



2021-22

# ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending 30 June 2022

*Te mauri o te rangi  
Te mauri o te whenua  
Te mauri ora o Tara*



When the lake, waterways and  
wildlife flourish, the people flourish

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## About the Trust

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 Trust formed in 2016 as a continuation of the Placemaking: Ōtara Waterways and Lake Steering Group, whose key objective was to develop a Long Term Strategic Action Plan in response to water quality issues in the Ōtara Catchment (some of the lowest water quality in Auckland).

The Ōtara stormwater catchment is within the two political boundaries (50/50) of the Ōtara Papatoetoe Local Board and Howick Local Board.

Around 45 billion litres of rain falls within the catchment each year and due to the ongoing loss of permeable surfaces, increasing volumes of stormwater and contaminants are being flushed into the waterways. This has had detrimental effects to biodiversity values, water quality, recreational and cultural values.

The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust is committed to a “top of catchment downwards view” to restoring tributaries in the upper and lower catchment, and sees correct and effective riparian restoration alongside community engagement as key to resolving primary issues of poor water quality: sedimentation through erosion, influx of contaminants, increasing water temperature, habitat loss and ongoing proliferation of pest plants and animals.



## Key outcomes 2021-22



### 68,013 trees planted

41,805 trees at our One Billion Tree and Local Board funded sites, and 26,208 at the offsite compensation project



### 20 Stream restoration sites

Inc seven 1 Billion Trees sites, seven sites in Ōtara, five in Flatbush and the Te Irirangi offsite compensation project.



### 7 Community Events

engaging 213 people



### 8.1 FTEs

Employees and contractors working together to do the mahi



### 27 volunteers

supporting the Trust on a regular basis



### Pest free mahi

Supporting the Pest Free Urban South and Pest Free Howick projects



### Kaitawaenga

Honoring the commitment to working in partnership with iwi, hapū, marae and hapori Māori



### 2 Neat Streets

2 Neat Streets events, assisting 160 homes to remove 10,050kg landfill waste



## Stream Restoration

In 2021-22 the Trust continued its stream restoration efforts across 20 sites in the Flatbush and Otara areas - including seven 1 Billion Trees sites (funded by Ministry Primary Industries), seven sites in Ōtara and five in Flatbush (funded by the Local Boards), and the Te Irirangi Reserve offsite compensation project.

This work includes improving and restoring the stream reaches through weed control, planting, pest control and ongoing maintenance to increase biodiversity values, as well as improving amenity values for people to be reconnected to these areas.

## 1 Billion Trees

2021-22 was the second year for the Trust's major three year One Billion Trees project, which will help restore seven stream reaches by planting 101,700 native trees, grasses and shrubs across approximately 24 ha.

This year the Trust planted 39,208 plants at six of the 1BT sites, with extensive maintenance and control of weeds ongoing at all of the seven sites.

## Offsite Compensation

In July 2021, the Trust was awarded the contract to undertake the site preparation, planting and ongoing maintenance for an offsite compensation project at Te Irirangi Reserve.

This was an important project for the Trust as not only is the Te Irirangi Reserve an existing stream restoration site for the Trust, but the contract marked the first commercial contract secured by the Trust to undertake stream restoration work.

This is a four year project which will see approx 30,000 plants added to this important ecological reserve.

## Local Board sites

Ongoing maintenance of planted sites is key to the long term success of stream restoration - including control of plant weed species such as moth plant, privet and woolly nightshade - and infill planting of native species.

Medvale Reserve is a new stream restoration area for the Trust in 2021-22 with the primary objectives to repair and restore ecological processes within one partially revegetated tributary of the Ōtara Creek.

The initial stages of the Medvale Reserve project are focused on tackling invasive weeds that pose greatest threat of spread throughout stream corridor, starting with moth plant and Tradescantia



*Otara Creek tributary at Medvale Reserve*

# Community Engagement

The Trust sees the engagement of the local community as equally important as the restoration of the ecological process of the stream restoration sites.

in 2021-22 community engagement efforts were significantly affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic - restricting the Trust's ability to deliver events and reducing the number of people wanting to attend community gatherings.

Despite these hurdles, the Trust was able to deliver seven community events in 2021-22, engaging 213 people.



## SALFORD PARK COMMUNITY PLANTING 14 MAY 2022

This was the first community planting event for 2022 organised by the Trust in the Flatbush area since the August lockdown in 2021.

