

From the Deck

Autumn/
Winter 2021

NEWMARKET STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

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Planting, Sunday June 20th

10am - 1pm at 9a Swinton Close.
Barbeque, cake, conversation to follow.



Planting 2021

Please join us on Sunday, June 20th, 10am at 9a Swinton Close. Wear gumboots and bring a spade if you can. The team has been working with Richard Mairs of Te Ngahere and with Martin Keay to put together a planting list and plant location guide for the June planting. On Friday June 18th, plants will be placed ready for planting on Sunday. If you can help with that between 10am and 2pm that would be great. But the 20th is the most important day.

For this year's planting we will focus on larger canopy trees such as totora, kohekohe, titoki, puriri, with some replanting of flax and other smaller plants on the steeper banks as well as pungas and other wet-loving plants closer to the stream.

This year we will be planting the area down the stream from Swinton Close. Further down, towards Middleton Rd close to the stream the terrain is more challenging and will be planted by Te Ngahere's professional staff, rather than

our volunteers. Some of this work will be done in July.

The growth of our existing plantings has been spectacular with some cabbage trees over 3m high and our young natives are now 3 or 4 times their original planted heights.

These photos show how one day a year can make a huge difference to our valley. Not to mention the planning of course and the expertise provided by Richard and Te Ngahere and some of our own crew. We could not do what we are doing without generous funding provided by our local boards : Orakei & Waitemata, through Auckland Council. Our thanks to them all.

Read about our project on the [Te Ngahere](#) website and the [From the Deck](#) website

Planting

Sunday June 20th 10am - 1pm | 9A Swinton Close

Did you know: the Maori name for Newmarket area was Te Ti Tutahi named after a sacred isolated cabbage tree which stood on the corner of what is now Broadway and Mortimer Pass, where Westfield now stands.



June 29th, 2018

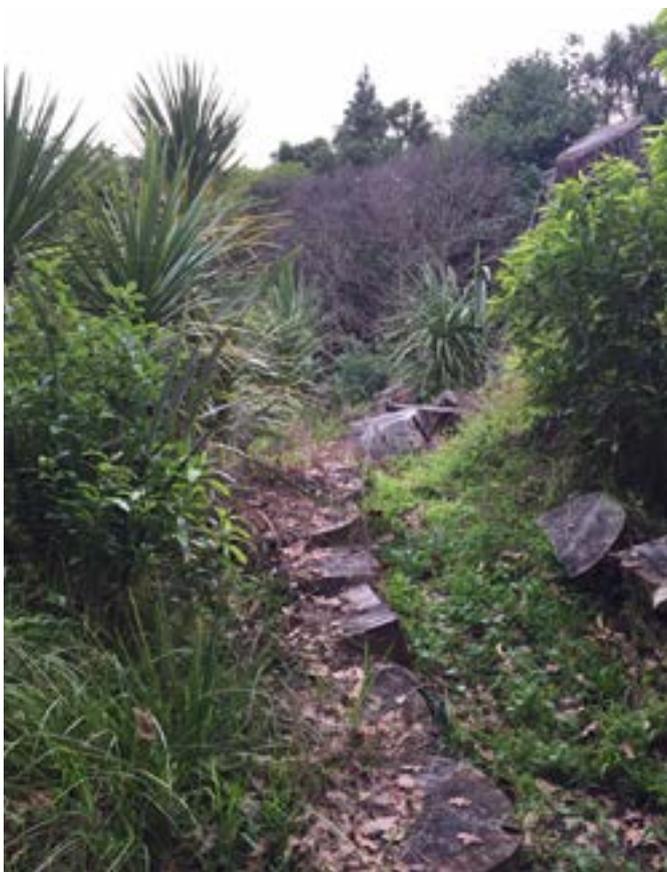
Pest control

Plants

Without Te Ngahere's pest plant control which they carry out a few times each year our planting would be overwhelmed by weeds such as morning glory and tradescantia, and pointless.

Our privet control is another issue, a very long term project. Privet overwhelms native plants and causes health problems for residents particularly those with skin and breathing issues. We have begun our control programme with the felling of several trees this year and the weeding of smaller plants.

If you'd like to know more about the weeds in your backyard, Forest and Bird have an excellent [weed control guide](#).



May 28th, 2021

Rats and pests

We have been concerned about the ad hoc nature of our rat control programme. Trudy Gardner told us at our April gathering about the work done on Waiheke, particularly the monitoring of their programme. We have subsequently – as you know – met with Mary Stewart, Auckland Council's Biodiversity Officer and decided that we need to modify our rat control programme to improve effectiveness. Aiming for best practice, we plan to employ an expert, probably from Te Ngahere again, for the next four pulses (one year) to assist with:

- tracking tunnels which record footprints and identify pests
- enabling us to find best places to set our stations and traps
- refreshing baits in the stations
- recording results
- redirecting our efforts if need be
- building a digital map of the valley, GPSing the baits and stations

This will cost us approximately \$2400 pa. Our email last week has outlined the details and we thank everyone who has so far contributed. We are half way there. Our Kiwibank Account is From the Deck, 38 9023 0136999 00

Also - remember that rats love scraps so please make sure food scraps are placed safely in rubbish bins. Also – birds don't benefit from our scraps – they need to feed on the the insects and nectar of the natives we are planting.

While we are not actively working on possum control – we do have a couple of Tims traps if anyone has seen possums and would like to trap them.



Ti Kouka flowers



Kereru in the tree in the valley

Some updates...

Social media workshop

Carole, Penny and Warren attended a network meeting for conservation coordinators run by Auckland Council. The purpose was to upgrade our social media skills. We came away feeling reasonably comfortable with what we are doing at present, thanks to our Facebook page, website and newsletter.

(Thanks to Issa Ilo-Cabiling & to Tushar Sharma for these). However there are other things we could be doing, and we have the information from the workshop if anyone would like to take a look at it.

Youth involvement

As always we are searching for ways to involve younger people in our work and our group. It has been suggested that the most successful way of getting them involved in conservation projects is to get them working together on a specific task. If you have contact with any youth groups, you may be able to help. Let us know.

Water

The recent rate increase is great news (strangely) and will eventually make a difference to our water. Right now though nothing has changed. Watch the signs around Hobson Bay Waitaramoa for advice on water activities - or not.

Other Groups

<https://matukulink.org.nz>

An amazing group that work out at the wetlands on Bethells Beach.

<https://econet.nz>

An Organisation working on IT, better software for conservation

<https://globaldesigningcities.org>

And more internationally – looking at designing cities worldwide.

Our Team

If you'd like to know more about From the Deck or the Newmarket Stream Restoration, please contact:

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Visit us on Facebook @ [The Deckers](#)

Website: <https://fromthedeck.org>

[Photographs](#) from the restoration area



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Restoration Map

