

## Testing the waters: Citizen science project

Project Little Oneroa is looking for keen community members to join in a new waterway monitoring project at Onetangi, Mawhitipana Bay (Palm Beach) and Omiha.

The initiative, which is run by the Waiheke Resources Trust, aims to expand water testing beyond Little Oneroa with data collection to understand and monitor the ecological health of Waiheke waterways.

Volunteers will be trained to use the Waicare kit and will test for varying levels of dissolved oxygen, water clarity, water and air temperature, phosphates and nitrates as well as monitor macroinvertebrate populations.

“Waiheke is home to some of New Zealand’s endangered or threatened species including the giant kōkopu and long finned tuna (eel),” says project coordinator Kirstin Busher.

“Our waterways hold some magnificent creatures but are also where all of our stormwater, and if not functioning correctly, our wastewater run off ends up.”

Monitoring streams using the Waicare water testing equipment can help to determine how the creatures living in our waterways are faring under the pressures of development.

The Little Oneroa Stream has been monitored using these techniques for the past five years and ecologically the stream is really doing well, according to Kirsten.

She says schools of banded kōkopu and many sensitive species that you wouldn’t find in heavily sedimented or polluted waters call the Little Oneroa Stream home.

“It’s a really fun activity for all ages and can be taken on by a family or a group of people. It’s a way for the community



Waiheke Resources Trust interns with their water testing kits, from left, Jamie Rompf, Tim de Koning and Bas Ammerlaan.

to connect with their awa - their streams and their natural environment.”

The Waiheke Resources Trust will hold a training workshop and information morning at Onetangi Hall on Saturday 12th

October. Anyone interested can come along and learn more. The morning will end with a Kai Conscious morning tea.

For more information or to book your spot email [info@wrt.org.nz](mailto:info@wrt.org.nz) or call 372 2915. •

# LAST CHANCE TO VOTE FOR WAIHEKE



Authorised by R. Gallagher, 15 Torrance St, Auckland.

**A vote for Pippa Coom is a vote for a progressive candidate who will work constructively on Council to ensure a strong community voice for Waiheke. Vote Pippa Coom for Waitemata and Gulf Councillor.**

“I’m a community independent with City Vision and 100% committed to standing with you on local issues and to getting things done. I’ll work hard to support a strong Waiheke Local Board and local decision making”

Vote Pippa Coom, current Chair of the Waitemata Local Board, for experience and a fresh voice on Council.

**Your votes must now be hand delivered to a ballot box at the library or the Waiheke Service Centre by midday on Saturday 12 October.**

**city vision = Labour Green + COMMUNITY INDEPENDENTS**