



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

For year ending 30 June 2021



**ŌTARA WATERWAYS
AND LAKE TRUST**

MAURI / PRIDE / CONNECTION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust has a long term vision to restore the mauri of the Ōtara waterways and reconnect people to their local creeks and streams. This vision has three themes: Mauri, Connection and Pride - all three themes are interconnected.

A major objective of the Trust is the remediation of the Ōtara Lake. A comprehensive and detailed report carried out in 2020 of the current status of the lake sediment confirms that it is still polluted with heavy metals and other pollutants. Remediation will be a significant cost, and the Trust is developing a programme to raise the funds necessary for this substantial environmental project which, when completed, will have important benefits for Ōtara and wider community.

2020-21 has definitely been the year of growth for the Trust, with a major three-year grant secured by the Trust through the Jobs for Nature 1 Billion Trees programme and ongoing support from the Ōtara Papatoetoe and Howick Local Boards. This increase in funding has allowed the Trust to increase its capacity in terms of number of people employed in the Stream Team to undertake stream restoration work, the number of stream reaches being restored across the catchment including more areas in the upper catchment and greater community engagement in both the Flatbush and Ōtara areas.

The Trust has also extended its reach to include a greater focus on pest control through the Pest Free Urban South Initiative and Ōtara Pest Animal Network.

2020-21 also saw the Trust taking responsibility of all funding received from Auckland Council and Local Boards as well as managing the 1 Billion Trees grant. With this increased financial responsibility, the Trust appointed Chester Grey Chartered Accountants to assist with payroll and financial reporting requirements.

The selection of the Trust for Auckland Council's Community Conservation Group Advisory programme has also been very timely to allow the Trust to review its three year strategic plan and operational requirements in line with the Trust's current growth.

Litter and illegal dumping continue to be an ongoing issue for the waterways, with the Trust continuing to deliver the very popular Neat Streets programme, creek clean up events and other local initiatives to tackle illegal dumping and litter in hot-spot areas.

The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust is extremely grateful for the ongoing support received from the Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board and Howick Local Board for the stream restoration and community engagement work undertaken by the Trust and welcomes onboard the Ministry of Primary Industries as our new major supporter.

We look forward to another successful and hopefully COVID free year in 2021-22.



Richard Myhre
Chairman, Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust



ŌTARA WATERWAYS AND LAKE TRUST

2020-21 SUMMARY



25,238 PLANTS

ACROSS 7 SITES

Planting areas include new sites under the 1 Billion Trees project and infill/extension planting at existing stream restoration sites.

16 SITES MAINTAINED

Including 7 new stream reaches under the 1 Billion Trees Project. Up from 8 principal sites

6.5 FTE'S

SUPPORTED BY THE TRUST

322 VOLUNTEERS

AT 9 EVENTS

Total of 644 volunteer hours for tree planting, creek clean up and mulch spreading events.

32,304 MOTH PLANT PODS

Collected by schools in the inaugural Moth Plant Pod competition.

STRATEGIC PLAN

reviewed as part of the Trust's participation in Auckland Council's Community Conservation Group Advisory programme.

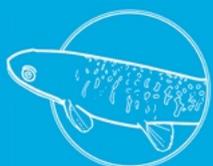
406 HOMES

ASSISTED AT 5 NEAT STREETS EVENTS

with 39.7 tonne landfill, 10.6 tonne wood, 10.7 tonne metal, 4.1 tonne of e-waste collected from the events.

\$1,019,423 SECURED

for the three year 1 Billion Trees stream restoration and local employment programme



ŌTARA
WATERWAYS &
LAKE TRUST

1 BILLION TREES

In July 2020 the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust was successful in its funding application to the Government's One Billion Trees Fund to undertake a significant stream restoration and local employment stimulus programme in the Flatbush and Ōtara 'Green Fingers' areas over three years. This funding is a major milestone for the Trust who is dedicated to the restoration and protection of local waterways and building a sustainable future for the local community.

