Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust End of Year Report 2018-19

Prepared by Katie Jones, Ōtara Waterways and Lake Project Coordinator

The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust (OWLT) has a long term vision to restore the mauri of the Ōtara Waterways and Lake and reconnect people to the waterways. This vision has three themes: Mauri, Connection and Pride.

The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust would like to acknowledge the Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board for its ongoing support of the Trust and the Trust's work to restore the Ōtara Waterways.

In the last 12 months the Trust has achieved the following key outcomes:

- Delivery of two Neat Streets events
- Two Creek Clean Up events along the Ōtara Creek to remove litter and illegal dumping
- Ongoing delivery of the Adopt a Spot programme, planting 3,100 trees
- Riparian planting with school groups in the Preston Rd Reserve
- Organisation of a "Repair Cafe" to allow people to get items repaired rather than throwing away
- Training and gainful employment for members of the "Stream Team"

	VOLUNTEER DAYS	VOLUNTEERS	RUBBISH REMOVED	TREES PLANTED
CREEK CLEAN UPS	2	288	≃ 5 skips	0
ADOPT A SPOT	9	137	Not recorded	3,100
COMMUNITY PLANTING	3	100	0	1,100
NEAT STREETS	3	82 volunteers 124 homes	Landfill 38,285kg Metal 54m2 ewaste 3,361kg Cardboard 189kg Polystyrene 36kg paper and books 1kg 60 bikes repaired	0

ŌTARA PAPATOETOE LOCAL BOARD 2018-19 BUDGET FOR THE ŌTARA WATERWAYS AND LAKE PROJECT

Ōtara Lakes and Waterways – Coordinator	$30,000
Ōtara Adopt a Spot	$20,000
Ōtara Lakes and Waterways – Communications	$2,000
Ōtara Lakes and Waterways - Ōtara Community Planting projects	$20,000
Ōtara Lakes and Waterways - Ōtara Litter Action plan	$40,000
Ōtara Lakes and Waterways - Ōtara Planting maintenance	$10,000

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.

ADOPT A SPOT

The Adopt a Spot programme continues to be the primary tool for the Trust to engage the local Ōtara activities to care and protect for the Ōtara Waterways.

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.

The focus for the Adopt a Spot programme in 2018-19 has continued to be in the Ōtara Creek Reserve. This has allowed the community engagement, tree planting and weed control established over the previous years to be continued.

A full programme document for the 2018-19 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.

Adopt a Spot Outcomes for 2018-19

- Stream restoration plans developed for four Adopt a Spot areas to be completed in 2018-19 (adding to areas planted in 2017-18). Refer to map
- Existing planting areas maintained and new areas planted by local volunteers (coordinated by the Adopt a Spot Local Ambassador Ennaolla Paea, replaced by Jahnah Cameron, with support from Accelerating Aotearoa, Wai Care and the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust)
- Planting targets achieved - 3,100 native plants
- A total of 9 community events were delivered
- Ecological outcomes
    - 3,100 trees planted, along the Ōtara Creek in the Ōtara Creek Reserve

    - extensive weed removal, including woolly nightshade, moth plant gorse and wattle trees
    - creating land space for planting and spraying in areas, section by section
    - litter and illegal dumping removed from waterways
- Community engagement outcomes
    - An increasingly diverse group of people have been involved in planting this year, including families, young adults and many children (mostly through Accelerating Aotearoa holiday programmes). Other collaborations with Ōtara Network Action Committee, Paeaneer, OBC, MIT, local youth Accelerating Aotearoa with SouthSci & Fisher and Paykel
    - The community have embraced the responsibility of care for riparian sites selected by the Adopt a Spot Project, and this guardianship has continued to grow with this year's effort and extends to the wider Ōtara Creek Reserve. Notably the areas looked after by the Velvet Crescent Paeaneers and Living Waters Church volunteers are thriving.
    - Important relationships and trust built with the local community and local leaders.
    - Extending networks including church groups, Parks, local businesses, ONAC, MIT and others
    - Approximately 137 volunteers through 9 separate planting/clean-up events
- Important learnings from the Adopt a Spot project
    - Better understanding of the interest from the community to "adopt" their local creek
    - Face to face engagement of the team is growing the awareness and interaction from local Ōtara residents to become part of the action
    - Increased understanding of broader concerns of local residents and opportunities to enhancing access and usage of Ōtara Reserve
- Action plan going forward
    - Connecting neighbourhood visits will increase awareness of the project and recruit more active participants for Mahi Days
    - Team up Skilling - Growsafe, Chainsaw, First Aid, Event Management training
    - Fallen Trees Upcycling
        - Trialling the option of upcycling fallen trees in the reserve into furniture
    - Mahi Days
        - Target 10 Action days in the reserve in 2019-20 with volunteers - Removing large weed trees – spraying or removing weeds, rubbish clean-ups, tree planting

Moth plant pod collection

COMMUNITY PLANTING PROJECTS

PRESTON ROAD RESERVE

The 2018-19 community planting programme for the Trust has continued to focus on the Preston Rd Reserve, extending the planting completed in 2017-18. New Zealand Biosecurity were again engaged to complete the site preparation, plant supply, supervision on the planting days and four rounds of maintenance during the year.

