

## The cockles of Pāuatahanui Inlet



How Big?

How Many?

Where are they?

Come and help us find out at the 9th

# Pāuatahanui Inlet

## COCKLE SURVEY



3:00pm Sunday 27 November \*

Stout Cottage, Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve

(entrance between the cinema and the petrol station)

Fun

You will be counting and measuring the cockles on the mudflats to help us assess the Inlet's ecological health.

It takes 2-3 hours

Educational

Useful

You don't need any knowledge or previous experience. We will show you what to do.

Wear Gumboots

Bring the family

Wear old clothes

BBQ Afterwards

We provide equipment (but if you can bring a spade it would help)

Bring weatherproof gear

\* Rainy day alternative: Sunday 11 December at 2:00pm



Want to know more?

Contact John Wells (04) 234 1788

[www.gopi.org.nz](http://www.gopi.org.nz)

## The cockles of Pāuatahanui Inlet



The Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet run the cockle survey with the support of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).

### Why do we survey the cockles?

*Because changes in the cockle population tell us a lot about the health of the Inlet. This information is central to the implementation of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan.*

### How often do we survey them?

*Every three years.*

### How do we do the Survey?

*A series of samples from the shore between high and low tide marks are dug up and all the cockles contained in the samples are counted and their size recorded.*

### What happens to the data?

*The data is submitted to NIWA who process it and write a report. The report is made available on the Guardians' website.*

### How many volunteers are needed on the day?

*Lots! We need 25 teams of 4 - 5 people each.*

*Teams are made up of a team leader and at least 3 others. So we need at least 100 volunteers – adults and teenagers. (Even though we encourage parents to bring their young children, we don't count them as team members.)*

## COCKLE SURVEY



You can find out more about cockles and Inlet health on our website: <http://gopi.org.nz/the-inlet/natural-history/cockles-of-the-inlet/>