



The Inlet

Newsletter for the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet

APRIL

2012

The Inlet is a newsletter that brings together local and regional news affecting the Pauatahanui Inlet and its environs.

The Inlet comes out three times a year and current or back issues can be downloaded from our website.

The newsletter includes items of concern that affect the area as well as general interest topics for everyone.

Please contact us if you would like to contribute to *The Inlet*.

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

For some time now I have been concerned that our Newsletter maybe had become a bit boring and ho-hum. It needed a refreshed format and new ideas on its purpose. It was also necessary to revise our logo. Thanks largely to the fertile minds of Beverly Fairfax and Michael Waldron I am pleased to bring to you the first edition of *The Inlet* and to launch our new logo.

The Inlet

We are very pleased to be able to broaden the scope of our newsletter. The success of our 'Family Corner' has encouraged us to explore the possibility of bringing you more diverse items to inform and entertain. In this issue you will find items on cockles, sculptures and Maori language. We hope that sections on Inlet flora and fauna, history and other matters of interest will feature regularly. We will, of course, continue to report on our activities and on actions by other bodies, such as PCC and Greater Wellington, that affect the Inlet and that we have traditionally dealt with in the newsletter.

For 2012 we will continue with three issues, but we are working towards producing newsletters more frequently in the future. Please make *The Inlet* your own. We would love to have your feedback.

The logo

Why do we need a new logo? Our original logo was designed years ago for letterhead printing at full size and did not appear sharp and crisp on screen. It was also difficult to read when reduced in size to fit with the modern practice of acknowledging contributing organisations by printing their logo in document footers. There is no point in having your contribution acknowledged if the reader can't decipher the words on the logo!

As we worked with our chosen graphic designer, Shaun Firkser of London-based Demuzi Studios, we realised a new design was called for and we took very little persuading that the cockle design was the right choice. Cockles are an important feature of the Inlet, not only because of their importance to Inlet ecology, but also in the way that people recognise the Inlet. This was borne out by the fact that as we were settling on the cockle being at the heart of our new logo, Porirua City Council, in cooperation with the Pauatahanui Residents Association, was commissioning the concrete cockles that have now been placed at the entrance to the wildlife reserve.

Our new logo retains the colours of the Inlet environment, and references the three elements of water, hills and sky that formed our previous logo. These three elements are reflected in the three circles in each side of the logo.

John Wells

OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR



We extend a very warm welcome to our new editor, Michael Waldron. When we met Michael last year we knew that he was just the man we needed to launch our revamped newsletter. We're sure that from the results of this April newsletter, you'll agree that this was a very sound decision.

Michael has lived and worked in this area for 29 years, the last 16 of them as a Whitby resident. He's a family man with a science and electronics background and a long-time interest in conservation. He's an experienced writer and in his spare time he enjoys music, photography, home maintenance and studying the flora and fauna of the Inlet.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have Michael join us.

HARBOUR DREDGING REPORT

A public meeting was held at Porirua's Pataka Museum on Thursday 15 March to discuss, among other issues, how to reduce the Harbour sedimentation rate by 50% in 10 years.

The key speaker was Dr Mal Green from NIWA. He spoke first about the need to identify the sources of sedimentation, the sites of deposition and its rate of accumulation. This information would then be fed into a computer model that could calculate the practical viability and cost of different scenarios for reducing the input of sedimentation from the inlet catchment.

Dr Green then spoke about possible roles for dredging in the revitalisation of the Harbour. These were: removing fine sediment, increasing tidal flushing and improving navigability. In all cases the model indicated that dredging could

have considerable negative effects and would be costly and/or impractical to complete. For example, reducing the size of the central sand banks by the amount necessary to significantly increase natural flushing and improve navigability could destroy these banks as a fish nursery, affecting both local recreation fishing and regional commercial fisheries. In conclusion Dr Green suggested that dredging should not be ruled out entirely as a management tool but he reiterated that a first priority should be to urgently and drastically reduce the inflow of sediment into the harbour.

Dr Green's presentation is available at <http://www.pcc.govt.nz/DownloadFile/Publications/Harbour-Management/Porirua-Harbour---Sediment-Problems---Causes-and-Solutions>.

PORIRUA HARBOUR STRATEGY

We had hoped to advise that the *Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy* and *Detailed Action Plan* would now be available for viewing on the PCC website. However, although the draft has been removed, we can report that the final version is due for publication on 24 April.

Once it is available we will look to see how we want to respond on matters concerning the Inlet. We are especially concerned to discuss with PCC how members may be able to be directly involved in taking care of the Inlet's future.

AGM - 24 May 2012

Ducks or no ducks?

Have you ever wondered why there are no ducks on the Inlet? Swans and geese in plenty, but no ducks?

Dr Murray Williams, formerly of the Department of Conservation, a devotee of ducks, will talk about this puzzle, and whether it has always been this way.

