

Hibiscus and Bays Inanga Spawning Project Summary 2018/19

Key Statistics 2018/19

- **484 people engaged through the project this financial year**
- **Five streams monitored**
- **Five schools involved in a freshwater education programme**
- **Five community groups supported**
- **Two new spawning sites located**
- **Two sites targeted for pest control**
- **600 native plants planted along 50m of waterway**

Project Summary

This is the second year of the Hibiscus and Bays Inanga Spawning Project. In the first year, two sites (Rothesay Bay Stream and Nukumea Stream, Orewa) were targeted for survey work and community engagement. This year, whilst continuing work at these sites, three further sites were added to the project – Taiaoatea Creek (Browns Bay), Awaruku Creek (Long Bay) and Stanmore Bay Stream (Stanmore Bay).

The aim of the project is to promote community and school involvement in protecting and restoring freshwater sites within the North-West Wildlink, with the end result being an improvement in freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity at these sites.

For the two existing sites, work in the 2018/19 financial year focussed on continuing to support the local community to monitor water and habitat quality and stream life at their sites, and take action to improve and restore their stream. This took the form of planting and weeding days, pest trapping and reporting of pollution incidents. Connections were also made with other organisations and groups undertaking similar work in the local area.

For the new sites, Whitebait Connection (WBC) collected baseline information, through water quality monitoring, fish and macroinvertebrate surveys, habitat assessment and pest

monitoring, and then worked to involve the local community and schools in monitoring and taking action for their stream.

The project has achieved some great outcomes this year, building on work that was done in the 2017/18 financial year. Two new inanga spawning sites have been located, meaning we now **know the location of inanga spawning on three of the five project streams**, and can work towards protecting and enhancing these sites.

Five schools (Wentworth College, Orewa Primary, Long Bay Primary, Browns Bay Primary and Massey University) have participated in the project this year and have completed, or will complete, action projects to help protect the streams. Browns Bay Primary assisted with a stream planting at Rothesay Bay, and undertook a school Hikoi on the Taiaotea Creek. Orewa Primary have created interpretative signs for the Nukumea Stream. Long Bay Primary are creating a stream mural for the Awaruku Creek and Wentworth College are currently planning their action project for Term 3.

In addition to school involvement, the community have been involved at all five sites. On the Rothesay Bay Stream and Taiaotea Creek, the Bays Restoration Network has assisted with three planting days, a weeding bee and have worked with Auckland Council to get pest trapping underway at Rothesay Bay. At Stanmore Bay, WBC have been engaging with a local landowner to gain permission to survey the stream behind their property, and are working with them to design a planting plan for the site.

On the Nukumea Stream, the community group have been active in water quality and fish monitoring, pest trapping and planting. On the Awaruku Creek, WBC have been working with MERC to establish long-term monitoring on the stream, and have helped provide additional training and support to the Torbay Environment Group and Friends of Long Bay.

There is great potential to protect, continue restoring and work towards enhancing the five project streams and both the community and local schools have expressed an interest in continuing to be involved in the project, going forwards into the new financial year.



Browns Bay Keas at Taiatea Creek



Browns Bay School Hikoi Taiatea Creek



Giant bully, Stanmore Bay Stream



New planting at Rothesay Bay Stream



Giant kōkopu release, Nukumea Stream



Artificial spawning habitat, Awaruku Creek