

### Quote of the Month

Because we don't think about future generations, they will never forget us.

- Henrik Tikkanen

### Did You Know?

Longfin eels are found throughout New Zealand and are very good climbers so are found in many streams, even those with natural barriers.

However, there is growing concern over the scarcity of very large longfin eels. The very large eels are females that contain huge numbers of eggs and they only breed once in their life. So if you catch a longfin make sure you put it back where you found it! For more info visit [http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/freshwater/tools/fishatlas/species/longfin\\_eel](http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/freshwater/tools/fishatlas/species/longfin_eel).



A Pasadena Intermediate student and Auckland City Wai Care Steering Group Rep Emma Comrie-Thomson planting at Meola Creek

### Pasadena Intermediate Planting

A big well done to Pasadena Intermediate students for their planting efforts at Meola Creek this month. Eight classes of students met Auckland City Wai Care down at the Creek as it runs past the school grounds to plant nearly 400 native plants, including Mahoe, *Carex*, Kowhai and Kahikatea.

The school's technology teacher Martin Ball has been educating the students about stream water quality this year. The planting formed part of this, focusing on the importance of stream side vegetation for bank stability, water temperature and habitat. It is hoped that by increasing the visual amenity of the area students and the general public will be able to use the existing pathways more for leisure and learning opportunities. Martin uses sustainability and water quality issues in many aspects of his teaching, with a focus on catchment or valley scale processes. Martin has been fundamental in forming the Meola Valley Teachers Group and was a finalist in the award for 'an innovative project/programme' at the Wai Care Expo in April.

The school hopes to undertake further riparian planting on the other side of the Creek in 2011.

### Roy Clements Treeway Plantings

Planting work has continued at Roy Clements Treeway in Mt Albert this planting season. A special thank you to the St Lukes Environmental Protection Society (STEPS) and Mt Albert Grammar School for your efforts in getting the plants in the ground.

On 30<sup>th</sup> May over 40 members of the community attended a planting of the South West Creek bank next to Mt Albert Grammar School. Almost 1200 native plants were in the ground within an hour and a half, which was a fantastic effort by all. Thanks to Metrowater, Morphum Environmental Ltd, Auckland City Parks and All Drains for organising the event.

The community planting was followed by planting of over 700 plants by Mt Albert Grammar school on 18<sup>th</sup> June, with the remaining 1000+ to be planted on steep banks by All Drains soon.



Volunteers planting the Roy Clements Treeway in Mt Albert

### What's On?

#### Planting Days

- Meola Creek, join STEPS and Morphum Environmental Ltd for the last community planting day this winter at the Roy Clements Treeway on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010** at 10am. Meet at the entrance to RCT behind Noel Leemings, Wagner PI Megacentre, St Lukes. For more information email [taryn@waicare.co.nz](mailto:taryn@waicare.co.nz).

- Oakley Creek, join members of the Friends of Oakley Creek near the Unitec Residence bridge on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010** at 10am. Meet East of the bridge along the path leading up to the Unitec Campus. For more info visit [www.oakleycreek.org.nz](http://www.oakleycreek.org.nz).

*To all planting days please bring water and wear sturdy shoes (e.g. gumboots or tramping boots). If you can, bring a spade and wear garden gloves.*

#### Other Events

- Landcare Research, Forest & Bird and the Ornithological Society annual Garden Bird Survey, between **26<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010**. Help by spotting birds in your garden.

Instructions & bird ID guides can be found here [http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/garden\\_bird/](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/garden_bird/).

### Churchill Park School World Environment Day

Auckland City Wai Care joined Churchill Park School for World Environment Day on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The school undertook many activities including planting large trees at the front of the school, final planting of the schools wetland and Wai Care sessions looking at water clarity and bug identification. Below are two stories from Churchill Park students explaining the Wai Care activities they carried out on the day.

By Olivia Dodd, Room 7 Churchill Park School

On World Environment Day 2010, ten children from each class went to an activity with the helpers from Wai Care where you learn about streams. First you were split up into two groups. One group went to see the clarity of clean water and dirty water and the other group tried to find bugs in buckets that they caught not long ago. In the water clarity they had two long tubes. In one of the tubes was dirty water and in the other tube was clean. There was a magnet in both of the tubes. Somebody looked through the bottom of the tube, and somebody pulled the magnet up with another magnet. When you could not see the magnet anymore you said 'stop'. On the side of the tube is a measurement in centimetres and you could see how good the visibility was.

In the other activity you looked in buckets to see what bugs you could find. Red bugs are tolerant bugs, orange bugs are moderately sensitive bugs and green are sensitive bugs. We look in water that came from streams near Churchill Park School. We mainly found red and orange bugs. That shows that the water is polluted in the nearby streams. I think all the children who went were very lucky and had a great time.

By Jack and Charlotte R, Room 5 Churchill Park School

On World Environment Day 2010, 10 people from each year 5 and 6 syndicate class got the chance to work with people from Wai Care. When we were there we learnt about the safety of streams and what happens in them. Some of the things we did were looking in a metre long tube, one had dirty water and the other had pure water. We look in a little window in the end and in the clean one you could see the whole way where as in the dirty one you could only see to 15cm.

After that we looked into two buckets that had water from the Churchill Park Stream in them. We found many different types of bugs in them! After that we felt after a long day we had learnt a lot.

For more information on Auckland City Wai Care or to suggest a story for a future update

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