Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga

June Update, 2014 Vol. 7, Issue 2

Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga Green Ribbon Award finalists!

The 2014 Green Ribbon Awards, presented by the Minister for the Environment to mark World Environment Day, honour 'outstanding contributions to protecting New Zealand's envirnment'. Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auanga is a finalist in the stewardship category, which is very exciting. This recognition is a tribute to all our wonderful volunteers – thank you!

Green Ribbon Awards
2014 Finalist | Whatungaro te Tangata Toitu te Whenua

Right: The drought has broken, there's water in them thar falls!
Photo: W. John

Mice – not just little rats: AGM talk, Wednesday 25th June, 7 pm

We hope you can join us to hear the latest news about controlling mice. Alicia Warren, Ranger (Partnerships), Department of Conservation, is to be the guest speaker at the Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga AGM this month. Alicia notes that: *Restoration groups often find that mice numbers increase as rats are controlled to low numbers. This leaves them with a dilemma of what to do. In making a decision there are a number of complexities that should be taken into account. There are no simple answers, but an understanding of the issues can help.*

The meeting will be held at MIT Horticultural Building 32, Unitec.

Mouse feeding on kiekie, Freycietia banksii. *NZ Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN) note that this woody monocot climber is failing to reproduce, due to rodent and possum predation of the flowers and fruit, over large parts of its range. NZPCN also note that kiekie flowers are reputed to be 'suited' to bat pollination, a rare feature in New Zealand.* **Photo: Nga Manu Images**

Take a look … Nga Manu Images

You can see more amazing photos like this starling feeding on kohekohe seed and the mouse (above) at the extensive image library at Nga Manu Images www.ngamanuimages.org.nz Nga Manu generously allow use of their images, with acknowledgement of copyright, for conservation advocacy and education, as well as for non-commercial personal use. Thank you Nga Manu Trust!

Starling feeding on kohekohe fruit, Nga Manu Nature Reserve, Waikanae.

Photo: Nga Manu Images

Committee news

We would like to extend a big 'thank you' to Nigel Mather, who has stepped down from the committee. Nigel has made a valuable contribution in his role as secretary and has also been of great assistance in submission writing.

John Stevenson, who has been helping out at the creek for some years now, but especially with monitoring, rodent control and around the nursery, has also joined our committee – welcome John.

We still need more help on the committee, so if you would like to volunteer in this way, please let us know what you could bring to the organisation and project.

Membership now due

More Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga members means more effective advocacy on behalf of the creek and an increased chance of success in funding applications. Payment details are at the end of this newsletter - thank you.

Dates for your diary

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

Wednesday 25th June, 7.00pm: Annual General Meeting and '**Mice – not just little rats**' by guest speaker, **Alicia Warren, DOC,** at MIT Horticultural Building 32, Unitec

Saturday 28th June, 9.00am: Oakley Creek Annual Bird Survey. Meet at the Unitec Student Residence carpark.

28th June - 6th July: Annual NZ Garden Bird Survey – survey your own garden - for details see http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/birds/garden-bird-surveys

Sunday 6th July, 10.00am: Matariki Community Tree Planting. Meet at Harbutt Reserve, end of Harbutt Ave. Please wear sturdy shoes.

Saturday 26th July, 9.00am: Annual Weta Monitoring. Meet at the Unitec Student Residence carpark.

Sunday 3rd August, 10.00am: Community Tree Planting. Meet at Harbutt Reserve, end of Harbutt Ave. Please wear sturdy shoes.

See www.oakleycreek.org.nz or contact Wendy John, by emailing info@oakleycreek.org.nz or phone 815 3101 or 027 232 6454 for more information.

SH20 Update – Serious low pH incident by Wendy John

A recent incident in Oakley Creek, near the Waterview Connection southern construction site, was a wake-up call for the Well Connected Alliance (WCA), and for the local community, to be ever vigilant. Unfortunately, the pH levels in the stream dropped considerably (acidic), resulting in the death of a large number of eels. While, at the time of the incident, it was not evident what the cause was, the WCA took full responsibility for taking remedial action, pulling out all stops to minimise the harm. This included damming the creek with sandbags and pumping over two million litres of clean water into the stream, to bring the pH levels back up to an acceptable level. Some eels were successfully rescued and translocated to a safe site. A monitoring regime was put into place, with the testing of the pH on an hourly basis throughout the catchment, downstream of the incident.

