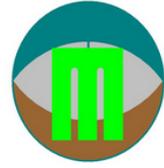


# Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group Inc.

Newsletter # 2 - June 2013



Newsletter #2 and an update on recent projects and actions;

## 1. Sandford Park Stream and Wetland Restoration Works

The earthworks carried out for the two restoration projects in Sandford Gully were completed in time for the onset of winter. The wetland was filled with water to check that the bund and outlet were sealing properly and was then drained again ready for planting. Two species of native *Baumea* rushes have been planted and will be allowed to take root before the wetland is filled again. Several large logs have been placed within the wetland to provide additional habitat for any future release of threatened black mudfish. We are also planning to purchase some rare native milfoil to grow-on and then plant in the wetland at a later date. Thanks to those who have offered to grow-on this plant.



The erosion protection works and associated artificial fish habitats have also been completed. Grass seed planting under the wool-based cloth has sprouted and is helping to make the structures blend in with the rest of the stream bank. Native shrubs and grasses were also planted along this section of bank during our last planting day. The use of these structures by native fish, including threatened giant kokopu and longfin eels, will be monitored next summer.

## 2. Pest and Weed Control Activities in Sandford Park

A few things have been happening in this department. MSCG members have been discussing pest control opportunities with both the Waikato Regional Council and HCC over recent months. The WRC has undertaken one round of a 'chew card' animal pest survey in a number of areas in the city including along the river between Cobham Bridge and Sandford Park, up the main stem of the Mangakotukutuku Stream past our plantings, under the pines off Bader St and in Te Anau Park. Results are not yet available - once we have something we'll let you know.

The intention of the pest control (targeting rodents and possums) is to increase fledgling survival rates around bird nesting times, specifically to increase Tui survival but with benefits to all nesting birds (and with benefits for bats too presumably). HCC has organised for an animal pest control company to recently put in bait stations in Sandford Park and you will see them if walking in the Park.

Recently MSCG members met onsite with the HCC weed spraying contractor to discuss immediate priorities for weed Sandford Park in areas we have planted and in preparation of 2014 planting areas (immediately above the footbridge). Great to see that spraying has since been undertaken.

We hope this is a sign of things to come from HCC and WRC with greater plant and animal pest control building on the work we have achieved with planting. It is great to see the 2 Councils getting more involved.

### **3. Saxby's Road Planting Project**

Big thanks to those who assisted with the planting of almost 400 plants on the Rukuhia tributary of the Mangakotukutuku Stream, just upstream of the Stan Heather Park on Saxby's Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Despite the extremely wet weather prior to this we had about 20 people turn up; great to see a few new faces and it was all done in one hour! Next job is a working bee to spread chipped wood mulch – to be advised.

### **4. Stan Heather Park Proposed Residential Development**

This former rugby ground, on Saxby's Road has been purchased by a property developer, who has recently been granted resource consent by 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 and recently group members met with a consultant who is drawing up a riparian restoration plan for part of the area and is required to consult with MSCG, as a result of our submission on this development. Currently this area is a jungle of weeds.

### **5. New Riparian Project– Collins Road Marae**

The Rangimarie Te Horanganui Marae is on the corner of Collins/Ohaupo Roads and borders 200m of the Rukuhia branch of the Mangakotukutuku Stream, downstream of and not far from our Saxby's Road projects mentioned above. As part of a 'Waikato River Clean Up' funded stream restoration project, the removal of large wattles along the riparian area has recently been undertaken, however for a variety of reasons the project has stalled at this point. We have recently agreed to 'project manage' the site to complete riparian planting in 2014. This is an exciting and slightly larger project, requiring intensive weed control, about 3000 plants to complete and working with several agencies and the Marae. More about this project in subsequent newsletters.

### **6. HCC Proposed Plan Submission**

MSCG lodged a submission advocating for changes to provide for more appropriate management, restoration and protection of the gully streams and ecosystems in line with the objectives of our group. Further submissions are currently being sought and close on 2 July. Please let me know if you would like to have input to this process as it proceeds through informal meetings and the hearing process.

### **7. MSCG Now an Incorporated Society!**

We became an Incorporated Society earlier in the year and the current Committee is as follows;

- Chairperson - Grant Blackie
- Secretary - Kevin Collier
- Treasurer - David Stagg
- Committee member – Mike Lake

We would like to have a committee of 6 people so if anyone is keen please let me know. We will have an Annual General Meeting later this year

Finally, please contact myself, Kevin, David or Mike at [mangacare@gmail.com](mailto:mangacare@gmail.com) in relation to any matter concerning MSCG activities.

Regards

Grant Blackie

021 2772798

**Next Planting Day - Saturday 13 July 3-4.30 pm** - Sandford Park. Meet at Peacocks Rd entrance