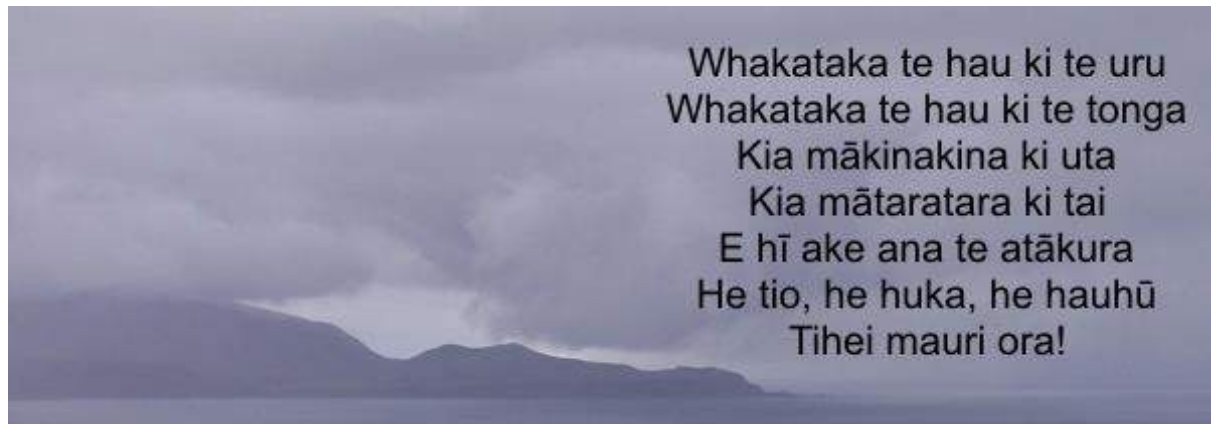


Haewai Creek Walk - *Reimagining Houghton Valley*

12 November 2023



Nau mai, haere mai to our Creek Walk, where you will discover the history of our original valley and its waterways, find out what happened to it all, what is still surviving, and imagine a future that acknowledges our lost landscape and helps heal our environment.

Sinclair Park

Sinclair Park is the headwaters of our creek, fed by rainwater and springs from the surrounding hills.

The landfill of this area began in the 1950s and was completed in 1971.

Currently it has two small sports fields for children, compromised by ponding surface water, sinking soil levels and lack of shelter from the southerly winds.



The original valley was steep and sustained a massive amount of landfill.

A 100 Year Vision for Haewai / Houghton Valley

Locals are creating a 100 year vision for the valley. This includes ideas to reimagine the Sinclair Park, such as:

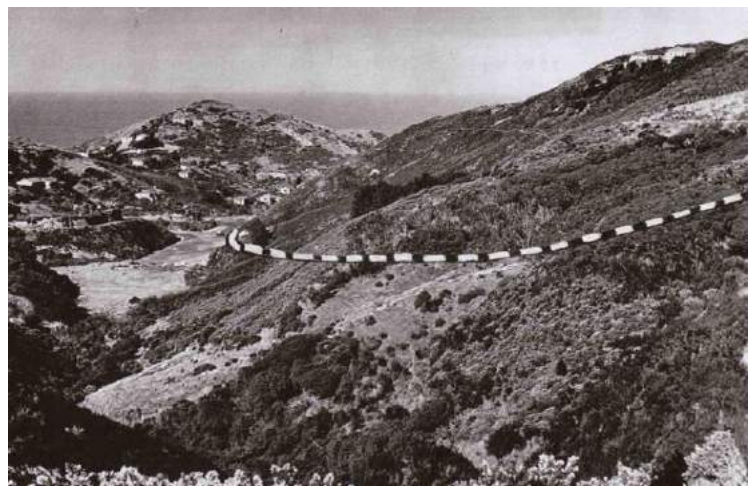
- Turning the boggy area into a proper wetland that captures the overland water, and the stormwater from the roads and drains the sports fields, before releasing it down a channel to the horse paddock;
- Creating an earth berm with planting to provide wind shelter and building a shelter for spectators;
- Planting the sunny and sheltered slopes with fruit trees for local food resilience.
- A free range egg farm instead of the horse paddock in the future?

