



The Lucinda Place Community Orchard Mural

## Our vision for Project Twin Streams

In my role as Deputy Mayor and Chair of Council's Policy & Strategy Committee, I am always heartened by the fantastic and often ground-breaking work we do in our Eco-City.

As Waitakere City Council comes to an end and we move towards the new Auckland Council, it is with great pride that I look over the fantastic work that Project Twin Streams (PTS) undertakes within its 10,000 hectare catchment.

Since it kicked off in 2003, the project has planted over 630,000 trees – the majority of these by the community. The number of trees in the ground is significant but the true value of the project is in its community development approach.

Community participation via community planting days and local groups adopting streambank areas put people at the heart of the project. The variety of groups with adopted areas are testament to the project's reach; from local schools to alternative education providers, businesses and church groups.

It is a true council - community partnership and we work very hard to 'walk the talk'. The community organisations we contract are re-sourced and supported to develop linkages within their local communities. Over the years it's been fantastic to see how the different organisations engage in ways which are unique to their local area.

From the Millbrook Edible Garden in Oratia to the Flax & Endangered Natives garden in the Opanuku area, to the Going with the Flow book from Henderson Creek and the Ulrich Sculpture in Ranui-Massey, we can see the personalities of each area coming through.

We are also now seeing how these Project Twin Streams funded initiatives spinning off into other self-sustaining projects such as the Ranui Primary Project, which is working to restore a reserve area behind Ranui Primary School.

All of these projects illustrate how well-resourced community development can be a catalyst for achieving great things.

As we move into the Auckland Council, our challenge will be to keep the local focus, which has been the defining success of the project.

Being a local project doesn't in any way preclude the approach being rolled out across the region. In fact, its success points to the fact that Project Twin Streams' method of operation provides a proven template that can be used across the region.

There is an opportunity to look at the PTS model as we examine how we can best deal with the pollution pressures our harbour systems are facing in the future.

Project Twin Streams' success as an environmental sustainability project is clear and we are currently working to put an economic value on the community development approach.

To you all, keep up the good work as we head towards the 2010 planting season.

Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse.

## Collaborative mural unveiled

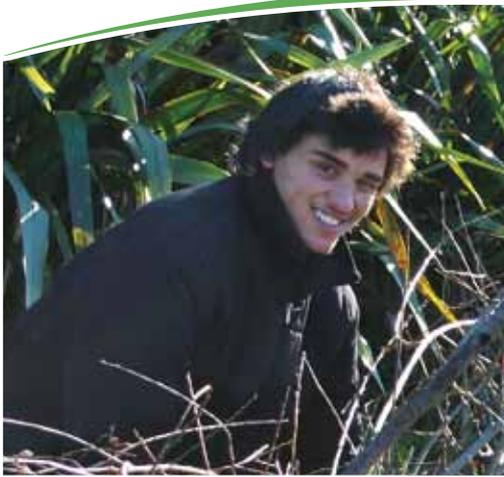
Over a hundred primary school children from Kaurilands, Konini, Greenbay, Prospect and Glen Eden schools worked together to create a 12 metre mural, to marking the entrance to the Lucinda Place Community Orchard in Glen Eden.

The students incorporated their previous learning from Project Twin Streams to create a meaningful and visual artifact. Students from Prospect Primary wanted huge birds, insects and water creatures to illustrate the importance of these creatures within our natural environment.

The community orchard was established on land from which Project Twin Streams relocated houses to allow the nearby stream to return to its natural flood plan. Teremoana Jones, Project Twin Streams Coordinator Glen Eden, hopes that the orchard will start people thinking about local food sources. "Projects like this link into wider issues such as car use and supporting initiatives for locally grown food are an important step towards reducing the number of kilometres we drive."

Nathan Whare, Ria Shon, Melody Rowlands, Penny Hulse





Josh Frost



Retiring Environmental Programme Leader Tom Wood



Pou Ihi designed and made by Te Kawerau A Maki artist Te Rongo Kirkwood

## A Permanent fixture

Community is at the very heart of Project Twin Streams – the art projects, planting days, edible gardens and walk/cycleways. Less well-known is the work Project Twin Streams does in mentoring youth and equipping them with important life and work skills.

