



# The Inlet

Newsletter for Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet

DECEMBER

2022

*The Inlet is a newsletter that brings together local and regional news affecting the Pāuatahanui 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 CHAIR

2022 is coming to a close. During the year we continued the Inlet Planting Project, ran the triennial cockle count, made a number of submissions on plans and consents and, unfortunately, had to cancel the Inlet Clean Up owing to bucketing rain. We plan to run the Clean Up in early 2023—perhaps some time in February.

We made an important submission on Variation 1 to the proposed District Plan. This Variation implements the Government's requirement that every residential site be either medium density (allowing for up to three storey apartments) or higher density (up to 11 storeys)—in both cases with no requirement for off street car parking. The theory behind this is that everyone will be encouraged to walk, cycle or use public transport—somewhat unlikely in low-density Porirua.

Our submission argues for limits to benching steep sites, more permeable surfacing including more vegetation, and limits to high density dwellings, including more open space. These measures will help reduce run-off and pollution entering the Inlet. We also think that this plan will simply result in more cars parked on streets with more pollutants entering drains, watercourses and the Inlet.

On a positive note, our signal Inlet Planting Project (see page 5) has resulted in over five thousand plants, mostly sea rush (*Juncus kraussii*), being planted around Motukaraka Point, in the Kakaho Estuary, along the Camborne Walkway and within Browns and Ivey Bays. We have been considerably helped and supported in this venture by Porirua City Council, Ngāti Toa and the Aspiring Leaders' Forum.

Sea rush are a vitally important part of the Inlet's salt marsh ecosystems. They provide some 60% of the nutrient sources that fuel the Inlet's ecosystems. Sea rush used to populate much of the Inlet foreshore. Now the biggest area is the salt marsh at the edges of the Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve at the eastern end of the Inlet.

As it happens salt marsh ecosystems are one of the most effective forms of carbon capture. Thus they thus not only fuel much of the thriving ecosystem of the Inlet but also help the important sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere. And, of course, salt marsh also captures sediment and provides a sheltered habitat for marine life. So the sea rush planting project will contribute to the Inlet's biodiversity, resilience and overall health.

One of the formal objectives of GOPI is to 'support the implementation of the



### *From the Chair ...cont.*

Porirua Harbour Strategy and Action Plan by the management agencies'. Unfortunately we haven't seen anything from this strategy since June 2015 when it was last updated. To all intents and purposes it is inactive, if not dead. Nevertheless, we understand there will be discussions between Ngāti Toa and Porirua City and Greater Wellington Regional Councils about its revival and, especially, its organisation and governance structure. With the local authority elections now determined, hopefully this work will now proceed and get the Strategy revived. Along with the long awaited implementation of the Whaitua Report, it is sorely needed as the crucial strategic guidance on all activity affecting Te Awarua-o-Porirua.

With a view on what the councils might do in the next three years, we developed and sent a set of questions on the Inlet, the harbour and its catchments to local authority candidates for Porirua City and Greater Wellington Regional Councils. Most candidates sent us answers which we published on the GOPI website prior to the election. All those who replied supported improving the water quality and ecosystems of the harbour and its catchments

Big changes to water management are likely next year. Both 'Three Waters' and the Freshwater Commission will make massive changes to how water supply, stormwater and sewerage are managed, and changes to the standards and controls affecting all water systems. We are nervous about these huge changes and especially their governance and decision-making structures.

Porirua's water systems will be managed by a mega agency encompassing all the East Coast including Gisborne, and the southern parts of the North Island, including Palmerston North, together with Marlborough and Nelson/Tasman. How such a behemoth will relate to, much less understand, our local problems and needs is yet to be revealed. Hopefully a revised Harbour Strategy will help inject some credible issues, needs and priorities into the new water management system.

On top of these big changes, we will also have the Natural and Built Environments and Strategic Planning legislation changing the scale and scope of the planning system. A Climate Adaptation Act will add to this mix. These three new laws should have some positive benefits linking environmental protection with clear strategic planning for urban development. Hopefully they will be closely integrated with the water reforms. Even so, we will face a transition period which is likely to extend for 10 years. But at least the Government plans to trial this new resource management system in three regions before it is let loose everywhere. They should have built in a similar trial before cementing the three waters structure. Launching large new structures or changes all at once everywhere guarantees disruption as the 'bustastrophe' in Wellington region amply demonstrated.

