



Marshalls Creek

Community Enhancement Project

Marshalls Creek is a relatively short, spring fed creek which runs through the Winton Township. Marshalls Creek feeds into the Winton Stream and then into the Oreti River. This creek over the decades has been modified to fit in with Winton and the townships infrastructure. This modification has included straightening and being used as the primary drainage for Wintons stormwater and runoff. The Winton Stream is one of the main water bodies within the catchment area of the Mid Oreti Catchment Group and many members have raised concerns that Marshalls Creek could be a contributor to water quality degradation of Winton Stream.

The Mid Oreti Catchment Group has expressed interest in enhancing Marshalls Creek for the future to try and achieve the following objectives

1. Enhance the habitat for our special freshwater species
2. Improve water quality
3. Enhance the creeks amenity, recreational and community use

Before getting stuck into any mahi, we need to know what challenges Marshalls Creek faces. Assessment of the state of the creek is the first step and there are many tools the community can use to make this assessment.

The first assessment we carried out as a community was a series of “Rapid Habitat Assessments”. The Rapid Habitat Assessment (RHA) provides a ‘habitat quality score’ for a river reach which indicates general stream habitat condition for the physical aspect, such as the structure of the stream banks or the nature of the stream bed. The RHA is now used by almost all regional councils during routine monitoring, and increasingly as part of farm environmental planning.

The next steps for this project (in no particular order) are...

- Input mapping – where do drains enter the creek and where do they come from?
- Rubbish clean up
- Water quality analysis
- History of Marshalls Creek
- Contact and input with local business around the project
- Contact and input with councils and land owners adjacent to Marshalls Creek

- Community open days to gather information, values and project ideas and also use this opportunity to educate the local community about Marshalls Creek and raise awareness
- Contact and input from local Iwi about the project

Physical change for enhancement cannot occur without knowing the current state of the creek and also cannot occur without community engagement, therefore the above steps hope to further educate the group and engage the community to move toward enhancing Marshalls Creeks environment.

This project is in its early stages and when it comes down to physically changing any aspect of Marshalls Creek the group would like to listen to and action what the community, businesses, council and Iwi want to see.