

## Ōtara Waterways and Lake End of Year Report 2017-18

Prepared by Katie Jones, Ōtara Waterways and Lake Project Coordinator

Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board 2017-18 Ōtara Waterways and Lake Budget	
Ōtara Waterways and Lake Project Coordinator	\$30,000.00
MIT	\$8,000.00
Adopt a Spot	\$20,500.00
Litter Action Plan	\$10,000.00
Planting site maintenance	\$10,000.00

### SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER DAYS	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	AMOUNT OF RUBBISH REMOVED	NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED
<b>OTARA CREEK CLEAN UP</b>	1	50	≈ to 60 black sacks, pallets, crates, mattresses, timber, furniture, clothing, electronics	0
<b>ADOPT A SPOT</b>	5	127	0	3,100
<b>PRESTON RD RESERVE</b>	1	70	≈ to 10 black sacks	800
<b>NEAT STREETS</b>	1	30 volunteers 59 homes	10.95 tonne inorganic rubbish 1.36 tonne metal 957kg Ewaste 122kg Cardboard 155kg Paper & Books 3kg Polystyrene 2kg Soft Plastics Truck load of items gifted to Habitat for Humanity	0

### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Re -appointment of the Project Coordinator
- Continuation of brand and communications campaign for the Trust
- Expansion of the work of the Trust into the Howick Local Board area
- Ongoing support for Adopt a Spot in the Otara Creek Reserve
- Continued development of relationships with stakeholders such as Housing New Zealand, Corrections, DB Breweries, MIT and companies that donated to the Million Metres campaign
- Continuation of the Neat Streets programme as the Trust's key response to illegal dumping in the catchment – including greater focus on long term community engagement
- 2nd stage of Preston Road planting, including school and community engagement
- Continued re-engagement of the Community Panel
- Continued organisation of creek clean ups as key community events

## ŌTARA WATERWAYS AND LAKE PROJECT COORDINATOR

Katie Jones was again engaged as the Ōtara Waterways and Lake project Coordinator, completing on average 14hrs a week for this project.

### BRAND PROJECT - MANUKAU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students from MIT were again engaged to complete the branding and website projects started in 2016-17. Students this year worked on

- Logo
- Stakeholder analysis
- Website

A fourth work stream to complete a communications plan for the Trust was also meant to be undertaken by MIT students. However because a suitable student could not be identified this work stream was not completed.

The final contract amount agreed with MIT therefore was reduced to \$6,000 from the original budget amount of \$8,000.

### LOGO

The draft logo was initially presented to the Ōtara Community Panel for feedback on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017. A further meeting was held with the MIT lecturer and Ōtara Waterways Trustees to clarify further changes before the final logo was presented on 30 October 2017.

This logo was approved by the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trustees, however the final files were not received from MIT until 19 March 2018, without the agreed brand guidelines.

Further refinement of the logo and creation of brand guidelines was undertaken by Wilde Media in June. The Trust now has a complete set of logos and full brand guidelines to use.



### MIT STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

An analysis of the Trust's internal and external stakeholders and the relationship they have with the Trust was undertaken to identify issues related to communication within the Trust and community panel and to identify the roles each community panel members plays towards the progress of this project.

The MIT student undertook phone interviews with community panel members and face-to-face interview with the Trustees.

The Community Panel members that responded to the request for a phone interview were mainly Council staff or local board services staff who make up the Community Panel. Some emphasized they do

not have any responsibility towards this project but rather hold accountability to be part of it as being Council staff. A vast number of members did not respond to phone calls for the phone interview which implicated that there is no common interest between all the community panel members.

The main issues identified from the research were:

- raising funds and investing in membership from local communities or business owners who would help in donating money
- Raising awareness of the Trust, however with limited communications budget no such activity such as campaigns or advertisements can be carried out.

The report recommended for the Trust to set clear guidelines about membership with the organization. Upon talking with the Community Panel members and the Trustees the research identified that there is lack of unity between the Trust and the Community Panel. To raise the profile of the Trust more time should be invested in building links with local community members, schools and businesses so its gives more exposure to the diverse public about this project. Sponsorship activities should be incorporated in this project which can help raise funds.