So, we face some big changes next year that will have material effects on water and the Inlet. Let's hope these mega changes eventually lead to improvements in water management, to its related controls and standards and of course to a healthy and thriving Inlet ecosystem with reduced incursions of fine sediment and related pollutants.

This said, I would like to thank the Management Committee for their consistent and valuable contribution to all the GOPI activities, and to our members for their support. Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year.

**Lindsay Gow**





## COCKLE SURVEY 2022

This year's Cockle Survey took place on 6 November as planned and was a complete success.

The weather could not have been better. No rain, plenty of sunshine and just a little breeze to keep one cool while out on the Inlet's shores.

It is estimated that approximately 120 volunteers turned up for the event giving many pairs of hands and feet to cover the whole Inlet with teams of two to five.

Nearly all thirty transects were measured and while some sites, for reasons of access, could not be completed on the day, most teams finished in three hours. Some sites were either very muddy or stony, making sifting out the cockles challenging and taking longer, but everyone made it back in time to enjoy the sausage sizzle laid on by Ray and Janet Ryan, with food supplied by Paremata Auto Services. This is their first time supporting us for this event and we thank them very much for their contribution.



*Registration of volunteers outside Stout Cottage at the Reserve.*

Many thanks go out to all those who helped to make the day such a success including Jo Fagan of GW in providing health and safety as well as technical support, John McKoy whose talk to the team leaders at the start gave a thorough overview of the tasks needed to complete the transects, and all members of GOPI who were able to put aside their own activities and join in with the volunteers. In particular we thank Andre van Halderen for the superb organization demonstrated in the arrangements for this event.

There is such a lot of planning to do when bringing together the different elements of this project and it can seem miraculous when it all falls into place so smoothly.

Feedback from the general public was by and large very positive, one person even pointing out that it seemed GOPI worked like a seamless machine in having everything set up and ready to go. There were some constructive suggestions made, aimed mainly at speeding up the counting process, and these will be noted down in our analysis of the event



*Jo Fagan (centre) with the Abreys just starting the first quadrat.*



*Renee Mason and Jenny Brash measuring the cockles.*

## COCKLE SURVEY 2022 ...cont.

and acted on for future surveys.

This was number eleven of a continuous series of surveys that have taken place since 1992 and represents the longest running community science project in New Zealand. Over this 30-year period this project has built up a valuable set of records tracking the population of this important filter-feeding shellfish throughout the Inlet. It has seen an almost continuous increase in the numbers of cockles from a low point in 1995 to the present day. Only one survey, in 2016, saw a fall in numbers after a severe storm, coupled with the Kaikoura Earthquake two days earlier, dumped a large quantity of sediment into the Inlet. By 2019, however, the estimated population of 400 million was even higher than the 2013 level, a remarkable bounce-back. We will be keen to get the report from the NIWA scientists on this year's survey after they have processed the raw data and compiled the results.

Our appreciation goes out to every volunteer who turned up on the day and gave their time to this very important scientific project. Thank you all.



*Sorting their spadeful.*



*Christine Stanley (left), Bianca Hall (right) with Josh Todd at the rear counting their catch.*



*Ray and Janet Ryan firing up the BBQ at Pūātahanui Reserve.*



## INLET PLANTING PROJECT—THE END

The last of the planting sessions from our DOC Community Grant funding was carried out on 20 November at Ivey Bay. A sizable group of 6-8 volunteers arrived at 2pm and successfully put all 300 sea rush (*Juncus kraussii*) into the shores of the bay in about one hour. The pictures below show the story.

Thanks to all the volunteers who turned up to carry out the work and to Porirua City Council (and especially Baillie Graham) for all the help with the supplies and logistics on the day.

This was the conclusion of a very rewarding project that we announced in August 2020 after we had been granted nearly \$42k from the DOC Community Grant of that year.

The focus of the project has been to restore poorly vegetated buffers at key sites around the Inlet and to re-establish a saltmarsh habitat on the beach margins. We are hopeful that this work will help reduce some of the pollutants from road traffic reaching the waters of the Inlet and, very importantly, add much needed protection to feeding and breeding areas for the Inlet's birdlife. Added to these objectives was the provision of predator control traps and weed control, both of which will require ongoing management over the next year.

We would like to thank Committee members Andre van Halderen and Alistair Webb for the work they have done in coordinating the many aspects of the project, including supply and maintenance of traps. We would also like to acknowledge the strong support and help from Nigel Clarke of Porirua City Council. PCC has been a key supporter of the project which augments the work the council has done with riparian planting of the harbour streams.

