



# Stories from the Streamside Hutt Building in Oratia



## A Community Focal Point

Project Twin Stream has been working hard to make the Oratia stream confluence a focal point of the community.

The popularity of the area was also seen during the April 2009 school holidays, when the area was filled with local children playing and using the walk ways.

Over 30 children gathered at the confluence to work with Project Twin Stream Oratia Stream Community Coordinator Green Jon to build an impressive hut.

## Re-using Waste for Fun

The children were part of the McLaren Park Henderson South Initiative's school holiday program, which has been running for two and a half years, and this is the second time the students have had the chance to build huts on the banks of the Oratia Stream.

The hut's structure was first made with bamboo and nets, these were supplied by Green Jon, and once this was finished the children collected twigs and branches to lay on the netting creating a natural roof and walls. Once completed the children took great delight in playing in their two meter high hut, which was filled with natural light.

Green Jon thought of the concept when faced with a surplus of weeds and bamboo "It was just a way of using all the things we were pulling out of the stream bank for another purpose, it has become a great way of engaging the local community and they love getting involved".

Jon has also created bamboo musical instruments and temporary bamboo sculptures at local events such as the cycle way launch and his community planting days.

*"The huts are good for hiding, it was fun putting the twigs it."*

- Fredrick aged 5 1/2

*"It was really fun building the hut, it was fun looking inside and putting twigs over it."*

- Chelsea aged 6.