## WEBSITE

The website for the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust was completed by the second MIT student by December 2017. Time constraints from MIT meant some errors were unresolved following handover. The website can be found at [www.otarawaterways.org.nz](http://www.otarawaterways.org.nz)

Basic user instructions have been written to allow the Trust to self-administer the website. However for more complex updates such as new webpages, a website specialist will need to be engaged.

## VISION DOCUMENT

Wilde Media were engaged to design a vision document and editable event poster for the Trust.

The purpose of the vision document is to bring to life the Trust's Strategic Plan in a format that is visually appealing which can be used by the Trustees and Project Coordinator. The editable event poster is to create brand consistency when promoting the various events organised by the Trust, from planting days to creek clean ups.



## **ADOPT A SPOT**

### **CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL PROGRAMME**

The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board (OPLB) provided \$20,500 in its 2017/18 budget for the continuation of the Adopt a Spot programme in Ōtara.

The funding was to support the three Adopt a Spot groups formed in 2016/17 and for the formation of three new groups.

The intention of the Adopt a Spot programme is to empower and resource local communities and neighbours in Ōtara to look after their local creeks, rather than engaging professional services, and to create a meaningful working relationship between Auckland Council and the Adopt a Spot groups for the long term maintenance and protection of their local creeks.

In 2016/17, the Adopt a Spot programme was supported by an Adopt a Spot Coordinator who worked with the groups to plan the planting and weed control and to organise and supervise the working days. This Coordinator was an independent Council contractor.

The long term intention for the Adopt a Spot Coordinator role was that a more local person would be recruited for this position. Despite best efforts, all attempts to find a local person with the required knowledge and experience to fill the Adopt a Spot Coordinator position were unsuccessful. This meant that the Adopt a Spot Programme did not progress as planned in 2017/18.

Options for the reallocation of the Adopt a Spot budget were identified by the Project Coordinator in March 2018. These options were developed around the same broad objectives for the Adopt a Spot project, namely community engagement (connecting local communities to their local creek), and ecological outcomes for Ōtara Creek (metres of stream restored through weeding and riparian planting).

The alternative actions were as follows:

1. The three existing Adopt a Spot groups continued to be supported – note all budget requirements for the Adopt a Spot programme were taken from the funds raised through the Million Metres campaign and managed by the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust
2. Restoration of Ōtara Creek through Preston Road Reserve with a community planting and engagement of local schools.

### **OUTCOMES FOR 2017-18**

The Adopt a Spot programme continues to be one of the key community engagement programmes for the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust.

The vision for the Adopt a Spot programme is that the groups will in time “adopt” the entire Ōtara Creek Reserve, with all groups working in unison to restore and look after the Ōtara Creek and Reserve.

The Ōtara Network Action Committee was engaged by the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust to lead the community engagement necessary to make this project a success. Andrew Jenks was engaged by the Trust to continue the role of biodiversity/water quality expert to ensure all biodiversity outcomes for the Ōtara Creek are realised and that the Adopt a Spot groups receive the guidance they need.

“The Paeneers” consisting of Sully Paea and his children have taken the role of “Local Ambassador” bringing valuable local knowledge and connections to the project. With their involvement the project has gained significant momentum, with several successful planting days and 3,100 plants planted in 2018 (funded by the Million Metres campaign).



*Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 20 volunteers planted over 1,000 plants*



*26<sup>th</sup> April 30 Tamariki and 10 volunteers planted 530 sedges and shrubs along the creek.*

A full programme document for the 2018 project including species lists, planting plans and maintenance schedules was approved by Auckland Council’s Senior Maintenance Co-ordinator – Community Facilities (Rima team). Council is also kept up to date of planting days and approval is again sought for any changes to the original planting plans.

The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust will continue to raise funds through a variety of means for the Adopt a Spot project to ensure its continuation and development.

The 2018 Adopt a Spot project was primarily resourced through money raised through the Million Metres Crowd Funding campaign, with additional support from the Mayor’s Million Trees programme.

The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Project Coordinator provides support to the Adopt a Spot programme conducting the majority of reporting and ensuring Council procedures are followed. The Coordinator also submits fundraising/grant applications for the Trust and leads stakeholder management.

### **MILLION METRES**

A crowd funding campaign through the Sustainable Business Network’s Million Metres programme was run to raise funds for the Adopt a Spot Programme. This campaign closed on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and raised \$33,875.25, with an initial funding target of \$31,500.

