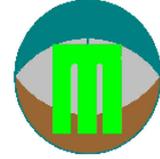


Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group

Newsletter # 1 - March 2013



The past few months have been quite busy with a number of behind the scenes projects being progressed and it was thought a newsletter would be a useful way to let everyone know what our group has been up to.

1. Weeding of Existing Sandford Park Planting Continues

Saturday 9 March – thank you to the few hardy souls (including Gerry from HCC) who turned up on this stinking hot and windless day. Despite the very dry conditions the last years plantings were looking in very good shape and hopefully recent rain will limit any losses.

Next Weeding Day - Saturday 13 April 3-4.30 pm - Plant releasing in Sandford Park. Meet at Waterford Rd entrance

2. Sandford Park Stream and Wetland Restoration Works

It is very exciting to see this work currently in progress and as recently emailed involves:

Project A - Stream erosion protection works at four critical locations and installation of fish habitat enhancement features into the bed and banks of the stream. Fish habitat works target giant kokopu and longfin eel, two threatened native species known to live in the stream.

Project B - Wetland restoration works involving earthworks to form a wetland in the area shown on the map, diversion of an existing spring into the new wetland and planting native wetland plants. Hopefully another threatened species of native fish, black mudfish, can be eventually released into the wetland.

MSCG will be holding a planting day in the winter to re-vegetate the new wetland area.

3. New Planting Project – Saxby's Road

A 19 lot subdivision is being developed adjacent to the Rukuhia tributary of the Mangakotukutuku Stream, just upstream of the Stan Heather Park on Saxby's Road. Through discussions with the developer, it has been agreed that the riparian area (approximately 500m²) can be planted in native species.

A few members have recently undertaken some site preparation work, including poisoning of willow stumps and we have recently been granted \$1500 from the Honda TreeFund towards the cost of plants. We are currently working through the details of this project, how it will be funded and we are likely to hold a planting day on this site as part of our contribution to making it happen.

4. Stan Heather Park Proposed Residential Development

This former rugby ground, also on Saxby's Road has been purchased by a property developer, who currently has an application before the HCC for a 92 lot residential development. The Rukuhia tributary of the Mangakotukutuku Stream runs along the eastern side of the park (draining the former Rukuhia Swamp to the south of Collins Road) with a smaller tributary along the northern side of the park. There is a significant gully area adjacent to these watercourses of about 1ha in area which could in part or whole be developed in an area of indigenous vegetation. Currently this area is a jungle of weeds.

The HCC notified the application to nearby residences. Alan Campbell, a resident of Saxby's Road and MSCG member was notified and therefore allowed to make a submission on the consent application. With Alan's goodwill, MSCG were able to submit on the issues of concern to our group as part of Alan's submission. Issues

we have raised included the water quality and ecology associated with the Mangakotukutuku Stream, potential for increased stormwater contaminants (and peak flows), sediment discharges during the earthworks phase of the development and ecological enhancement of the gully/streamside areas with appropriate native plantings.

Subsequently we have attended a pre-hearing meeting with the HCC, the developer and other submitters to discuss the issues raised in submissions. In this situation MSCG is simply acting as an advocate for best practice stormwater and sediment control management and appropriate native plantings along the stream/gully areas. We will continue to advocate for appropriate stormwater treatment and riparian planting requirements until the consent process is finalised and may attend the hearing, if one is held.

5. HCC Proposed Plan Submission

A few of us are putting together a MSCG submission to the HCC Proposed District Plan to advocate for the objectives of our group in regards to gully restoration and stream water quality improvements to be appropriately reflected within the cities guiding policies and rules – although the timeframe is very tight (submissions close on 28 March) please let me know if you would like to have input to or read our draft submission.

6. Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group Incorporated – progress update

All the paperwork has now been completed and sent off to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies – a big thank you to 15 signatories required to get this underway.

The benefits of being an Incorporated Society relate to making funding applications, making submissions on Council's plans/notified consent applications and greatly reduces any liability to individuals within the MSCG that any of our activities may attract.

As part of this process we have had to assign people to the roles of chairperson, secretary and treasurer – this was not exactly a democratic process and was more about who was willing and present at the time!

In the interim, until we have an Annual Meeting, these roles have been assigned as follows;

- Chairperson - Grant Blackie
- Secretary - Kevin Collier
- Treasurer - David Stagg

It is proposed to have a committee of 6 people, being the 3 roles above and 3 others - If anyone would like to take up any of these roles and be involved in the functioning of the MSCG, please let me know and democracy will be restored when we have an Annual General Meeting later this year.

Finally, please contact myself, Kevin or David at mangacare@gmail.com in relation to any matter concerning MSCG activities.

Regards

Grant Blackie
021 2772798