Friends of Oakley Creek was informed of the situation, was present at some of the monitoring, and has been provided with regular updates from both the WCA and Auckland Council. The WCA analysis has shown that the incident was a result of the WCA construction work, and has concluded that there was only a short term effect on the stream. The WCA believes that it has now taken all possible steps to ensure there is no risk of a repeat event, including an extensive review and modification of their processes and expanding on their monitoring regime.

Congratulations Collectively Kids – Wai Care winners

More congratulations go to Collectively Kids, who have won the Wai Care March Monitoring Month film competition - 1st Place Wai Care Award (Community Group): Collectively Kids. See their film at www.facebook.com/waicarenz (look for the image of the young boy with the bright pink shirt). The prize includes a guided walk along Oakley Creek by a 'fish expert', plants and book vouchers.

And mouse control at Oakley Creek was in the news too ..

AUT journalism student, Campbell Thwaites interviewed chairperson, Wendy John and volunteer, John Dwer then joined the team for a morning of rodent control at Oakley Creek recently. His article appeared in the Auckland City Harbour News on June 6.

Oakley Creek short film – can you help?

Friends of Oakley Creek committee member, Kim Maree has the following request:

I am making a short film about Oakley Creek and would love to hear from you if you have video footage, photographs or accurate maps and sketches of Oakley Creek, particularly images that can be used to illustrate changes in the creek over time. This could be short term, for example, a photograph of the creek in flood, or a more permanent change brought about by natural erosion or construction of stormwater drains and culverts. Your photograph or video clip from the past could be used as a reference point for me to take a photograph or short video clip of that same location along the creek today. Pictures of vegetation and wildlife are also welcome, particularly freshwater fish.

You will be fully acknowledged in the credits of the film if your image is used. This film is being made to complete a Masters in Screen Production at the University of Auckland. If you would like more information about the film and / or you have images that you think are relevant, please contact me by email at kim@kimmaree.com or mobile on 027-631-8898. Thank you!

Photo: A. Stanton

Sign on the walkway, put up by Friends of Oakley Creek, tells it how it is and gets a great response from passers-by.

Jagjeeta Kaur and Collectively Kids, checking out the wildlife on the creek. Photo: W. John

Cub Scout night walk fun by Doug Mackinson

1st Mt Albert - St Judes Cub Pack went on a night walk of Oakley Creek. We had a very enthusiastic bunch of 17 Cubs, 3 leaders and 6 parents. The Cubs completed a quiz along the way that encouraged them to observe various ecological and social aspects of the creek.

The following week we asked them three questions. I would like to share some of the answers with you - it's interesting what they remember of their experience.

What was your favourite part of the trip?
'My best part was the waterfall.' (This got lots of mentions.)
'I liked all the trees and waterfalls.'
'I got closer to nature and living life.'
'Completing the quiz.'

What did you learn?
'I learnt that there were shells.'
'I learnt the Maori word for Oakley Creek.'
'I learnt how long it takes to dig out a moth plant.'

How could you make Oakley Creek even better?
'Put a boardwalk high up in the trees.'
'I would like it if there was a flying fox in the forest.' (He went on to describe with great enthusiasm and in great detail how it would start on one bank, go out across the waterfall and end up on the other bank.)
'Put up lots of facts to show what plants there were.'
'I would like to do bird spotting, I love animals.'

I particularly like the suggestions. They might not completely align with the Friends of Oakley Creek's conservation values, but 10/10 for enthusiasm!

We would like to thank Friends of Oakley Creek for the great job they do. Everytime we visit the creek, it is looking better and better

Thanks, 1st Mt Albert St Judes Cub Pack

SH16 update

from *Causeway News June 2014*

1. Under the Boardwalk

Work has begun on the concrete foundation piles for the permanent boardwalk that will be constructed alongside Oakley Creek, west of the Great North Road interchange. A 70 tonne piling rig was brought to site in the chilly pre-dawn of 28 May, ensuring the oversized vehicle was off the motorway well before the morning traffic peak.

