



NORTH SHORE UPDATE JULY 2010

Kia ora Wai Carers. I have been reading the April 2010 issue of *National Geographic* – a special issue exploring the world of water. With more and more people around the world living where water is scarce there are increasing issues and challenges around how we think about, use and manage this precious resource.

Even in the land of the long white cloud there are issues – seasons of water scarcity in some regions that seem to be lengthening every year, managing the overabundance of rain in urban areas like Auckland and the demand for freshwater by agriculture to name a few. But this is by no means a static issue in New Zealand, check out a couple of items in the 'Of Interest' section of this update - Landcare Research's water-focused newsletter highlighting research into the management of these issues and Landcare Trust's summary report on a 'Community-Led Water Resource Management' workshop.

Another new Wai Care group has joined the North Shore fold – father and daughter duo Hannah and Mike Allan have the Mairangi Bay Stream crossing through their backyard. Their involvement began when Hannah came to me for help with her science fair project. She chose to look at the quality of habitat in the stream for the well-loved resident eels and carried out habitat and water quality assessments using Wai Care resources. They enjoyed it so much they chose to continue! This is the first Wai Care group to monitor a site on this stream and means that monitoring and action for healthy waterways is occurring in seven out of ten catchments along the East Coast Bays area!

Be safe and warm out there – it seems winter has finally decided to be truly cold!

Happy reading!

Megan

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1. Stream of the Month

Kahika Stream



The Kahika Stream is 4.6 kilometres long with a contributing catchment of approximately 181 hectares. The headwaters begin just above Kauri Park Primary School in Birkdale and the stream exits into Hellyers Creek at Beach Haven Rd (next to Hellyers Rd).

Prior to settlement of the area, kauri forests covered the land for thousands of years. With the arrival of European settlers during the late 1800s and early 1900s, the area came to be used for fruit farming and strawberry growing.

Urban development in the last 50 years has impacted significantly on this stream – increased flow of run off from hard surfaces has resulted in some of the worst stream bank erosion on the Shore, particularly in the upper section.

There are two Wai Care groups currently monitoring this stream – Kauri Park Primary at the headwaters and Birkdale Intermediate at the mid section. Macroinvertebrate sampling in the last four years by Wai Care groups at different points along the stream illustrates the poor condition of the upper section compared to the lower section of the stream. Woody-cased caddisflies proliferate at a site near the stream mouth whereas this species is totally absent (and bug diversity in general is much lower) at the Kauri Park Primary site.

It's not a totally grim picture! Vegetation (a mix of native and exotic), mainly along a continuous riparian strip, covers 22% of the catchment and it is known to support the presence of the nationally threatened giant kokopu.

2. News

New Auckland Council website launched



A website for the new Auckland Council has gone “live”.

The site at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz carries information relating to the upcoming local body elections as well as customer service information and frequently asked questions.

The changes to Auckland governance are substantial and the new website will provide the definitive resource for information that residents and ratepayers will need to know about the upcoming elections.

One of the features of the website is a “street find” application which allows people to search their address to find which new ward or local board area they live in.

More content will be progressively loaded between now and 1 November, when the Auckland Council formally comes into being.

3. What's on

NSSC community planting days July – September

Join the North Shore City Council Parks Department or one of the many volunteer groups and assist them with their planting days or working bees.

They are great family events and fantastic opportunities to help your city's environment and make a difference to your local community. Please wear sturdy footwear and bring along your own gloves and tools if you have them.

When: Sundays 10am – 12pm, venues and dates below.

Date	Planting Event Location
July 25	Stredwick Reserve, Torbay
August 15	Chelsea Estate Heritage Park, Birkenhead
August 29	Hooten Reserve re-opening, Albany
September 19	Maritime Terrace, Little Shoal Bay, Birkenhead

For more information on these and other planting days on the Shore this season go to:
<http://www.northshorecity.govt.nz/OurCommunity/EnvironmentalEducation/Parks/Pages/CommunityPlantingDays.aspx>

Kaipatiki Project planting days July - September

When: Saturdays 9.30am – 12pm. Free barbecue for all planters.

Date	Planting location
7 August	Eskdale Reserve, opposite Speedy Crescent, Glenfield Road, Glenfield
4 September	Eskdale Reserve, next to electricity substation, Eskdale Road, Birkdale

Bring your family, mates, school, church, club... and a spade if you have one!

Enquiries: 482 1172 or email cwiapo@ihug.co.nz

For more information:

<http://www.kaipatiki.org.nz/files/Kaipatiki%20Project%20Community%20Planting%20Days.pdf>



Merc's *The Sea Around Us* Winter Lecture Series 2010 July

When: **Friday Evenings, 7:30pm**

Where: 1045 Beach Road, Long Bay, Auckland (in the hall at MERC)

Admission: Adults \$6; students and pensioners \$5; Friends of MERC \$2 (and/or gold coin donation to Sir Peter Blake MERC's Disadvantaged Fund)

Lectures in late July:

July 16th - A Kiwi on Seabirds: marine ornithology in the extinction isles.

Dr Matt Rayner, Foundation for Science Research & Technology post-doctoral fellow based at NIWA.



July 23rd - Whales of the Hauraki Gulf

Dr Karen Stockin, Coastal Marine Research Group, Massey University.