Nineteen-year-old Josh Frost was employed on a four-month apprenticeship last year by environmental maintenance company, Parks and Maintenance Services (PMS), which was contracted to restore Paremuka Stream in Ranui on the condition they employed three 17-19 year-olds to train and work on the project.

Josh obviously worked hard and impressed his boss because this temporary contract has led to a permanent job with PMS.

Josh says the most satisfying part of his job is getting rid of weeds like privet and convulvulus. "It makes it look pretty good." He lists Paremuka and the Pony Club as two of his favourite places to work.

## Goodbye Tom

This month we farewell Environmental Programme Leader Tom Wood, who is taking his well-earned retirement. Tom has been with Project Twin Streams from the beginning and is the 'big-picture' person responsible for coordinating the planting of 56kms of streambank.

Since 2003, he has seen the project grow from a small council team to a true council-community partnership, with five contracted community organisations and a running total of 630,000 eco-sourced native trees in the ground.

## Stories from the Streamside: Pa Harakeke

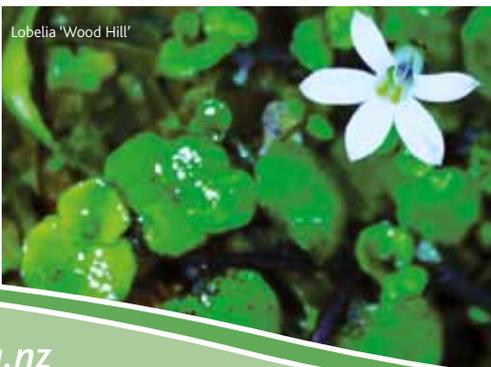
A pa harakeke, or flax plantation, has been established on the Opanuku Stream bank. Te Pa Harakeke o Te Iwi (the Village of Flax for the People) is managed by the Corban Estate weaving group in partnership with Project Twin Streams Opanuku Stream.

The garden contains 19 precious flax cultivars, including one gifted by local iwi Te Kawerau a Maki. The other 18 were sourced from Manaaki Whenua (Landcare Research), kaitiaki (guardians) of a collection of traditional weaving varieties of flax (*Phormium tenax*), and donated by Rene Orchiston of Gisborne.

Rene started collecting flax in the 1950s after becoming concerned that many craftswomen in her area were using inferior material for their weaving.

As well as flax, there are 1700 rare and endangered native plants on the site, most of them ground covers and small shrubs. The plants were chosen for both cosmetic and conservation value and include the critically endangered *Lobelia 'Wood Hill'* (pictured below) and *Mentha cunninghamii*, both of which are only found in the Waitakere Ranges.

A walk around Te Pa Harakeke o Te Iwi is an educational experience, with each of the flax cultivars accompanied by an information board explaining its whakapapa. It is located at Smythe Rd, Henderson, right next to the Opanuku walk/cycleway.



Lobelia 'Wood Hill'

## Walk/cycleways complete

The final 1.85km Upper Opanuku section of the Project Twin Streams Walk and Cycleway network is now complete. The 8.6 km network of pathways run along the streams and enable residents to get around in a sustainable way. At three metres wide, the pathways are also designed to be accessible to wheelchair and mobility users.

In addition to sections of permeable paving and solar lights, the walk/cycleways have a series of art installations at various points; tiled panels representing historical and contemporary stories from the area, a Pou Ihi designed and made by Te Kawerau A Maki artist Te Rongo Kirkwood located at the Millbrook edible garden (MEG) and the Waharoa sculpture located at Henderson Park.

The pathways are well-used by local residents and they have attracted national recognition – winning the CAN (Cycling Advocate Network) Avanti Award for the Best Cycle Facility and the Golden Foot Award for New Zealand's Best Practice Walking Facility.

The project was funded by grants from ARC and Land Transport NZ with additional contributions from Waitakere City Council.

A fun map showing the walk /cycleway connections can be downloaded from [http:// tinyurl.com/yzvehfs](http://tinyurl.com/yzvehfs)

If you would like to receive a copy of Streamtalk direct to your inbox, please email your details to [streamtalk@ waitakere.govt.nz](mailto: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.*