2. Embankment slips

Sections of the project by Oakley Creek and in the Causeway reclamation area on the eastbound side have slipped in a couple of places. The slips have been caused by localised weaker mud and the king high/low tides in February. No environmental issues have resulted – in fact, local birdlife appear to enjoy the extra bathing ponds that have been created. The new causeway sections that we are building are strengthening the mud through the use of wick drains and preloading. Similarly, the reason for installing timber piles near the Oakley Creek slip is to strengthen the two different types of ground materials there. Piles will be used elsewhere on the project when required to stabilise the ground.

NIWA water monitoring study at Oakley Creek

As reported in the last newsletter, Friends of Oakley Creek is participating in a nationwide research project to gauge the effectiveness of community based water monitoring. While there was a slight delay, with some queries around processes and equipment needing to be sorted, the monitoring commenced on Oakley Creek at the beginning of May. As with other community groups within the Auckland Region, Friends of Oakley Creek is working under the guidance of Wai Care. To allow comparison, the monitoring is carried out monthly, at the same time and location as the Auckland Council Research, Investigation and Monitoring Unit (RIMU) - at the litter trap at the north end of the creek.

Kate Macintosh (Wai Care) and John Stevenson (FofOC). Photo: W. John

Water monitoring explained: 1. Water temperature

Water temperature is a key aspect of the water that determines whether a stream is suitable or unsuitable for fish and macroinvertebrates. It also sets the rate of various chemical and biological processes that occur in streams. Generally, stream animals prefer cool water, whereas aquatic plants such as algae grow faster at warm temperatures (sometimes causing nuisance growths). Temperatures are often high in streams when shading trees have been removed, or if they receive warm water from roads, factories etc. Different animal species can tolerate different temperatures, but when water exceeds about 15 °C, we start to notice the most sensitive species disappearing, and 22 °C is the limit for many other species. Water temperature changes with season and with time of day, so even if in your stream is usually cool, occasional high temperatures may be enough to stop some animals living there. The warmest temperatures are likely to occur during mid-summer afternoons.

from *Wai Care Field Manual (2003)*

Brown crunchy leaves underfoot
Hearing tuis chirping loudly
Trudging past Auckland's biggest waterfall

by April Hartmann

April Hartmann helped John Dwyer with the rodent baiting - she had a great time noting how many pellets were left.
Photo: M. Hartmann

Kiwi Conservation Club visit Oakley Creek

by Rachel Fanshawe

At the end of March, a group of Kiwi Conservation Club kids (Forest and Bird) set off to find Central Auckland's only waterfall. The kids had the mission to spot as many birds as possible from the list of 31 that Wendy had sent us, and also to pick up a bit of rubbish on the way. We managed to see 10 birds from the list and were pleasantly surprised by the lack of rubbish.

We were lucky to have a mother who was a freshwater ecologist along for the trip, so we were also able to find out about the diversity of life under the water, and learn about what effect the waterfall has on creek life.

Not surprisingly the greatest fun was had scrambling over rocks and slipping into the creek. And a close second was the 'boat' races over the waterfall. Our Oakley Creek trip was a fun way to show these budding conservationists what is happening to care for the environment right here in the middle of the city. We came away wet and happy, and with a great appreciation of the work being carried out by Friends of Oakley Creek.

Photo: R. Fanshawe

Thank you for the feedback

Your efforts are being noticed - recently Friends of Oakley Creek was told: 'you are the user-friendly carers of the stream', Thank you to all our members and volunteers for making this true.

Right: You never know who you might meet at the creek – aliens visited in March … as part of a filming project.

Photo: W. John

Monitoring and pest control

Friends of Oakley Creek has now been undertaking an extensive monitoring and pest control programme for five years. The programme was established by then committee member and DOC Technical Support Officer (Biodiversity), Alicia Warren. She describes it as follows:

Overall Objective of the Programme:

The purpose of pest control on Oakley Creek is to increase the abundance of native wildlife living there, to ensure native plants survive and reproduce and, generally, to create a healthy and functioning native ecosystem.

