

Chairperson's Annual Report 2015

Tena koutou katoa

2014-2015 has been yet another busy and productive year, with lots happening.

In the 2014 planting season 7959 plants went into the ground, bringing us to an overall total since 2004 to 60,193. Planting was undertaken by the support of the local community; as well as by a number of community organisations, educational institutions and business organisations from the wider community including:

- Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre
- Owairaka Primary School
- Gladstone Primary School
- Mt Roskill Intermediate
- Collectively Kids Early Childhood Centre
- St Judes Scouts
- Waikowhai Scouts
- Auckland A Rocha & Haven (Kodesh) Christian Community / Cradock Street Sustainable Neighbourhood
- Powell Street Sustainable Neighbourhood
- Conservation Volunteers – Local & International Teams
- Auckland International College
- Open Polytechnic
- Manukau Institute of Technology
- St Peters College
- BNZ
- Auckland Council Communications Team
- Bank of New Zealand
- Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation
- And more

We continued to hold monthly working bees over the summer months, with special effort going into removing the massive invasion of bindweed; and organised another successful community clean-up, in conjunction with Auckland Council.

Our monitoring and pest control programme continues – thanks to the commitment of the pest control volunteer teams; and a new trap line was set up, in Harbutt Reserve, by the Roskill Rovers.

Monitoring of the lizards in the Lizard Management Area resulted, again, in the sighting of a number of Copper Skinks, which means the population is, at least, maintaining. And, weta numbers are looking good throughout the reserve.

Our water quality monitoring teams - the Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre 'garden group', Eileen Witt at the St Judes Scouts site, Jeff Lang at Cradock Street Bridge, and Jagjeeta and Guntaas Kaur, at the Unitec Bridge, continue with their 3-monthly

monitoring, with support from Wai Care. Collectively Kids Early Childhood Education Centre children also participated in a water quality monitoring session on the creek. And, this year, Friends of Oakley Creek has participated in a national water monitoring research project, run by NIWA, with the aim of comparing the effectiveness of community water monitoring with that of local / regional councils.

We continue to grow native plants in our nursery, for planting along the creek, thanks to the efforts of the Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre team, Mt Roskill Intermediate science students, Open Polytechnic students and Conservation Volunteers.

We continued to collaborate with the various contractors including Te Ngahere, Envirotech, City Parks Services and Downer, to ensure we are all working together to the same end.

The efforts of teams from Conservation Volunteers (CV) have been a great help in keeping up with work that needs doing – including planting, plant propagation and weed control.

We have continued with our outreach, to further raise awareness of the creek through a variety of avenues, including our excellent newsletter produced by committee member Adrienne Stanton; and our website and facebook page. We also organised another successful guided tour of the creek in Auckland City's Heritage Festival.

We submitted on the Auckland Council Stormwater Bylaw, the Auckland Council Long-Term Plan and the Waterview Shared Path.

We continue to be involved in the Community Liaison Groups for the State Highway 20 / Waterview Connection; and in the Community Liaison Group for the Unitec proposed plans and the Community Advisory Group for the Underwood & Walmsley Reserves stormwater upgrade.

Funding from the ASB Community Trust, the WWF and The Trusts Community Fund has been crucial for ensuring the sustainability of the project. A very special thanks to Helen Mellsoop for all of the great work she has put into fundraising.

Funding and support has also come from the Auckland Council, Albert Eden Local Board, the Whau Local Board and the Puketapapa Local Board, including for site preparation, weed control, plants, monitoring and pest control, and nursery supplies. And, again with funding from the Albert Eden Local Board, there has been continued weed control and planting in the 'Remnant Mahoe Rock Forest'.

Much time and energy has gone into the co-ordination of activities, networking, outreach, liaison with other stakeholders and interested parties e.g. Auckland Council, Local Boards, contractors, Unitec; into responding to enquiries and expressions of interest from a wide variety of community organisations and individuals – including tertiary students – undertaking a variety of assignments, research projects and volunteer hours.

So, all in all, 2014-2015 has been another busy and productive year on the creek.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the following, but not exclusive list of people and organisations for their wonderful support and encouragement:

- Sarah Peters and Huw Hill-Male, Auckland Council Parks Volunteer and Biodiversity Co-ordinators
- John Dwyer, John Maskell, John Stevenson, Jane Shand, Per Nielsen, Margaret

McConnell, Opal Gordon, John Allen & Tony Fookes – for their contribution to the monitoring and pest control.

- Dorothy Maddock, for the work she is doing to maintain an area in Alan Wood Reserve.
- Kate McPherson and Alice Rieger, our local Wai Care co-ordinators.
- Karen Mann and her team, from the Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre.
- Sean Carroll and the students from Mt Roskill Intermediate for the great work they have been doing to restore and grow native plants for the creek.
- St Judes Scouts Venturers for their contribution to the reduction of pests, and the St Judes Scouts for continuing to restore a section of the creek adjacent to their 'den'.
- The Roskill Rovers for initiating the setting up and managing of a new trap line, in Harbutt Reserve.
- Our two new Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups – Powell Street and Cradock Street, who are doing a wonderful job of restoring the creek and surrounding areas, in their neighbourhood.
- Te Ngahere for their work on site preparation and weed control, and for undertaking another planting.
- Manukau Institute of Technology – for the use of the nursery and propagation facilities.
- Our 'weedbusters' team – Jean Barton, Keith Ayton, David Smith, for the great work they do on removing some of our nastier weeds.
- David Stejskal, Auckland Council, for organising tree removal, extra weed control' and planting more specimen trees in Harbutt Reserve.
- Brent Druskovich, our 'resident archaeologist'.
- The Well Connected Alliance – for their continued support for our project, including helping to publicise our events; for monitoring the lizards in the Lizard Management Area, and recruit volunteers for some of our activities.
- Our regular volunteers – including Margaret McConnell, Arthur Heighton, John Allen, Tony Fookes and the wider community for their support, enthusiasm and efforts to assist in growing our vision for Oakley Creek.

And, I would like to say a special thank you to all of our Committee Members – Adrienne Stanton, Helen Mellsop, Jane Shand, John Stevenson and Dominic Hutching, for the great work they have done – and continue to do. And, a special thanks to Kim Maree, who had to step down, during the year, due to other commitments.

And, as you will know, the restoration of Oakley Creek continues to be a 'work in progress' with lots more to be done, including encouraging more community support and involvement, and advocating for the creek - and we hope you will continue to be involved and support the project in the coming year.

Many thanks.

Wendy John
Chairperson
18.5.2015