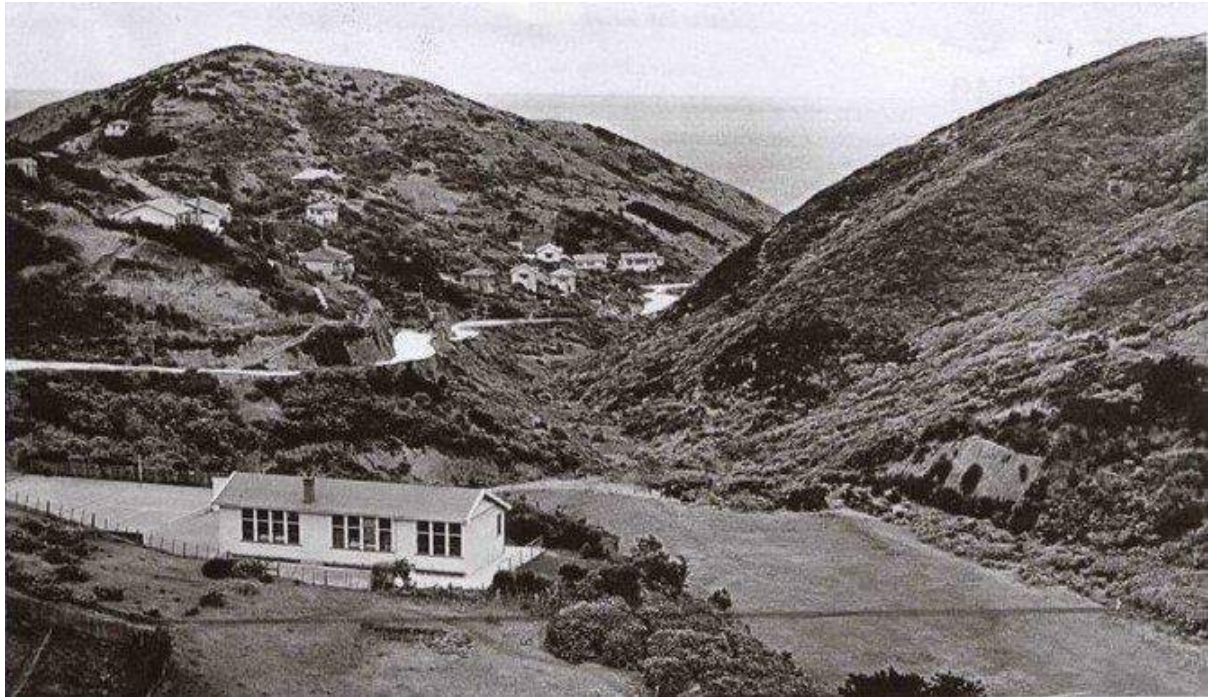


Around the School

Going down to the school, there are sites of early houses, one now buried, and a stand of original manuka. The track was originally called Clonmel Road (see dotted line), from an early subdivision plan. If we didn't have the landfill, the valley may have been carved into sections and built on. Who knows what would have happened?

Carved channels show where the overland water is making its way down the valley. Any actual springs are truly buried and lost.



