



Friends of Oakley Creek

Te Auaunga

SUMMER 2023

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Editorial

This summer newsletter celebrating our new mural, our amazing volunteers and summer activities was almost ready to go to the typesetters when the heavens opened.

As you know, Auckland has been inundated by a record shattering tropical deluge. Te Auaunga - Oakley Creek is a vital part of Auckland's flooding infrastructure, a role it performed admirably, as it has many times in the past. But this was no ordinary flood and our awa has taken a heavy hit. The foot-bridges have been damaged and several of them dislodged, some of the walkway has been washed away or buried under silt, trees uprooted, and multiple slips and slumps are evident along its length. The full extent of the damage is still being assessed, but you will find some images of the flood damage at page 14. As I write, the rain is starting again.

One bit of good news is that Auckland Council's Healthy Waters team has confirmed that the Cradock St bridge will be reinstated as a priority. It was designed to be tethered on one bank and seems to have remained intact, albeit now parallel to the water.

So, this newsletter is a picture of sunnier times. We will not be discouraged. There is much work to be done, but with the help of you, our wonderful supporters and volunteers, we will be equal to the task.

Enjoy!

Gina Hefferan, Editor



Photo (above): Te Auaunga walkway, seen from the Te Piringa Bridge, before and after the deluge (Xinxin Wang)

A Mural for Te Auaunga

By **Marin Adams**

"You're very clever.
I love it"
"That's amazing"
"You get paid for
this?"
"Nice work."
"I love the tui"

...so exclaim cyclists as they whizz past on the Waterview Shared Path and see Liam Hindley, Muralist, at work on the mural of Ngā Ringa o Te Auaunga. The mural is painted along a 50-metre wooden fence.



Photo (above): A blank canvas - the black fence running along below Te Arawhiti o Te Wai o Rakataura (Soljak) Bridge.

Liam studied fine arts and trained in graphic design but started his career as a graffiti artist. He was inspired by Henry Chalfant and Martha Cooper's book *Subway Art*, when just a child. The book featured New York City subway graffiti artists and arguably started one of the biggest art movements in modern times. There are now mural art festivals here in New Zealand which often attract international artists and connect the talented NZ mural art community with the rest of the world. We are fortunate that Liam has chosen to work for Friends of Oakley Creek here in Avondale.

Street art is different to other types of art. The artist is physically close to the community and receives immediate feedback as they work. The artwork is free to the public, set outdoors, is often in unexpected locations and is usually bold and colourful.

Of course, the mural would not have happened without a vision: it came from FofOC committee member, Chris Brown. Chris could see that Te Auaunga held great value for the community. He hoped the mural would encourage residents to explore the creek and support the work of Friends of Oakley Creek. Chris and a friend recently made a significant contribution to a previously hidden heritage feature within Avondale. They weeded land

adjacent to the black fence, revealing a drystone wall embankment built in 1880 to support Railway Bridge No. 9. The railway bridge has long gone but the stone wall reveals its location and is well preserved.



Photo (above): Chris and Liam on site project planning

Translating Chris's vision to a work of art was a team effort. Chris obtained landowner permission to paint the fence, collaborated with Liam and Wendy John in articulating the form, design and content of the mural. The three community boards, through whose rohe Te Auaunga flows, all supported the project. The project team has been gratified with the overwhelmingly positive public response. If you haven't seen the mural yet, do come and look. It's reached via the shared path which winds along above Oakley Creek. It can also be reached by walking across the Soljak Bridge (near Pak'nSave) or via the end of Trent St, off Blockhouse Bay Road.



Photo (above): The mural takes shape (Marin Adams)

Monthly Working Bees

By Wendy John

As per usual, the first Sunday of the month sees a bunch of volunteers joining us for a range of activities throughout the year – mainly tree planting in the winter, mulching in the spring-early summer and weeding and rubbish clean ups for the rest of the year.

Our last working bee of the year was a great event. With an energetic bunch of volunteers, including some of our regulars, some Kowhai Intermediate students (who live locally), and Xinxin and a group from her CVNZ Migrant Team, we weeded and spread a heap more

mulch around our young plants. So, with the combination of all the rain we've had this spring / early summer and some serious mulching sessions, our young plants should thrive – a far cry from the drought conditions we had last summer.



