

March Newsletter

Happy Easter

We hope you're enjoying the long weekend!

As we move into the cooler season things start to get busy-

This month we took part in a clean up at Taipari Strand and have been planning for our guided walk along the awa next week. We have mulching, weeding and plantings on the horizon and as always we continue our advocacy for Te Wai o Pareira.

Trapping Plans

Trapping is something that makes a huge difference to native birds, lizards and invertebrates. It is estimated that 5 million native birds in New Zealand are killed each year by rats, stoats, possums and other introduced predators. So to see an increase in native species we must control the predators that target them.

Rivercare has big plans to increase trapping around Te Wai o Pareira, to give birds and other native animals the chance to thrive. We are in the process of seeking funding which will significantly increase the number of traps that we have.

For the past two years we have been trapping rats and mice at Renata Esplanade with community members and Tawa Esplanade with the Venturer Scout Group and we are currently in the process of setting up a new trap line along the Waikumete stream in Te Atatū South which will be checked and cleared by the Edmonton Scouts.

After hearing from the community about the number of possums they are seeing in Te Atatū (Peninsula and South) we decided to add some possum traps onto our traplines too, we will be installing these as soon as we can.

One of our long term goals is to get the Peninsula predator free by creating a trapping halo. Te Atatū Peninsula has the benefit of being surrounded by water and cut off by the motorways so with strategic trapping, filling in the gaps between the current traplines run by ourselves and other groups around the water side of the Peninsula, supplemented by intensive backyard trapping, we can create a barrier making it harder for predators to get a foothold. In the case of possums we are hoping that they may be able to be entirely eradicated as they do not tend to swim.

Thank you for any backyard trapping you already do, every predator caught saves birds.

Bring on Predator Free Peninsula!

Coming Up

Love our Awa

Join us for a very special free event for EcoFest 2024

Next Sunday the 7th of April we are hosting a guided walk through some of our favourite places along Te Wai o Pareira. On the journey we will share some of the Kōrero Paki (stories) of Te Wai o Pareira that will inform participants about the ecological, historic and cultural value of the space and its challenges. The intention will be to share stories – our stories and yours.

Be in quick as tickets are limited and are getting snapped up

[Register Here](#)

Freshen up at Tawa

If you are handy with a shovel we could use some hands on deck for some mulching at Tawa Esplanade for an hour or two on 5th of May. We're meeting at the Matipo road entrance to Tawa Esplanade at 10AM. Bring appropriate footwear and a jacket.

Stormwater Upgrades

We continue our advocacy in the stormwater upgrades for the peninsula, we have recently received some news that there are plans to put ripraps in at the outfall points of the new stormwater system. A riprap is a structure of interlocking boulders that helps to slow down the flow of water and reduces stream bank erosion. This is good news, the water coming from the new pipes and exiting the outfalls at high pressure is concern to us and we are hoping that the ripraps will reduce the erosion that the water causes to the surrounding area.

However we are not happy to hear that there will be a riprap in place at every outfall except one... Tawa Esplanade. Tawa Esplanade is a special place to us, we have put countless hours into removing weeds, planting and removing rubbish from this site. We have been told that the stream and the existing infrastructure should be able to cope with the added force but we question this as we already see stream erosion at this site after heavy rain. With more water flowing through this outfall we fear that some of our hard work will literally be washed away along with the native animals that inhabit the stream.

We also continue to push for some sort of filtering system to remove the contaminants such as heavy metals (zinc, copper etc) and concrete that will be washed off the roads and through the storm water system. Healthy Waters currently have no plans to address this with stormwater settling ponds such as we have elsewhere on the peninsula, or with any other measure.

This especially concerns us because off the coast from Harbourview has been designated as a "Significant Ecological Area" it is an important feeding ground for wading birds, including the Kuaka (Bar-tailed Godwit). The latter fly all the way from Alaska to feed in Te Atatū. If contaminants such as heavy metals are allowed to flow freely into the harbour what impact will that have on the shellfish that the wading birds feed on, will these amazing birds continue to visit us?

Clean Up at Taipari

On the 17th of March we joined Earth Action Trust for a rubbish clean-up at Taipari Strand. We got a bit muddy but had an absolute blast and most importantly we removed SO much rubbish from the park and the mangroves, check out the photos below.

Thank you to everyone who came along and helped, we were able to do the whole clean up in under two hours which is incredible and of course a big thank you to Earth Action Trust for putting on this successful event.

Update On the Smell at Flanshaw

In our last two newsletters we mentioned the strong sewage smell around the pump station at the bottom of Flanshaw Road (opposite Rutherford College). We are happy to report that Watercare has now informed us that the source of the smell is a broken vent in the pump station which is allowing gasses to escape.

The good news is that there is no contaminants entering the water but Watercare says that the repair is that there is currently no ETA on replacing the vent, so the smell will be with us awhile longer.

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