

TE ARA Ō WAIRĀKEI

the pathway of the Wairākei

**Tēnā
koutou
Issue 3, 7 December 2019**

Welcome to all of our new subscribers to the Te Ara ō Wairākei Stormwater Reserve e-news - we hope you find the content helpful and informative. There have been some great conversations between residents and council staff since our last update.

We have been taking the time to meet with some of you living alongside the reserve, gathering insights and hearing about your personal concerns. We have had positive feedback around the planned area meetings in early-2020 and will keep you updated as to when and where these will take place.

In this issue you will find:

- New signage to address motorbikes using the reserve
- Our new contractor and their commitment to maintenance and spraying
- An update on matters raised around rodents in the reserve
- What's next

Motorbikes and Reserves

Residents have let us know that motorbikes have been seen in the reserve. As a result of this, we will be installing 'no motorbikes' signs in over 30 locations throughout the 15km stretch before Christmas.

If anyone does witness motorbikes using the reserve in a destructive or unsafe manner, please contact your local police station immediately (while it is occurring) on [\(07\) 572 2440](tel:075722440), or call the new **105** number to make a report. Please include as much detail as possible, such as a description of the vehicle including colour and number plate, a description of the rider and any other useful information (e.g. direction of travel etc.). This will make it easier for the police to put the pieces together and take action.

Maintenance

Our maintenance contractors are working to finish the weeding, then once the new year starts, a new landscaping company will be engaged to continue the planting maintenance improvements for 2020. It's important to know that the plants will take some time to bed in and may not look their best for a number of months. As they settle and 'bush out' they will outcompete the weeds, which is why we are placing such importance on the early maintenance of the planted areas.

You may notice that wool mats have been placed at various locations in existing planting areas, these are fully biodegradable and will reduce the weed spraying needed and help stabilise banks where they are pinned.

Wooden supports have also been placed at locations where there was some bank erosion. This should prevent any further slippage.

Spraying

We are aware of the environmental impact of weed spraying and in addition to the wool mats, we are working to ensure spraying is only done when and where it is absolutely necessary. We will ensure signs are placed along Te Ara Ō Wairākei advising the public of when this is taking place, so they can choose to avoid the area if they wish.

Rodents

Council currently maintains and monitors a large number of traps in the reserve and will continue to do this. If anyone has concerns about rats entering their property from the reserve, you can call us for tips on how to deter them. This may include removing easy access to food and water eg pet/bird food or a temporary increase in trap numbers in the area.

If you are interested in helping to reduce the number of pests in our environment and support our native species, [Predator Free BOP](#) will be happy to help with free traps and advice.

Next steps

We will be having a community bike ride in the new year where our Mayor and Councillors will cycle along a section of the Te Ara Ō Wairākei with local residents to take a look at some of the planting that has been done and ensure there have been improvements. We will update you with the details once dates are confirmed.

This will be the last Te Ara Ō Wairākei e-newsletter for 2019. All the staff here at TCC that have been working with you all over the past months would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and new year.

- Please note: This newsletter is only being sent by email and will not be delivered in hard copy to individual addresses. If you know of anyone who would like to receive these regular email updates, please let us know via email jennifer.pearson@tauranga.govt.nz
- If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us
- We'll update you regularly on the project's progress
- Full details of the Wairākei Landscape Plan and an updated set of FAQs can be found at <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/our-future/projects/Wairākei-landscape-plan>