Photo (above): Charlie & Charlee



Photo (above): Regulars - Sandra, Glenn, Crispin, Gina and Jake (the dog) – enjoying the moment, including some of Chris' delicious baking.



Photo (above): Tahi



Photo (above): Almost finished!



Photo (above): CVNZ Migrant Team helping on last working bee of the year

"Weeding on the awa usually brings out the smiles"

Friday Working Bees

By Wendy John

What felt like the wettest spring on record didn't stop our volunteers from braving the weather to carry out a range of important tasks on the awa. One Friday saw us dealing with an extensive patch of moth plant, Chinese privet and madeira vine that had slipped off the radar for a while.



Photo (above): Tristan heads into the weed patch



Photo (above): Xin, Chris, Alison & Prue - dealing to the madeira vine



Photo (above): The weed patch - after the moth plant and privet have gone

On another Friday our local team was joined by a small group of WSP road safety personnel, who helped us to mulch some of the Mayor's Million Trees. David helped ease the load for a bit by delivering buckets of mulch down the slope on his new cargo bike.



Photo (above): WSP road safety team



Photo (above): David delivering mulch

And, while it might feel and look like a hard slog sometimes – weeding on the awa usually brings out the smiles when a keen group of hard-working folk get together.



Photo (above): Alison, Tristan & Chris



Photo (above): Prue & Martin

Te Auaunga ‘Community Group’ Activities

Oakley Loop Group – our ‘loop’ group working bees are very much a local community and family affair. We finally managed to get the planting done in the new area – albeit rather late in the season.

Conservation Volunteers ‘Local Team’ joined us in the early summer, to undertake a long overdue task of clearing weeds

in an area that was planted a few years back, by another CVNZ team. This was in Waterview Glades, below Great North Road. As well as the standard bindweed at this time of the year, they also dealt with a sizeable outcrop of Japanese honeysuckle.



Photo (above): Oakley Loop Group in action



Photo (above): CVNZ Team

Outreach Activities

By Sandra Maclean

A whopping 800kg of madeira vine tubers left the Waterview Heritage Area in mid-December. Volunteers have been collecting and bagging tubers at this site since March 2022, but there were so many bags on site, it was becoming hard to move around. Auckland Council contractors came to the rescue and carted the tubers out for us by wheelbarrow. Given that the average tuber is the size and weight of a

liquorice allsort- you can imagine how many individual pieces have been trowelled up by our fabulous volunteers. Groups who have helped us out recently - buoying up the efforts of our regular Tuesday morning volunteers – include Talogy, KPMG, Western Springs College, Waterview Primary, Sanitarium and BDO. The site is looking fantastic with all this attention and is much easier to navigate around! We are keen to keep groups busy on madeira vine so if you know a group that wants to lend a hand, please put them in touch with me (Sandra).

Restoration of bush at the Odyssey House site has been running since the start of August with impressive results. Jasmine, climbing asparagus, black-eyed Susan as well as large banks of ginger, have been controlled from around the ponga grove by Odyssey House residents. This hardworking team eats their body weight in bananas after every session. Next time you are strolling through Alan Wood Reserve look across the awa to check out how the site is changing, and I think you’ll agree it’s worth fuelling them up to get these results.

Volunteers have assisted in other areas too. Western Springs College put in a solid day of mulching in the Waterview Glades area. More sessions have been run at esplanade reserves below 27 Powell St, 26 Blockhouse Bay Road and countless private gardens with moth plant. Suggestions are welcome for a collective noun

for gardens with moth plant and the best suggestion will win bragging rights and a tin of the marvellously named ‘Pernicious Weed’*



Photo (above): Sanitarium volunteer at WHA with madeira vine nodule



Photo (above): Western Spring College in action



Photo (above): Western Spring College volunteer being super productive

* A Garage Project beer – entries must be 18yrs or older.