The Trust has been working at a micro level to start effecting positive change for the restoration of many local creeks and streams in the catchment. This work has primarily been at the grassroots level in the Ōtara area through the Trust's Adopt a Spot programme and Stream Team social enterprise to engage and support local people to again care for their local awa. The 1 Billion Trees funding will importantly allow the Trust to increase the scale and reach of these programmes in the upper catchment as well as creating local employment and training opportunities and reconnecting people to the waterways through community, volunteer and school engagement.

The 1 Billion Trees funding is part of the \$1.3 billion Jobs for Nature package that is creating 11,000 environment jobs in New Zealand in response to Covid-19. The total grant received by the Trust is \$1,019,423.

The Flat Bush Green Fingers project aims to address water quality issues (increasing loss of native plants in floodplains, extensive invasion of plant weeds species, increasing extent and severity of stream bank erosion) in the Ōtara catchment. The project will help restore seven streams by planting 101,700 native trees, grasses and shrubs across approximately 24 ha over three years.

In 2020-21 the project has planted 21,020 native species and created employment for five Stream Team members, the Stream Team Manager and Flatbush Community Coordinator.

TE IRIRANGI RESERVE

Te Irirangi Reserve is a vital link in the Otara catchment ecological corridor due to its position in the catchment and that all the tributaries in the Flatbush area converge at this site. Restoration has been occurring at this site since 2009, with the 1 Billion Trees project allowing the establishment of canopy trees and enrichment planting to support the long-term regenerative processes.

11,100 plants in the ground in 2020-21.



FLINTRIDGE DRIVE

At this site the floodplain is almost completely devoid of native plant cover. The existing stream bank planting is narrow in width with many gaps due to neglect and herbicide overspray. 8,420 plants and extensive weed control has been achieved in 2020-21 at this site.



GRACECHURCH DRIVE

Another degraded stream reach within the Flat Bush 'greenfingers' network with stream bank planting having many gaps due to neglect and herbicide overspray. Extensive weed control has been undertaken this year with 1,500 sedges planted within the floodplain to reduce scouring and trap sediment.



STREAM RESTORATION

In 2020-21, the Trust took over responsibility for the planting and maintenance of the riparian margin at 17 sites in the Ōtara catchment (6 in the Otara ward and 11 in the Flatbush area).

The increase in the number of sites is primarily due to the 1 Billion Trees project, with a total of seven new sites being cared for by the Trust through that programme.

In 2020-21 the Trust had an approximate target of 25,000 natives to be planted, with an actual total of 25,238 plants in the ground achieved.

ŌTARA CREEK RESERVE

The Ōtara Creek Reserve is the Trust's longest standing stream restoration project with over 17,000 plants planted since 2016. 1,400 plants were put in the ground in 2020-21 with ongoing maintenance of the site by the Stream Team.



PRESTON ROAD RESERVE

Preston Rd Reserve in Ōtara is also a long standing stream restoration site with over 3,000 plants planted since 2019. In 2020-21 the site had an additional 900 plants added, with a new planting area to be completed in August 2021.



GERANIUM PLACE

Work continued in 2020-21 in this degraded stream reach within the Flat Bush 'greenfingers' network with an additional 868 plants added and ongoing control of weeds incl abundant woolly nightshade, willow, pampas, privet & gorse



RIVIERA DRIVE

Work also continued along the stream reach at Riviera Drive in 2020-21 with 1,050 new plants added (including a planting day with students from Ormiston College) and ongoing maintenance by the Stream Team.



South Auckland Bible Church planting from 2019 to 2021 showing the great progress in plant growth.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is a critical part of the work of the Trust as the Trust believes that long term success for stream restoration is a combination of ecological improvements and involvement of local people in the work required. In 2020-21 community engagement was divided between the Ōtara and Flatbush areas in response to the different communities in both areas.

Volunteer and community engagement efforts in 2020-21 were affected by COVID 19 Level 3 and 4 lockdown periods, as no volunteers are allowed to undertake work on Council land in these periods. Even at Level 2, many parts of the community are hesitant to undertake volunteer work in a public setting. As such the community engagement outcomes for 2020-21 are slightly lower than for 2019-20.

In 2020-21 the Trust created a new Kaitiaki Coordinator position to continue the previous work of the Ōtara Adopt a Spot programme and to reengage the local community in the work of the Trust. The work for the Kaitiaki Coordinator also involved the new Pest Free Urban South initiative and Ōtara Pest Animal Network.