It now remains to be seen how the new plants establish themselves over the next few months and years. If they spread their roots and top growth substantially the result will be the expansion of saltmarsh habitat all around the Inlet.



*The team of volunteers making good progress.*



*Ivey Bay before the planting day.*



*Ivey Bay after the day's planting session.*

## FEATURE ARTICLE

*Seagrass meadows are a key component of estuarine habitats around the world. They are, however, declining globally with New Zealand's harbours and estuaries being no exception.*

*Recently an intensive study of the seagrass meadows in Pāuatahanui Inlet has attempted to quantify the various environmental drivers of this regression with a view to understanding how the losses may be halted, or even reversed.*

*Our last feature article discussed the importance of seagrass to the environment. This time we look at how the seagrass in our inlet has declined and the results of the study to see what conclusions can be drawn from it.*

### *Can we restore seagrass meadows?*

In New Zealand, fine sand and mud, with particle sizes less than 1/4 mm (see note<sup>1</sup> at the end of this article) are considered to be the most pervasive contaminant affecting estuaries and sheltered coastal inlets.

New Zealand is a recently emergent landscape having friable marine deposits that cover much of the old basement rock. Natural events, such as extreme rains and windstorms, can result in such sediment being carried into and within coastal systems but a natural forest cover, which New Zealand once had, protects against large scale erosion. However, human-induced impacts resulting from land clearance and other activities have increased the erosion with resultant fine-sediment concentrations in coastal systems becoming problematic. This is thought to have contributed substantially to documented losses of seagrass meadows in a number of New Zealand estuaries and one of the main causes of the decline of seagrass in Pāuatahanui Inlet.



*Close up of seagrass at Ivey Bay, 2009.*

Severe weather events are a significant contributor to such erosion. An example was experienced when a large sedimentation event at Pāuatahanui occurred in May 1981 which delivered a sediment load of an estimated 36,000 tonnes to the Inlet. This was linked to a particularly wet spring and winter, and to a large rainfall event during that month. The fact that it took place in the aftermath of considerable landscape alterations to the Postgate area of Whitby was probably a severe contributor to the sediment load at the time and it is plausible that the weather event may have caused a catastrophic loss of seagrass from the inner part of the Inlet. Subsequently the meadows have not been able to re-establish, naturally or with restoration attempts.

Similar weather-related events have occurred several times since then, including the one in October 2016 that is thought to have been responsible for the lower cockle count of that year.

In Pāuatahanui Inlet about 40 ha of seagrass, measured in the inner estuary prior to 1980, have now been lost. But, in the better-flushed outer parts of the Inlet, seagrass still persists and is prominent feature of the intertidal zone. The losses have been directly attributed to the housing developments of the late seventies and early eighties, particularly as, over this time, the rate of sedimentation greatly increased from a natural background level of 1mm per year to 9mm by some estimates. Since then, sedimentation rates have fallen somewhat, but not to pre-1980 levels.

To address the seagrass loss, attempts have been made at restoring barren areas by manual transplantation. One such trial was conducted in 2015-16, organised by Megan Oliver and Fleur Matheson



### Feature Article ...cont.

of Greater Wellington. In this trial, two areas previously colonised by *Zostera muelleri* were re-planted with plants taken from other healthy areas in the Inlet and then monitored regularly by Mary Dinniss of GOPI to document the progress of the plants. The trial was, however, unsuccessful and the seagrass died off again, suggesting that sediment alone may not be the full story.

To establish the likely effectiveness of such initiatives, a group of scientists from NIWA, the University of Waikato and Greater Wellington Regional Council have collectively conducted a serious study of the seagrass in Pāuatahanui Inlet, and have produced a paper entitled "*Effects of Fine Sediment on Seagrass Meadows: A Case Study of Zostera muelleri in Pāuatahanui Inlet, New Zealand*" ([link below](#)). A summary of this was covered in this year's GOPI AGM during the presentation by guest speaker Dr Iñigo Zabarte-Maestu.

The theory is that, while seagrass meadows are vulnerable to fine sediment pollution, which results in reduced sunlight penetration and therefore diminished photosynthesis, complete loss of seagrass may be due to a complex set of multiple stresses that are an indirect result of the sedimentation.