The purpose of monitoring native species - birds, lizards and weta - is to determine changes, over time, as a result of pest control. The key outcomes we aim for are: increased numbers of native birds and lizards, and more terrestrial macro-invertebrates.

The purpose of monitoring pests – rodents, hedgehogs, mustelids and possums - is to see if our pest control is effective. Outcomes we aim for are a result of less than 5% Bite Mark Index (BMI) on wax tags - for possums, or less than 5% tracking rate, in trackiing tunnels, for rodents.

Pesky Possums – why control them:

- There are approximately 30 million possums in New Zealand - about seven for every man, woman and child!
- Possums will chew through approximately 9,000 tonnes of leaves, berries and fruit every night.
- Possums will ignore old leaves and select the best new growth. In some areas they have eaten whole canopies of rata, totara, titoki, kowhai and kohekohe.
- Possums compete with native birds for habitat and for food such as insects and berries. They also disturb nesting birds, eat their eggs and chicks, and may impact on native land snails.
- Possums have been known to push kiwi out of their burrows so they can have a dry place to sleep!
- In New Zealand, possums have no natural predators. (In their native land, Australia, their numbers are limited by dingoes, bush fires and less palatable vegetation.)
- Possums can spread bovine tuberculosis to cows, cattle and deer.

http://www.kcc.org.nz/possums
http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/animal-pests-a-z/possums/
http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/animal-pests-a-z/possums/facts/

Did you know? … there are freshwater mussels in Oakley Creek – but NOT for eating

In 2010, Rosemary Phillips, (right) conducted a study of freshwater muusels, kakahi, *Echyridella aucklandica* (formerly *Hyridella*) in Auckland streams. In Oakley Creek, a total of three specimens were found - two specimens in the lower reaches of the creek, while the other was found some way above the waterfall, in a bed of dead shells. She thinks that it is possible that these were remnants of a larger population or they may have been washed down from a larger population still existing upstream. The stream was very difficult to survey that year, due to poor water clarity.

It was exciting therefore, when a freshwater mussel was found in sediment in an old tyre that was pulled out of the creek during the annual cleanup in March. It was returned to the stream after photographing, but without the tyre!

Photos: left, A. Stanton, right, W. John

Rosemary says that freshwater mussels are very similar to marine mussels, but their habit tends to be more like clams – freshwater mussels burrow into sediment instead of using byssal threads to attach to rock. Also, unlike some of the more well known marine mussels, freshwater mussels do not have a shell shape with a sharp tip. Rosemary has collated some more fascinating information about freshwater mussels for us, which can be downloaded from our website: http://oakleycreek.org.nz/resources/fauna/

New stormwater stencils created by Unitec

Unitec's Sustainability Co-ordinator, Carolyn Cox, was instrumental in organising two stormwater stencils to be used by stormwater drains around the campus. In consultation with Friends of Oakley Creek, it was decided to add some extra wording and our 'waterfall' image, to alert people to the fact that whatever goes into a stormwater drain can end up in Oakley Creek. We are also aiming to use the stencils in other parts of the catchment – watch this space! *Photos: W. John*

Students Chris and JJ with tutor Helen and Unitec Sustainability Co-ordinator, Carolyn Cox, at the first session of spraying the stencils.

Monster hedgehog? No, fear not!

These prints, which appeared in the last issue, were made by a possum. Thank you to those who emailed in about these prints.

Left: A little piece of magic, discovered on the creek - which has since disappeared. If anyone else saw it, and took a look through it, please let us know.