Corporate Groups

By Wendy John

The end of the year is obviously a time when corporates and organisations are running out of time to volunteer in the community sector. October through to December saw us with a heap of extra helping hands at a time when the weeds were making the most of the warm moist conditions.



Photo (above): WSP planners & landscape architects

bish clean up on the floodplain below BP on the western side of the creek. We also had an energetic team from Beca who gave up a Sunday morning to help us clear a heap of old rubbish from behind Phyllis Reserve – a task that has been on the 'to do' list for many years.



Photo (above): BECA rubbish removal



Photo (above): HSBC rubbish clean up



Photo (above): Auckland Council resource consent team

Groups that have joined us included another team from WSP. This time they were planners and landscape architects (including ex committee member, Heather Wilkins), and they helped with some serious weeding in one of our 'privet transition' sites and mulching of some of the Mayor's Million Trees in Harbutt Reserve. A crew from the HSBC did a rub-

Finally, a group from Auckland Council's resource consent team mucked in and did an amazing job of removing weeds from a planting in Harbutt Reserve, that was planted two years ago.

So, all in all, it's been a great spring / early summer for catching up on a few jobs.

Water Monitoring on the Awa

By Wendy John

During our recent summer monitoring sessions, we had some exciting 'critter' sightings in our macroinvertebrate samples. In Harbutt Reserve we observed the most damselfly larvae (*Xanthocnemius zealandica*) in all the years we have been monitoring on the awa. There was a full dozen – these are easily distinguishable from other freshwater larvae because of the shape of their body and the three tail gills. And you may be familiar with the red adult form that can be seen hanging out along stream banks over the summer months – <https://www.nmtt.co.nz/assets/Uploads/Freshwater-Resources/ID-bio-eco-notes/damselfly.pdf>

And, at Jill and Eric's site on the Wairaka Stream our sample included one of the biggest inanga (*Galaxias maculatus*) we have seen – <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/freshwater-fish/whitebait-migratory-galaxiids/inanga/>



Photo (above): Damselfly larvae (Cradock St Bridge)



Photo (above): Jill & Eric at Wairaka Stream



Photo (above): Helen monitoring at Cradock St Bridge (Harbutt Reserve)



Photo (above): Inanga in Wairaka Stream

Cycle Tour

By Wendy John

We were thrilled to be a part of an event that PATH (Puketāpapa Active Transport Haven) instigated – a cycle tour of Te Auaunga. Wendy acted as the tour guide. We started at the top of the catchment in Molley Green Reserve and wended our way downstream with stops at various points of interest, to Waterview Reserve.



Photo (above): PATH cycle tour (Jon Turner)

We stopped off in Harbutt Reserve to help our local volunteers spread some mulch and finished up at Daily Bread for lunch and coffees. We are so lucky being able to cycle the full length of the awa off-road (apart, from PATH, crossing roads at intersections). Thanks to Richard Barter for organising this fun event.



Photo (above): Cyclists helping locals with mulching

Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) on the Awa

By Wendy John and Danli Wang

Ngā Ringa o Te Auaunga / Friends of Oakley Creek recently partnered with EMR, the Whitebait Connection, Para Kore ki Tāmaki and Auckland Sea Kayaks for a day of exploring our local Motu Manawa Marine Reserve. The event offered a range of activities including a kayak trip out to Pollen Island and up into the tidal reach of Te Auaunga - where Wendy was the local 'storyteller', and an audit of rubbish and water quality monitoring. The event was a huge success with 98 participants who, on the water, were able to explore up towards Pollen Island and Te Auaunga Creek. Observations included a school of mullet, matuku moana - white faced herons flying overhead, nesting black backed gulls, noisy oyster catchers and diving kawau - pied shags. Thanks, EMR for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing event.

Participant and FofOC supporter Danli Wang writes:

My partner and I live close to Te Auaunga/Oakley Creek, and we often walk around the creek and the beaches of Pt Chevalier. But the recent kayak tour of Motu Manawa took us deep into the hinterland to see the Oakley Creek inlet from the perspective of the sea, and the ancient history of the coast. It was so interesting to experience the creek from a different angle!