In the study, the scientists investigated potential causes of seagrass decline, and failure to recover, by comparing a number of environmental factors including measurable light levels (more accurately, the *Photosynthetically Active Radiation* or PAR [light in the 400-700 wavelength range]) and the physical and chemical characteristics of the sea bed. The study compared areas of the Inlet that have permanently lost the seagrass (historical) with other areas that currently sustain a good growth (existing), together with areas where growth has been intermittent in the recent past (potential seagrass beds). Sensors were deployed to monitor the light levels, water temperatures and tidal changes, with the information being recorded for both winter and summer periods. Measurements of sea-bed sediment particle size, the oxygen levels, organic content, and the mineral composition were also taken.



*Seagrass meadow in Ivey Bay, 2009.*

The results, while not conclusive, are very interesting. As expected, the historical sites were found to have much higher levels of deposited mud and fine sand, along with high levels of suspended sediment, but they also had low oxygen levels. Organic content was also significantly higher in the historical sites compared with existing areas where, during summer months, seagrass activity would consume organic compounds. In contrast, PAR was similar at all sites.

The results suggest that the significantly higher mud content, and therefore density of the substrate material, is directly associated with lower availability of oxygen resulting in unfavourable alterations to the substrate chemistry. Together, these factors could cause the failure of seagrass to re-colonize at historical sites.

It implies that, for seagrass to recolonise, a high release of oxygen into the rhizosphere (the first few centimetres of substrate where the rhizomes grow) would be required. This in turn implies the need for an increase in the levels of PAR to reach the leaves. However, while the daily emergent light level (at ebb tide) has been proven to be key in providing resilience to the existing seagrass meadows, light levels during emersion at the historical sites was still high enough for effective photosynthesis. The fact that seagrass does not re-establish in these areas again suggests that the other factors are dominant.

### Feature Article ...cont.

Dr Zabarte-Maeztu summarises thus: ‘We link the loss of the *Zostera muelleri* from some habitats in Pāuatahanui Inlet to pollution with fine sediment, which exerts multiple stresses, particularly deoxygenation of the root zone. Light exposure does not appear to be an important factor limiting inter-tidal seagrass—which gets sufficient light during emergence, even where very muddy waters attenuate light strongly during submerged periods. At historical sites however, while PAR during emersion was high, seagrass has still not re-established, suggesting that emerged productivity cannot sustain the plants or, more likely, that other factors or interaction between them are dominant. In addition to alteration of substrate physio-chemistry and low winter submerged PAR availability, periodic smothering of seagrass plants by sedimentation events may have also contributed to seagrass loss, and failure to recover, at historical sites.’

In New Zealand generally there are currently many programmes being undertaken to try and reverse the loss of seagrass, including other attempts at transplantations similar to those trialed in Pāuatahanui Inlet. An alternative approach to these techniques, and one of particular interest, is an initiative in Kaipara Harbour being undertaken by the Cawthron Institute. Here, research has been done into the gathering of seagrass seed after the flowering period. The intention is to sow this into areas where the meadows have been lost and determine if this is more effective than transplantation. This follows previous research by NIWA scientists Matheson et al., 2017 and Zabarte-Maeztu et al., who in 2021 suggested the potential use of seeds for seagrass restoration in New Zealand. It will be interesting to see if this can produce the results hoped for.

- \* The PowerPoint presentation given at the GOPI AGM can be downloaded [HERE](#). (Note it is a 64Mb file)
- \* The background study can be downloaded [HERE](#).

NOTE 1. Sediment sizes are classified based on metric measurements, naming them with common terms and size modifiers. The terms, in order of decreasing size, are displayed in this table.

The modifiers in decreasing size order, are:

very coarse, coarse, medium, fine, and very fine.

Eg. sand is sediment that ranges in size from 2 mm down to 1/16 mm. Very coarse sand ranges from 2 mm to 1 mm; coarse from 1 mm to 1/2 mm; medium from 1/2 mm to 1/4 mm; fine from 1/4 mm to 1/8 mm; and very fine from 1/8 mm to 1/16 mm.

boulder	> 256 mm
cobble	256-64 mm
pebble	64-2 mm
sand	2-1/16 mm
silt	1/16-1/256 mm
clay	< 1/256 mm

Unfortunately, the entire classification is not as consistent as the terminology for sand—not every group includes size modifiers. (Source: The Science Encyclopedia—<https://science.jrank.org/>)



## JENNY BRASH RETIRES

After a long career in local politics and community service, former Porirua Mayor, Jenny Brash, has retired from Greater Wellington Regional Council where she represented the Porirua-Tawa constituency for twelve years.