Considerable time was required by the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Project Coordinator to assist the Million metres team with the campaign and to motivate the Trust and Community Panel members to promote the campaign.

In addition to the money raised for the Adopt a Spot project, the Million Metres campaign increased awareness of the wider community of the Trust and facilitated new relationships with businesses and individuals who donated to the campaign.

## PRESTON ROAD RESERVE PLANTING

A community planting project was undertaken at Preston Rd Reserve on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018. This utilised local board budget originally allocated to identifying new Adopt a Spot groups (as discussed above).

Preston Rd Reserve was chosen as:

- it is identified in the Ōtara: Watercourse Assessment Report 2014 as a site with opportunities for natural biodiversity enhancement, community engagement and enhancement to amenity values.
- Logistically easy for volunteer planting
- community engagement - location within residential area opportunity for
- schools engagement - Rongomai Primary School and East Tamaki primary School

In 2016 a community planting of 800 plants was undertaken further upstream in Preston Rd Reserve, with the majority of these plants unfortunately being stolen shortly after the planting. To minimise the risk of this happening again a high level of community engagement was undertaken including:

- The Drain Game visiting both Rongomai School and East Tamaki School to teach the students the importance of looking after our creeks and that “only rain goes down the drain”
- Flyers for the event provided to both schools to invite their whanau to attend
- Meeting with Neighbourhood Support to promote the event through their networks
- Students from Rongomai School invited to perform the karakia and waiata at the event
- Students from Ferguson Intermediate creating an art installation for the footbridge in the Reserve

The planting day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June was a huge success with over 70 children, families, teachers, OPLB members and other volunteers attending. The schools are eager to continue looking after the creek and to build upon its relationship with the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust.

Ongoing maintenance of the planting site will be organised. The intention is that stage two of this planting will be undertaken in the next financial year, with local schools again being invited.

A few weeks following the planting event, the art work installed on the bridge was vandalised. The Project Coordinator will repair the artwork and organise reinstallation. This incident demonstrates the need for engagement into other parts of the community who are not accepting this work.



## PLANTING SITE MAINTENANCE

Andrew Jenks was engaged to complete maintenance of the planting undertaken at Ōtara Creek Reserve and Te Irirangi Reserve since May 2016 as part of the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Project. Ongoing maintenance is essential to ensure the longer term survival and success of the planting.

The photo points below demonstrate the success of the planting.



May 2016 – East Tamaki Rd



June 2018 – East Tamaki Rd



May 2016 Ōtara Creek



Ōtara Creek June 2018



Ōtara Creek (Velvet Crescent) January 2018



Ōtara Creek (Velvet Crescent) June 2018

## LITTER ACTION PLAN

The original intentions for the 2017-18 Ōtara Litter Action Plan were:

- One new Neat Streets focus area
- Stage two of the Antrim Crescent Neat Streets area including
  - Adopt a Spot group
  - Mayfield School Litter Adopt a Spot
  - Stormwater drains painted
- Creek clean up
- One additional litter activation

### FLINDERS PLACE NEAT STREETS

A second Neat Streets events was held in Flinders Place Reserve on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018. This area was chosen due to the high incidences of illegal dumping in the section of creek along Preston Rd and that Flinders Place provided a suitable setting for the event.

A total of 142 properties were included in this event area. All properties were visited initially by the Neat Streets team, with 80% of the visits successfully talking to someone at the residence. Two flyer drops were completed to 100% of the homes. 68 properties registered pre-event, 59 attended on the day - representing a 41% engagement.

20 organisations were involved in the organisation and delivery of the event, namely Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust, Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board, Neighbourhood Support, Pacific Vision Aotearoa, Sustainable Coastlines, Parakore, Auckland Council, Maori Wardens, Talking Trash, Abilities, Habitat for Humanity, Bin the Bag, Taiohi Whai Oranga, Envirowaste, Hirepool, Independent Traffic Control, Housing NZ, Waterware, Housing New Zealand and Be a Tidy Kiwi. Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland, also attended.

