



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Wazsa a happenin on Aetna St

Tags; industrial, pollution, networking

Down in the depths of McLaren Park it began. Industrial park that is not a place for botanical strollers, or maybe.

We were tracking down on aetna with a crew of stream restorers and approached a group of factory units about our plans to clean up that place.

Phil was the first to meet us and he had a problem. The guy in the end unit was polluting the stream. Oil oozed out from the engine blocks he had discarded, the street verge choked with car bits and when I politely explained our vision he announced "We are into metal not that green stuff." He had a reputation and I quickly surmised that he would be a difficult one to knock off. Yet we tried and the other tenants tried.

In the opposite unit we meet Dennis who loved his bit of stream. Chalk and cheese right next to each other. Dennis had already started caring for the stream by planting trees and had a seat to look onto the evolving beauty of the Oratia stream. Dennis had vision.

A P Lab was broken up by police on the corner unit; luckily we heard that it had just started cooking so we thanked the skies that not too much poison went to our stream. Those tenants went on holiday and new tenants moved in and they were artists.

The filth tenant continued his abuses, the others tenants frowned, we frowned. Photos were taken, Councils involved, the highest authority was invited on site yet the poison went on.

Bruce McLaren students joined us for a walk and talk along the new cycleway. From there we could see Dennis's place and next door the filth guy. I explained the problem, 1 guy killing our stream the other guy restoring it. A life dilemma, how do we live together? Some



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students were upset. "We must write a letter to filth guy and let him know that children love the stream."

Peer Pressure, neighbourhood goodness, where authority failed the grass roots succeeded. Filth guy moved out to a dirtier neighbourhood.

Who would want to work in this place, another nature conscious business that's who and Alan moved in.

Then wham bam green unity man. The whole neighbourhood came together. 8 factory units shouted out, they cleared away the rubbish, they cleared away the weeds, they painted out the graffiti and soon they will plant 3000 trees on their streambank.

I knocked on the door next door and the door next door to that door and told them what wazsa happenin on Aetna St. Flavour at No. 22 want to be a part of this good thing and will plant trees on their streambank. Cotec have a history of graffiti prevention and manager Robin planted trees on Tiri Tiri Matangi so I knew he would be good. The scaffolders across the road want to help. Mega Mitre10 bulk store at road end said hey this sounds great. We will give you \$1000 towards building your community edible garden (another story).

This is a great little street.

Thank you Dennis, Helen, Carl, Chris, Alan, Jason, Niki, John, Robin, Bruce, Brad, Dee and everyone else who wants to make a difference.

People like you are our environmental heroes.