Photo (above): Danli & Jim (on the water)



Photo (above): EMR kayaking on Te Auaunga

Afterwards, in the tent we watched a demonstration from Brendan Doogan (Whitebait Connection) on the relationship between water quality and aquatic life; and participated in a game of garbage sorting. We learnt how to protect our environment in our daily lives.

What a fantastic day we spent with our community friends. We express our thanks to the volunteers and appreciate the great support and great work they have done and continue to do to make the creek such a wonderful area for all of us to enjoy!

Te Auaunga - Oakley Creek Water Sensor Update

By Kim Neal and Warren Davies

Water quality sensors are now installed in the tributary (Wairaka Stream) – ('Oakley Creek lower') near the Mason Clinic and in Te Auaunga at Harbutt Reserve ('Oakley Creek upper').



Photo (above): Kim and Warren installing water sensor monitor

The incoming information we receive is real-time, allowing us to immediately respond to potential pollution events. Both sensors measure temperature (oxygen carrying capacity), EC (electrical conductivity) level and the water level, with the system alerting us directly with a text message if the EC level rises above a certain threshold. These are basic indicators of what could affect the stream's

water quality. You can check these out on <http://bit.ly/3WDEcLw>



Photo (above): Using the sensor (from the website, as above)

Insights over 6 months in Te Auaunga - Oakley Creek (upper):

- 1. EC level** (an indication of pollution caused by dissolved solids)
This looks about normal. This is good news as we have detected no pollution events of this type over the sample period. The stream does suffer from rubbish pollution such as plastic. However, the sensor cannot detect that.
- 2. Water Temperature**
The stream has a high temperature in warmer months. High water temperature

causes stress on aquatic life, reduces the oxygen carrying capacity and promotes algae growth. For New Zealand streams, a temperature under 13°C is desirable. Generally over winter the temperature is normal. Additional planting upstream may improve this situation.

3. Water Level

The stream has seen some extreme inflow events over the past 6 months (see attached graph), over 2m level increase on occasions. The main issue with the level change is the rate of change. High flows can dislodge life as they are not adapted to such rapid flowing water. Causes are often related to hard surfaces upstream in the catchment. Slowing the rate of water level rise would improve outcomes for aquatic life and reduce erosion. Day lighting piped sections of the creek and constructing rain gardens are both good ways to improve this situation.

Please note: The sensor allows us to record long term trends and spot events that require a closer look. It is not a scientific instrument and is not intended to meet national water quality standards. And the Wairaka Stream sensor will need to be moved to another site, outside of the influence of tide and excess vegetation.

