



Stories from the Streamside

# Theatre in Education Pilot



## Stream Protectors

In April 2009, Project Twin Streams Glen Eden worked with local children on a special drama workshop trial.

Over 130 Glen Eden pupils aged between 9 and 10 years old spent two days working with Stephen Dallow, principal of Kids for Drama, looking at the idea of being 'Stream Protectors' under the theme Our Stream: Past, Present and Future.

## Drama for Learning

The aim of the workshops is for students to use process drama skills, such as hot seating, freeze frames, chorus of voice or movement, thought-tapping and performance, to examine a topic and then use these techniques to express themselves.

Teremoana Jones, Project Twin Streams Glen Eden community coordinator, worked with Stephen to develop the workshops. "What an amazing experience it was with great ideas and creativity flying around the room," he said.

The students' teachers also attended the trial.

"The teachers who attended were very surprised with how much knowledge the children had retained from brief experiences with the stream in previous years and are now curious to see how much information the children will retain at the end of this winter's planting season," said Teremoana.

In the lead-up to the drama workshop trial, Stephen held a separate professional development workshop for 25 teachers from all over the Glen Eden area so they could experience some of the techniques and drama conventions being used in the workshop before the students trialled them.

*"The messages the children had around protecting and caring for our local streams were quite profound and certainly left me thinking about what adults need to be doing more of."*

It was also a chance for the teachers to gain some new skills for getting students to explore and examine topics. These skills can be used for any subject in the classroom.

The students who took part in the workshop found it very beneficial.

"I didn't know that I knew so much about the stream," said one participant. Another student said "We are keeping this (the stream) alive for all of us."

