Environment Group

The June excursion for the environment walkers was a very urban one. Jackie and Gloria had to find a substitute for a planned walk at the Te Otamanui walkway and lagoon at Te Kowhai, which is closed for the moment. So, we had the pleasure of finding the hidden treasure of part of the western cycleway, tucked away in an industrial area behind The Base in a meshwork of recent roads that most of us have driven along on our way to somewhere else. Twelve of us met at The Base, near the Rotokauri Transport Centre – amazing how many of us have never used the station or the buses here in the four years it has existed – and walked over the railway bridge, using the stairs or the lifts, according to our desire for exercise. A brief walk through the very tidy industrial area took us to the cycleway, a wide asphalted path by land that is being developed for housing and industry; some is still farmed. It's an easy, pleasant walk, especially on a cold, sunny Wednesday morning when cyclists are scarce. There are little orchards along parts of the path, from hundreds of fruit trees donated to the Council. A walk in autumn will be rewarding, especially for feijoa foragers. The cycleway goes as far as Te Kowhai Road, but we turned back for coffee at the very busy Little Lakes Bakehouse Café. Godfrey suggests that the name must reference the two small lakes (storm water ponds?) Google Maps shows behind it. So ended June's walk, an exploration of Hamilton's quite recent expansion. Mary Arvidson