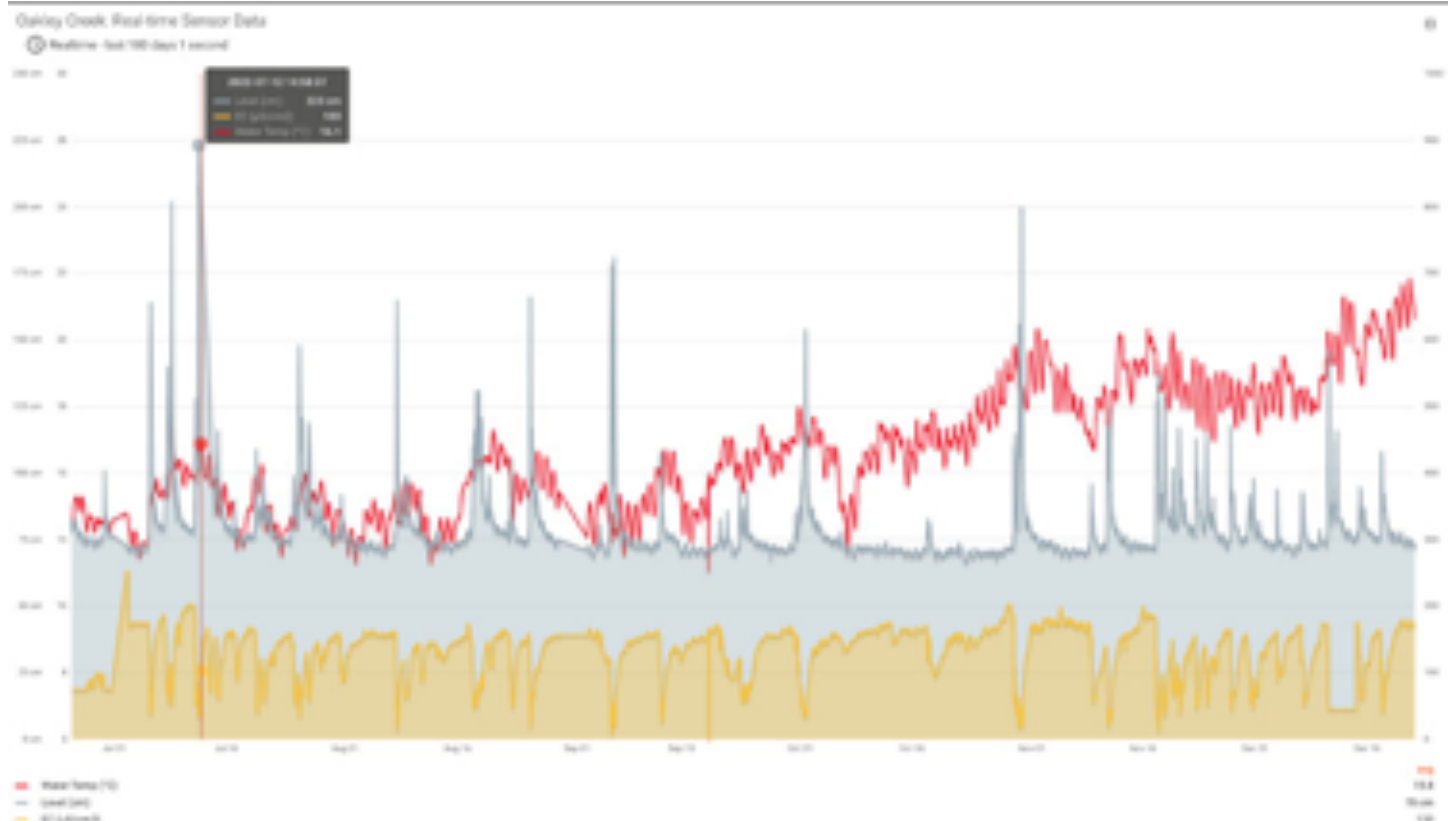


Photo (above): Time Series Data (from the website, as above)

Freeland Reserve Opening Celebration

By Gina Hefferan

*It worked!
This article <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/131117898/weve-paved-paradise-how-do-we-let-the-water-out-shows-the-Freeland-Reserve-in-flood-and-after-successfully-protecting-surrounding-homes>*

In late 2022 FofOC was proud to be part of the celebrations for the opening of the transformed Freeland Reserve. It was a joyous occasion with delightful performances from local cultural groups, starting May Road Primary kapahaka group. Chris Brown, Cate Ryan, and I fielded lots of questions about how Oakley Creek is related to the reserve, planting, and weeds. Chris was particularly effective at engaging the kids with the “Pest or Pal” boards. Despite the rain and the blustery conditions, a fun time was had by all.



Photo (above): Chris and Gina talk weeds (Kainga Ora photographer)

Just a couple of years ago this part of Te Auaunga’s headwaters was a boggy unloved wasteland

that kids would cross on their way to school by balancing on the exposed drainpipe.

With new homes planned for the area, Kainga Ora took the opportunity to work with Piritahi, Mana Whenua, Auckland Council and Puketāpapa Local Board to upgrade the stormwater infrastructure and restore the awa. This cutting-edge project even included a fish ladder. As part of the revamp, and in consultation with the community – including Friends of Oakley Creek, they also worked to revitalize the park. It now has wide curving walkways, footbridges, a viewing platform over the water, seating, BBQ area for picnics and at every junction you will find eels, stylized glorious eels, etched into the concrete, running towards the water.

