

MEMO

TO Graeme Campbell, Wayne O'Donnell

COPIED TO Jeff Evans, Colin Munn, Cr Prue Lamason, Cr Paul Swain, Cr Ken Laban, Cr David Ogden, Linton Adams, Cameron Tooley, Ross Jackson, Daya Atapattu, Jimmy Young, Craig Cottrill

FROM Travis Moody

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION**River Ranger Report for period May 2017**

The month started off with cold southerlies and rain, followed by patches of calm, chilly weather throughout. A number of settled evenings resulted in the year's first light frosts and on many occasions over May the Hutt River was a pleasant place to be for a late afternoon stroll.

Community

Stokes Valley Stream fish passage enhancement and Native planting with Korauui School went ahead on 5 May after the event was postponed in April because of bad weather. The site behind the Stokes Valley Fire Station is within walking distance to the school and is hoped to become the group's model site for stream restoration. Three lengths of mussel spat rope were anchored to the stream bed and then dangled over a small waterfall to allow easier passage upstream for native fish.



Riparian planting at the Stokes Valley Stream with Korauui School

Around one 150 native trees and grasses were also planted alongside the stream. Friends of Horoeka Scenic Reserve and local business, Kiwi Plants 2009 Ltd provided a number of the plants, with the Greater Wellington Regional Council making up the balance and completing the spat rope installation. Brilliant sunshine and no wind made for an enjoyable day out, and the exciting discovery of koura/freshwater crayfish living amongst the stream substrate topped off what was a great hands-on learning exercise for the children. The 'Korauui Kaitiaki' plan to return again next month, for further planting work at a downstream site.



The annual Crazyman multisport event was run on 7 May with the 28 kilometre mountain bike leg beginning on the Hutt River Trail at Sladden Park and shifting into Belmont Regional Park under the motorway near Manor Park. Close to 400 participants took part and new course records were set in both the men's and women's individual events.

A visit to Speedy's Stream for Kelson Kindergarten on 18 May unfortunately had to be cancelled due to overnight rain and high stream flows. The group were interested to learn about stream ecology and storm water management and hope to be able to organise another field trip sometime in the near future.

Compliance

Two considerable lots of discarded car tyres were removed from the Hutt River corridor over May. The first, on 4 May was around 50, near Avalon, and the second, around one 120 on 10 May from a wetland area beside SH 2 just south of the Moonshine Bridge.



Car tyres dumped north of Silverstream

Volunteer Andrew Mudge continues the laudable task of removing rubbish from the Lower Hutt River corridor and has also provided information over the month regarding vehicle misuse causing damage to grassed areas at Avalon and Boulcott.



Rubbish dumped at Taita in early May

Rubbish dumped at Taita over the first weekend of May contained sufficient evidence that offenders details were able to be passed on to the Hutt City Council to issue an infringement notice.

A man transporting his son to school on a motorcycle via the Hutt River Trail at Epuni was spoken to on the morning of 11 May. The man had recently moved to the Hutt Valley and pleaded ignorance of local bylaws that prohibit motorised vehicles from using the trail. Once aware of the rules he apologised and moved out onto the road.

Environment



Hutt River Trail widening in progress, Upper Hutt

Mangaroa Earthmoving Contractors are pushing on with Hutt River Trail track improvements in Upper Hutt. Two sections widened between Moonshine and Poets Park are now finished, and a nine hundred metre stretch north of the Whakatikei swimming hole is on track to be completed by mid-June. Surface water running off SH 2 saturates the grass berm here in winter. A thick river gravel base, a number of soak pits and a storm water pipe under the path have been added to both keep water off the track and add strength to the compacted surface.

Hutt River vehicle access roads have had puddles and pot holes dug out, re-filled and compacted during May. The worst affected areas were Poets Park to Whakatikei, in Upper Hutt and from Taita to Pomare in Lower Hutt. The unsealed tracks that function as river maintenance service roads and public river access have heavy traffic and are subject to quick deterioration. Routine grading keeps them in reasonable condition, but the occasional use of an excavator to rework sections is required when the track is badly degraded.



Rolling river access roads at Taita

<u>TRAIL COUNTERS:</u>	<u>MAY 2017</u>	<u>MAY 2016</u>
Gemstone	1186	1581
Whakatikei	no count*	2885
County Lane	4006	4880
Manor Park	882	1274
Taita Gorge	2300	----
Block Road	7512	9322
Ava	10211	13280

*Track improvement work means counter is not operating