

FOAM's big winter newsletter out now

1 message

Friends of Awa Matakanakana (FOAM) <foamfacilitator@196578206.mailchimpapp.com>

20 August 2025 at 09:29

Reply-To: foamfacilitator@gmail.com
To: Omaha Beach Community Inc <us@omahabeach.co.nz>

View this email in your browser



Kia ora Omaha Beach Community Inc

A lot has been going on with Friends of Awa Matakanakana (FOAM) and our newsletter editor, Mark Foster, has captured some highlights in the BIG winter publication. Thanks to Mark for this outstanding newsletter that helps publicise FOAM's work, especially to people who are not already in our network. You'll find poster-sized versions of the newsletter at noticeboards around the rohe.

Importantly, FOAM are starting work on an Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP) for the Awa Matakanakana catchment, from the hills above Matakana Village to Kawau Bay. Everyone is invited to take part through workshops, storytelling, and more. Find out what an ICMP is here>>>

Omaha Beach Community Inc, you are receiving this newsletter because we think you, and people you know with an interest in the catchment, could make a valuable contribution to the community's ICMP action plan.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jackie Russell

Project coordinator, Friends of Awa Matakanakana

EM: foamfacilitator@gmail.com PH: 0275 708 971

friends of awa matakanakana

DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (ICMP)

FOAM is starting work on an Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP) for the Awa Matakanakana catchment, from the hills above Matakana Village to Kawau Bay. An ICMP is a non-statutory plan that helps communities work together to care for land, water, and ecosystems in a connected, sustainable way. It won't replace existing rules but will support better coordination. Local knowledge, science, mātauranga Māori, and history will shape a shared vision. FOAM has been granted funding by Auckland Council for a facilitator to lead this process. Everyone, community members, mana whenua, businesses and landowners, nvited to take part through workshops, storytelling, and more

At our AGM, attended by the committee and members, we reviewed activities related to our work from the past year and discussed future plans. All seven of FOAM's committee members stood again and were re-elected to serve for another year. There is currently a need for two more committee members - this would help FOAM achieve all of its goals. A full report of the AGM can be found on FOAM's web blog. Thank you to Heron's Flight Vineyard for hosting us once again and for continuing to support FOAM

AOUA WAOA

Aqua waqa are small, New Zealand-made, devices fitted with sensors that measure pH, water temperature, conductivity, turbidity and dissolved oxygen on a continuous basis. With the support of Auckland Council, FOAM has deployed four Agua Waga across

the catchment, three in the Walkumete/Glen Eden River and one in Matakana River, near the market. The data they gather is sent to an internal portal, enabling us to make correlations with rainfall, river levels and flow. In this way we are gaining an in-depth understanding of river responses in storm events





ROSEMOUNT ROAD PLANTING Around 50 volunteers, with s coming from as far afield as Mount Wellington, supported FOAM during the planting of over 3000 individual plants on a wetland margin close to the Walkumete/Glen Eden river. Despite heavy rainfall in the weeks leading up to the day, the weather was fine and the motivated team of volunteers, which included all ages, worked very hard to complete the task in one morning. Afterwar everyone was treated to, well deserved, food and refreshments. Thanks very much to all involved and, in particular to ou Tim and Sally Jack and, once again, to Restore Rodney East for the use of their trusty community trailer. Thanks also to the Auckland Council Waterway Protection Fund for part funding this work.

MATARIKI EVENT - WAI, KAI and KAPA HAKA

Held at the market area right next to the river in Matakana, this event honoured Matariki's cultural significance, connected with the community, and reflected on the import ance of water in Māori culture. It was organised by Matakana Village and Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and focused on celebrating Matariki, the Māori New Year, with a focus on water (wai) as a life source. The celebration included kapa haka performances, live music and a range of family oriented activities. FOAM's display included material related to our work in the catchment and encouraged people to learn more about our local awa. Also, our chairper son John Collins gave a short presentation to a very large gathering of people on the banks of the river. Thanks to all those who stopped to engage with us at this event.



FAREWELL TO LYN

Lyn Hamilton-Hunter was recently farewelled at a large gathering of local conservation group members at 8 Wired Brewery in Matakana. er was recently farewelled at a large gathering of Lyn has been a key person in FOAM's work for the past three years and, as well as bringing a wealth of experience of ecology and conservation expertise to our group, she has led our water quality testing programme. Lyn has moved to Scotland and will no doubt continue to contribute much to conservation work in her new hom We wish her all the best and thank her for being an outstanding Friend of Awa Matakankana.



DIVE IN AND DISCOVER OUR MARINE WORLD

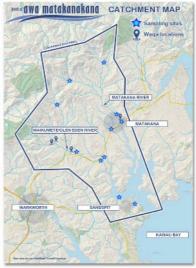
The Mahurangi Moana exhibition at the Warkworth Museum is a community collaboration that focuses on the local marine environment and its ecosystems. It features interactive displays, fun activities for children, and exhibits showcasing marine life and conservation efforts in the Mahurangi area. FOAM's display focuses on our shellfish monitoring programme at Sandspit. The exhibition closes at the end of August.

To join FOAM, email us: matakanakana2@gmail.com or contact Jackie: foamfacilitator@gmail.com

To find out more about FOAM or to see further information about the topics in this newsletter please visit our website: awamatakanakana.home.blog You can also download a membership form from the site.



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



RIVER PADDLE

Earlier this year, FOAM's second river paddling event saw a 'flotilla' of kayaks, paddleboards and other craft set off from Sandspit to explore the Waikumete/Glen Eden river. This event, like the last one in which participants navigated the Matakana River, was again well supported by a wide range of people of all ages. Many thanks to the paddlers, FOAM volunteers who made it happen, the Isaacs for letting us picnic in their backyard and Restore Rodney East for the gear we needed to give everyone a cuppa.





SUPPORT FOR LOCAL LANDOWNERS

FOAM is supporting an initiative to help landowners under stand waterway processes and how to make their properties more flood-resilient. Danny Klimetz, Auckland Council fluvial geomorphologist has provided two workshops in the catchment during the last 12 months. Council has also indicated that they are moving to provide guidelines for landowne for natural restoration projects and has engaged US based Wolf Water Resources to advise and assist in the development of a community-based landowner guide for river and stream restoration.

Click to download a pdf

About Friends of Awa Matakanakana

FOAM's principal aim is the restoration and maintenance of a healthy Sandspit estuary and the two rivers that feed into it, Matakana River (14.2 km long) and Waikumete/Glen Eden River (13.8 km long).

As part of getting to know the Sandspit estuary and rivers FOAM, with support of Auckland Council, have undertaken community-based sampling programmes since 2019, including water quality sampling and shellfish sampling at Sandspit Estuary.

FOAM has a permanent sediment measurement instruments in Matakana and Waikumete/Glen Eden rivers and in 2020 started collecting and collating data. Regularly, sees high sediment loadings and finds elevated phosphorus levels in the rivers.

We also collect real time rainfall data for the Matakana catchment.

Some of the smaller tributaries are of poor water quality with little native life in them. In contrast we have found some nationally vulnerable species in the upper reaches, and we have many New Zealand endemic and at-risk species throughout the river systems.

Support FOAM's work and become a member now



Takatu Landcare planting morning

Volunteers are needed to plant along the edge of the Sandspit estuary - part of a long term project aimed at protecting the water way from run off and sediment.

WHEN: 9:30am, Saturday 23 August

WHERE: 19 Haywood Lane, Tāwharanui Peninsula

REGISTER HERE to help Takatu LandCare with catering.