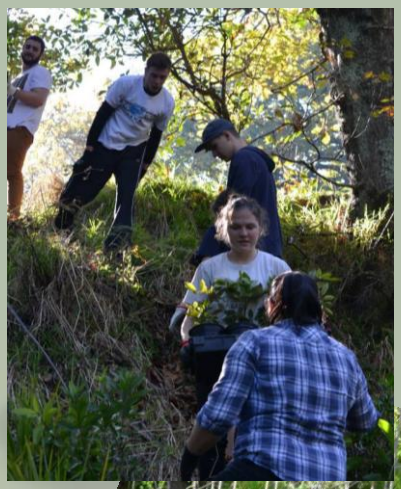
Lacebark, Hoheria populnea.
Photo: W. John

Roskill Coffee Project

Roskill Coffee Project is an exciting new venture at the Wesley Community Centre, a café which aims to contribute to the local community, while also caring about the wider world and taking the time to be environmentally friendly. For example, the Project is partnering with Roskill Youth Zone, offering work experience for local youth who might otherwise struggle to get employment opportunities. Also, all profits will be reinvested in community projects developed by local people.

If you're taking a walk or bike ride along Oakley Creek through Underwood / Walmsley / War Memorial Parks, take a break there, and enjoy a cup of fair trade coffee or 'Cosset' chai, and some delicious food, right next to Oakley Creek.
www.facebook.com/RoskillCoffeeProject

AUT Investment Club planting by David Jack



Forming a human chain gets the job done …

Photos: D. Jack

The AUT Investment Club is a student-run initiative that provides a forum for Business students to unite in expanding their opportunities for employment. The Club's emphasis is on gaining experience through the practical application of classroom knowledge and making industry connections to provide a solid foundation for students who are serious about a career in Business. Last month, the AUT Investment Club were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to offer their time, to Friends of Oakley Creek. The morning was a part of the club's strategy to allow university students to give back to their communities. Wendy John, met us on a Saturday morning and together we prepared 600 plants for planting. This is something that Friends of Oakley Creek do on a regular basis. In the long run, this helps preserve the 15km natural running creek, which includes Auckland's only waterfall, and the surrounding wildlife. The AUT Investment Club was proud to be there and we hope that our members continue to get involved with what is an overlooked spectacle of our great city. The day was a fantastic demonstration of initiative, team work and how few can come together and achieve a lot. We encourage any person or organisation to give Wendy an email and offer your time. It is a perfect opportunity to get involved and contribute towards the sustainability of Oakley Creek.

Below: Autumn fungi.

Photo: W. John

Karamu, Coprosma robusta *fruit.*

Photo: W. John

Wildlife encounters

Photos: W. John

From left: 1. Puriri moth larva moulted skin – no longer required.

2. This web was probably made by a tunnel web spider, Hexathele hochstetteri, *Hexathelidae, Mygalomorphae.* Hexathele *may live in holes in the leaf litter, in clay and sandy banks, in old insect burrows in tree trunks and branches, and in crevices in bark.*

3. Pukeko nest.

Mussel multichoice

1. Freshwater mussels are a) grub grabbers b) mud masticators c) filter feeders or d) web weavers?

2. Freshwater mussel larvae are parasitic on fish. They attach themselves by a) hooks b) suckers c) teeth or d) muscles?

3. NZ freshwater mussel larvae attach themselves to a) eels b) inanga and bullies c) taniwha or d) koi and koura?

4. Where do adult freshwater mussels, kakahi, live - a) burrowed in sediment b) under waterfalls and rapids c) attached to koura or d) attached to rocks by byssal threads?

5. Healthy and lucky kakahi live for a) 24 hours b) two weeks c) around two years or d) many years?

6. What can monitoring kakahi populations tell us about the stream or lake - a) the undissolved oxygen content b) the presence of pesticides and heavy metals c) the presence of koura or d) the abundance of *Anas hevea?*

7. Freshwater mussels are bivalves. This means they a) have a two chambered heart b) have ambivalent symmetry c) grow two-yearly growth rings or d) have two shells?

Answers at the end of the newsletter.

Spot the ducks

Can you see the ducks, camouflaged to match the rocks?

Apparently, ducks can sleep anywhere.

Photos: A. Stanton

Myrtle rust – help needed to detect new biosecurity threat

Red and yellow spores of Myrtle rust on a susceptible tree in Australia.

