



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

It is an honour to present the annual report for 2021/22 of the Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust. This is the second year of the Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust and first full year of operation since cessation of the former Porirua Harbour Trust.

Introduction

The Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust was set up following a decision initiated by local authority representatives of the former trust who felt that they faced a conflict of interest given the primary roles of the organisation were advocacy and monitoring, especially of the activity and performance of the three Councils involved: the Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Porirua City Council and the Wellington City Council. They requested and Ngāti Toa agreed, that it would be preferable if the new trust was constituted of independent representatives drawn from the wider community.

The objectives of the Trust's deed are as follows:

- Advocating for the sustainable management of the harbour's ecosystem and its catchments;
- Fostering the understanding of ecological and environmental issues associated with the harbour and its catchments through education and community awareness;
- Co-ordinating input from community groups on issues relating to the harbour and its catchments;
- Supporting, promoting and contributing to programmes and projects aimed at improvements to the Porirua Harbour ecosystem and its catchments;
- Fostering an understanding that the rural and urban areas around the harbour have specific needs; and
- Engaging in any other activities and processes that are complementary to any of the foregoing objectives including to promote or undertake research

Strategic Direction

The year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 has been one in which the new Trust has taken time to develop a mission and strategy that charts a course for our efforts over the next three to five years. A copy of our strategy is available on our website:

www.poriruaharbourtrust.org.nz/strategic-plan/

Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust

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Activities

Winding up of Education Programme

A key activity for the first half of the year was to undertake a review of the Trust's ongoing involvement in the Education Programme which had been a cornerstone of the previous trust's operations for seven years. The review was particularly timely given the resignation of the programme coordinator, Rebecca McCormack, changes to the Education curriculum, completion of the pilot Our Place programme in Western Porirua and uncertainty about future funding from the Philipp Family Foundation.

It was gratifying to hear the high regard in which the education programme had been held for the around seven years of its operation and to be able to provide positive feedback to the funders for their investment. It was also realistic of the Trust to decide that we lacked sufficient education-specific governance expertise to continue overseeing such a programme. It was timely for PHACCT to withdraw and clear the way for other parties involved to continue the mahi.

Transmission Gully stormwater systems

The Trust was very concerned during the year of the damage that had been caused to the harbour from sediment washed down from the construction of the TGM highway. Numerous incidents of breaches of conditions (including a successful prosecution by the Greater Wellington Regional Council) heightened our wariness that pressure to open the motorway might lead to short cuts around storm water systems. We highlighted this concern via a media release published on our Facebook page and website. Information from the release also garnered coverage in the Dominion Post and other Stuff outlets. A subsequent OIA by the Trust to Waka Kotahi saw us provided with copies of the actual environmental and operating plans along with assurances that virtually all works had been completed. The Trust remains vigilant and will monitor the performance of TGM during severe rain events for any signs the stormwater system does not perform.

Climate Change

On 16 October 2021 I was pleased to represent the Trust at a meeting of "thought leaders" of Porirua regarding Climate Change. The meeting was hosted by Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira and The People Speak. The thrust of the meeting was that responses to Climate Change need to happen quickly at community level and that the local community needs the means for discussing and deciding what needs to be done to adapt to the impacts of climate change. A further hui on this is expected in 2022.

Submissions

Local government and Resource Management Act planning requirements gives the Trust an opportunity to make submissions on a variety of matters relating to development in and around the catchments that feed the harbour.

A submission was made on the consent application for construction of a storage tank adjacent to the ramp onto SH59 near the Porirua CBD. The Trust supports the proposal for the tank as a means of reducing sewage overflows into the harbour.

With a significant part of the monolithic structure being above ground the Trust believes that it will be a visually unappealing addition to the landscape on Porirua's front doorstep. We have urged the builders to focus on extensive plantings. Our proposal for a "green roof" for the structure was rejected, however.

Wellington Water and Porirua City lodged a consent to discharge output from an upgrade to the Porirua Waste-water plant. The Trust recognises the role of the Wastewater plant as a critical piece of infrastructure that must be upgraded and maintained to prevent pollution. We supported the proposal and all the proposed conditions to hold the operator to account. This included a request for representation on a community liaison group, which has been supported by one of the Section 42 technical reports by officials. We await further progress on the consent application.

Planning consent was also sought for extension of the life of the Willowbank Quarry off SH58. In a helpful move, planners took a representative of the Trust and a representative of GOPI on a site visit. This provided reassurance that water and sediment runoff would be provided for and the Trust, therefore, stood by its "neutral" position on the consent application.

Redevelopment of housing in Porirua East over the next decade involving a partnership between Kainga Ora, Ngāti Toa and the Porirua City Council entails significant work on three waters infrastructure. The Trust believes this initiative will make a large contribution to the health of the catchments and the harbour. We were pleased to be awarded party status under the fast-track application process applying to this work. First up has been a consent application for renewal of the sewer mains through Cannons Creek and Bothamley Park. The Trust made a submission which supported this work but reinforced the importance of attention to detail and auditing of construction activities, especially before, during and after major rain events.

The Porirua City Council is also making provision for future housing needs elsewhere in the city boundaries. In response to an early informal engagement process, we made an informal submission on the council's indicative framework plan for housing development at the southern end of Pukerua Bay. We noted that great care will be needed to avoid compounding sediment run-off down the catchment into the harbour.

