

# Urban Eel Programme Te Tuna Tāone

In 2020, Jenny Bond from the Working Waters Trust (WWT) contacted all of the team leaders at our school, offering the "Urban Eel Programme - Te Tuna Tāone", which teaches young people about life in urban streams through the taonga species - the longfin eel/tuna.

Firstly, Jenny presented about it, then the seniors all went to go down to our local stream: Nottingham Stream, to meet live tuna and study the stream's invertebrates, clarity, temperature, algae, flow and stream structure.

We taught the juniors at a different site on the same stream, Muir Park. The juniors then went on and made a flyer/postcard to drop into just under 2000 letterboxes! Some of the seniors also chose to be part of an extension group, Senior Urban Eel Group.

This group are working on planting more natives around the senior site since it was lacking in plant cover, as well as making posters and flyers to educate the public. We also are planning to bring a "Stormwater Superhero" trailer to multiple local sites.

Meeting our local tuna with Jenny



We found two longfin tuna in our stream!



Looking for stream invertebrates (bugs)

## HOW OUR ACTIONS WILL HELP THE TUNA:

- The flyer and posters will educate people on the tuna and how they can help them.
- The Stormwater Superhero trailer interactively educates people on how to keep their stormwater clean. As the stormwater in Halswell flows into either the Cashmere, Nottingham or Knights Streams.
- Planting will help restore Nottingham Stream's riparian zone and provide a home for a multitude of bugs (the tuna's kai).
- The postcards will target people in the Nottingham Stream catchment area, as their stormwater feeds into the stream.



Students learning about the bush and instream habitat

Testing water clarity with the clarity tube



Poster created by George (Y8), Theo (Y7), and Barbara (Y8), on behalf of the Halswell School Senior Urban Eel Group and Years 0-2.