The purpose for the event was to provide an opportunity for the local community to be involved in the stream restoration project and to start re-engaging the local community in the work of the Trust. The event was a great success with 49 people participating.



## HAMILL RD RESERVE CLEAN UPS

In response to an illegal dumping issue identified by the Stream Team in the Hamill Rd Reserve, two community clean up events were organised to engage the community to help deal with the issue.

In total 22 people volunteered at these events, supported by the Trust's stream team, Kainga Ora and a local Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, with a total 30m3 of rubbish removed from site.



## He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

### Employment

In 2021-22 the Trust employed or contracted a total of 14 individuals to undertake and manage the mahi.

As at 30 June 2022, the Trust's team consisted of:

- Five Stream Team members
- Stream Team Manager
- Flatbush Community Coordinator
- Kaitawaenga
- Otara Community Coordinator (not appointed)
- Pest Free Urban South Coordinator
- Three Pest Free Howick Conservation Assistants
- equating to 8.1 FTEs

### Kaitawaenga

The Trust is committed to working in partnership with iwi, hapū, marae and hapori Māori to foster positive, respectful relationships; ensure authentic participation in decision making; and deliver stream restoration and community engagement projects that meet the aspirations of Māori and the wider community.

In recognition of this commitment, in February 2022 the Trust appointed a Kaitakawaenga to start re-engaging with mana whenua.

The Kaitakawaenga plays a lead role in providing high-quality cultural advice and guidance for the Trust, facilitating Māori engagement and relationships, and enhancing the Trust's capability in Te Ao Māori, Tikanga Māori, Te Reo, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

### Volunteers

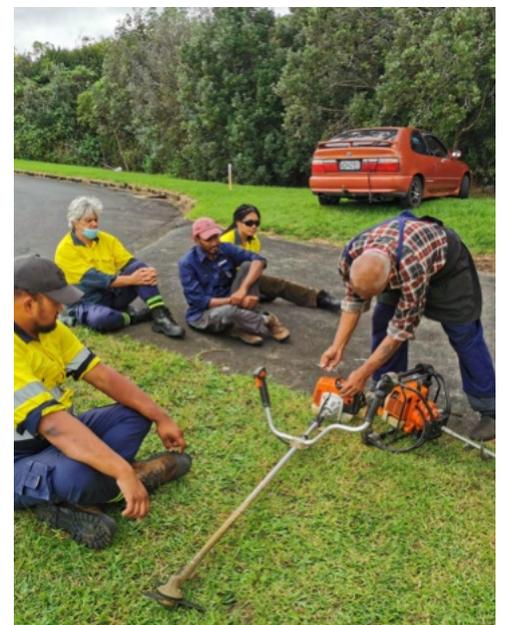
Additional to specific community events, the Trust also supported regular volunteers to assist the Stream Team. These volunteers participated in a range of tasks such as litter clean ups, planting and plant maintenance.

The Trust collaborated again with Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ) in 2021-22 to deliver their Conservation Work Skills local employment and training programme as part of the 1 Billion Trees Project.

The commencement of this second training programme was delayed until February 2022 due to the extended lockdown period for Auckland in 2021. 10 local unemployed participated in this programme, with participants from the Ōtara/Manukau area. The Trust provided two onsite training days in March, with two further training days in April. The programme was for 12 weeks, running from March to May.



*The Trust's Kaitawaenga, Huia Murupaenga, with MP for Botany Hon Jenny Salesa*



## Pest Free projects

In 2021-22 the Trust continued its involvement with the Pest Free Urban South and Pest Free Howick projects.

### PEST FREE URBAN SOUTH

The vision for Pest Free Urban South is to connect South Auckland communities with effective pest management practices and resources that positively contribute to the health of its people, their homes, and our environment. Pest Free Urban South is a network designed to connect members with a shared vision of active pest control across the three local board areas of Otara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Mangere-Otahuhu.

The Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust is the umbrella organisation for the Pest Free Urban South Coordinator and the annual moth plant pod competition which is delivered across the three local boards.



### Otara Creek Pest Animal Network

As part of the PFUS project, The Trust received funding in 2021-22 from the Otara Papatoetoe Local Board to engage a local pest activator to manage a pest animal baitline in the Otara Creek Reserve and encourage residents to participate in backyard trapping.

