



# Streamtalk

APRIL 2011



Aetna Road businesses after a Project Twin Streams planting

## The Year Ahead

2011 is shaping up to be another busy year. There are fewer large-scale community planting events this year, as the project moves from planting to maintenance phase, but the ones that are planned are worth making the effort to be a part of.

Oratia kicks off the planting season on 17 April with a harvest themed planting event. There will be hot soup, a barbeque, art activities and drummers. Glen Eden have two community plantings events planned for May and June – unfortunately their Recycle Event in March was cancelled due to bad weather. Henderson Creek are partnering up with the squash club for a planting in May while Ranui-Massey are planning a community planting with the golf club in late July.

More event details at [www.projecttwinstreams.com/discover/events/](http://www.projecttwinstreams.com/discover/events/)

## Engaging businesses

Most of Project Twin Streams Oratia's work is focussed on engaging with local residents. However with many industrial and commercial businesses bordering the streambanks it is imperative to also engage with the owners of those premises.

Oratia's Contract Manager Green Jon (who was formerly the Community Coordinator) says, "My perception is that most people want to do the best they can. However it is also clear that gentle reminders and partnerships are hugely valuable." To this end, Jon provides educational material to businesses to show them how to take greater responsibility for their environment.

Jon adds, "Time is a barrier for many business people and we are also aware that their core objective is to run a profitable business. At times, businesses may feel that attending a streamside activity is not the best use of their time."

Jon aims to utilise businesses' skill base and readily available resources. "We look to enable businesses to work with the project in their way and not our way. We also highlight how valuable supporting an environmental project can be to a businesses profile. We want to show how it's a win-win position."

Some of Oratia's successful business engagements include the Westfield Environmental Restoration. Over the last 3 years, Project Twin Streams Oratia and Westcity Westfield have worked together to build community and council relationships through Project Twin Streams.

An area outside the mall has been replanted and restored - prompting contractors to voluntarily clear rubbish from the streambank.

A mural project, currently underway, for the eastern entrance wall of the mall will engage 28 different community organisations including local schools, as well as the general public. In total an estimated 4000 volunteers will contribute to the project.

This partnership has allowed Westfield Westcity to actively demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability and to connect to the wider community

Other business partnerships brokered by Project Twin Streams Oratia include:

**Aetna St business cluster** (Discon Products, artist Niki Hastings-Fall and Jason Hall) and Edsel St businesses (Barnardoes, Workbridge and Tonys Resturant)

**Heron Plumbing:** donated technical advice, irrigation pipe and fittings to MEG (Millbrook Edible Garden).

**Mega Mitre 10:** \$1000 of product to MEG and donated pallets for sustainability workshops.

**Ecocover:** donated products for MEG.

**King Dicks liquor:** allows use of vacant land behind their premises for storage of rubbish collected from the stream.

**Chinz Recycling:** donated water storage units for Meg and for the environmental team.

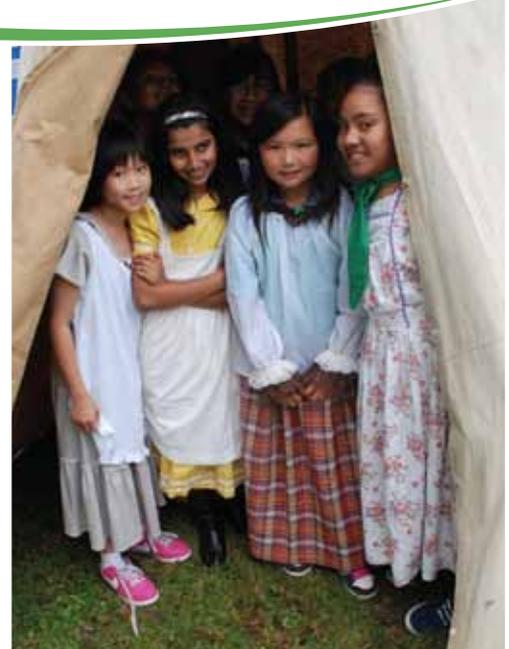
These ongoing business relationships will key to the long term success of Project Twin Streams.



Glen Eden restoration



Living History Day participants



Living History Day participants

## Horticultural students gain placement

One of Project Twin Streams' strategic objectives was to provide pathways to employment for local youth. With two horticultural students from Vision West training starting a long term placement with Project Twin Streams Glen Eden this is coming to fruition.

Tina Samuelu and Jonathon Leonard from Vision West will spend one day a week with Project Twin Streams Glen Eden. The aim is to give them practical work skills and they will be working closely with the stream ranger.

This new development builds on the long association the training establishment has with the project with students (and tutors) previously planting and maintaining specific areas such as Duck Park and Harold Moody Park in Glen Eden.

Mark Miller, Project Twin Streams Glen Eden coordinator, has been hoping to bring a more planned approach to volunteering on the project and he is delighted to partner with Vision West.

Mark said, "With Project Twin Streams there has been, quite rightly, a focus on building engagement with community groups, rather than a planned approach to building a pool of long-term volunteers.

As Glen Eden, and other areas of the project, expand to more areas being 100% managed by the community there is a need for more sustained support.

Whilst placements can require substantial staff input during the early stages, this is a very worthwhile investment in the longer term. Even after a few weeks, the positive impact that trained and motivated volunteers working alongside our Stream Rangers can have is clearly evident.

## Project Twin Streams online

The Project Twin Streams [website](#) should be the first port of call for any background information, contact details or project resources. There is a rich array of evaluation reports, case-studies, maps and up-to-date project statistics available 24/7.

Our [Facebook](#) pages have attracted nearly 100 fans and built up a strong online community – interestingly with a very local focus, which proves the theory that Facebook can be an online community.

Our [twitter](#) feed attracts more of an international following from those working in environmental restoration and sustainability and allows us to target our communications with this wider group. Those without a twitter account can follow us at [#projecttwinstreams](#)

Our [Flickr](#) pages allow us to showcase Project Twin Streams' achievements and projects in visual way while our [YouTube channel](#) hosts our project videos – and at times, attracts a lot of engagement in the way of comments.

For the Project Twin Streams team, both internal to council and within the community – there is a password protected intranet site for all project-specific and non-public information and also an online Project Twin Streams image library.

## Bringing the past alive

Celebrating the rich history of Henderson Creek was the focus of the recent Living History Day held by Project Twin Streams Henderson Creek, in collaboration with Henderson Primary School, the West Auckland Historical Society, residents of Vision Waitakere Gardens Village.

Demonstrating how creative engagement can be used in a multitude of ways to bring understanding and learning to a project, Coordinator Sara Lovitz described it as, "Bringing alive a piece of Henderson's history surrounding the mill, gum-digging, and Tui Glen for 200 Henderson Primary students, teachers, and parents!"

Over the course of a day, there was acting, dancing in Falls Park, a Bush Camp in Tui Glen and a picnic at Tui Glen Reserve - with all participants in historical dress,

Russell French, the Associate Principal of Henderson Primary School said, "The children are talking about all the wonderful things they saw and how the history came to life. This was an enormous task taken on by many people and you are all stars. We can't thank you enough for the commitment made to give our children these incredible experiences which will now form the base for their work over the next few weeks."

An [album](#) of images from the event has been added to the Project Twin Streams image library.

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