A strong, blustery westerly wind could blow a new significant pest over the Tasman Sea and infect our native Myrtaceae species. Myrtle rust (*Puccinia psidii*) is a fungus that attacks the new growth leaves, shoots and flowers of native Myrtaceae species - pohutukawa, rata, ramarama, rohutu, manuka and kanuka - and also the introduced eucalyptus, guava and feijoa. This fungus is not in New Zealand yet, but has spread and established on Australia's east coast.

The rust will generally appear as bright yellow spots on the new growth, flower buds or even on the fruit of some plants. It could kill the new growth completely, cause brown spots on the upper leaves and holes in the leaves. The fruit could fail to develop, and fall from the tree. The rust can appear red when the sexual types of spore are being produced.

If you are visiting Australia, remember to avoid bringing rust spores back into New Zealand by cleaning your shoes, clothing and equipment before transit.

If you see something that you think may be myrtle rust, call the Ministry for Primary Industries Exotic Pests and Diseases hotline on: 0800 80 99 66. Do not touch or collect samples as this may spread the disease.

from *Auckland Council Information & Advice Myrtle Rust, May 2014*

May community tree planting

The first community tree planting for the year was a challenging one. It was on a rocky slope below Unitec which was very steep at the top. But the volunteers prevailed and another 687 native plants are now growing at Oakley Creek Te Auuaunga.

Thanks to all the volunteers, including those from Waikowhai Scouts (above and left) and Well Connected Alliance.

We have a job for everyone – even those with their arm in a sling!

Photos: A. Stanton

The bridges of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga Walkway …

… from the Great North Rd culvert, travelling upstream.

Photos: A. Stanton

Wairaka Stream Bridge

Plane Tree Bridge

Troll Bridge

Cabbage Tree Swamp Bridge

Unitec Bridge

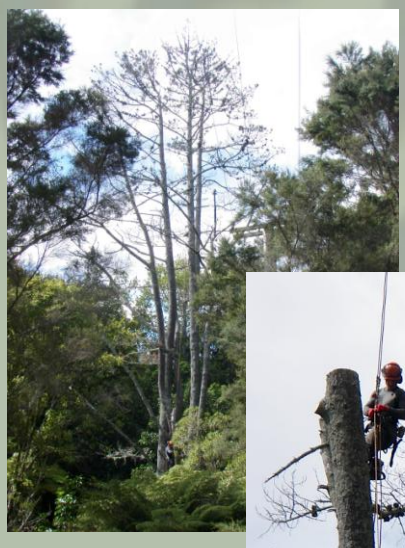
Fern Glade Bridge

Waterview Downs Bridge

Phyllis Reserve Bridge

Cradock St Bridge

The story of a pine tree …



Photos: W. John

… a long life then,

a lizard lounge …

Asplundh did the cutting.

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:

Cortaderia selloana, Poaceae – pampas, cutty grass

- large tussock forming, perennial, long-lived grass grows to 4 m height and width in disturbed open areas
- invasive fast growing dense clumps replace native low growing vegetation and prevent native seedling establishment, through competion and smothering
- provides habitat for animal pests – possums, rabbits, rats and mice
- leaves have prominent mid-rib with no major secondary veins*
- mid-rib not apparent in the lower leaf sheath area*
- smooth leaf sheath is not white and waxy*
- leaves blueish-green on upper surface, dark green underneath, with sharp, cutting edges
- leaves snap cleanly when pulled*
- old dry leaf bases form spiralling curls*
- erect, dense, fluffy, 6 m tall flower heads produced in late summer and autumn*
- each pinkish to white flower head may produce 100,000 light seeds, which may disperse, mainly by wind, over long distances, such as 50 km
- tolerates wide range of conditions, but not shade
- from central South America, where it grows in the pampas grasslands
- introduced to NZ in 1925 for agricultural use
- now banned from sale, propagation and distribution

* key differences from the native *Cortaderia* spp., toetoe, which produce drooping flower heads in spring and early summer and have three-ribbbed leaves.

Control: Small plants can be dug out by hand, but large ones need large machinery to remove, such as by bulldozer. Cut, grazed and burnt pampas re-grows readily so application of herbicide, by spray or treatment of stumps, is required. Follow-up application of herbicide should be on re-growth only and plants should be left in situ until all roots have died. Plant material can be left on site to compost or as mulch, but seed heads should be buried.

