill has tree wraps from EcoGecko, made from closed cell foam, which are opened annually to monitor lizards and invertebrates. The bamboo tubes for monitoring weta are mounted horizontally, unlike at Oakley Creek – is there a best practice orientation?

Key Learning

Create achievable projects within the wider restoration goal – different projects will appeal to different people to support and successful projects can be celebrated and cited in funding applications.

Share pest control and monitoring methodology, with neighbouring restoration projects and pool data to maximise learning and efficiency.

Promote research opportunities within the restoration area – there are huge benefits from interactions with scientists and students.

Encourage regular volunteers to also experience volunteering in other restoration projects for mutual benefit – to the projects and for the volunteers.

programme of work each year. Judy stressed that an important part of the project is the social benefit of providing much needed employment and conservation based employee training.

Glenfern and Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Sanctuaries are both managed by Trusts and operate on both privately owned and Department of Conservation land. The sanctuaries co-operate closely, not just with pest control, but also for native animal translocations and fostering seabird breeding. They support a whole island approach to restoration through the Great Barrier Island Trust. These worthwhile restoration projects are in need of more funding and volunteer support. For more information and how you can help, see http://www.glenfern.org.nz/ http://www.sanctuariesnz.org/projects/windyhill.asp and http://www.gbict.co.nz/index.html

How much life can a Windy Hill puriri tree support?

We would like to thank the Department of Conservation (and Alicia Warren in particular) for providing this opportunity, Emma Cronin and family, Glenfern Sanctuary and Judy Gilbert, Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust for sharing the details of their projects with us so generously (and cake and soup!), Dave at Wiltshire Manor for fascinating accommodation (and museum), Great Barrier Rentals for great service and Island Accommodation for making all the travel arrangements, including with Great Barrier Airlines.

Just loving the stream by Helen Cook

Office based staff working on the Waterview Connection project are not the only ones enjoying the gradual transformation of the Oakley Creek tributary behind their Stoddard Road offices. Pukeko, including chicks named Kate and Wills, are thriving among the newly planted grasses, flax and trees.

Only three months ago this neglected and weed-choked section of the creek, that staff cross every day to get to and from their offices, was an eyesore. Now the rubbish and weeds have been cleared and approximately 3000 natives have been planted along the banks.

Photos: Well Connected Alliance

Lunchtime plantings have been held twice weekly since early July as part of the project's *Love the Stream* initiative. Up to 20 usually desk-bound staff have taken part in each planting, changing from street wear to jeans, boots and gloves for the often muddy work.

About a quarter of the plants, which have been donated by Auckland Council, are still to go in the ground. And, with the planting season coming to an end, there's a big push to get the job finished.

Kohekohe Dysoxylum spectabile *flowers and kumerahou* Pomaderis kumerahou *flower buds. Kumerahou is also known as gumdiggers' soap – to see why, try rubbing a leaf with water.*

Photos: W. John

Occasional Musings in History, Archaeology and Oakley Creek - Part 1

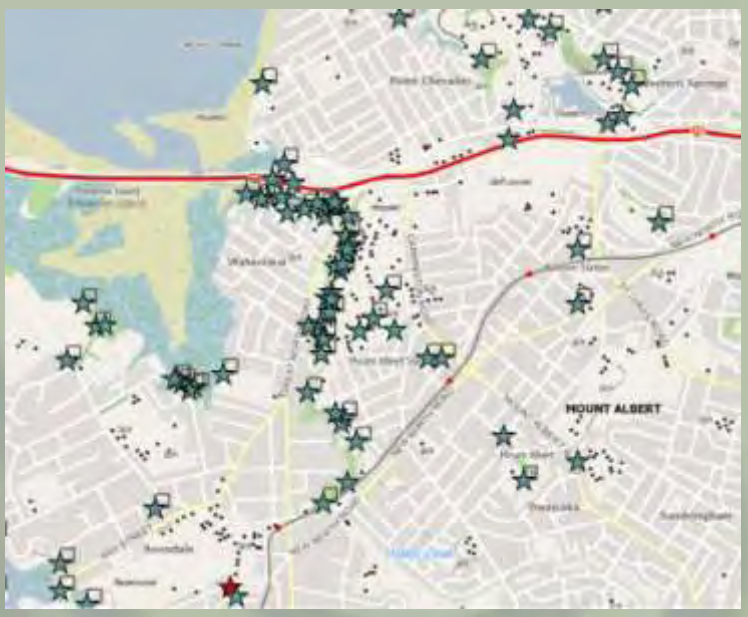
by Brent Druskovich: Consultant Archaeologist B.Com. M.A. (Hons)

Many of you will have met me at the community planting days which I have attended in a professional basis over the last four years. This is because Oakley Creek, particularly that area between the mouth and New North Road has been a hive of human activity for many years, both by Maori and the early historic beginnings of Auckland as we know it now. Auckland City Council (as it was) worked closely with Friends of Oakley Creek and Te Ngahere, who had devised a planting plan for the Oakley Creek catchment between New and Great North Roads. It became apparent that they would need an archaeological Authority to Modify from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust to proceed with the community and other plantings that have taken place along the banks of the creek over the past few years. This is how I and Iwi got involved.

