



ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

I am pleased to present the 2018/19 annual report for Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust.

Introduction

The Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust (marketed as Porirua Harbour Trust) was formally established on 11 March 2011. The work of the Trust covers the catchments and the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour comprising the Onepoto Arm, the Pauatahanui Inlet and the outer harbour.

The objectives of the Trust are to promote the sustainable management of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and its catchment by:

- (a) Advocating for the sustainable management of the harbour and its catchment;
- (b) Fostering the understanding of ecological and environmental issues associated with the harbour and its catchment through education and community awareness;
- (c) Coordinating input from community groups on issues relating to the harbour and its catchment;
- (d) Supporting, promoting and contributing to programmes and projects aimed at improvements to the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and its catchment, where appropriate;
- (e) Engaging in any other activities and processes that are complementary to any of the foregoing objectives.

Trust Activities

The Trust's work and achievements depend on the time given by trustees and advisory trustees (all volunteers) and our education co-ordinator (contractor).

The key activities during the 2018/19 year were:

- **Education Programme:** schools in the catchment area for Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour are highly engaged with their local environment, and young people continue to be interested and concerned about the health of their local waterways. Thanks to the generous support of the Philipp Family Foundation, the Porirua Harbour Trust's education programme continues to strengthen and, since the programme began in 2014, we have now engaged with 50 schools of the 53 in the catchment. In the year to December 2018 we engaged directly with 33 schools, including running teacher professional learning events, providing resources and equipment, and helping with advice and support for student trips and action projects. In the period January to June 2019 we engaged with 24 schools.

We continued to collaborate with other educators from Enviroschools, Pātaka, Mountains to Sea Wellington, Sustainable Coastlines, Partners Porirua, Papa Taiao and many more. All of our teacher PLD events in 2018 and 2019 have been in collaboration with Enviroschools. We are very well supported by our councils (PCC, GWRC, WCC) and mana whenua (Ngāti Toa Rangatira). We would like to thank PCC and GWRC for their support and funding contributions to the Trust and the education programme.

In October 2018 the catchment education network began a collaborative evaluation process, with funding from PCC, GWRC and the Philipp Family Foundation. An evaluative framework and methodology was developed and is being assessed to determine whether to proceed with a formal evaluation.

This year we were pleased to secure funding from PCC and GWRC to work with local students on the second edition of 'The Current' student journal about the harbour. Seven primary schools from within the catchment area for Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour are working with local artists and writers to produce a variety of work that will be included in the journal. This follows on from the first journal project in 2017, and sets of the second edition of the journal will be distributed to primary schools, to add to their collection of resources.

- **Strategic direction:** we began a review of our strategic direction in July 2018 followed by a workshop in August. We concluded, given the number and expertise of trustees that we should: be a voice for the environmental wellbeing of the harbour and catchment and focus on strategic matters; be recognised as the “glue” that’s helping manage the commons/public space; assist in building partnerships between councils and communities and work with community groups to raise issues and assist in raising their profile.

This approach would see a greater focus on building relationships and working with the community. The Trust's initial foray has seen it working with the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet (GOPI) on signs at Motukaraka Point and with the Friends of Taupo Swamp (FOTS) and GOPI on the implications of a proposed very large subdivision in the northern part of Porirua city.

- An (unexpected) outcome of the process was a decision by the local authorities (PCC, WCC and GWRC) to withdraw from the Trust. The position of Ngati Toa Rangitira is unknown at the time of writing and is presumed to be similar to those of the councils. This decision means that the Trust's deed is being reviewed. PCC has agreed to facilitate this process and to underwrite the cost of doing so in a cost-sharing arrangement with WCC and GWRC.
- We decided not to prepare an annual “State of the Harbour” scorecard on progress towards a healthy harbour. We believe that this is the responsibility of the councils. We were disappointed that the councils' 2017/18 annual report on the harbour action plan lacked any data and analysis of the health of the harbour in a manner similar to the trust's scorecard report. We will review our decision following an assessment of the councils' 2018/19 annual report on the harbour action plan.
- We undertook some long overdue maintenance on our websites and will consider a refresh project following completion of the trust deed review and a better understanding of how the Trust will operate in the future.
- We made submissions on PCC and GWRC Council Long Term Plans, PCC and WCC draft growth plans, PCC draft district plan (objectives and policies); the Porirua Adventure Park; GWRC Pest Management Strategy; GWRC park network plan review; Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour 2017/18 Action Plan annual report and Wellington Water workshops on Porirua Wastewater project (participation in workshops).
- In the final decision on the resource consent for the Porirua Adventure Park, the commissioners require that the applicant, in consultation with PCC, establish a Rangituhi Users Group on which the Trust has been identified as a participant. This is a significant recognition of the role the Trust can play in highlighting the values of the harbour and catchment when land developments affecting the harbour are being planned.