### RESULTS FROM THE DAY

<b>SORTED</b>  10 landfill skips 10.95t Metal bin 1.36 tonne General Ewaste 957kg Cardboard 122kg Paper & Books 155kg Polystyrene 3kg Soft Plastics 2kg	<b>GIFT IT – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY</b>  2 x Bicycles 1 x Kiddies tricycle 10 x china and ornaments 1 x set of 6 dinner plates fine bone English china 1 set of billiard balls 3 x wooden crates 1 x guitar without strings 4 x bags of clothes 4 x travel bags 1 x vintage Singer sewing machine 1 x 2 seater sofas 1 x single chair 2 x wooden walking sticks
<b>E-WASTE</b>  4 Flat screen computer monitors 17 flat screen TVs 4 CRT TV/Computer monitors 11 x Large CRT TVs 2 oil filled heaters 22 speakers	<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>  30 Volunteers – Maori Wardens, Housing NZ, Neighbourhood Support, Sustainable Coastlines, friends and family

## **NEAT STREETS EVENT REVIEW**

The Neat Streets event was a tremendous success, despite the weather. However long term engagement continues to be the challenge for the Neat Streets programme.

Currently the Neat Streets programme relies on other community organisations (such as Neighbourhood Support, PVA) to continue the engagement with the households around illegal dumping, household waste management and litter. Post event actions such as a waste minimisation workshop on Flinders Place and participation at a whanau expo at the local school were agreed with PVA, however these actions were not completed, meaning post event engagement was simply a letter to each household.

It is recommended that post event engagement should be a focus for the 2018-19 Neat Streets project. This could include building capacity within the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust to undertake this role or within another community organisation.



## **Good in the Hood**

Neat Streets was chosen as a charity for Z Energy stations Good in the Hood campaign. Organised through the Trust, the campaign raised \$739 for Neat Streets.

## **Local Government New Zealand Conference Awards**

The Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board entered Neat Streets into the Local Government New Zealand Conference Awards for the following awards:

- Air New Zealand EXCELLENCE Award for Environmental Impact; and/or
- Fulton Hogan EXCELLENCE Award for Community Engagement

Awards are 15 – 17 July 2018 in Christchurch.

## **STAGE TWO OF FIRST NEAT STREETS**

Antrim Crescent was the original Neat Streets community in 2017. Proposed actions to continue the engagement with this neighbourhood included the creation of an Adopt a Spot group, completion of the Mayfield School murals, stormwater catchpit art and household waste minimisation workshop.

The Antrim Crescent Adopt a Spot group was not formed due to the changes to the Adopt a Spot programme which meant that no new groups were formed this year. This action can be revisited in 2018-19.

### **MAYFIELD SCHOOL MURALS**

The anti-litter and illegal dumping murals at Mayfield Primary School were completed and installed in October 2017. There is an opportunity to continue working with Mayfield Primary School in 2018-19 with activations such as a Litter Blitz, visit from the Drain Game.



### **STORMWATER CATCHPIT ART PROJECT**

In 2016-17 as part of the first Neat Streets programme an art competition was run through UpSouth for designs to be painted around stormwater catchpits to discourage littering and putting contaminants down the drain, with students from Sir Edmund Hilary Collegiate winning the competition.

The Ōtara Waterways Project Coordinator continued working with the school from July 2017 to achieve stage two of the art project which was seeing the designs painted onto catchpit drains around Ōtara.

Auckland Transport objected to the proposals citing health and safety risks and lack of resource for ongoing maintenance of the art. The Ōtara Mall was then approached to see if they would allow the catchment art on the drains in the mall. No response was received from the Mall Manager. As no location and permission could be granted, the final stage of the catchpit art project could not be delivered.

### **ŌTARA CREEK RESERVE CLEAN UP**

The second annual clean-up of the Ōtara Creek Reserve was held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

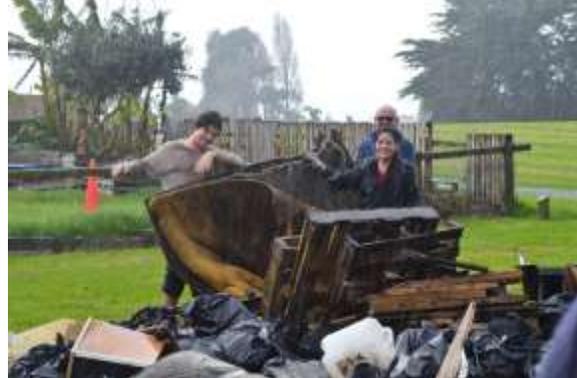
About 50 people over the course of the event came to help - including a large contingency of about 30 volunteers from MIT.

