

Hawksbury update June 2019

Hawksbury Lagoon

A successful Ki Uta Ki Tai day was held on 27th April this year. These events occur in spring and autumn each year when students, and staff, from the university with an interest in conservation, visit our communities. They are hosted by the marae, and spend time on habitat restoration for the Rūnaka as well as one day working with the Rivercare group at Karitane and one day with the Hawksbury Lagoon Committee. This year there were 15 volunteers who together with committee members worked on the northern arm area of the lagoon looking towards Edinburgh Street. The area was prepared for planting by first clearing gorse and grasses, this is difficult work as both are well established in the area. The plantings work to a plan that has been developed by ecological consultants with the aim of returning native species to the area. This autumn kowhai, manuka, pittosporums, ti (cabbage trees) and toitoi were planted and protectors added to improve their chances of survival. Such energetic, enthusiastic and frequently dedicated volunteers are a real pleasure to host.

Significant community effort goes into maintaining and improving the quality lagoon environment. What tends to get overlooked are the waterways which feed into the lagoon area and Post Office Creek. Some of these flow through residential properties and agricultural land. The care of these has a significant impact on the water quality in the lagoon. What is of major concern is that some waterways are seen as convenient dumping places. The waterway at the end of Dame Street has been used recently as vegetation dump. More significantly in the last year or two there is roofing iron, carpet underlay, and even a discarded couch has been dumped. As these gradually decompose, the metals, plastics and other toxic materials will all be carried into the lagoon where they threaten the health of the waterway, and the plants, insects, fish and birds that feed and live there. These materials remain in the environment for a very long time or indefinitely and there is no adequate way to remove them. The only solution is to make sure they don't get there in the first place. So please take care of any water courses running through or near your property and do whatever is necessary to prevent rubbish being dumped in them or nearby. Information about illegal dumping is available on the DCC website.



HL committee member