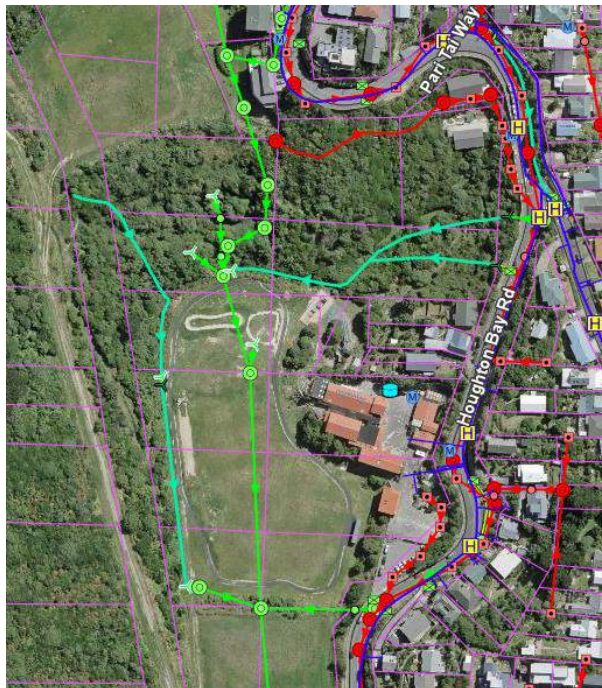


The school in 1949

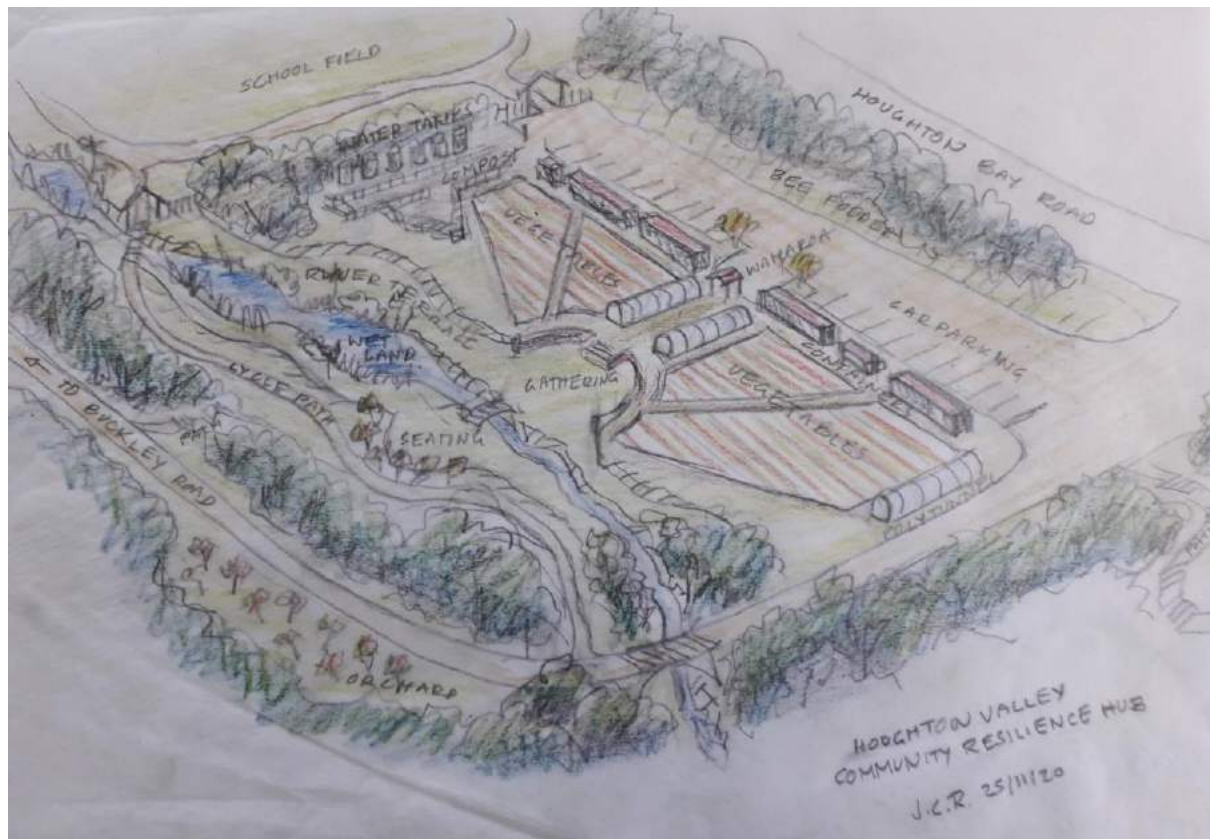
The school field was filled in before the landfill started, but has been gradually raised further. The fill at this point is very deep.

