

April Newsletter

In this issue we ask "How long until we see the benefits of the Northern Interceptor?", let you know about our upcoming events and share photos from our Love Our Awa Event.

The Northern Interceptor- How long do we have to wait?

Looking through some documents recently, we came across the Watercare 2023 Wastewater Network Strategy Engagement Summary, take a look at page 21. Watercare is alluding to pressure from community organisations such as ourselves to end the frequent overflows into Te Wai o Pareira.

In West Auckland our current sewage system is at capacity with a rapidly growing population and ageing infrastructure, leading to regular overflows. Watercare's solution is the Northern Interceptor project which will take wastewater from parts of West Auckland and South Rodney and send it to the Rosedale Treatment Plant on the North Shore. Currently wastewater from these areas is being sent to the Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant. Sending it to Rosedale is more efficient, will take pressure off the system leading to less overflows and will free up capacity for future growth.

Stage 1 of the Northern Interceptor Project began in 2017 with pipes from Kumeu, Riverhead, Westgate, Redhills and Hobsonville to be connected to the Rosedale Pump Station and was initially due for completion in 2020. Rivercare Group Te Wai o Pareira understands that the pipes have been laid but have still not been made operational. As a result in the elapsed time sewage flow through West Auckland has significantly increased resulting in major overflows to The Wai O Pareira/Henderson Creek.

Following stages: Future phases of the Northern Interceptor are planned to include a new pipeline from the Concourse and then to Rosedale. New pipes and pump stations will be required along a route through urban areas. These works are still at the scoping stage, that will be followed by design options assessments, selection of final design and then consent application. We have not heard anything further about the progress of these proposed works so we are not holding our breath to see them completed

We are disappointed that stage 1 of the project is now four years delayed and we have been told that it will now be at least 2025 until it's made functional. We understand that the project has faced many unforeseen delays including the covid lockdowns, the 2023 floods and the Parnell sinkhole all of which tied up Watercare's time and resources but as we wait for the project to be completed housing continues to be built putting even more pressure on an overloaded system leading to overflows into Te Wai o Pareira.

In a 2016 document Watercare stated that they had assessed the existing capacity in the wastewater network and identified that by around 2020 it would need to be increased to cope with demand. We are now well past 2020 and we live in the reality of a system that is not coping.

We expect that Stage 1, when implemented, will reduce but not eliminate the overflows that we are currently experiencing. The longer we wait for it to be put in service, the more the intensity of the overflows will increase because of the higher sewage volumes due to housing intensification. This is why we keep up our advocacy, hoping to see more urgency for this much needed project.

Freshen-up Tawa

In preparation for our Matariki Planting we need some help to prepare the site with mulching and weeding. If you can spare 2 hours **this Sunday 10AM-12PM**, we are meeting at the Matipo Rd entrance to Tawa Esplanade, we would love to see you there!

Clean up at Pixie Stream

Pixie Stream is a lovely little tributary that runs past the Te Atatū Roosters Club and Rutherford College, at the moment she is looking a bit sad with rubbish caught along the banks. We are joining Earth Action Trust to show Pixie Stream some love. Save the date, more details to come.

Matariki planting day

We are celebrating this Matariki with a planting day at Tawa Esplanade, In Mātauranga Māori, Matariki is a time for planting, associated with new life and beginnings. So come on down and mark the New Year by giving back to Papatuanuku. Spots are limited, click the link to book your tickets.

[Register Here](#)

Love our Awa

As part of EcoFest 2024 we hosted a guided walk to some of our favourite places along Te Wai o Pareira. Thank you to all those who joined us, it was so lovely to see familiar and new faces. We trust that you went away with deeper knowledge of Te Wai o Pareira and some of the struggles she faces as well as a greater love for this taonga we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep.

Views on TAP article

Our restoration project at Tawa Esplanade was featured in the latest edition of Views On TAP, the Peninsula Business Association magazine. Thank you to Robynne Pringle for coming to see the project and for the photos and write up.

You can read the article by clicking the link below and selecting Autumn 2024 edition.

[Read Article](#)

Share on social

[Share on Facebook](#) [Share on X \(Twitter\)](#) [Share on f](#)

Check out our site 