

Ahurangi Festival Project 2013

This inaugural event aims to showcase how the creek is an important physical connection between neighbouring communities. Ahurangi is the name used by the local Kura Kaupapa o Nga Maungarongo for the upper part of Meola Creek, and means “coming from the skies”. It is important to reinforce this connection and help to encourage our community to care and preserve this unique link. The long-term aim is to connect the various community groups of Meola Creek from Owairaka to Te Tokaroa.

An Upper Stream walk is proposed for Sunday April 14th. It will begin with a ceremony at the Kerr Taylor Reserve on Fergusson Ave, downstream continuing along the Roy Clements Treeway and culminating at the Mt Albert Community Centre for refreshments and entertainment. During the walk, ecologists and volunteers from STEPS will provide brief talks and answers questions on features unique to the creek and its surrounds.

In the four weeks prior to the event I would like to engage with local schools by working with teachers to create hanging artworks and flags to punctuate the key points of interest along the path. As well as this a number of additional hand held flags that children doing the walk can hold to safely traverse the crossing on New North Rd to get to the Mt Albert Community Centre. An additional workshop will be held at the Sandringham Community Centre to invite members of the broader community to contribute.

Potential themes to be explored through the creative workshops are:

- The Meola Creek community

- Local flora and fauna

- Local geological features

- Pests and rubbish

- Water

Tosh will be available to support and assist teachers and when necessary lead creative sessions and Kevin from the YMCA is available to talk with the senior schools about the NCEA approved Project Management programme they have on offer.