Shared pathway Titahi Bay Road

The Trust was provided with a pre-consent application briefing on the proposed creation of a shared pathway and resilience works from Wi Neera Drive along the Titahi Bay Road to Kahotea near the Porirua Rowing Club. A new shoreline is also proposed at Wi Neera Drive near Takapūwāhia. The Trust looks forward to supporting the consent process and to progress on implementing a project that may well set the standard for other restoration and enhancement work around the harbour's edge.

Riparian planting programme

The Trust has been fully briefed on the riparian planting programme established by Porirua City Council, Ngāti Toa and Sustainable Coastlines. We believe this multi-year work is the single most effective way of reducing damage to the harbour caused by inflows of sediments and other pollutants. The Trust is heartened by results being achieved in the Kaipara Harbour which have seen a steady improvement in harbour health since extensive riparian plantings have been undertaken. We will continue to promote awareness of this work and lobby for its continuation beyond the current three year funding horizon.

Whaitua implementation and harbour strategy

It is now three years since publication of the Whaitua Implementation report for Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour made more than 70 recommendations required to help restoration of the harbour and the health of its catchments. In addition, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment published a report on estuaries in New Zealand that was very critical of the lack of effective governance mechanisms to ensure coordination of actions relating to estuary management. Thirdly, the Porirua City Council received an independent report from consultants that also pointed at deficiencies in harbour strategy and management.

Three years on, little progress has been made. The Greater Wellington Regional Council has embarked on a process to prioritise implementation of recommendations but has signalled that progress prior to a legislative deadline of 2024 is likely to be slow. Similarly, the Porirua City Council has moved away from development of a new harbour strategy and instead opted to focus its efforts on the recently funded riparian planting programme. Ngāti Toa has embarked on development of an iwi environment plan.

The Trust, as an independent observer of the actions of all the parties involved in harbour strategy and management, remains concerned that without agreement on an overall strategy and clear governance arrangements progress on clean up of the harbour and health of its streams will continue to be painfully slow. We have taken every opportunity we have had during the year to make this point and will continue to do so.

Objectives for 2021/22

Review and orderly exit from Catchment-wide and Our Place pilot Education programmes

Achieved

Three submissions to Council plans and consent applications Complete

Highlight need for completion of stormwater system for Transmission Gully Motorway before opening Achieved

Fill vacant Chair role Achieved

Fill vacant voluntary secretary role Not achieved

Agree on Strategy 2022 – 25 for the Trust Completed

Maintain website and facebook presence. Our website had an average of 260 user visits per month and facebook monthly page reach of 230 - Achieved

Ongoing interaction with officials, guest speakers and harbour stakeholders Achieved

Financial

In ceasing its education programme the Trust has foregone seeking renewal of funding from the Philipp Family Foundation. The Trust will make applications for sponsorship or funding where it develop proposals for projects requiring materials or services.

Minor administration expenses are currently covered from reserves with the overall account standing at a balance \$8979.25. Of that \$1,683.00 is from a tagged grant for education purposes not matched by an expense or commitment.

Management of the Trust

The trust started the year with a complement of 8 trustees out of a maximum of 10. Christine Jacobsen, from Titahi Bay, was welcomed to the Trust during the first quarter of the financial year. September saw the departure of our Secretary, Lauren James after several years dedicated service to the Trust. We thanked her for her work and wished her well for a move to Christchurch. March saw the resignation of Helen Sligo. Helen had served on the previous and current trusts since 2019. She contributed her expertise in education to governance of the Trust's education programme and also represented the interests of the northern catchments. At the end of the financial year action was underway to recruit two new trustees.

Current Trustees

Michael Player (Chair)
Daryl Hayes (Treasurer)
Ray Baker-Underhill
Lindsay Gow
Christine Jacobson
Mark Neeson
Christine Stanley
Phil Teal

Acknowledgement of support

As a small charitable services organisation the trust is totally reliant on the voluntary support and work of its trustees. I would like to record my thanks to all trustees for their expertise, energy and commitment to see the purpose and objectives of the trust fulfilled.

The Trust enjoys a good relationship with officials and advisors of the three Councils and Ngāti Toa and we thank them for their willingness to engage and share insights on their work in our common cause of harbour and stream health.

The Trust also acknowledges the support of Rob Apperdio and Story Box for providing hosting of www.poriruarbourtrust.org.nz as a our outward facing platform for promoting and informing the public on harbour related matters.

We also recognise the work of our financial reviewer, Phil Major, for his expertise in helping the Trust meet its Charitable Services compliance requirements. Phil's work is dependent on a clear set of financial records and statement of service performance. Thanks are due to our Treasurer, Daryl Hayes, for ensuring we meet our responsibilities in all financial matters.

Finally, I would like to thank the local management of the Ministry of Social Development for allowing us to use their Community Meeting Room for our monthly meetings. While the COVID pandemic has meant that we have resorted to either hybrid or Zoom only meetings more often than not we appreciate the continuing reservation of the room for us on the first Tuesday of each month between 4pm and 5.30pm.

Michael Player

Michael Player

Chairperson

Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust

30 June 2022