*Jenny Brash at her investiture for Companion of The Queen's Service Order 2011.  
Licensed under [Creative Commons](#)*

We wish her well in her retirement although it is fairly certain that her new-found freedom will not be one of totally passive, quiet solitude. Her enthusiasm for the Inlet and its environs will probably continue in the form of ongoing engagements with community groups and government departments, pursuing her dream that the Inlet can be restored to a fully healthy habitat for all, wildlife and people alike.

Jenny Brash entered public life in 1983, spending six years as a councillor for Porirua City Council from 1983 to 1989, and three more years from 1992 to 1995. She was first elected Mayor in 1998, was unopposed in 2001 and re-elected twice, finally retiring from PCC in 2010. In that same year she won election as a councillor for Greater Wellington for the Porirua-Tawa ward.

As she at last leaves this role Jenny has good words to say about GW and has enjoyed working with the dedicated and hard-working councillor colleagues, management and staff.

Looking back over her career, Jenny is proud of the key role she played while Mayor, along with other key leaders such as Peter Dunne and Dame Fran Wilde, to get the National Government and Transit NZ (now *Waka Kotahi*) to fund and build Transmission Gully. She could see the benefits of having a second, inland, route for reasons of resilience, something that was proven to be correct when, in August 2022, the coastal highway, now designated SH59, was completely blocked by landslides, leaving TGM the only easy passage north of Wellington.

However, Jenny expresses considerable concern over the huge amount of silt that poured into the harbour during the construction of TGM, and after the 2016 earthquake and floods, that, according to GWRC environmental reports, has severely compromised the tidal flushing of the Inlet. There is now estimated to be 10 times the amount of silt sitting in the Pāuatahanui Inlet subtidal channels than there should be, unable to be flushed out properly due to the natural profile of the harbour entrance. The Onepoto channel is also filling up fast as experienced by the Waka ama teams at low tide.

Jenny recalls that, back in the 90s there was no funding for harbour management and no focus on its ecosystem health. In 1999, as Mayor and at the request of the Guardians of the Pāuatahanui Inlet, Jenny facilitated a meeting in her office of a group of interested parties gathered to discuss the growing concerns for the Inlet's health. They included our own Christine Stanley and the former Labour MP Margaret Shields. As an outcome of this meeting the *Pāuatahanui Inlet Action Group* was formed which produced an action plan aimed at steering progress towards better harbour management. It was from this team that the *Pāuatahanui Inlet Community Trust* (PICT) was created.

### *Jenny Brash Retires ...cont.*

In 2006 Jenny ensured funding for PCC's Long-Term Plan and, with the backing of council and the city, pushed for a strategic approach to identifying and addressing the underlying issues of the whole harbour. By 2008 the Porirua Harbour Programme had been established, supported by other bodies having a stake in the harbour like GW, WCC and Ngāti Toa. Funding also ensured the establishment of the position of *Porirua Harbour Strategy Coordinator*, filled by Keith Calder, who had previously worked for Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (Zealandia), to move things forward. After three years of work Keith and his team developed the *Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan*, recognising the need for a combined strategy for both Pāuatahanui Inlet and the Onepoto Arm. Jenny also supported the setting up of the *Porirua Harbour Trust* which was established in 2011.

Since those early days, Nigel Clark has come on board with PCC as the *Senior Advisor Harbour and Catchment*. Nigel has seen the development of the streamside planting programme for the streams that feed Pāuatahanui and Onepoto arms, something Jenny is really pleased to finally see happen, while wishing it could have been done when she was Mayor under the *Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan*, or at least prior to TGM being built.

During her time at GW, Jenny's priorities have been transport and the environment, and being GWRC's representative on Wellington Water from 2015-2020. As a member of the GW environmental committee Jenny continued her focus on the Harbour, both the Pāuatahanui Inlet and Onepoto Arm. She started setting her sights on the local and regional parks, such as Belmont Park and Battle Hill, and was a GW representative on the Whitireia Park board for 12 years. As they are headwaters of the catchment, management of the parks can benefit both arms of the harbour. Jenny pushed to remove stock animals (other than those on Battle Hill Farm Forest Park) as well as to improve the hillside native vegetation and riparian boundaries.