Just north of the field, the pipe on the stream bed stops and branches into short side pipes. A stormwater pipe enters from the side. One wonders where the original stream actually started, could it have been here?

The field downhill from the school is 1m higher than the school field. It needs to be dug out to stop the school field becoming a swimming pool, as it has once before when the pipes blocked. Landfill engineers don't like that idea, but nature will eventually do it for us in a less controlled manner.



The blue-green lines show the overland water channels. These can be the basis for a new stream channel, with wetland areas to regulate the water flow. Fencing can protect both children and wildlife, such as has been done on top of the landfill in Tawatawa Reserve.



This idea for the field below the school includes an urban farm / community hub

The lower fields

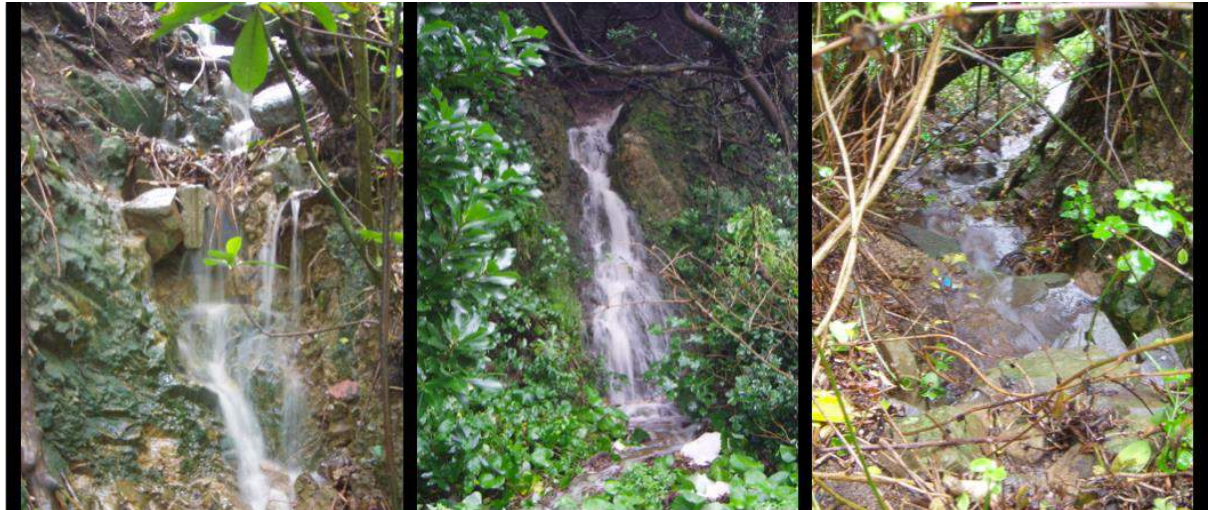
There are several fields between the school and the Buckley Reserve Playground near Hungerford Rd, which are just open grassy spaces with no particular function, and are often too boggy to use. It is difficult to get from one to the other.

Hidden away at the western edge, the overland water after heavy rain flows through part human-made, part naturally made channels, including cataracts and waterfalls over the dump faces.

These ephemeral water moments could be made so much more of. A more central stream channel, wetlands, boardwalks, tracks, bush planting, dry open grassy areas, food forests and play trail structures could all make walking up or down the valley beautiful and interesting.