One highlight of the day for me was to meet the artist Numangani Mackenzie, whose art is such a feature of the reserve. Numa’s art highlights the historic importance of the awa as taonga, as a source of kai. “The eels, stencilled

and sandblasted into the reserve’s weaving pathways are a sign of health, wellbeing and nourishment in Te Ao Māori,” Numa says.



Photo (above): Numa’s eels (Gina Hefferan)

Check out the before and after video here: [Kainga Ora-Freelands Slider.mp4](#)

Better still, start from the slopes of Puketāpapa to get your bearings and take a stroll through Freeland Reserve to see for yourselves.

Auckland Council Biodiversity Monitoring

Auckland Council monitors a range of environmental characteristics for its State of the Environment Report, which is produced every five years. The programme includes terrestrial biodiversity monitoring whereby information is collected on the condition of forest, dune and wetland environments across the Auckland region. The intent is to assess the health of the environment, to track changes over time and to identify potential issues that need addressing. Forest monitoring is included and there are over 550 current vegetation plots across private, council, Crown, Department of Conservation, and trust land in Auckland, with one of the plots located on Te Auaunga, in Harbutt Reserve, alongside the shared path.

Locations for the plots have been chosen using a grid system, and a randomised methodology. A team of botanists and ornithologists



Fig 1 - Map showing monitoring location

carry out a series of botanical, bird and catchment analyses in accordance with DOC and other standard national methods.

The plots are made up of 16 sub-plots (Fig 2). For the vegetation monitoring all seedlings (woody and non-woody) are counted, identified and recorded from within each 50cm circular seedling plot in height classes up to 1.35m. All trees and branches greater than 2.5cm diameter at 1.35m (DBH) height are tagged and measured within the 16 stem/sapling subplots.

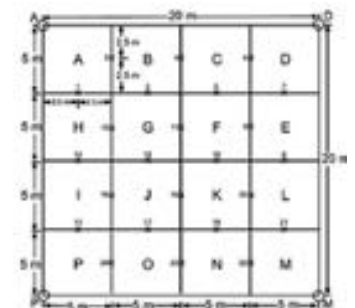


Fig 2 - Forest Plots

The programme is also designed to identify changes in the region’s biodiversity – over time, assess the relative impacts of key threats, and determine the effectiveness of management initiatives.

NB - Notes, photo and plot map provided by Miriam Ludbrook, Environmental Specialist, Auckland Council

All About Birdsong

By Dr. Wesley Webb

Wes is a Research Officer and postdoctoral researcher at Massey University, Albany. His PhD involved a large field study on NZ bellbird song dialects, and he now lectures in ornithology and researches the evolution of female birdsong complexity. In his spare time he is a volunteer for Friends of Oakley Creek. In the article below he shares with us some of the knowledge he has acquired in the course of his study and research.

Summer is upon us, and the birds of Te Auaunga are rhapsodising (sometimes at ungodly hours!). What are they up to? Animals use sounds for fighting, flirting, coordinating group activities, recognising individuals, scaring off predators, warning each other of danger, and more. Interestingly, most animals appear genetically pre-programmed to develop their vocalisations; even if the animal is isolated or deaf from infancy, it will develop species-typical sounds. But eight groups of animals are capable of learning their vocalisations by listening and imitating. These are humans, cetaceans (whales and dolphins), bats, seals, elephants, songbirds, hummingbirds and parrots.

These species have vocal culture – shared vocal behaviour acquired through social imitation. Search “Woof Woof the talking tui” on YouTube and you will see a captive-raised tui who learnt his vocalisations from his aviary keeper. Instead of singing tui song, he speaks English phrases with a thick New Zealand accent – a splendid demonstration that tui (which are songbirds) learn by listening and imitating. Have you noticed that the tui on your street sound similar to each other? Where I live, on Himikera Ave, the tui have all fixated on a crazy-making loop of five notes. However, in another region (or in another year) the song in vogue will be different. Much like human language, the song culture of songbird populations evolves as new motifs are introduced through immigration and innovation, while others fall out of use. The result is a diversification of song types over space and time, known as dialects.