The Year Ahead

In the year ahead we will need to:

- complete the review of the Trust's deed;

- assess the implications of the revised deed for the next 5 years and develop a new strategic plan;
- appoint further trustees;
- assist in implementing the Whaitua Report recommendations and keep them alive and at the centre of political and community discourse;
- decide whether to proceed with the proposed education project in Western Porirua;
- continue support for our education resource for schools in the catchment and supporting teachers;
- decide whether to carry out a harbour scorecard report;
- increase our engagement with the community across the catchment on catchment and harbour matters;
- assess and contribute to the planning initiatives of local authorities, land development projects (e.g, Plimmerton Farm development, resource consent renewal for the Porirua wastewater treatment plant), and
- participate in the Rangituhi Users Group.

Financial

The Trust has a policy of seeking funding for our major projects through grants. We continued to fund our education programme with support from grants and the Philipp Family Foundation. We continued to receive financial support for the education project and trust activities from Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council - their support is warmly appreciated.

The Trust gratefully appreciates and recognises a grant from the Hutt-Mana Community Trust to print large maps of the catchment for use at teacher development days. The maps are provided to teachers for use in their schools.

The financial report shows a surplus for the year due to funds being received in advance of expenditure on the education project.

Management of the Trust

The Trust appreciates the significant support it receives from the Porirua City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Wellington City Councils. We engage with and attend meetings of the Te Awarua o Porirua Joint Harbour Committee.

Trustees

The Trust has four nominated Trustees, five appointed trustees and three advisory trustees.

During the year the Trust received resignations from Larissa Toelupe and Kylie Wihapi who were appointed trustees. The Trust appreciates their contribution to the Trust. Larissa was the driving force behind the Samoan language version the "Living Waters" DVD, called "Home to Harbour".

Larissa Toelupe made another extensive contribution to the future environmental health and wellbeing of the harbour and catchment through her membership of the Whaitua Catchment Committee.

We record the passing during the year of Dr John Wells who was an inaugural trustee. His freshwater science and research experience was invaluable and has proven difficult to replace.

The work of all trustees and Lauren James (secretary) is gratefully appreciated and recognised. We valued the advice of Peter Gilberd and Jenny Brash who are nominated trustees for WCC and GWRC respectively.


Acknowledgements

The Trust acknowledges the retirement of Keith Calder in December 2018 from his role as the harbour co-ordinator with Porirua City Council. Keith was the first person to hold the position and was instrumental in giving the harbour and catchment a "voice" within the council and promoting its policy and environmental significance. We welcome Nigel Clarke who replaced Keith.

We remain grateful for the generous and valuable sponsorship from the Philipp Family Foundation Charitable Trust for the education programme and our education coordinator. The regular contact that our education co-ordinator has with the Philipp Family Foundation and especially Robin Philipp and Peter Sherwin has assisted tremendously in furthering our education programme during the past year.

The dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm shown by Rebecca McCormack, our education co-ordinator is well recognised in the region. Rebecca is highly respected by community education providers, schools and local authorities.

Trustees record their sincere appreciation for the leadership, commitment and work of Grant Baker who chaired the Trust since its inception in 2011. Grant created and maintained a relationship with local authorities and was instrumental in developing the education programme. Grant remains a trustee and convenes the Trust's education programme committee.



Mark Neeson
Chairperson

30 June 2019