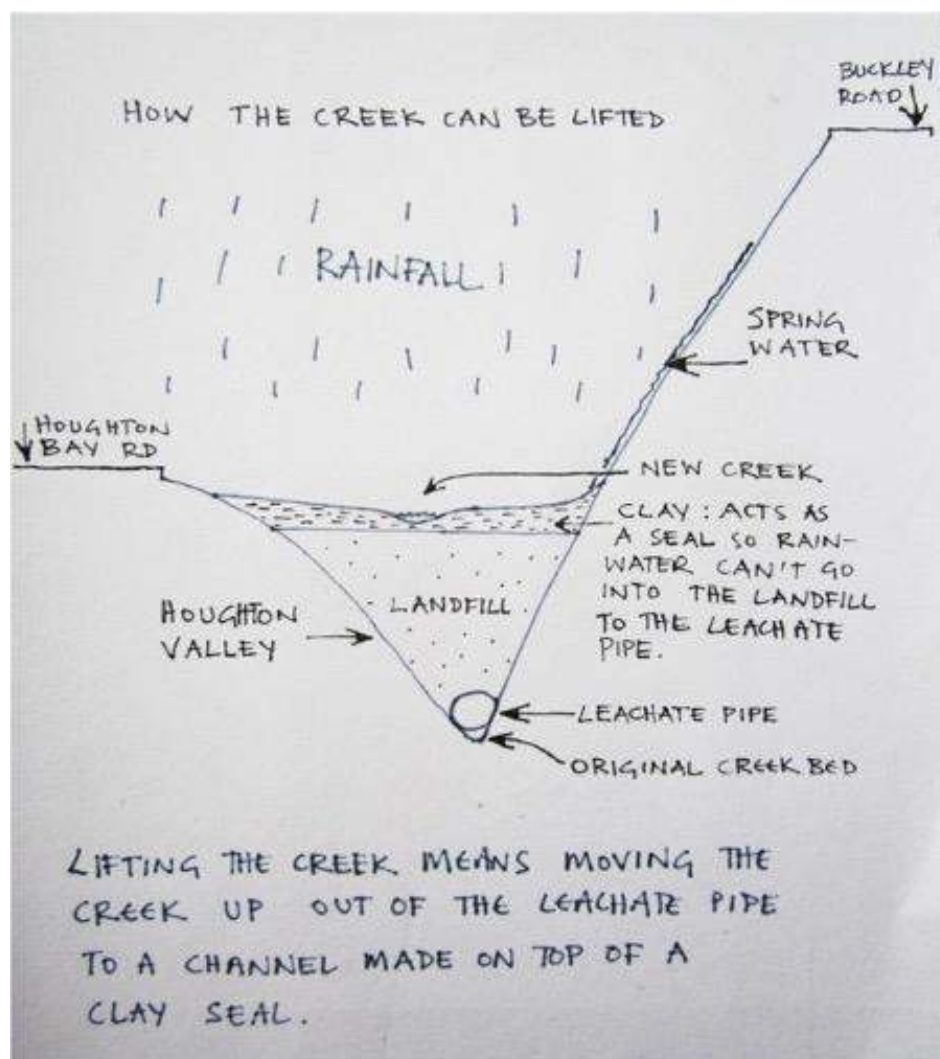
We could celebrate the journey of tuna (eels) up the valley figuratively or literally with fish passage structures.





Overland water after heavy rain

The diagram below shows how the idea of Lifting the creek (creating a new stream channel on the surface) could be achieved. The current water flow would be enhanced with stormwater from the road as well as what already comes off the hillsides.