For the full programme go to: <http://www.merc.org.nz/winter-lectures.htm>

2010 Hochstetter Lecture: A Geochemist's Window into Earth's Origins, Past and Future 20 July

Using newly collected data, Professor Joel Baker (School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Victoria University) will cover topics as diverse as the origins of our solar system, what happens to volcanic rocks just before an eruption and the use of ice cores in the study of past climate change.

When: 7pm - 8.30pm, Tuesday 20 July

Where: Museum auditorium

Entry by gold coin donation, bookings not required.

<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/248/whats-on>



ASB Community Trust annual fund fair and public meeting August 2



The Trust holds its 2010 Auckland public meeting on Monday, August 2.

The funding fair will run from 12-2pm, with a range of grantmakers represented so not-for-profit representatives will be able to find out about funding options. The public meeting from 2-3pm will present investment and funding results for the year and plans will be outlined for the year ahead.

The trustees will be in attendance and will be available to talk one-on-one and hear about work being done in the community.

Where: Pt Chevalier's Te Mahurehure Marae on Monday, August 2.

To RSVP go to: <http://www.asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/news-publications/latest-trust-news/2010-public-meetings>

Conservation Week 2010 12 - 19 September

Theme: Love New Zealand Arohaina i a Aotearoa

Conservation Week 2010 is about showing that you love New Zealand.

The following website link will be updated over the coming months with ideas about what teachers can do in their classrooms and information about events you can take part in.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/events-and-awards/conservation-week>



4. Of Interest

Water-focused Landcare Research Newsletter

The first edition of the Landcare Research newsletter for local and regional authorities is out now and focuses on water and the many water management challenges we face.

In the newsletter highlights include research on the attributes of good water governance; innovative options for water infrastructure options (including a new website to calculate costings); the control of sediment generation and erosion, alternatives for reducing nitrogen getting into lakes, and a comprehensive new guide to wetland restoration.

To read the newsletter (and sign up to receive future newsletters) go to:

http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/newsletters/regionalcouncil/issue1.asp#water_governance

Publication release: Community Led Water Resource Management

Landcare Trust has released a summary report relating to a 'Community Led Water Resource Management' workshop hosted by The Upper Taieri Water Resource Management Group and the Sustainable Farming Fund in March 2010.

A key aim of the event was to gain national cohesion over the important issue of water resource management, clarifying the role of community involvement when setting policies for managing water. The release of the summary report will help reinforce ideas and satisfy this aim.

The report highlights the potential of a community-led approach to managing water resources and the growth in this approach.



Download the report at:

<http://www.landcare.org.nz/user-content/2272-community-water-workshop-summary-report.pdf>

Youth Film Challenge: The Outlook for Someday

The 4th **The Outlook for Someday** sustainability film challenge for young people will be launched soon at www.theoutlookforsomeday.net.

The basic challenge is the same as ever: make a sustainability-related film, any genre, filmed with any camera and any length up to 5 minutes.

Anyone up to age 24 can enter, either individually or in a team.

The closing date for entries is **17 September**.

Royal Society of New Zealand Manhire Prize for Creative Science Writing - 2010 Competition

Theme: The Mind

“Our experience of the physical world is filtered through our senses, processed by our brain and interpreted through our mind. At each stage this process produces variance and the resulting interpretation of reality is unique. But how can the minds of individuals differ so much that some experience the same objective reality as Heav’n and some as Hell?”

The Manhire Prize for Creative Science Writing is organised by the Royal Society of New Zealand in association with the NZ Listener and the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University of Wellington.



The 2010 competition is now open and entries will be accepted until 10 September 2010.

For more information go to:

http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/Site/news/comps_prizes/manhire/default.aspx

5. Link of the Month

A beer mascot for water advocacy

The New Belgium Brewing Company from Fort Collins, Colorado (USA) is a boutique beer company with a bit of a difference. They’ve teamed up their seasonal summer brew, the Skinny Dip, with a cause - Save the Colorado - because they:

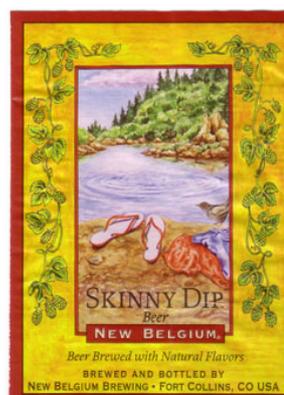
“believe that access to clean water is a basic human right. Responsible consumption means eliminating waste, returning clean water back to the water cycle, and protecting watersheds”

The Colorado River is a river in crisis - for the last decade the Colorado River has been completely drained dry to serve the needs of humans (e.g. dams and diversions for agriculture and urban water supply, oil/mineral exploration) by the time it reaches its outlet at the Sea of Cortez.

Water makes up 90% of beer, so no fresh water means no beers! This company is exercising environmental responsibility because they figure,

“living in the arid West, with a threatened river running through the middle of our town, water is an important regional issue for us...”

But it doesn’t end there – they were the first brewery to be completely wind-powered, they run a bicycle commuter advocacy programme and they utilise green design throughout their buildings. And I can personally attest the beer tastes great!



<http://www.newbelgium.com/beer/skinny-dip>