East Tamaki Primary School has continued to play a major role in this project, with students participating in two mahi days in 2 November and 7 December 2018 to hand release the new plants from weeds and to continue to spread mulch.

Mahi Day 2 November East Tamaki Primary

Mahi Day 7 December East Tamaki Primary

Stage 2 of the Preston Rd Reserve planting was completed on Thursday 13th June 2019, with 1,100 native seedlings planted by approx. 50 volunteers including 38 students from East Tamaki, three students and their families/teacher from Ferguson Intermediate, members of Adopt a Spot.

Planting day 13 June 2019

East Tamaki Primary School would like to continue bringing students once a term to Preston Road Reserve to look after the planting. These visits will either be supported by the Ōtara Lake and Waterways Coordinator, or the Adopt a Spot Local Ambassador.

Stage 3 of the planting will be completed in 2019-20.

Unfortunately some of the plants from 2017-18 were killed due to incorrect application of herbicide. This area will be replanted, but a longer term solution needs to be identified to eliminate the problem of contractors either mowing over, or killing plants with incorrect use of herbicides. The Trust is discussing this issue with Healthy Waters and Community Facilities.

Evidenced of "scorched earth" due to incorrect herbicide application

PEARL BAKER RESERVE

The Trust has also undertaken preliminary work to complete a weed control and planting programme in the Pearl Baker Reserve.

This work will build on the planting completed in 2006 by Wai Care and will involve Mayfield Primary School.

Due to unforeseen issues with the site, the planting day with the students was not able to be completed before 30 June. This work will now be completed in July/August with approx. 1,000 native trees and shrubs to be planted.

PLANTING SITE MAINTENANCE

STREAM TEAM

In 2018-19, the Trust has been progressing the establishment of a social enterprise project called the "Stream Team".

The vision of the Stream Team is to provide training and employment for local people to provide professional weed control services (primarily in a riparian zone), which will support the long term restoration of the mauri, ecological and water quality values of the Ōtara Waterways.

In 2018-19 the Stream Team concept has been trialed with guidance and management of Andrew Jenks. Two local people are currently working in the stream team, undertaking most of the specialised weed control for the Adopt a Spot programme in the Ōtara Creek Reserve.

The Stream Team has also been involved in:

- The removal of bamboo from a section of esplanade reserve off Bolton Place, Ōtara. This area was identified as an illegal dumping hotspot, with items being hidden in the bamboo. The removal of the bamboo is the first step in addressing this illegal dumping hotspot

- Preliminary weed control and site preparation at Pearl Baker Reserve.

Following the success of the Stream team in 2018-19, the Trust will provide a continuous work programme for the Stream Team through it's riparian restoration projects in 2019-20.

Initial conversations were held with City Care to see how they could support of the Adopt a Spot / stream team programme. City Care hold a contract with Auckland Council for the maintenance of Auckland Council parks and reserves (not including tree work which is looked after by Treescape). The initial idea was that City Care would subcontract to the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust to undertake mowing and maintenance of the riparian margin in the Ōtara Creek Reserve, eliminating the risk of City Care workers mistakenly mowing or spraying newly planted areas. Despite initial enthusiasm from City Care, the discussions have not progressed .

LITTER ACTION PLAN

The original intentions for the 2018-19 Ōtara Litter Action Plan were:

- Two new Neat Streets focus areas/events
- Continued engagement with previous Neat Street areas
- Two Creek clean up events
- One additional litter activation

NEAT STREETS

Two Neat Streets events were organised for the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust in 2018-19:

- Velvet Crescent Neat Streets – 8 December 2018
- Pearl Baker / Valder Crescent Neat Streets – 30 March 2019

The Neat Streets programme continues to grow in popularity and success, with key organisations such as Housing New Zealand playing an increasing role in the events.

See table below for summary of results from both events.

