



## INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

**PROJECT TITLE: Friends of the Whau**

**Tags; restoration, partnership**

### **Overview:**

FOW is a community based ecological restoration organisation who work with other groups, local residents and the general public to improve the natural environment of the Whau River Catchment in Auckland through planting, clean ups, weeding and education. It aims to increase awareness about water quality and other environmental issues affecting the catchment, and mobilise the community to make a difference.

FOW works with Waitakere City Council, Auckland City Council, local iwi, the ARC and other groups engaged in environmental restoration.

Some of the environmental and educational initiatives FOW are involved in include:

- Community planting days, weeding and clean ups along the rivers and tributaries
- Involvement of local high school and Unitec students in environmental monitoring and data collection, such as water quality and surveys of plant species etc
- Involvement of primary and intermediate school children in environmental initiatives
- Informing and advising residents about what they can do on their own properties to improve environmental outcomes
- Talking to developers and property owners about the need to minimise environmental impacts upon the Whau
- Informing and involving businesses in monitoring pollution and in FOWs re-vegetation work

FOW have also developed display boards that can be left unmanned and are regularly displayed at local shopping malls. These have generated interest in the project and people seem particularly interested in the local history and aerial photographs.

### **Why is it relevant to PTS?**

- Involves community riparian planting, weeding and litter removal from waterways
- Volunteers have been involved in monitoring water quality and keeping a photographic record of the catchment
- It has an ecological education component

### **Ideas and tips for PTS:**

- Advertising / promotions in shopping malls and markets to attract a wide audience
- Using students to monitor water quality and gather data on environmental outcomes

### **Contact:**



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Refer to the document – "[Engaging Urban Communities: Six Case Studies of Auckland Community Based Restoration Projects](#)" by Kathryn Scott, Landcare Research, in the references section of the wiki

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