



Streamtalk

JUNE 2011



A desire to offset their fleet's carbon emissions was the catalyst for this restoration project at Fruit Vans on the Waikumete Stream.

A Change for Good

Fruit Vans is a business selling roadside fruit. It's owned by Taryn Mattos and her partner Marcelo and is based on the banks of the Waikumete Stream in Sunnyvale. It's a favourite stop on the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (best known by its acronym WWOOF). The company's environmental processes have recently undergone a radical rethink with the help of Project Twin Streams Glen Eden.

When Stream Ranger Tony Phillips first encountered the couple, the business was burying their organic waste by the streamside. "They were really open to learning new ways of composting so we did a workshop with them and their visiting WWOOFers. We followed this up with a workshop on water harvesting and a stream clean up," said Tony.

The couple were also concerned about their burgeoning carbon footprint and approached Project Twin Streams for technical advice. "We set up an initiative to measure and then mitigate the travel they undertake in their vans, through planting trees."

This planting required willing workers so Taryn put out the word via the WWOOF website. In record time, "we had 14 who specifically came in response to the stream restoration notice and had to turn down a further 13. If a permanent description for a project of this kind existed on the WWOOF website, I believe the response would be phenomenal,"

she says. Tony agrees. "It shows that there's a real appetite for achieving this kind of environmental action. People are keen to get their hands dirty and make a real difference — even if they don't live in the area." The resulting planting of 4000 trees has transformed previously barren riparian margins.

The educational initiatives are now beginning to show real dividends. "Fruit Vans have invested in a commercial bokashi composting system, a worm farm and a recycling system."

For Tony this relationship has provided an opportunity to pull back and look at the bigger picture. "Project Twin Streams has been the catalyst for fundamental environmental changes at this site. And with so many people coming into contact with what they're doing through the WWOOFer scheme, those messages and the successes of the project are then rippling out into the world. So what they're doing is really important both environmentally and socially," he says.

Pat Watson, CEO of Community Waitakere with her granddaughter on stream fairy duty.



A New Chapter Begins

Henderson Creek's May planting signified a shift in focus for the Henderson Creek Project Twin Streams Team.

Having completed the bulk of their riparian planting, much of the area under Community Waitakere's governance will now move into a maintenance phase.

The event was a collaboration between Henderson Creek and the Henderson Squash Club, who border the stream on Buscomb Ave. From the club's perspective the day proved a great insight into the work being undertaken by Project Twin Streams. As Mike Pirovich, Henderson Squash Club Manager explains, "From the club members, to the people who support Project Twin Streams, to the council and community organisations involved, through to the local Iwi the whole thing was a terrific initiative. We planted 800 natives and it's really transformed the area."

The opportunity to inspect native geckos and streamlife provided a hands-on experience, demonstrating the thriving ecosystem that it's hoped the site will become in time. Project Twin Streams Arts Coordinator Kristen Kell also worked with this theme, helping children to create native creatures from natural materials.

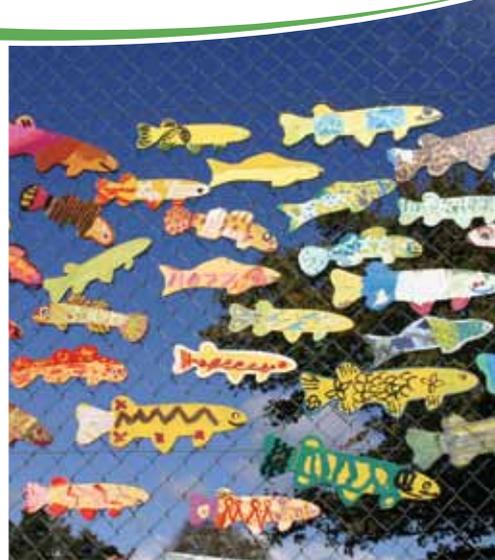
The relationship forged with local stakeholders was particularly significant for Henderson Creek Community Coordinator Sara Lovitz, with regular planting day attendees making up the bulk of the numbers. Local business, Tonzu Organics, also gave their in-kind support by providing food for the barbecue, which was supplied by the Squash Club.