We're sure this talk will have broad appeal so put this date in your diary now.

24 May @ 7:30pm

Pauatahanui School

(Note the change from our usual venue)

FEATURE ARTICLE

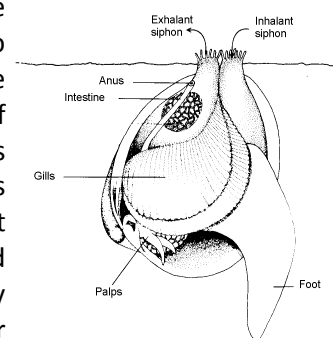
Our revamped newsletter will feature aspects of the Inlet's flora, fauna, history or people. In this issue we look at the cockle, centrepiece of our new logo.

The Cockle



Known to Māori as *tuangi* and to science as *Austrovenus stutchburyi*, the NZ cockle was scientifically described by the English surgeon and naturalist William Wood in 1828. He named it after the geologist Samuel Stutchbury who collected cockles and other sea shells while he was the naturalist to the Pacific Islands from 1825 to 1827. The cockle is a dominant member of the fauna of estuaries and harbours right around New Zealand. Our last triennial survey, in 2010, estimated the Inlet population to be between 242 and 311 million.

Cockles are vital to Inlet health. Through their filter feeding, cockles remove plankton and minute particles of organic debris from the water. In order to do this effectively, the cockle must be either permanently submerged in the subtidal zone or under water for at least 90 minutes in each tidal cycle if living in the intertidal zone. When submerged the cockle draws water into its outer body cavity through its inhalant siphon, strains this water through its gills to remove potential food particles and then pushes the water out through its exhalant siphon. Fine hairs called cilia then move the captured particles down to the base of the gills and on towards the mouth. In this way cockles help to provide the water clarity that eel grass and algae require for maximum photosynthesis and the growth that, for example, sustains the swan population of the Inlet.



Cockles themselves are food for birds such as oystercatchers and fish such as flounders and eagle rays. In their juvenile stages they are also eaten by predatory snails. They provide several vital links in the complex food web of the Inlet. Because of this they are known as a 'keystone' species in Inlet ecology.

Cockles do not like soft mud; their relatively high shell weight makes them sink into it to a depth below which their siphons cannot function. This is one reason why we are so concerned at the increase in muddy sediment entering the Inlet from its catchments. This vulnerability, coupled with their importance in the food web and the fact of their great abundance, makes them a good 'indicator species' of the general health of the Inlet.

You can find more information at <http://www.gopi.org.nz/cockles-of-the-inlet/>.

THE PAUATAHANUI VILLAGE COCKLES

The solid concrete cockles that appeared in Pauatahanui village recently are the work of Nelson sculptor Andrew Bryden. As part of its Village Plan the Pauatahanui Residents Association was keen to promote the wildlife reserve as part of the village. They wanted to make its entrance more obvious while retaining the historic look of the village centre. When they discovered Andrew Bryden's cockle sculptures, they knew they had their answer. The Guardians congratulate the Residents Association on its good taste – the cockle, centrepiece of our new logo, is fast becoming the 'icon-du-jour' for the Inlet.

LIVING WATERS DOCUMENTARIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

We've been bringing you news of the series of documentaries that Cheryl Cameron and photographer Matty Warmington have been working on over the last couple of years. We're delighted that the documentaries are now finished and that all 12 episodes have been brought together on one DVD. These are an absolute must-see, must-have. They celebrate the harbour, its history and the people who enjoy it and they explore the threats to its health. They provide a wonderful resource for educating locals

and visitors on the importance of this taonga in our midst.

GOPI has been given a quantity of these DVDs and we'd like to offer our members a free copy. Just let us know (by phone, mail or email) and we'll be happy to send one to you. Extra copies are available from Pataka for \$15 each.

You may also be interested to know that extra material not used in the final versions of the documentaries is also available on the website at <http://www.livingwatersdoco.co.nz>.

PHOTOCOMPETITION

As you will be aware this year's competition was brought forward to mid-April to allow time for judge Geoff Marshall to view the images and decide on the winners.

Closing date for entries: 13 April (Note that *KapiMana News* incorrectly gave the date as 1 April)
Judging completed: 24 April

You are invited to attend the prize-giving on 29 April, 2pm at the Helen Smith Community Room, Pataka, where Kris Faafoi MP will present the prizes.

Winning entries will be displayed at:

Porirua Library.....	29 April to 9 May
Palmers Garden Centre.....	10 May to 24 May
Whitby Mall.....	25 May to 8 June
Lighthouse Cinema, Pauatahanui...	9 June to 22 June

TRANSMISSION GULLY MOTORWAY

The hearings on the applications for resource consent for the construction of the motorway have finished and the Board of Inquiry (BOI) report and recommendations should be out in June. You can read our submissions to the BOI on our website at <http://www.gopi.org.nz/transmission-gully/>.