Throughout her 12 years on the regional council Jenny battled with different departments and officials for recognition of the major issues that affected the harbour and its catchment, and for improved regulatory services. These battles have been frustrating at times, and yet rewarding at others as her persistence has drawn some success in getting recognition that talk alone will not solve the ongoing degradation of the Inlet.

A big disappointment for Jenny has been the outcome of the *Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Implementation Programme* which was completed in 2019 and has since languished on a shelf without concerted efforts to see its 75 recommendations implemented. But her persistence to get action has resulted in a technical report on progress of all those recommendations, together with a summary report put up on the GW website, and she hopes these have been sent to all the Whaitua committee members, including Ngāti Toa who spent 4 years from 2014-2018 developing this important report with GW council officers.

Of particular concern, as always, has been the sedimentation that progresses at an ever-increasing rate, ten times the rate it should be as evidenced by recent hydrological surveys carried out by GW and NIWA. One of Jenny's themes has been her desire to see vacuum dredging of the harbour's subtidal channels, believing in the value of this to counter the ongoing infilling that is suffocating the aquatic ecosystems. She still wishes that this could be done despite the recognition of the \$7M price tag quantified in a 2018 study, carried out by David Stimpson at the request of PCC's Porirua Harbour subcommittee. This study also identified dredging as a non-compliant activity for the Inlet, which is the case for all New Zealand estuaries that do not have commercial shipping. Both these facts would put it out of contention, at least for the near future. Jenny is still concerned that if tidal flushing does not improve, the future remaining lifespan of the Inlet could be halved. Sea level rise may also have an impact but as yet there has been little research to model this.



### *Jenny Brash Retires ...cont.*

Jenny leaves the GWRC concerned by the past lack of governance but hopeful that this is about to change. A Porirua Harbour workshop to be held early next year, involving GW, WCC and PCC, will bring together different organisations and community groups, including Ngāti Toa who are responsible for the Kaitiakitanga of Te Awarua-o-Porirua/Porirua Harbour. The purpose is to discuss co-governance under a proposed *Accord*, taking on board the Whaitua programme recommendations together with a reviewed and revised *Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan*. She is disappointed that this workshop, which she had requested and was planned for a year ago, had to be postponed, like a lot of things, by Covid-19.

This latest initiative is surely something that Jenny will continue to take a keen interest in during her retirement, hoping to have ongoing involvement with restoration of the Harbour and our Inlet in the future.

Finally, Jenny sincerely commends and thanks all GOPI members and supporters for the recent riparian plantings around the Inlet (which will make a huge difference in trapping silt from the catchment streams after heavy rain); for 30 years of cockle-count data; for Inlet Clean Ups; and for the annual Photographic Competition, especially popular with young people, that has provided a rich visual history of the Pāuatahanui Inlet over several decades.

We all wish Jenny a happy and rewarding retirement.

Thank you and all the best from the team at GOPI.

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## INLET CLEAN UP POSTPONED

This year's Inlet Clean Up was scheduled to take place on Sunday 27 November.

Normally we would conduct the Clean Up regardless of wet or dry conditions in the area. After all, the activity involved is not one that is highly dependent on the weather of the day.

However, in this particular instance, the morning began very, very wet and never showed any signs of improving. In fact, at the appointed start time of 10:30, the rain storm gathered energy and produced a downpour that would have soaked anyone standing in it for more than a minute.

So, it was decided to postpone the event as

planned and instead choose a new date sometime in the not too distant future.

This date will be advertised as usual on our website home page.



## ON THE HORIZON

### The GOPI Photographic Competition is on

In the August newsletter we reported on the idea of a new broader photo-competition for next year that will cover the whole Harbour, not just Pāuatahanui inlet. This competition will be run by the Porirua Harbour Trust in conjunction with the re-named Porirua Photography Club. Planning for this is underway but it looks as though the presentations and display will not now be until early 2024.

So we have decided that GOPI will run its own competition in 2023 in the usual format we have followed for the last 30 years. We have just begun the preparation for this event and will report on the details as they come to hand on our website.

Last year's competition was slimmer than usual due in part to Covid-19 restrictions and a reduced youth element but it was still as successful as always. We are hoping this next one will be no different and we encourage all previous entrants to take part. We also look forward to seeing new photographers, young and old, so let your family and friends know it is taking place and invite them to enter.

We will also make arrangements for a Youth Photographic Workshop in the New Year, if we can, to help budding new hobbyists learn how to take a good photo with practical field experience to hone those skills.