Native songbirds you are likely to have heard near Oakley Creek include tui, fantail, grey warbler and silvereye. These all learn songs and so have vocal culture, and the potential for dialects. However, we also have a “singer” who is not a songbird: the shining cuckoo or pīpīwharauoa. This fascinating bird arrives in New Zealand during Spring, after flying over 3000 km from the Solomon Islands. On arrival it whistles to attract



Photo (above): Wes working to increase the survival rate of songbirds of Te Auaunga

mates, then surreptitiously lays an egg in the nest of a grey warbler. Once the cuckoo chick hatches it grows much faster than its nestmates, tossing out eggs and chicks. It gives a potent begging call that sounds like a warbler chick, compelling the bamboozled warbler parents to frantically feed their oversized alien. By Autumn, the fledged cuckoos fly back to their tropical overwintering grounds. Cuckoos develop their vocalisations innately; as they do not learn, they lack song culture and thus geographic dialects.

Comment: It is wonderful to be able to tap into the diverse skills and knowledge that many of our volunteers possess. On a recent trip to Whirinaki Forest I noticed how the shining cuckoo songs I heard seemed much longer than the ones I hear amongst the trees of Te Auaunga. I mentioned my observation to Wes and he explained the difference in song may reflect physiological differences between populations, perhaps due to genetic isolation. If you notice anything of interest along the creek, do get in touch and we will see if we can find someone with expertise in our network to provide an opinion.

Marin Adams

*Feel free to contact Wes at wesleythewebb@gmail.com.

Greetings *Astelia hastata*

By Ngaio Balfour

Poipoia te kakano kia puawai - Nurture a seed and it will blossom

"You're flowering!!!" I exclaimed to the *Astelia hastata*.

A beautifully unperturbed silence was the response, as it tends to be when plants are engaged in conversation at short notice. White tubes, laden with intricate cup-like hexagon flowers, spilt from the *Astelia*'s base, framed by the graceful, lance-like leaves. My face cracked into a childlike grin which even survived the random deluge of January rain, leaving me soaked, concerned about climate change, but absurdly happy.



Photo (above): *A. hastata* across the bridge upstream from the community gardens (Crispin Balfour)

The next day I went to visit the other three *A. hastata* on Te Auaunga, and was greeted by more flowering! Of the other plants, one looked healthy and well. The third, perhaps suffering from hectic summer storms, had come loose from its perch, and was precariously attached by a few roots.

Introducing *Astelia hastata*

Astelia hastata are epiphytes, plants which live above the ground by embracing tree hosts with entwining roots. These living islands enrich ecosystem biodiversity, both as beings themselves and as habitat formers for others. *Astelia* are glass-like 'tank

epiphytes', which provide food and housing for native birds, lizards and insects and craft a comfy 'humid' microclimate, protecting and promoting the growth of neighbouring greenery. Usually, these epiphytes reside only in elderly 'remnant' forests and are absent from urban restoration projects such as Te Auaunga. That is, until recently!

How did *A. hastata* come to live in Te Auaunga?

In 2018 Derryn Jacobi and I, students of ecology, began a project to introduce *A. hastata* to Te Auaunga, Oakley Creek. The project was guided by Wendy John; ecologists Bruce Burns, André Bellvé and Robyn Simcock; and other inspiring epiphyte scientists and enthusiasts.

In late winter, we translocated six *A. hastata* that had fallen from their host trees in Smiths Bush, a forest bush fragment on the North Shore, into Te Auaunga. The newcomers, magnificent, green, battered and bruised, were bundled in hessian cloth and sphagnum moss and strapped into new host trees.

Over the past four years, four of the *A. hastata* have filled their homes with fresh spiny leaves. The other three succumbed to drought or rot in the first year.

Why translocations?

To establish naturally *A. hastata* require a seed source, which is not present in most urban conservation projects, such as Te Auaunga, Oakley Creek. Translocating plants into such projects can begin creating local, and potentially interconnected, populations of *Astelia* and thereby start to awaken the biodiversity and ecosystem functions they support.

Flowers! What's all the fuss?

