

MAY
EELS
SLITHER
ONCE
AGAIN

*Calling all residents of Waiatarau,
or Freemans Bay!*

*Tunamau in rimutahi:
restoring the eel creek in Western Park*

We have formed an action group to try to convince the Auckland City Council to restore the eel creek that used to run down the sexy crevice that runs from the top of the park, by Ponsonby Road, to the bottom, down the hill to Beresford St.

The park was “established” last century, and it involved clearing native trees and planting specimen exotics. The creek was also drained. Called Tunamau, it once ran to the sea of Freemans Bay. Eel was gathered here by local Maori. The area was known but the enormous rimu tree at the top of the hill, but felled to build a fire station.

Today Freemans Bay is far from the sea as much of the foreshore is reclaimed land. A Council housing project built on the flats was mostly sold off during the early 90s and it has since become a real estate hot spot.

The wrong needs to be righted.

The kingfishers have begun to reassemble. Even the exotic birdlife is feeling the pull of the rising water. The number of runaway cage birds that gather in the elm trees is increasing, waiting.

The dogs can feel the water table rising. A lot of tennis balls are left in the ditch as canine attention is piqued to the gathering forces of the eel; the watery body memory of the park is obvious to those who still think extra-rationally.

Resistance will come from two main groups: dog walkers, all the more self righteous now that people have become used to picking up their shit. They will prefer that their dogs do not get wet in a creek and then filthy their carpet.

The most important enemy are real estate speculators and local homeowners. They will not like the water that will pool at the base of the hill. Some channels will have to be cut at least and this will mean the loss of a number of houses. Real estate speculators be damned. They have enough money to live on surely.

It is vital that we listen to the birds. The universe has spoken and if it is not heeded the spirits will take revenge on all involved agents of gentrification.

Meetings will take place in the nude, in the creek bed at midnight on the full moon all summer. Be prepared to participate in invocationary rites, and to take petition paperwork away to be disseminated. Bring insect repellent. See you there!