In June 2021, the Trust engaged its new Flatbush Community Coordinator to start the work of engaging the Flatbush community in the work of the Trust.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS	9
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	322
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	644



LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust is committed to providing local employment and training opportunities through its stream restoration and community engagement programmes.

In 2020-21, the Trust partnered with local NGO Accelerating Aotearoa (AA) to deliver its local employment programme. Through this relationship, AA negotiates MSD wage subsidies, tertiary education and training contracts, for people working for the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust. In addition, AA supports the Trust in the recruitment process for other new employees/contractors for the Trust, including ongoing pastoral care and identification of training needs as required. AA further supports additional HR matters such as performance reviews.

The Stream Team is about providing gainful employment for local people in the specialised field of stream restoration and riparian management, with ongoing training and mentoring provided to the Stream Team. In 2020-21 the Stream Team grew from 1 FTE, with the Trust now employing five people as part of the Stream Team. The growth in the Stream Team is primarily due to the 1 Billion Trees programme, but also ongoing stream restoration work as funded by the Ōtara Papatoetoe and Howick Local Boards.

At the beginning of 2021, the Trust collaborated with Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ) to deliver a 12 week local employment and training programme as part of the 1 Billion Trees Project. 10 local unemployed people were selected for the programme, with the participants provided with onsite training, certified training courses and practical work experience, with employment pathway development throughout. The Trust assisted in providing onsite practical experiences such as water quality testing, weed identification, pest control and tree planting.

In 2020-21 the Trust was also selected by Auckland Council to be the host employee for a Pest Free Howick Conservation Assistant as part of an ongoing going collaboration with Auckland Council and the Trust towards achieving conservation efforts in the area.

Further local employment was achieved through the appointment of the Neat Streets Coordinator, Kaitiaki Coordinator and Flatbush Community Coordinator in 2020-21.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FTES	6.5
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	3
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	10



NEAT STREETS

With the support of the Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board and Howick Local Board, five Neat Streets events were organised by the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust in 2020-21:

- Otamariki Reserve, Ōtara – 14 November 2020
- Johnstones Rd, Ōtara – 13 February 2021
- Gilbert Crescent, Ōtara - 13 March 2021
- Flatbush Neat Streets - 11 April 2021
- Skipton Ave, Papatoetoe - 15 May 2021

The Neat Streets programme continues to be a very popular community engagement programme, with key agencies such as Kainga Ora and local organisations such as the Turehou Maori Wardens playing an important role in the delivery of the events.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS	5
TOTAL NUMBER HOUSES INVITED	870
TOTAL NUMBER HOUSES PARTICIPATED	406
TOTAL AMOUNT LANDFILL WASTE COLLECTED	28,550kg
TOTAL AMOUNT METAL WASTE COLLECTED	2,810kg
TOTAL AMOUNT WOOD WASTE COLLECTED	6,670kg
TOTAL AMOUNT E-WASTE COLLECTED	3,199kg
TOTAL NUMBER OF BIKES AND MOWERS REPAIRED	30



In 2020-21 the Trust was also committed to supporting as many local businesses as possible in the delivery of the Neat Streets events. The Trust would like to thank the following for their support of Neat Streets: Kainga Ora, Turehou Maori Wardens, Waste Management, Abilities, Independent Traffic Company, Tony Tonez Entertainment (DJ), Bella Beauty (face painting), South Auckland Small Mower Repairs, John the Metal Man and Sully Paea (bike repairs).

PEST CONTROL

In 2020-21 The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust was granted funding from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board and Auckland Council to support the Pest Free Urban South initiative and Ōtara Creek Pest Animal Network.

Through this funding the following outcomes were achieved:

1. Creation of the new Kaitiaki Coordinator position to assist with the coordination and delivery of the Pest Free Urban South initiative, Ōtara Pest Animal Network and volunteer opportunities and events for the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust related to stream restoration projects in the Ōtara area
2. Initial establishment of the Ōtara Pest Animal Network including bait and trap lines laid out in the Johnstones Rd and Ngāti Ōtara Reserve area in Ōtara and initial community engagement to build the local community's involvement in backyard trapping.
3. School engagements to increase the knowledge and understanding of local tamariki to the effects of pest animals on our natural environment.



