



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Big Clean Up/Dads Day Out

Tags; family, clean up

This is an example of a creative collaboration between PTS, and a group organising a fathering week event. Together they created a joint event to both promote fathering and clean up Henderson Creek.

Detail:

The organisers of 'Focus on Fathering Week' had arranged a whole week of events, culminating in a picnic on a particular Saturday. Wendy Claire (Community Coordinator, Henderson Creek) was in the process of organising a Henderson Creek clean up day and both groups saw the value in combining their efforts.

This led to local fathers celebrating Father's day, and having fun with their children, joining in sack, and egg & spoon races, pony rides and creating junk sculptures as well as cleaning up Henderson Creek on kayaks!

The collaboration meant that with more networks involved, more activities could be offered. Wendy Claire noted, "It was very heartwarming to see so many Dads out celebrating Father's Day with their children - having fun paddling up the creek in a kayak filling a rubbish bag, or taking the opportunity to join in art activities or sharing a sausage while enjoying the music and entertainment".

Wendy said, "A wide range of ages participated, including a 70 year old grandmother from the Chinese community who - with her seven year old grandchild - was one of the most enthusiastic kayakers. We can be very proud of our community's commitment to cleaning up our streams and celebrating in our own unique 'Waitakere Way' while we do it".

The clean up event is now in its second year, but 2008 was the first year it was held in collaboration with the Focus on Fathering group. It is a great example of how creative collaboration can combine resources and thereby make it easier to run a bigger, better event offering more activities, more helpers, and tapping into more networks.