



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 confirmed at AGM 3 Sept 2024**

I have the pleasure of presenting the annual report for 2023/24 of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust.

### **Introduction**

The Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust has completed its third year of operation, as successor to the original Trust in place from 2011 – 2021.

The Trust continues to actively pursue the objectives set down in the Trust deed, namely:

- 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 saw a subcommittee made up of recent trustees take a fresh look at the Trust's strategy. This resulted in development of a logic model which is now being applied to keep the Trust on track as an active entity.

## **Activities**

### Photographic competition

The undoubted highlight of the year was the culmination of the Trust's two-year project to run a photographic competition to highlight the various roles of the harbour in the lives of local citizens and pictorial observations on its status. Entries were sought over six categories as well as a children and young people's component. A feature of the competition was the wide range of entries from novice photographers through to highly experienced practitioners.

Award winners were announced at a highly successful opening ceremony on 1 February 2024 attended by 125 guests. Prizes were presented by the Mayor of Porirua, Anita Baker and the Chief Judge, Simon Woolf. A two month-long exhibition of category winners followed at the Blue Bottle Creek Gallery in Pataka.

The Trust was well supported in the venture by our strategic partners, the Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet, the Porirua City Council harbours team, Pataka, Jason Clark Real Estate, Trust House and Epson. Support was also provided by the Porirua Photographic club and Ngāti Toa.

It is envisaged the Trust may run the competition again at a frequency to be determined.

### Hikoi for Te Hononga

Te Hononga (the Wellington Catchments Collective) was established in 2023 to provide a similar role to the Trust across the whole of Greater Wellington. The Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour Trust is a member of the Collective along with numerous other catchment groups in Wellington City and the Hutt. Te Hononga holds zoom meetings approximately every two to three months and once a quarter holds hikoi for participants to visit a variety of catchments. Porirua's turn took place on 27 April this year with a visit to the Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve where the 20 attendees heard about the history of the reserve and observed the plantings and birdlife nearby with the help of foundation reserve members – Kim Livingstone and David Cornick. A smaller group then visited the "Barrowside" farm in Grays road to observe valley restoration work and to gain a panoramic view of the Inlet and surrounding catchment.

### Pilot global stormwater and wastewater consents committee

Following participation in a group to work up terms of reference for community reference groups related to the consents process for stormwater and wastewater, I was invited to participate in a pilot global consents reference group early in 2024. The group was put on pause by Wellington Water after the first meeting in February while they undertake further consultation with mana whenua. It was expected that the committee would resume its work in August this year.

### Guest speakers

The Trust continued its practice of inviting guest speakers to talk with the Trust on matters of mutual interest. In 2023/24 guest presentations and conversations were held with:

- Nicola Patrick and Jimmy Young from the Greater Wellington Regional Council concerning the new Catchment team for Te Awarua-o-Porirua and its work.
- Robyn Smith from the Whitiereia Park Restoration group
- Nicola Etheridge and Ben Fountain from the Porirua City Council concerning the upcoming Long Term Plan
- Carra Hamon, Cally O'Neill, Ben Fountain and Makarita from the Citizens Assembly Design team on climate change

### Submissions

Making submissions to local authorities, delivery agencies and Parliament continued to be a core deliverable for the Trust this year. A record number of submissions were made as follows:

- Wellington Region and Porirua waste minimisation plan consultation
- Kainga Ora draft proposal for making the Northern Growth Area of Porirua a special development area under the Urban Development Act.
- Wellington Water on their community engagement model
- Greater Wellington Regional Council on Natural Resources Plan Change 1
- Wellington Regional Leadership Committee on the Future Regional Development Strategy
- Porirua City Council proposed long term plan 2024-34 (also appeared at hearing)
- Wellington City Council proposed long term plan 2024-34 (also appeared at hearing)
- Greater Wellington Regional Council proposed long term plan 2024-34
- Environment Select Committee of Parliament – Fast Track Approvals Bill 2024
- Plimmerton Farm Fast Track approvals panel June 2024

In addition to formal submissions the Trust also:

- Joined with the Pāuatahanui Residents Association and Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet to seek clarity on the riparian planting scheme for rural areas. Met with Councillor Josh Trlin and then with Mayor Anita Baker and Nigel Clarke (Harbour Coordinator)
- Wrote to Wendy Walker, CE of PCC, requesting attention to the state of the Camborne Walkway car park at Grays Road. Wendy indicated that council officials were putting the matter on their work plan and would come back to us in due course.

### Harbour Accord still not signed

The long awaited Harbour Accord has yet to be signed. Originally planned to be signed by the Chief Executives of Ngāti Toa, Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Wellington water in June, it was then decided that the Accord should be signed off at governance level by councillors before final signing.

The Trust has been concerned that since the former joint harbour committee was disestablished in 2018 there has been no joined up governance mechanism among the key organisations with a stake in the harbour.

The Trust believes that until an outcomes based strategy is developed for the harbour and its catchments, then progress on restoring health of the waterways will be slow and piecemeal at best.

There have been indications that community input into matters to follow signing of the Accord will be sought and the Trust looks forward to participating.