The Trust also played a key role in the development of the new Pest Free Urban South Strategic Plan. The plan has been written with a strong emphasis on community and mana whenua engagement to achieve pest and plant animal control for the Ōtara Papatoetoe, Mangere Otahuhu and Manurewa Local Boards. The Trust looks forward to continuing to play a key role in the first year of delivery of actions from the Strategic Plan in 2021-22.

The Trust was also involved in the inaugural school based, moth plant pod competition for the Mangere Otahuhu and Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Boards. Moth Plant is a horribly invasive pest vine. It strangles other vegetation and spreads widely with each pod containing 500+ seeds. The purpose of the competition is to encourage school groups and individual students to collect as many pods and vines as possible, with prizes awarded for top efforts. The moth plant competitions were extremely successful for their first year with the following results being achieved across both Local Board areas:

NUMBER OF TEAMS REGISTERED
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEAMS PARTICIPATED
TOTAL NUMBER OF PODS COLLECTED

32
22
32,404



COMMUNICATIONS

In 2020-21 the Trust continued to use Facebook as its primary communication tool to engage with a wider audience. The Facebook page is regularly updated to promote events and provide updates on projects being undertaken by the Trust. The Facebook page is also used to promote job opportunities to the local community that the Trust may have available.

The Facebook page currently has 484 people like the page and 540 people following the page. Most popular posts in 2020-21 were:

- Collaboration with Sully Paea to create furniture for the Ōtara Creek Reserve 13,854 People reached, 1,072 Likes, comments and shares
- Ōtara Creek Reserve Clean up with local schools 4,734 People reached, 244 Likes, comments and shares
- Promotion for job opportunities with the Trust 1,343 People reached, 54 Likes, comments and shares

COMMUNITY PANEL

The Trust continues to be supported by the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Community Panel - a representative group of community organisations, Auckland Council, local business and other stakeholders.

The Community Panel provides an important link for the Trust to the community and Auckland Council. In 2020-21 the Community Panel met three times, with disruptions to scheduled meetings caused by COVID 19.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current trustees during the 2020-21 financial year:

- Richard Myhre - Chair
- Aaron Hynds
- Stephen Grey
- Judith Speight
- Sully Paea

In 2020-21 the Trust met three times, with disruptions to scheduled meetings caused by COVID 19.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

In 2020-21 the Trust was selected to be part of Auckland Council's Community Conservation Group Short Term Advisory programme. Through this programme the Trust has been supported by NFPWorks to review its Strategic Plan, develop a three year Operational Plan and various supporting governance, financial administration and HR policies.

Involvement in this programme has been of enormous benefit to the Trust, especially in this time of growth and we look forward to presenting the new Strategic Plan to our supporters and stakeholders in 2021-22.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2020-21



Funding provided for stream restoration projects, communications, Neat Streets and creek clean up events and for the Otago Waterways and Lake Project Coordinator. Funding provided for the Pest Free Urban South and Otago Pest Animal Network initiatives



Funding provided for stream restoration projects, communications, Neat Streets event and for the Otago Waterways and Lake Project Coordinator. Funding for the Pest Free Howick Conservation Assistant



Funding provided through the Community Coordination Fund for the Otago Community Coordinator. Assistance through the Community Conservation Group Short Term Advisory programme.



Funding provided for the Pest Free Urban South initiative

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Funding from the 1 Billion Trees programme, for the three year Flatbush Green Fingers stream restoration project.

The Trust would also like to thank all the members of the Otago Waterways and Lake Community Panel for their time, various staff of Auckland Council for ongoing assistance with projects, members of the Otago Papatoetoe and Howick Local Boards for their ongoing support plus all the volunteers that have assisted at planting days, Neat Streets events and other community events and all the community organisations that support the work that we do

The Trust would like to make a special mention to Accelerating Aotearoa for its assistance in the delivery of the Trust's local employment programme.

www.otarawaterways.org.nz
facebook.com/otarawaterways
40 Lovegrove Crescent, Otago
Charities Services No: CC53533