People from organisations that had recently donated to the Million Metres Adopt a Spot crowd funding campaign also attended the event.

This year with more volunteers on hand more rubbish was collected. A significant amount of plastic bags, soft plastic rubbish such as chip bags, plastic drink bottles that get washed down the creek and

through littering, but also large items such as pallets and mattresses which are a direct result of illegal dumping.

In addition to removing tonnes of rubbish from the creek, clean ups raise awareness of the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust and provide the opportunity for people to take action to improve the state of the waterways.



## COMMUNITY PANEL MEETINGS

Four Community Panel meetings were held in 2017-18. The Project Coordinator is responsible for organisation of the agenda, speakers, minutes and actions from the meeting, as well as chairing the meeting in the absence of a Chairperson.

Following the stakeholder analysis of the Community Panel by the MIT student, the membership of the Community Panel was split into active members that are invited to meetings and non-active members that wish to just remain informed of the work of the Trust.

The Project Coordinator also attempted to reinvigorate key stakeholders that were originally part of the Community Panel to re-join the meetings. Relationships have been rebuilt with Watercare and The Southern Initiative with both organisations now providing a representative on the Community Panel. Attempts were made to re-engage with Auckland Transport with little success.

An additional meeting was organised for the Walking Access Commission to discuss pathways around the Ōtara Waterways. Notably this was the first time Euroclass, the developers of the old Otahuhu Power Station, have attended a meeting run by the Trust. The Euroclass representative expressed their intention to work with the Trust in the future on projects which could include pathways.

## ŌTARA WATERWAYS AND LAKE TRUST

The Project Coordinator continues to provide essential administrative support to the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust from organising Trust meetings, taking minutes, development of new projects (including funding applications), securing funding for current projects if OPLB budget is not sufficient and attending meetings to build relationships and the profile of the Trust.

Key achievements for the Trust in 2017-18

- Four Trust meetings, including AGM
- Appointment of Judith Speight as trustee
- Lodging of Charities Services performance report for 2017

## OTHER PROJECTS

### HOUSING NEW ZEALAND

After trees were removed from the creek bank along 112-114 Preston Rd by Electrix, the site was left completely bare of any vegetation. There is a risk of sediment pollution if the site remains in this condition and but it has also created an opportunity for revegetation and riparian enhancement.



An opportunity for Housing New Zealand, as owners of the properties at 112-114 Preston Rd, to lead the revegetation project was identified as a way to engage the residents to look after the creek. These properties were targeted by the Flinders Place Neat Streets project, and the proposed planting created a rare opportunity to link the messages from the Neat Streets event about dumping to the restoration of and connection of people to Ōtara Creek.

A quote was prepared for the riparian planting, however despite original enthusiasm from Housing New Zealand the project was not progressed past this point.

### CORRECTIONS

An initial meeting was held in June with the Department of Corrections and Auckland Council Parks Volunteer Coordinator to identify opportunities for Correction's workers to assist with community projects in the Ōtara catchment. Initial ideas included assistance with weed control, plant maintenance and riparian planting. Another suggestion was for workers to produce reusable shopping bags, to reduce the number of single use plastic bags from the Ōtara Markets and Mall.

The Trust and Auckland Council are committed to exploring options further in 2018-19.

### DB BREWERIES

DB Breweries staff took part in a clean-up at the Ōtara creek Reserve in 2016. Plans for a further volunteer event for DB employees (this year through the Adopt a Spot programme) have been put on hold as DB Breweries go through a wider planning exercise around their response to sustainability. The Trust will reconnect with DB Breweries later in 2018.

### HOWICK LOCAL BOARD

An initial meeting has been held with Council Park's volunteer coordinator for the Howick Local Board area. This was to investigate opportunities for the Trust to work with communities on restoring the Ōtara Creek tributaries where it flows through the Howick Local Board area. The intention is to expand the initiatives the Trust has undertaken through parks and reserves on the lower reaches of Ōtara Creek within the Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board area, such as riparian planting, invasive non-native plant control and formation of Adopt a Spot groups.

The Project Coordinator will progress this work stream for 2018-19.