Pearl Baker Neat Streets

Velvet Crescent Neat Street

NEAT STREETS OUTCOMES SUMMARY

Event	Velvet Crescent	Pearl Baker/Valder Crescent	Totals
Date	8/12/2018	30/3/2019	
No houses invited	92	182	274
No houses attended	54	70	124
% engagement	58%	38%	
No volunteers	40	42	82
Landfill kg	27,565	10,720	38,285kg
metal	18m2	36m2	54m2
ewaste kg	1,103	2,258	3,361kg
Cardboard kg	5	184	189kg
Polystyrene kg	1	35	36kg
paper and books kg	1	0	1kg
items repaired	bikes	54 bikes	60 bikes
items donated	1/3 truck to Habitat for Humanity	Donations to Koha shed	
Community partners	Healthy Families Manurewa – providing 10 garden beds to be installed post event Neighbourhood Support - BBQ 20 volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints Sully and Ennola Paea	Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints – 20 Elders and Sisters Ōtara Koha Shed	
Commercial partners	Housing NZ – 5 skips bins, staff volunteers Waste Management NZ Hirepool Abilities Independent Traffic Control Habitat for Humanity Auckland Council	Housing NZ – 9 skips bins, BBQ, staff volunteers Waste Management NZ Hirepool Abilities Independent Traffic Control	

CREEK CLEAN UPS

Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week

A Clean Up of the Ōtara Creek Reserve was organised on Thursday 13 September for Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week.

63 volunteers attended the event, including 19 students from East Tamaki Primary School, volunteers from local businesses and Elders and Sisters from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints.

A total of 30 bags of rubbish was collected, plus larger illegally dumped items.

Auckland Grammar / City Care Ōtara Creek Clean Up Wednesday 28 November

Approximately 225 students from Auckland Grammar attended a clean-up of the Ōtara Creek Reserve as part of the school's 150th celebration on Wednesday 28 November. The event was organised in collaboration with City Care, who contacted Katie Jones to help coordinate the clean-up in the Ōtara Creek Reserve

Three bus loads of students cleaned up the Ōtara Creek Reserve from Lovegrove Crescent. Two bus loads of students cleaned up the creek from Mayfield Reserve / Velvet Crescent.

A major illegal dumping spot was located off Bolton Place. Between 3-4 skips of waste were collected by the boys over the two areas.

REPAIR CAFÉ

The first Neat Streets programme Repair Café event was hosted on Saturday 25th May. This was part of the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust's and Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board's ongoing engagement with the community to reduce waste and illegal dumping in local streets and creeks. The main objective of the Repair Cafe was to help people to repair items to avoid sending things to landfill. This was a pilot event to gauge interest from the community.

The event was co-hosted by Habitat for Humanity, whom provided the venue for the event, plus skilled volunteers to fix electrical items and repair clothing

- 51 items registered on the day (some were multiples per person/family).
- Mowers 38%
- Electrical 26%
- Clothes 19%
- Bicycles 15%
- Furniture/Wood 2%
- Of the 51 items received, 66% were fixed on the day

COMMUNICATIONS

Budget was allocated for the Trust to undertake more effective and meaningful communications with local communities, supporters and stakeholders. Initial ideas included:

- Creation of a social media presence/campaign for the Trust
- Creation of a “Friends of Ōtara Waterways” group
- Development of a regular email newsletter to the “friends group”, other stakeholders and supporters
- Upgrades to the Trust’s website

Auckland Council’s Web and Mobile Team is assisting the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust to host the Trust’s website and update the website. This is being completed on a pro-bono basis over July/August 2019. The website is to become a more static communication platform, with a Facebook presence established to allow regular updates such as events to be posted.

The website upgrade is also including the creation of a generic email address for the Trust (ie info@Ōtarawaterways.org) and email addresses for the Trustees.

Once these tasks are complete, the Trust will develop a communications/engagement strategy. This may include the creation of a "Friends group" connected to the Adopt a Spot programme and social media campaign. The communications and engagement strategy will be completed in 2019-20

The $2,000 funded by the Local Board for the communications campaign in 2018-19 has been transferred to the Trust to allow Ennaolla Paea to create and initiate a social media presence and campaign for the Trust. The social media presence will include a Facebook page for Trust to promote events, regular updates on projects being undertaken by the Trust and profiling the work undertaken by the community to protect the Ōtara Waterways.

COMMUNITY PANEL MEETINGS

Four Community Panel meetings were held in 2018-19.

Six bi-monthly community panel meetings have been scheduled for 2019. Dawn Trenberth is now the key Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board member attending the meetings.

ŌTARA WATERWAYS AND LAKE TRUST

The Project Coordinator continues administrative support to the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust. The Coordinator leads the development of new projects including funding applications, secures resources for current projects from alternative funders and continues relationship management with the aim of growing the profile of the Trust.

Key achievements in 2018-19

- Seven Trust meetings
- Continued growth of the relationship with Healthy Waters
- Initial proposal accepted from "The Board" to undertake fundraising for the Trust to progress key projects. This relationship lead to the pilot project for the dredging of the Ōtara Lake being progressed by Healthy Waters, with the Trust identified as the key community partner.
- Lodging of Charities Services performance report for 2018