A mini Neat Streets event was held on Velvet Crescent on 11 June 2022 to launch the backyard trapping programme for that community.

Two landfill skips were provided, as well as the opportunity for people to receive a free rat trap and box. Nine homes signed up for the backyard trapping programme which was a great start to that project.



### PEST FREE HOWICK

In 2021-22, the Trust continued its support of the Pest Free Howick Ward project by continuing to be the host employer for the three Pest Free Howick Conservation Assistants.

This is a great relationship for both the Trust and Pest Free Howick, with a shared kaupapa of restoring and protecting the te taiao in the Howick Local Board area through the removal of pest plants and animals and engagement of the local community.



# Neat Streets



COVID 19 and the ensuing lockdown periods for Auckland this financial year and the restrictions on public gatherings meant that the organisation of Neat Streets events did not occur until April 2022, restricting the total number of events able to be held this year.

In 2021-22 two Neat Streets events were held:

- Hamill Rd Neat Streets 2 April 2022
- Velvet Crescent mini Neat Streets 11 June 2022

## HAMILL ROAD NEAT STREETS 2 APRIL 2022

This event was organised according to COVID guidelines and requirements and as such was not delivered as a normal Neat Streets event. Skip bins were spread across the chosen residential area to minimise risk of people congregating and to provide skips close to homes to allow people to walk items to their nearest skip.

260 houses were invited with 145 homes participated on the day, representing a 56% attendance rate. 7850kg of landfill waste, 2,100kg of metal and 2,020kg of wood waste was collected on the day.

With thanks to the ongoing support from Kainga Ora, Waste Management and the Turehou Maori Wardens for the Neat Streets programme.



# Trust News



2021-22 was again a difficult year with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which caused significant disruptions to the Trust's community engagement, volunteer and Neat Streets programmes.

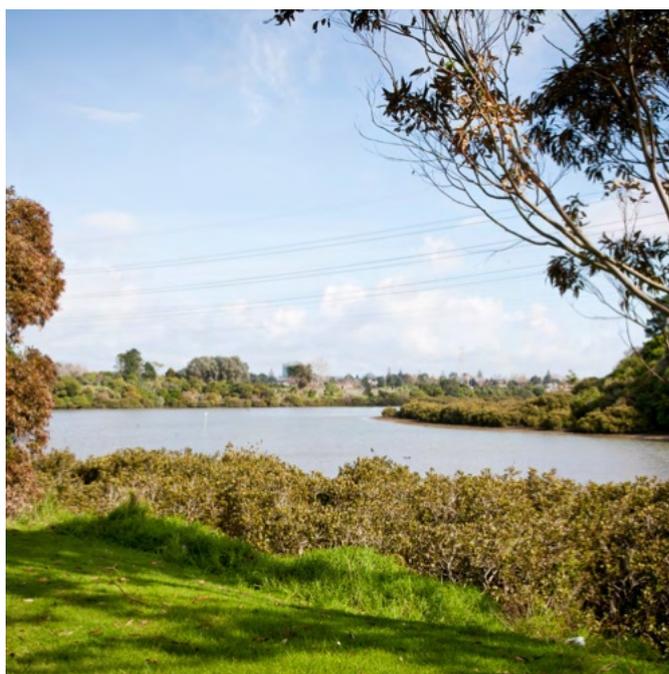
The Trust, as a governing body, however was able to complete many significant projects and outcomes including;

- Completion and adoption of the Trust's new 3-year Strategic Plan and Operational Plan (2021-2024)
- Election of Huia Murupaenga as the Trust's 6th Trustee

## Otara Lake Restoration Project

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.



## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2021-22

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



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



Funding provided for stream restoration projects, community engagement, communications, Neat Streets and creek clean up events and for the Otara Waterways and Lake Project Coordinator.

Funding provided for the Pest Free Urban South initiatives



Funding provided for stream restoration projects, community engagement, communications, Neat Streets and for the Otara Waterways and Lake Project Coordinator.

Funding for the Pest Free Howick Conservation Assistants



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



Funding provided for operational costs for the Trust.



Funding provided for the Pest Free Urban South initiative



Funding provided for the Pest Free Urban South initiative

The Trust would also like to thank all the members of the Otara Waterways and Lake Community Panel for their time, various staff of Auckland Council for ongoing assistance with projects, members of the Otara 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 tremendous support of the Trust and in providing a home base for the Trust's operations.

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