



MANGAKOTUKUTUKU STREAM CARE GROUP

Newsletter # 8 – March 2015

Project Updates in Brief

- Sandford Park-recent plantings survived summer and are growing well; a good weeding effort recently should help with autumn growth now that the rain is arriving;
- Collins Road Marae – excellent weed control and great growth despite a very dry summer;
- Golden Farms – mostly good growth, re-planting required this winter to fill some big gaps;
- Saxby Road – amazing growth in less than 2years, for a look go off South Brook Close;
- Lewis Street – dedicated local landowner looking after these plants.

New Project!! – Great to report that the Pengxin property adjacent to/south of Collins Road has recently signed up to plant 900m of headwater stream this winter - just under \$40,000 in total costs. This project is a collaborative effort between MSCG, the landowner and the Waikato Regional Council – which will contribute up to \$10,000 in funding. Due to the size of this project it will be planted by contractors – 4800 plants!! The primary aim of this planting is to get some shade on the headwater streams to reduce peak summer water temperatures for instream critters and fish.



Pengxin property – typical reaches to be re-fenced, weed control and planted

Sandford Park Wetland – Mike recently set some traps to see if the mudfish have survived and caught a large individual indicating that conditions in the pond are suitable. Milfoils which have been planted are also looking good – if you were babysitting Milfoils for us please plant them in the wetland as soon as possible to get some growth before winter.



Large Mudfish- 90+mm !!



Milfoil growth

Other Sandford Park News



More vandalism as cabbage trees have been torched – will probably survive.



HCC stream bank stabilisation work undertaken to protect overhead pipeline foundations – tidy job using 'soft' engineering options.

Hamilton City Proposed District Plan – We lodged a submission against this plan and subsequently joined the Waikato Regional Council appeal process because, in our view, the plan did not provide adequately for the restoration and protection of the gully systems and related biodiversity. The WRC and our appeal were recently resolved with this proposed amendment to the Hamilton City Proposed District Plan:

'20.2.1p - Develop a local indigenous biodiversity strategy to identify opportunities to restore and enhance biodiversity in Hamilton City. This will occur in partnership with the Waikato Regional Council, tangata whenua, landowners, and other key stakeholders - with development of the policy to commence no later than 2016.'

HCC Plants for Gullies Programme – your gully may be eligible for 10-50 plants from the HCC (subject to demand). To be considered please contact Leigh.Cornes@hcc.govt.nz and specify your name, address of the property to be planted, home and cell ph numbers.

Funding – Recently the Honda TreeFund granted us \$750 to undertake blanking of riparian planting at Collins Road marae site. In addition, we now have an IRD number and are registered for GST as a charitable entity – this is required to meet the requirements of some funding agencies.

Finally, please contact me in relation to any matter concerning MSCG activities.

Regards Grant Blackie
021 2772798

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Next Event

Weeding Day - Saturday 11th April, 3-4.30 pm Sandford Park – Enter off Peacockes Road.

Would be great to see a few more people at these events - get off the couch, drag some friends along and get some exercise while improving your local environment.