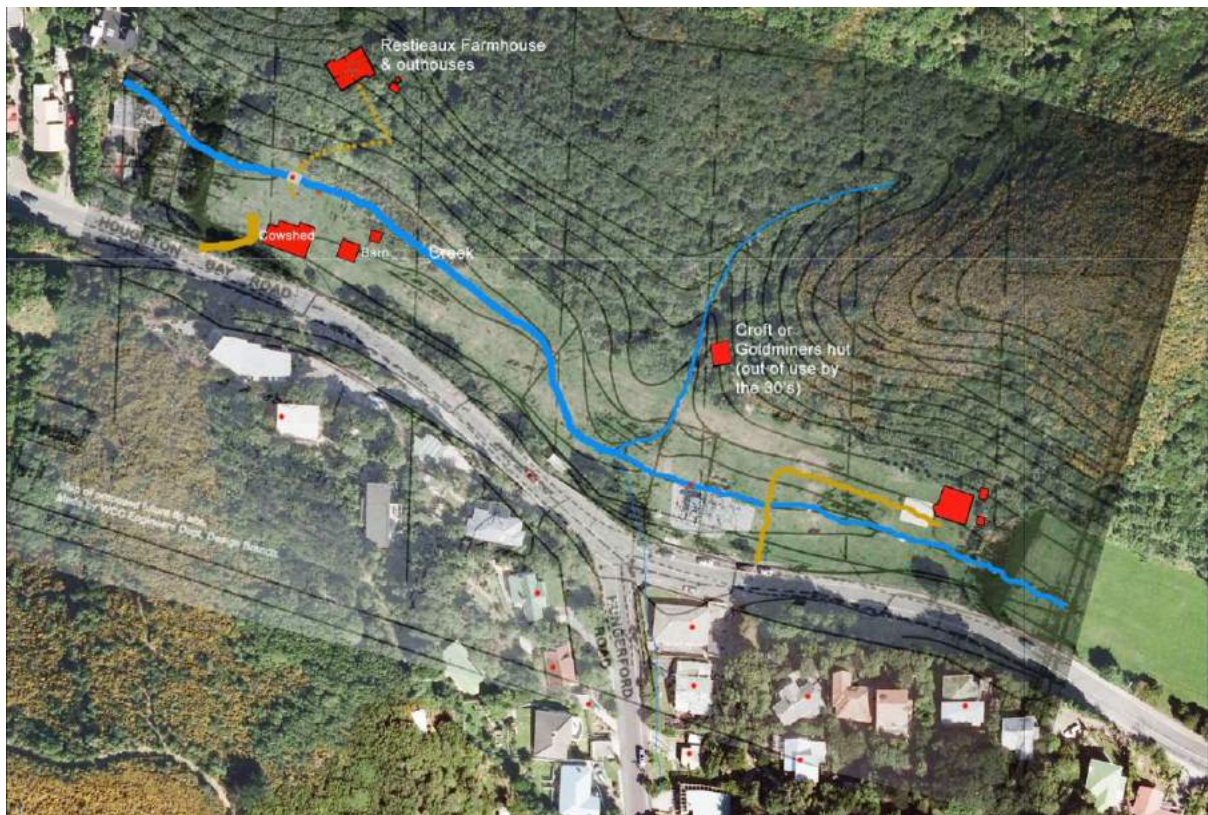
The Buckley Reserve Playground area

This area is where the original stream was permanent, fed by springs from the western hillside. Fortunately these springs were not buried, and they can still be seen today. The largest spring, on the track up to Buckley Rd, has freshwater crayfish (kōura), still surviving after being cut off for 70+ years.