Much of this catchment had been previously surveyed and many Maori midden sites had been recorded during archaeological survey in the 1980s and then by myself in the early 2000s, as part of the State Highway 20 project. My first professional visit to this area was on 12 September 2000 and, since that time, I have added to the number of Maori sites recorded, and relocated most, but not all, of those previously recorded,

I have also recorded a number of historic period sites. Currently a few new sites have also been recorded by archaeologists working near the mouth of Oakley Creek as part of the Waterview Connection works and the spaghetti of on/off ramps that will exist there.

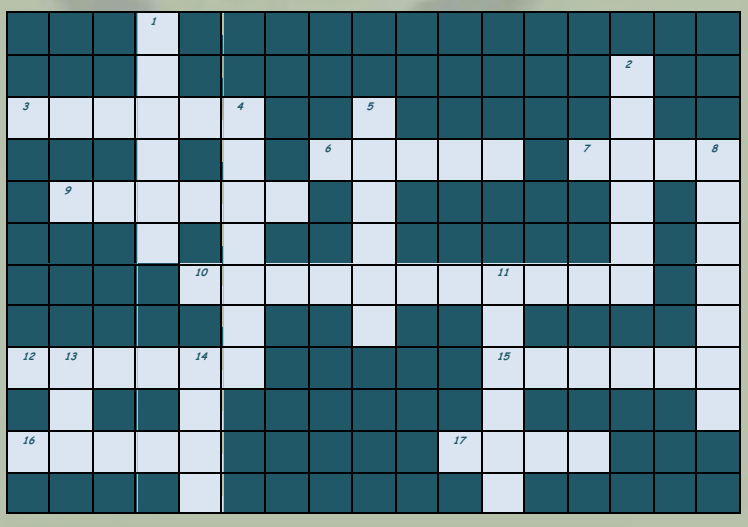
I probably know the section adjacent to the walkway and creek archaeologically better than anyone else, though it must be said, after many walks with Wendy John. she also has a very good idea, and has, at times, alerted me to things I didn't know about. To give you an idea of what we do know, I have included an image of the recorded sites along Oakley Creek (right) – this comes from the New Zealand Archaeological Association records and it does contain some inaccuracies (particularly those sites with the squares next to the stars), but it conveys the idea quite well. Not all of the sites exist, as they have been destroyed by urban and other development, and there is one site there that I recorded based on a visual examination that, when I got the opportunity to investigate more up close, I realised I was wrong (the NZAA does not remove stars, but anyone with access to the records can read that the site is no longer considered an archaeological site). Prior to the growth of Auckland and the suburbs of Point Chevalier and Mount Albert, in particular, there would have been many more sites again, remnants of which will still exist within both private and public property, though many will also be completely destroyed.



NZ Archaeological Association map of the recorded archaeological sites along Oakley Creek.

Disclaimer: This article contains data sourced from the New Zealand Archaeological Association ArchSite. The New Zealand Archaeological Association Incorporated gives no warranty in relation to the data (including accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability) and accepts no liability (including, without limitation, liability in negligence) for any loss, damage or costs relating to any use of the data.

Oakley Creek Walkway Crossword



Across:

3. Volcanic rock type found at Oakley Creek (6).
6. Many of these, old and new, carry water to the stream (5).
7 & 16. The old Star [7]____ (4) was powered by a water [16]_____ (5).
9. A freshwater _____ (6) is the source of the Wairaka Stream which flows into Oakley Creek.
10. It is important to plant trees on the stream banks to create shade and reduce the water _____ (11).
12. Edwin _____ (6) was an early landowner.
15. The triangular orange markers along the Oakley Creek Walkway show the _____ (6) of km from the Great North Rd culvert.
16. See 7 across.
17 across & 8 down. These can be seen on many weirs to help those that swim (4, 7).

Down:

1. A rock mine (also rabbits).
2. Old foundations can be seen along the Walkway for one of these (6).
4 & 11. To supply the old [4]_____ (7), oak trees were planted for [11]_____ (6).
5. Remains of a Maori feast (6).
8. See 17 across.
11. See 4 down.
13. Let the archaeologist know if you see a layer of this when tree planting (3).
14. Longfin and shortfin ____(4) live in Oakley Creek.