Flowers, often symbols of new beginnings, are central to plant ecology; from the continuation of an individual's lineage to the abundance and genetic diversity of local populations and species. They can also be signs of vitality, being expensive displays to produce!

Therefore, the flowering *A. hastata* are vibrant signs of the translocation's success. However, for *A. hastata* flowers to turn to fruit and reproduce, both male and female plants must be present, and our observations suggest the two flowering *Astelia* are male. We wait to see if the other *Astelia* produce female flowers and are also hoping to bring new plants into the reserve.

A new home - Thoughts for the new year

After contemplating the state of the precariously perched *Astelia*, we decided to re-home it into a more protected position within a large plane tree.



Photo (above): re-locating *A. hastata* to a large plane tree near the bridge upstream from the community gardens (Ngaio Balfour)

As I hoisted the *A. hastata* into its new home, a few days after January 1st, I thought about how we start a year: celebrating and grieving the past, setting resolutions or intentions for the future, taking time to reflect on who we are and wish to be in this world.

May we find ourselves stepping into life with the vitality to share and give life. If some find themselves battered, bruised, and becoming detached from what they used to call home, may they too be bundled and (carefully) squished by those who love them. May we do the same for those we love. Change is rarely done alone.

Whether we celebrate the new year on January 1st, Matariki, or another time special to our culture, this is a time of connection and change.

Thank you *A. hastata* for the reminder.



Photo (above): Flood debris shows how close this *A. hastata* came to being dislodged in the deluge



Photo (above): *A. hastata* on the western side of the creek (Crispin Balfour)



Photo (above): *A. hastata* in close up (Crispin Balfour)

Seasonal Gallery – Flora and Fauna

These images are pre-deluge. The pōhutukawa in Phyllis Reserve put on an amazing display in December.



Photo (above): Pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) in bloom, Phyllis Reserve

From Clockwise, from below left: Kānuka (*Kunzea robusta*) in flower; Kānuka flower close up; Kererū; Pied shag, Nikau palms in Walmsley Park



Post – Deluge Gallery

Though we are all dismayed by the damage that is evident along the awa, it is important to stop and appreciate that Te Auaunga has very effectively performed its role as part of Auckland’s flooding infrastructure. The flooding that was seen in Underwood, Walmsley and Kukuwai parks (and now Freeland Reserve) is by design. The pictures of the erosion are distressing, but it would have been far worse without all the careful planting and nurturing of vegetation that this group has been doing for decades now. Those valiant *Carex* will be standing up again in no time.



Photo (above): Te Auaunga after the deluge

Clockwise from left: The awa overflowing its banks by the Te Whitinga bridge, Kukuwai Park; Severe erosion in the Phyllis Reserve area; More erosion to bedrock, Phyllis reserve; Carex, bowed but not broken; the displaced Cradock st bridge; More bridge damage. Photos by Wendy, Jennifer Davis, Marin Adams and Kim Maree.



Notices

Monthly Community Working Bees: As per normal, our monthly working bees are held on the first Sunday of each month. During the summer months – November-February time is 9.30 am-11.30 am, and for the rest of the year it’s 10.00 am-12.00 noon.

Tuesday Working Bees: Tuesday mornings 9.30 am to 12.00 pm. This exciting project is well underway and is looking for some more regular

volunteers. For more information contact Sandra - 021 166 7647

Friday Working Bees: Friday mornings 9.00 am to 12.00 pm. We work in different locations on Friday mornings, depending on the need at the time. If you’re interested let us know and we’ll include you in the Friday email list so that you can join us when you are free.

Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga

Chairperson:

David Bowden

Treasurer:

Matt Hill

Secretary:

Marin Adams

Committee:

Wendy John, Adrienne Stanton, John Stevenson, Cate Ryan, Chris Brown, Gina Hefferan

Newsletter Editor: Gina Hefferan



Newsletter Photos: Unless otherwise credited, all photos are by Wendy John

Newsletter contributions and comments are welcome – email info@oakleycreek.org.nz

We 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; our bank account number is 38-9003-0978224-00.

You can also find us at <http://oakleycreek.org.nz/> and <https://www.facebook.com/OakleyCreek>

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