The Songs To Save Our Stream DVD charts Rock Quest students from auditions to the big finale.



A very proud bunch of ACG Sunderland students with their koru which will form part of the Westfield WestCity Mural.



The Action Tool Kit draws on Project Twin Streams Initiatives.

Still Rocking On

Come and celebrate Project Twin Streams successes with an evening of film, music and refreshments. On Friday 1 July, the Project Twin Streams team invites everyone with an interest in the project to come together at Titirangi Theatre, Lopdell House, Titirangi at 7pm.

The event, which has been put together by Project Twins Streams' team members Mandy Patmore, Dot Dalziell and Janet MacDonald, will be an opportunity to celebrate some of the successes of Project Twin Streams and a chance to let your hair down.

First up, there will be a screening of *Songs To Save Our Stream: The Journey of the Project Twin Streams Song Quest* DVD. The documentary (or should that be 'rockumentary') charts the progress of high school students from all over New Zealand on their pursuit of Song Quest 2009 glory.

The Song Quest was conceived by Mandy Patmore who looked after every detail required to make it happen – winning an ARC Environment award commendation along the way for her efforts. The project challenged budding musicians to create songs inspired by the restoration and environmental work on the project.

Many who were initially motivated by the significant prizes, developed an interest in and an understanding of environmental issues during the process.

RSVP: To janet.macdonald@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz with numbers by 24 June.

Mural Being Brought to Life

Janet Holt, Project Twin Streams Arts Coordinator, is fully immersed in the world being brought to life by the Westfield WestCity Mall Mural. Set to run across 26 metres and situated on the Oratia Stream side of the mall, the project has engaged over a thousand young people to date.

"There's been true community involvement from the beginning with the original design derived through extensive consultation" explains Janet who's been co-managing the project with fellow Arts Coordinator Mandy Patmore. Janet's been working with eight schools and 11 community groups to create some 500 mosaic fish which will make up a shimmering stream. Six mosaic koru, ranging from 1.5 to 2.5 metres, will also bookend the mural, representing the guardianship role we have over mother earth.

One of these koru was a joint effort by students from ACG Sunderland and Nga Kakano O Te Kaihango Trust. This two and a half metre sculpture was housed at ACG as the respective groups took turnabout to make their mark on it. "It's an example of two groups at opposite ends of the spectrum, in terms of education, working really well in partnership."

Next, Janet will begin gluing the fish into place, a job that is effectively like creating an enormous, but beautiful, jigsaw. This is a process she's keen to begin although the logistics of such an exercise are daunting in the extreme. "The mural is broken down into nine sections, each measuring around one metre by two and a half metres. I'm going to need a whole lot of glue and then we'll need some heavy duty bolts and maybe a crane to get them into position once they're done," jokes Janet.

New Online Resource

The Action Toolkit is a new resource that has recently been added to the Project Twin Streams website. Over fifty references are now available in the form of downloadable PDFs.

These are divided into three sections. Techniques and Tools contains 11 examples that focus on how methods such as storytelling, art and community events have been employed on Project Twin Streams and puts these into an international context. Each example ends with an 'ideas incubator' which suggests new ways to employ these themes.

The toolkit also features 21 inventive Case Studies, many of which draw on international expertise. These are thematically linked to the work on Project Twin Streams, and offer practical advice for implementation here. These projects range in scope from small scale exhibitions through to large scale and ongoing projects. It's hoped these will act as a springboard for new ideas and inspiration.

The Snap Shots section focuses on the project's local work. This provides a further touchpoint for showcasing the innovative ways in which the Project Twin Streams strands are being delivered on the ground. The snap shots provide a series of suggestions that could be used not only here, but also across other environmental projects in New Zealand.

It's hoped that the Action Toolkit will become a valuable planning resource across all levels of the project. Check it out at www.projecttwinstreams.com/multimedia/actiontoolkit

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