



Opanuku Stream before planting



Opanuku Stream after planting

Rain doesn't dampen Project Twin Streams!

Welcome to the July edition of Streamtalk. The planting season is going well and the contract organisations have been very lucky with the weather. Given that Waitakere held the monthly record for the most rainfall anywhere in New Zealand, in both May (279.2 mm) and June (245 mm), the rain gods looking down on us have rewarded all our good work with intermittent showers around, rather than during, planting events.

Some of the contract areas are now finishing off the community segment of their planting programme. Glen Eden held their final community planting last month and Henderson Creek have already wrapped up that segment of the project.

There are just three more community planting events this season, Sunday 8 August and Saturday 4 September on the Upper Opanuku. Contact Derek March on 835 2726. Ranui-Massey are planting the Waimoko Stream, cnr Birdwood Road and Waimoko Glen on Sunday 21 August. Contact Clair Hobi on 833 7009.

With music, food and art activities, these events are a great way to get active at the weekend.

The ephemeral art at the recent Glen Eden planting was a great hit. Attached to the trees the clay models, representing tane mahuta, will break down over time, leaving no waste.

With long term projects it can be hard to see the gradual improvements while the plantings get established. The images above showcase one example of the great work achieved by community groups. Parekura students, an educational unit at Henderson High School for students with special needs, have been working on Project Twin Streams Opanuku since 2006. They work on the area each week and are justifiably proud of the results.

Project Twin Streams showcase seminar

The programme for this free seminar on Monday 2 August has been confirmed. Centred around a series of key topics, the day aims to facilitate knowledge and skills transfer for those working in the areas of community development, sustainability, education, environmental restoration and stormwater projects.

To register or for further information contact twinstreamsproject@waitakere.govt.nz

Seminar programme

8:30am Registration and Mihi

9:00am Welcome + Setting the Scene

Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse & Tony Miguel, Acting Director, City Services.

9:10am Tim Higham, Hauraki Gulf Forum

The importance of clean streams for wider harbour health.

9:20am Session 1: Project Building Blocks

- **Planting and Restoration**
730, 000 trees and still counting.
- **Property Purchases**
Real estate success.
- **Walk and Cycleways**
Building a network and making it attractive.

10:50am Morning Tea

11:20am Session 2: A Unique Approach

- **Community Development**
A different way of making a difference.
- **Creative Engagement**
How does art = clean water?
- **Branding & Communications**
Co-creation and using social media to make stormwater sexy.

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm Stream Tour or Future Directions presentation

3:00pm Stream Tour or Q+A Discussion with expert panel



Social media

Social media is becoming key to building a project's strategic engagement with its key audiences. No longer the domain of geeks, a truly interactive website and other Web 2 platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and blogs are becoming vital for any project or organisation looking to build and maintain strong stakeholder relationships.

The key with social media is to understand the difference between each platform and to be clear on your aims and objectives in using each one.

We have completed Phase one of the roll-out of our social media strategy with a dedicated Project Twin Streams presence across the main platforms and a clearly defined focus for each.

A new, interactive website for Project Twin Streams is currently being developed. The externally hosted site will feature a separate login area for Project Twin Streams team members – across both council and community. For the first time it will allow the project to have a unique project intranet not bound to internal/external council boundaries. The site is due to go live in mid-August.

Our Twitter (www.twitter.com) feed has a variety of short, sharp updates from the world of stormwater, environmental sustainability and community development. The aim is to showcase best-practice from around the globe. Those without a Twitter account can follow the postings by searching #ProjectTwinStreams on Twitter.

Facebook (<http://tinyurl.com/2vvd5jn>) is ideal for building an online community who want to stay in touch with project events and happenings. One of its key functionalities is the in-built tools for uploading photographs and other information that users want to share with other fans.



ZEAL Planting Team

Our blog (<http://tinyurl.com/2wcajuj>) features longer, knowledge-based articles. We plan to have a series of 'expert' articles published here on a regular basis. An easy one-click subscription ensures that new postings are sent direct to your email. At a planned rate of one posting per week, we won't be overflowing your inbox.

Our YouTube channel (<http://tinyurl.com/37g5tam>) and Flickr pages (<http://tinyurl.com/36eoa4v>) at this stage, showcase a variety of audio-visual content. Planned developments here include streambank maps with geo-spatial postings of before and after restoration shots and Project Twin Streams artworks.

Plants and curry

Stream restoration projects on the scale of Project Twin Streams are rare, but the community development approach of this project makes it especially unique – a fact recognised recently by the judges at the Ministry for the Environment Green Ribbon awards.

The objective of replanting and restoring the streambanks is key, but engagement and links with the community are also integral to the project's success. Last month's planting event with a new group from Global Café in Henderson, run by ZEAL, illustrates how the project reaches out and engages at many levels.

ZEAL first came into contact with Project Twin Streams when the venue hosted the inaugural Project Twin Streams Song quest last year. A group from the café has now adopted an area in Falls Park. Following a planting last month, the teenagers made sculptures out of recycled materials with junk artist Andrew Hall, before heading back to Global Café for curry and some live music.



Helen Haslam

Farewell to Helen

Helen Haslam, Strategic Advisor to Project Twin Streams, has retired after a long and dedicated involvement with the project. Since the project began, Helen has been a key figure.

She was instrumental in the creation of the community development approach, which is a lynchpin of Project Twin Streams. Helen also led the establishment of the consultative property purchase process which resulted in 156 properties being obtained without recourse to compulsory purchase under the Public Works Act.

We wish Helen well in her deserved retirement.

If you would like to receive a copy of Streamtalk direct to your inbox, please email your details to streamtalk@waitakere.govt.nz

Project Twin Streams is a nine-year stormwater project delivered by Waitakere City Council in partnership with local community organisations, funded by Auckland Regional Council.

Junk Art Sculpture

