

FOAM is a community environmental group, established in 2017. Our primary interest is in helping to maintain the health of the Glen Eden and Matakana River catchment.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

This year, FOAM has joined other community environmental groups at a number of events in our area. The first was the **WARKWORTH & P SHOW** in March, at which we had a lot of engagement and interesting discussions with visitors. It also gave us an opportunity to teach tamarii about things such as shellfish species, macroinvertebrates and why it is important to maintain clean water in our rivers.

FOAM members mounted a display at the annual **MATARIKI MARKET** held in Matakana on June 28, which was established to embrace and honour Aotearoa's unique cultural heritage. There was considerable interest in our work on sediment, eDNA and flood management. The photo (right) shows our chairperson John Collins explaining some of the information to a group of visitors.



In June, FOAM joined a wide range of groups showcasing eco-friendly initiatives and wildlife conservation at the **ENVIRO EXPO** in Warkworth's Town Hall. The event was well attended, particularly by families with children. As well as being an opportunity for FOAM members to view other groups' displays and exchange ideas and information with their members, we could share our key messages.

The 'shellfish hunting' feature was very popular with younger visitors. FOAM also asked children and adults to vote for what is important to them about awa/rivers. It was a bit of fun and very unscientific, but showed interesting variations between grown-ups and kids. Adults valued being able to swim in rivers more than young sters. Maybe our tamarii had little experience of swimming in awa/rivers.

The hard work of FOAM members, especially the committee, needs to be recognised as we endeavour to get our message out there. Thank you to everyone involved and to all of those who engage with us at these public events. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Our group is in need of extra members to help spread the extensive workload. Even a small commitment of a few hours a month would be welcome so please contact FOAM to discuss this if you can help.

### PLANTING IN THE UPPER GLEN EDEN RIVER AREA

"Wetland plants trap sediment and reduce silt build up in streams, rivers and estuaries. Bacteria living in wetlands absorb and break down about 90 percent of nitrogen in farm runoff, thereby greatly reducing water pollution".

Source: Auckland Council, Wetland Facts.

FOAM has collaborated with a local farm manager, Jake Herron, to transform a retired farm valley into a wetland. The site is at the upper reaches of the Glen Eden River and will enhance freshwater quality downstream and into Kawaui Bay. To date, it is the most extensive project that we have undertaken. Longer term, it will recreate an important wetland ecosystem. We are very grateful for the support of Jake and the landowner, FOAM members and the many additional volunteers who helped with the planting of in the region of 4500 plants.



### 'WORKING WITH OUR RIVERS' WORKSHOP

In June, Auckland Council and FOAM held a workshop in Matakana to help landowners better understand river processes and the challenge of managing floods, logs and debris in waterways. Danny Klimetz, a geomorphologist and stream restoration and environmental research scientist, talked to an audience of farmers, horticulturists and lifestyle block owners about natural waterway behaviour, how it affects rivers and streams, and what catchment-wide actions can be implemented to retain land and minimise property loss and damage (photo left, top). After the theory, participants visited the Trotter Family farm and Duck Creek. Shelley Trotter shared stories about two decades of work carried out to enhance the ecological health of the farm (photo left, bottom).



**WORLD RIVERS DAY - SEPTEMBER** This day celebrates the world's waterways. FOAM organised a relaxed event for people to have fun discovering the twists and turns along the tidal stretch of the Matakana River, using kayaks and other craft. Photographs of this event will be added to our Facebook page and website.

### RECENTLY INSTALLED INSTRUMENTS

FOAM recently installed a professional rain gauge in the upper catchment of the Matakana River, at an elevation of 65 metres above sea level. It's early days yet but we believe that, over time, we will gain a better understanding of the effects of storm events in the catchment. The photo (right, top) shows the gauge in situ. Also recently installed in the Glen Eden river is a sensor that allows us to monitor turbidity - the clarity of the water. The photo (right, bottom) shows the sensor just below the river's surface. Visit FOAM's Facebook page to watch a video in which Martin Evans explains how the monitor works.



### FOAM'S AGM

was held in June. Our chairperson John Collins and vice-chair Martin Evans presented reports and Auckland Councillor Greg Sayers was invited to speak. Of particular interest to FOAM was Greg's update on the Council's Healthy Waters department report on unsealed roads. He confirmed that funding of \$124m has been committed for the next 10 years and will focus on roading infrastructure improvements to withstand extreme weather events, addressing surface works, safety, seal extensions and drainage conditions. Gravel roads are a significant contributor to sediment in our rivers, so it is pleasing to hear more will be sealed in the future. Thank you to Heron's Flight Vineyard for hosting us once again and for continuing to support FOAM.

### WHAT IF WE SEQUENCED EVERY WATERWAY IN NEW ZEALAND?

This is the title of a video on the Radio New Zealand website and was made by the Aotearoa Science Agency. We are super excited that FOAM's Michelle Worth and her children are featured. They are showing taking samples from the stream on their property. The stream is one that flows down to the Glen Eden River. In the video, Michelle explains how eDNA sampling fits in with the other tests that community catchment groups like FOAM carry out. It is a great video that describes, very effectively, the value of capturing the eDNA from freshwater catchments - the video can be found on the RNZ website by typing 'what-if-geomics' into the search box.



### GLEN EDEN WATERFALL PLANTING

In July, a small team of FOAM members gathered to plant an area below the beautiful setting of one of the waterfalls on the Glen Eden River, close to Matakana Road. Over time, as it matures, this planting will help stabilise the area leading down to the river. Thank you to the team who worked so hard to get the job done.



**LOG REMOVAL.** As part of Auckland Council's Flood Resilience programme, FOAM and several members who live by the rivers, have worked together to remove a large number of fallen trees that were blocking the river flow (causing bank erosion and localised flooding) or presented risks of being dislodged and being carried downstream (causing hazards to boats). The photos (left) shows before and after scenes, at one of the locations. Many thanks to everyone involved. Together we made a significant impact to reduce hazards, sediment generation and flood risks.

