

The role of nature in our cities and towns

Today's increasingly urban lifestyles mean that many people are losing their connection to the natural environment. Urban development often seems to focus on maximising economic return ahead of quality of life. These imperatives lead us to question the importance of incorporating natural spaces in our urban landscapes, and to consider what compromises we can seek to get a balance between economics, community and our environment. This second Green Cafe will examine these issues by bringing three leading Hamilton experts together to discuss the environmental, social and economic aspects of urban development. Our speakers are:

- Associate Professor Bruce Clarkson, Department of Biological Science and The University of Waikato who will discuss the environmental aspects using examples of Waiwhakareke (Horseshoe Lake) and Hamilton gullies.
- Tim Newton, Environmental Policy Advisor (Strategic Group) at Hamilton City Council who will discuss the social aspects using the Hamilton gully system as an example.
- Gerry Kessels, Consulting Ecologist, Kessels and Associates who will discuss the economic aspects drawing on his experience of consulting on large infrastructure and residential development projects.



Waiwhakareke (Horseshoe Lake) http://www.waiwhakareke.co.nz/photo-beforeafter.php

For more information about future Cafés in Hamilton, contact Tina Lewis

Phone 838 4625, e-mail science@waikato.ac.nz

http://www.sci.waikato.ac.nz/cafescientifique

Tuesday 8 September 2009
7.30pm
"The Bank" (corner Victoria & Hood Streets), Hamilton