Our major concern is with the amount of sediment estimated to enter the Inlet during the six-year construction phase. Imagine, then, our shock at the Department of Conservation's strong criticism of the methods used by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to make this estimate. DoC believed that the quantities of sediment released could be considerably larger than estimated. An independent peer review commissioned by the BOI reinforced DoC's case. However, it seems that a flurry of meetings between DoC and NZTA has resulted in these concerns being at least somewhat alleviated. We now await the BOI Report with great interest and concern.

ON THE HORIZON

Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve planting day. On Sunday 27 May the Wildlife Reserve Management team hope to place 600 plants in the area where the windmill used to be (north of Grays Road.) People are invited to join this event. Bring a spade if you come. There will be a separate morning and afternoon slot: 9.30am-12noon and 1pm-3.30pm. They look forward to seeing you there.

Te Ara Piko pathway development. In late April or early May construction of a short section of gravel pathway and a boardwalk section will begin just east of where the current pathway ends. The boardwalk will end just before Ration Creek and the bridge over Ration Creek will be built at a later stage. Prior to construction some plants will be lifted and stored for replacement. Grays Road will be reduced to one lane at times during construction. There is no news yet of when the extension from Ration Point to Pauatahanui village will start.

FAMILY CORNER

What does the word 'Pauatahanui' mean?

When we were designing our new logo we thought a good place to start would be with the meaning of 'Pauatahanui'. We searched high and low for the meaning but it seems that the name is a bit of a mystery.

Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Maori Language Commission) suggests it could mean a large calabash for storing paua; a large shellfish; a fish hook with a piece of paua shell inserted to attract fish; or a variety of large kumara.

Do you know what a macron is? It's the mark above a letter (ā, ū) and it changes the meaning of a word. So, Pāuatahanui means a large shellfish but Pāuātahanui means a large kumara.

The Commission believes that local Māori have the knowledge to decide on the true meaning.

What do you think the name of our Inlet means?

Fred the Cockle

There once was a cockle named Fred
Who sat in the Inlet and said,
"Well, well, if it ain't,
A brushful of paint,
Now that sure does make me see red."

We thought we'd introduce Fred the Cockle who is not happy about finding paint in his environment.

How about writing your own limerick?

Email it to us and we'll use it on our website.

Do you know that street drains go straight into the Inlet? We must, therefore, be careful about what we put into the drains. Paint, for example, is very dangerous.

So if you see someone washing paintbrushes outside you could politely suggest that they use the laundry tub instead as this drains safely into the sewerage system.

PLEASE SIGN UP A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR

Sign up a neighbour, friend, or another family member. Just explain to them that membership numbers really count in giving us a strong voice to argue for what we all value about the Inlet. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website www.gopi.org/nz/membership-form/ or copied from the one at the back of this newsletter. The cost is tiny but the significance of the added voice could be substantial. **Every new member will receive a free Living Waters DVD.**

EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR THE PAUATAHANUI INLET

Pollution: Discharges of contaminants to air, land, storm-water drains, streams, rivers or sea and for after hours consent enquiries: Greater Wellington 0800 496 734 (24 hours)

Boating infringements: Greater Wellington 384 5708 (24 hours)

Fisheries issues: Ministry of Fisheries 0800 476 224 (24 hours)

Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve: Department of Conservation 0800 362 468

Let us know what you have reported so we can keep an accurate record and follow up if necessary.

233 2557 (Secretary, GOPI) or pauainlet@gmail.com.



Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet

www.gopi.org.nz
pauainlet@gmail.com

Membership form: new members

To join the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet you can pay your sub either online or by post.

Online payment

Pay your sub via e-banking into our Westpac account 03 1533 0009387 00. In the 'Particulars' or 'Reference' columns, write your surname and initials.

Then fill in this form and either email it to us at pauainlet@gmail.com or post it (see next column for our postal address)

Postal payment

Write a cheque made payable to "Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet".

Then fill in this form and send it, along with your cheque, to Membership Secretary, Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet, Box 57034, Mana, Porirua 5247.

Please fill in your details for our records. If you are filling in this form electronically, **click** at the beginning of a dotted line and then type.

Name:

Address:

E-mail: Phone:

Please put x next to the subscription you are paying (electronic completion – **highlight** the box and type lower case x.) We are also very grateful for donations. (Charitable status pending.)

One-year individual (\$12.00) Five-year individual (\$50.00)

One-year family (\$15.00) Five-year family (\$60.00)

Donation: \$ Do you require a receipt for your sub? or your donation?

Date subs paid: Reference appears as:

(e-banking only)

We'd like to send you newsletters and notices via email. May we do this?

Please tell us which of our activities you would like to be part of.

Annual Clean-up day

Three-yearly cockle survey

Stream monitoring

Submissions to local bodies

Our educational programmes for schools

Other:

How else do you think we can care for the Inlet? Please use a separate sheet or just email us.