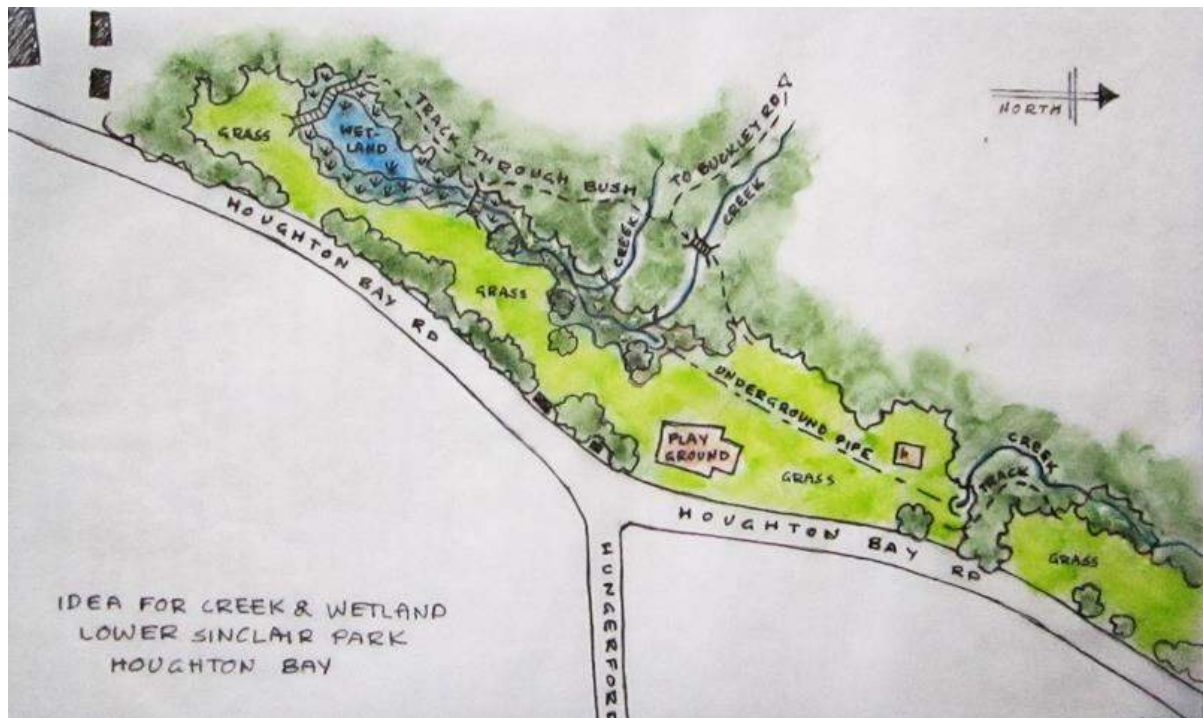
The water source meant that the area was also used by the early settlers, including the Herlihy House pictured below, the Sutherland shepherd's croft and a dairy farm operation by the Restieaux family.



Then and now - the Herlihy House



The Restieaux farm and the original creek



We are currently redesigning the playground area with WCC, and as part of the 100 year vision will let it tell stories of the past and the future of our community.

Down to the beach

The beach is where the landfill damage is most visible, and rusty, contaminated water regularly taints the sand and the sea water in the Taputeranga Marine Reserve.

The pipe system is meant to divert the leachate water to the sewer, but 30mm of rain will over top the diversion weir and send everything down to the beach. Oddly enough, the worst contamination doesn't coincide with heavy rain, it is often just before rain and after a dry spell.





Analysis Report


11 February 2013

Page 1 of 1

Wellington

Attention:

Date Received: 7/02/13
Lab Number: 68534
Temperature: Ambient
Order Number/Ref: 07/02/2013
Date Completed: 11/02/13

Approved by: 
Henry Cao
KTP - Food & Dairy Chemistry
On behalf of SGS New Zealand Ltd

The Results of analysis on the sample/s as received from Paterson Engineering and Design and described below, are as follows.
The Sample/s were received in good condition. Analysis of the sample/s commenced on 7/02/2013.

Test	Method	Result Unit	1 Tip Leachate Sample
Cadmium	APHA 3125	mg/l	0.00068
Chromium	APHA 3125	mg/l	0.010
Copper	APHA 3125	mg/l	0.050
Iron	APHA 3125	mg/l	125
Lead	APHA 3125	mg/l	0.042
Mercury	APHA 3125	mg/l	<0.0002
Selenium	APHA 3125	mg/l	0.0040
Zinc	APHA 3125	mg/l	0.82

Legend: < = less than limit of detection, > = greater than, [ND] = not detected, s = sub contracted

As : 0.0082 mg/litre
Ni : 0.0072 mg/litre.

END OF REPORT

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Member of the SGS Group

Report of contaminants in Houghton Bay

Unuhia, unuhia
Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui
Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te ara takatā
Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga
Kia tina! TINA! Hui e! TĀIKI E!