### **Objectives for 2023/24**

- Host “Show us your harbour” photography competition and stage exhibition of prize winners at Pataka Achieved
- Minimum of four submissions to Council plans, consent applications and central government draft legislation Exceeded
- Fill trustee vacancies Achieved
- Review activity plans at a strategy day and agree on priority actions for year ahead Achieved
- Maintain website and facebook presence. The Trust has continued to make posts to both its website and facebook in the year. Content posts exceeded that of the previous year. Unfortunately a change to Google Analytics has made traffic comparisons year on year impossible to make. Achieved
- Liaison with elected councillors, officials, guest speakers and harbour stakeholders Achieved

### **Financial**

The Trust successfully sought donations and sponsorship in cash and kind to cover costs associated with the photographic competition. This meant that insofar as the Trust’s accounts are concerned the impact of the photographic competition was nil. The Trust continues to cover minor administration expenses from reserves. As at 30 June the Trust had \$8567.00 in its bank account.

### **Management of the Trust**

The Trust was delighted to welcome new trustees to replace vacancies that arose late in the previous year (Ray Baker-Underhill resigned May 2023 and Steve Kenny resigned June 2023).

The new trustees were: Dr Rob Stratford, Gloaming Hill, (of Victoria University and previously Assistant Principal at Mana College) and Kathy Stirrat, Paremata, (a manager with the Climate Change Commission). Rob and Kathy have skills and experience that are already being put to good use in the Trust.

With the arrival of Rob and Kathy the Trust was back to a full bench of trustees. The Trust does, however, have the added provision of being able to recruit Advisory Trustees to help support our work.

In March we were fortunate to recruit Devina Shetty as an Advisory Trustee. Devina, who lives in Grenada North, and is employed by the Ministry for the Environment has a degree in Marine Science and has experience in management of freshwater catchments.

Devina adds a scientific and environment sector perspective to our work. Three months into her Advisory Trustee role Devina was unanimously promoted to full trustee status following the retirement of Mark Neeson.

Mark Neeson gave a decade of sterling service to the Trust and its predecessor. He brought a fine analytical mind to trust business and personally crafted many compelling submissions. Mark took over as Chair in 2018 and successfully steered the Trust's transition to a fully independent community trust in 2020. His experience and skills will be sorely missed but I am reassured by Mark's willingness to remain as a "Friend Of" the Trust. In this way we hope to continue harnessing his input from time to time.

### **Current Trustees**

Michael Player (Chair)  
Daryl Hayes (Treasurer)  
Lindsay Gow  
Christine Jacobson  
Christine Stanley  
Devina Shetty  
Kathy Stirrat  
Rob Stratford  
Phil Teal  
Saar Cohen-Ronen

### **Acknowledgement of support**

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: Mark Neeson continued to work hard on monitoring Council agendas and developing submissions right to the end of his service as a Trustee. Lindsay Gow continued to bring his long experience in environmental matters to the table. He was very concerned with the content of the Fast Track Approvals Bill and crafted a very detailed and compelling Select Committee submission in response. Phil Teal worked on submissions and supported me in appearing before the Wellington City Council Long Term Plan hearing. He also produced a draft site map for potential redevelopment of our website; a project that continues to challenge us. Christine Stanley continues our rural affairs champion mounted a united approach with partner organisations to PCC on the riparian planting programme. She also hosted a group from Te Hononga on her family farm to look at treatment of hill country farm valleys. Saar Conen Rohen always makes salient comments on Trust business and has put up his hand to be the next Treasurer. Christine Jacobson masterminded the superb photo competition and helped curate the accompanying exhibition. She was well supported by Daryl Hayes who in his Treasurer role provided excellent stewardship of the funding required to mount the competition.

In addition to the contributions of long standing trustees our “newbies” group of Rob Stratford, Kathy Stirrat and Devina Shetty (with Saar as a ring-in) met to take a fresh look at the Trust’s strategy and action plan. They produced the logic model referred to earlier. It was good to see Kathy and Rob put their hands up to be Acting Chair during my two month absence late in the financial year and for the first month of the new year.

The Trust is very much dependent on maintaining good relationships with politicians, officials and advisors of the three Councils as well as Ngāti Toa as mana whenua. We are blessed that the doors of key individuals in all these organisations remain open to us.

Providing a public window on the Trust and its campaign to create better understanding of environmental health requires a presence on the internet. The Trust continues to have a behind the scenes support from Rob Apperdio and Story Box as host of [www.poriruaharbourtrust.org.nz](http://www.poriruaharbourtrust.org.nz), for which we are truly grateful.

Phil Major, our honorary financial reviewer continues to provide assurance to ourselves and the Charities Commission on the Trust’s financial accounting and statement of performance and we thank him and his staff for their annual review of the books.

As a group that meet once a month on a face to face basis we are highly dependent on having a regular meeting place. MSD Porirua continue to let us use their community meeting room in Lydney Place. Thank you Susan McLennan for being our booking agent and principal departmental contact.

Michael Player

Chairperson

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust

30 June 2024