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:

Hedera helix, Araliaceae – English ivy

- perennial evergreen climber up to 30 m high and dense ground cover plant
- densely smothers trees, understorey and the ground
- density and weight of vines prevents native seedling establishment, kills underlying vegetation, including mature trees, and displaces native epiphytes
- can be fast growing
- shade, frost, wind and salt tolerant, it can grow well in mature forest as well as in open areas
- alternately arranged leaves are usually lobed – except for those on flower bearing shoots
- mature leaves are usually variegated, with creamy white vein pattern over dark green, while young leaves may be a plain lighter green
- woody stems attach to tree trunks, other structures or the ground with aerial fibrous sucker roots
- yellowish autumn flowers are small and inconspicuous, but produce lots of nectar
- small (5-8 mm) dark purple berries ripen over winter, have 2-3 seeds and are eaten by birds
- seed has low viability
- most new plants grow from stem fragments
- originates from Europe, North Africa and Asia
- naturalised in NZ in the 1870s and valued as an ornamental plant, although aerial roots damage buildings and dense growth blocks guttering and roof spaces
- contact with leaves can cause contact dermatitis in some people and berries can be poisonous

Control: Ivy is very difficult to eliminate. For small infestations, remove stems and dig out roots. Otherwise, spray plants growing over the ground with herbicide. Cut stems of plants which are growing on native trees and quickly apply herbicide to the stumps to prevent re-growth. In damp climates, aerial parts of vines can survive having cut stems, because of their sucker roots. Survival is reduced if thick stems are cut out. Cut stems should be sent to landfill or buried deeply. Check regularly for re-growth.

Photos: A. Stanton

Out and about ...

Photos: W. John (unless otherwise stated)

Waterview resident, Justin, undertook **pre-documentary filming** at the waterfall.

Old Rubbish went off to become a new plant pot (one man's trash ...)

One never knows what will turn up on the creek – especially after a 'rain event'– **one lost raft!**

Waterfall viewing platform rebuild - thanks to Auckland Council and Bill and the team from Outdoor Construction for a great job. It's wonderful to have the platform reinstated.

Conservation Volunteers Local Team carried out site clearing for planting.

Community planting at **Molley Green Wetland** in the Oakley Creek upper catchment, Mt Roskill, was organised by Puketapapa Local Board members, Michael Wood and Julie Fairey.

A Chorus volunteer group braved the elements, and the mud, to plant up an area near the Waterview Downs Bridge. Plants were funded by the Well Connected Alliance.

Cyclists and walkers *alike enjoy the creek, away from the busy and noisy roads.*

Mt Roskill Intermediate school and community plantings – there have been two separate events at the school, adding to the already well established area of native planting.

Before, and after …

The school students planted …

… and the community helped out too.

Unitec staff and students had a productive session, weeding and infill planting along the Wairaka Stream on campus on World Environment Day – below left.

Jeff Lang, **Haven / Kodesh**, right, carried out the quarterly water monitoring at Cradock St Bridge, with Katherine Read, our local Wai Care co-ordinator.

Mt Albert St Judes' Scout Group carried out infill planting and weeding at their adopted site beside their den – from left, James and Luca Flochini; James and Jackie Butler.

Rock ecosystem.

The **August community planting** was at Harbutt Reserve. *Photos: A. Stanton*

Open Polytechnic joined in – thanks to Luis Lachica and Leslie Haines for involving their students in our project. They continue to participate in a range of activities including monitoring and pest control, as well as planting – such as below Phyllis Reserve, pictured below, and ...

A **new local family** enjoyed an outing on the creek – Rachel, Manny and Stevie-Mae.

... Open Polytechnic tutor Luis Lachica (below right) and students, Heather Blacklaws and Janet Wade (below left and centre) infill planted at the MU3A open space.

Collectively Kids spent another morning working on their adopted site by the waterfall, putting in more plants. It is a delight to see these young children being involved in the restoration of Oakley Creek.

The latest artwork at the 'Oakley Creek gallery'.

Gladstone Primary School students (left) visited the walkway for their winter walkathon, as well as, on another occasion, to do some planting.

May Rd Primary pupils planted kahikatea and cabbage trees in the wetland at Freeland Reserve, in the upper reaches of Oakley Creek (right). This was part of a restoration unit run by local Wai Care co-ordinator, Kath Read.

Manakau Institute of Technology Level 2 Horticulture students planted at the top of MU3A. The site had been prepared by the Unitec / Envirotech gardener and mulch was provided by arborists Julian & Logan who manage the Unitec mulch piles. Thank you for a wonderful co-operative effort!

Members of the **Green S Force** team (left) planted an area below Phyllis Reserve, which was identified as one of a number of Restoration Opportunities in the Oakley Creek Watercourse Management Plan. The planting was co-ordinated by Kath Read, Morphum Environment, with support from Friends of Oakley Creek.

Life's a beach ...
Photo: A. Stanton

BNZ 'Closed for Good' volunteers released young native plants from smothering weeds in the Lizard Management Area.

Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp volunteers, Scott (left) and Janaka (right) with local volunteer Eva Fernandez (middle) carried out infill planting and removed a heap of weeds.

Oakley Creek Crossword solution

Across: 3. basalt. 6. pipes, 7. Mill, 9. spring, 10. temperature, 12. Oakley, 15. number, 16. wheel, 17. fish.
Down: 1. quarry, 2. bridge, 4. tannery, 5. midden, 8. ladders, 11. tannin, 13. ash, 14. eels.

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 and gift plant order payments 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.

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