Note, however, that dead pampas is a significant potential fire hazard. Planting tall natives will shade out pampas seedlings.

Photos: seedling at bottom right, Weedfree Trust; remainder, A. Stanton

Out and about ...

Photos: W. John (unless stated otherwise)

Early autumn was weeding time, shown by: - the **April community working bee;**

You never know what will wash up next at the creek. ***Photo: A. Stanton***

a group from **Chorus** (below); and, a **Telecom** team (below right), who cleared bindweed.

Jeff Lang and Kate Macintosh, Wai Care tested the waters.

Rocket Kids (left) watched the tree fellers from a safe distance in Phyllis Reserve

Open Polytechnic tutor, Jim Antill (right) and students, Chloe and Ahmad, prepared a site plan.

Start them young! Per Bo Nielsen's two youngest daughters (left) helped him out with the **pest control**.

Photo: P. Neilson

John Stevenson (above left) collected tracking cards for footprint analysis, for the **rodent monitoring** programme.

Shawn Pearce-Blom and Margaret McConnell (left) helped with the **rodent baiting**.

And, it was **water flow monitoring** data checking time again for Pete Pattinson, NIWA, for the Waterview Connection (right).

Mt Albert St Jude's Scout Group worked hard weeding their restoration site next to their den in March, removing more privet and ginger, along with the ever present bind weed, moth plant seedlings and other weeds. This was followed by a planting day in May. The water level in the creek was quite low that day, allowing some interesting rubbish to be pulled out of the creek.

A tricycle, a steering wheel and an old sewing machine were some of the things extracted from the creek! **Photo: below, R. Stanton**

Eighty children from **Waterview Primary School** (below) visited the creek over a morning to find out more about invertebrates. As part of their visit, they went bug hunting with Wendy.

Toni Martin's class from **Gladstone Primary School** (left) also learnt about insects, during their water monitoring session at Oakley Creek.

Conservation Volunteers NZ International Team (left) helped out by clearing some dead alder trees to make room for native plants.

Te Ngahere (right) carried out a planting training session for their staff – while at the same time planting 750 plants on Oakley Creek – thanks Te Ngahere.

Seen this autumn: some of the first **kohekohe,** *Dysoxylum spectabile* fruit to develop at Oakley Creek – not yet ripe – and a seed, on its way to becoming a new kohekohe tree. These are signs that our pest control is effective.

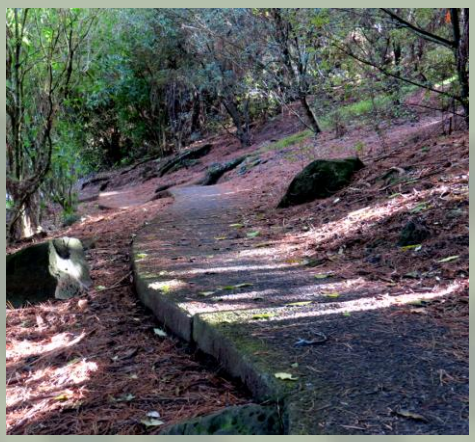
More autumn fungi at the creek.

Up and down …

And the seasons, they go round and round,
and the Oakley Walkway goes up and down.
We're captive on the carousel of time …

(With apologies to Joni Mitchell … just a reminder to watch your step.)

Photos: A. Stanton



Mussel multichoice solution

1. c. 2. a. 3. b. 4. a. 5. d. 6. b. 7. d.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of ASB Community Trust, The Trusts Community Foundation and Auckland Council: Albert-Eden and Puketapapa Local Boards; Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS).

Next Newsletter Contributions and comments for the next newsletter are welcome – please send 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 orders 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: Ross Ihaka, Kim Maree, Helen Mellsop, John Stevenson
Newsletter Editor: Adrienne Stanton
Ph. 09 815 3101 or 027 232 6454 info@oakleycreek.org.nz www.oakleycreek.org.nz