The categories for the competition are unchanged: Scenic, Nature, Recreation, Human Impact (both good and bad) and Artistic, with its more free use of style and development, encompassing any of the other four categories or anything else.

So please dust off your cameras and lenses and take advantage of some good summer weather to find new ways of representing the beauty, drama and environmental aspects of our Inlet with stunning images.

Details about this year's competition will be published on our website as they come to hand so keep an eye out for the relevant dates of close-of-entry deadline, judging and prizegiving that will likely take place in May or June 2023.

We look forward to an exciting competition in 2023.

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### GOPI Website Update

Last year we reported on an opportunity that had arisen enabling us to move our website hosting rights away from Australia and back to New Zealand through Adam Rosner, the partner of then secretary, Marion Rosner.

However, despite best attempts to move the Silverstripe-based site across, the complexities involved with this software were prohibitive. The process, therefore, has been stalled for several months.

We can now announce that in August the decision was made to completely re-create our website with Adam as host and, through him, access to Wordpress Content Management System and all its tools and options.

The process of re-creation involves planning the appearance and layout of the new site as well as migrating



### *ON THE HORIZON ...cont.*

across the functionality and material content of the current site to the new one. Part of this process will be to review the content to see what should be retained and what can go. The menu structure will also change and we hope the site will have more accessible features for everyone who uses it.

The process is already underway. It's being guided by a sub-committee set up to work through the issues and provide direction for the webmaster, Michael Waldron, who will be actively involved in creating the new site's content.

We are expecting to take around six months to complete the project, maybe less if we go live with some of the content migration still left to work on after the change over.

If you have any ideas that you consider worth incorporating into a new version of our 'window on the community' then please make your suggestions by email to [pauainlet@gmail.com](mailto:pauainlet@gmail.com), subject 'Website Suggestion'.

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## Inlet Clean Up

As Lindsay has noted in his 'From the Chair' introduction, the Inlet Clean Up, which was scheduled for 27 November, was cancelled on the day due to the very heavy rain pouring down at the appointed time.

We will be scheduling another day for this event in the New Year and will post the updated information on the home page of our website when this has been selected.

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## 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 <http://www.gopi.org.nz/assets/membersForm/Membership-new.doc> or copied from the one at the back of this newsletter. Better still, if you've received this newsletter by email, just forward it to others with a note encouraging them to join.

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR THE PĀUATAHANUI INLET

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

**Boating infringements:** Greater Wellington Regional Council – 384 5708 (24 hours)

**Illegal fishing activity:** Ministry for Primary Industries – 0800 476 224 (24 hours)

**Pāuatahanui 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.

235 5052 (Chair, GOPI) or [pauainlet@gmail.com](mailto:pauainlet@gmail.com).



# Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet

[www.gopi.org.nz](http://www.gopi.org.nz)  
[pauainlet@gmail.com](mailto:pauainlet@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join the Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet you may pay your subscription in person or on line.

TO MAKE YOUR PAYMENT	NOTE
<p>Pay your subscription at a bank branch, or on line, into our Westpac account: <b>03-1533-0009387-00</b>. When on line, use the 'Particulars', 'Code' and 'Reference' columns to write your <b>surname, initials</b> and the <b>period</b> of your sub (1-yr or 5-yr).</p>	<p>We do not have a postal address so please email all correspondence.</p> <p>If you have something that cannot be delivered electronically please send a request by email and we will contact you to arrange collection.</p>

Then fill in this form with all details.

(If you are filling in this form electronically **CLICK** at the beginning of a dotted line and then type).

Name .....	
Address .....	
Email .....	Phone .....

Please put 'x' next to the subscription you are paying. (For electronic completion **HIGHLIGHT** the box and type a lower case 'x').

You can also make a donation. (We are a registered charity for tax purposes. Registration Number: CC47523).

One-year individual (\$12.00) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Five-year individual (\$50.00) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
One-year family (\$15.00) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Five-year family (\$60.00) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation \$ .....	Do you require a receipt for your sub? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	or your donation? .....
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>For online banking –</i>	Bank <b>Reference</b> appears as .....		
	Date subs were paid .....		

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

Please put 'x' in a box if you would like to take part in one or more of our activities.

Annual Clean Up day .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Submissions to local bodies .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Three-yearly cockle survey .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration Planting .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Website and video clips .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: .....	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now email the form to: [pauainlet@gmail.com](mailto:pauainlet@gmail.com)

*Thank you and welcome to the Guardians*