



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TE AWARUA-O-PORIRUA HARBOUR AND CATCHMENTS COMMUNITY TRUST 2024/25

I have the pleasure of presenting my fourth annual report for the Harbour Trust, this one being for the 2024/25 year of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust.

Introduction

The Trust continues to operate in strict accordance with the objectives set out in our 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

Setting our course

In what is now accustomed practice, trustees met in November to reflect on the year past and to plan for the year ahead. We all agreed that we needed to be realistic in what could be achieved by a small group of trustees and “friends” of the Trust. Having said goodbye at our AGM to Daryl Hayes (a stalwart of the Trust and our Treasurer) and Dr Rob Stratford, the recruitment of replacements was an obvious task requiring attention. Previous experience with recruitment has suggested that direct approaches to individuals can result in a better “strike rate” than broadcast methods. We, therefore, held off using direct mail or media to advertise for new trustees. Instead, several approaches were made to individuals thought likely to make good trustees.

Unfortunately, several such approaches produced no result. The Trust, therefore, will mount a broadcast campaign for new members starting in July 2025.

Revising our digital footprint

Trustees agreed that our top priority for 2024/25 would be to redevelop our website and look at other related digital channels. Our current website dates from 2012 and has become difficult to manage over the years given the degree of code customisation that occurred when the website was transferred from one platform to another some years ago. We have been well supported by StoryBox in hosting our current site. They have advised that the server the site is on is a legacy one and it is time to move it off. We are aiming to do that soon.

We are looking at social media offerings, given that the only site we are on is Facebook which reaches a good but limited audience. To help us do this work we are very fortunate to have the support of Ron Hooft, an i.t. professional who offered to help as a volunteer.

Harbour Accord signed

One of our key points of advocacy over recent years has been for a replacement of the former joint harbour committee of councils and iwi to ensure a more joined up and strategic approach to harbour health. We were pleased to witness, therefore, the signing of the Harbour Accord on Waitangi day. Signatories were Ngāti Toa Rangatira, the Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council as well as Wellington Water Ltd. The Trust also participated in a Harbour Summit on March 5 in which the signatories and other advisers made presentations on the current state of the catchments and the harbour as well as best practice methods. The Trust congratulates Ngāti Toa Rangatira for its leadership on the Accord and for convening regular meetings to map out short, medium and long term plan of actions. A key test for the new Accord will be how prominent a priority the proposed new multi-council water entity covering three waters will have for Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and catchments. We are strongly pushing this point in our interactions with the councils who will own the new water body and set their statements of expectations.

Submissions

Submissions to central government and local government continue to feature as an important core activity of the Trust. The change of Government in late 2023 has led to revisions of policies and legislation relating to the environment. Local authorities too weighed in with several consultations. In the year just past the Trust lodged a total of 10 submissions on the following:

- Government “Fast Track” Bill for development projects (including appearance at Select Committee)
- Hearing 2 of the Regional Council’s Natural Resources Plan Change 1 (including an oral presentation by Phil Teal (trustee))
- Plimmerton Farm consent process for Stage 1 under the 2019 Fast Track legislation
- Joined Te Hononga submission on Resource Management Act changes relating to freshwater
- Submission to Te Ara Atawhai on possible changes to national wastewater standards
- Supported Te Hononga in trying to convince the Greater Wellington to proceed with rather than pause NRP Plan Change 1 (Lost 7 votes to 6)
- Porirua City Council Freedom Camping sites (including oral presentation to Council). Successful “status quo” outcome.
- Local Water Done well consultations by Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council (including oral support of submission at PCC hearing day)

Guest speakers

The Trust were delighted to host guest speakers at our meetings on five occasions for the year in review. Guest speakers were:

- Mike Mendonca, GM Infrastructure, PCC
- Julian Emeny, Manager of Parks and City Services, PCC
- Olivia Dovey, Manager Water Services, PCC
- Craig Nicholson, Transmission Gully Project Manager, NZTA
- Jimmy Young and Toby Barach, Catchment Managers, Te Awarua o Porirua

Other activities

- Maintained current website and public facebook page including 7 news posts. The website had an average of 152 site visits per month and the facebook page has 575 followers.
- Established a development website as pre-cursor to replacing existing site.

- Support for Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet and others on a joint-committee promoting the filming of a second series of the highly regarded “Living Waters”, to be known as Te Ara Ora.

Objectives for 2024/25

- Ron Hooft Review of Trust website and digital footprint *Complete*
- Development of new website and social media offerings *Ongoing*
- Minimum of five submissions to Council consultations, consent applications and central government draft legislation *Exceeded*
- Fill two trustee vacancies *Not achieved*
- Review activity plans at a strategy day and agree on priority actions for year ahead *Achieved*
- Maintain website and facebook presence. *Achieved*
- Liaison with elected councillors, officials, guest speakers and harbour stakeholders *Achieved*

Financial

As at 30 June the Trust had \$8406.72 in its bank account. Expenses this year were minimal , namely expenditure on domain name and zoom subscriptions.

Management of the Trust

The Trust was sad to farewell Daryl Hayes and Rob Stratford from the Trust at our AGM in September 2024.

As indicated above, Daryl had been a stalwart of the current and previous trust since their inception. In addition to being an ordinary trustee Daryl served as Treasurer. In that role he diligently maintained stewardship of our finances including liaising each year with the Reviewer, Phil Major and his team. Daryl’s incisive mind from his actuarial background and his love of recreational sailing served the Trust so well for many years.

Dr Rob Stratford had been with the Trust only a year but during that time his skills as an educationalist and his interest in restoration of the natural environment were very much to the fore. Unfortunately, Rob’s work demands escalated during the twelve months he was with us, necessitating his standing down to free up some of his precious time. We wished him well for the future and look forward to his continuing interest in Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour as a “friend” of the Trust.

The departure of Rob and Daryl, plus that earlier of Mark Neeson created three vacancies on the Trust. One of those was filled when trustees agreed unanimously to change the appointment of Devina Shetty from that of Advisory Trustee to full trustee.

Current Trustees

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

Acknowledgement of support

Early in the financial year the Trust reviewed arrangements for its monthly meeting time with a view to moving to an evening time rather than late afternoon. Late afternoon meetings often made it difficult for

trustees engaged in paid work to attend meetings. We resolved to move our meetings to the first Monday of the month. The out-of-hours meeting time necessitated a change of venue away from the Ministry of Social Development's meeting room in the CBD. We were grateful that following an approach by our Saar Cohen-Ronan to Chris Darnell, Vicar of St Mary's Church Whitby permission was given for us to hold our meetings in the church complex. St Mary's is a good location to meet given its proximity to the Transmission Gully Motorway and we wish to record our thanks to the Parish for welcoming our presence in their lovely venue.

As mentioned above, our current website continues to be hosted by Rob Appierdo of StoryBox. We should have our new website up and running by the end of the year. That will then enable StoryBox to move off what we understand is a legacy server.

While we have been fortunate that most of our work this year has been achieved without spending funds, demonstrating good stewardship of our finances is critical to all non-governmental organisations such as ours. We are very appreciative, therefore, for the support of Phil Major, our honorary financial reviewer in providing assurance on the Trust's financial accounting and statement of performance and we thank him and his staff for their annual review of the books.

Finally, I wish to thank all trustees for their support of me and the Trust in the 2024/25 year. The transfer of Treasurer responsibilities from Dary Hayes to Saar Cohen-Ronan has been achieved seamlessly. All trustees have participated enthusiastically at monthly meetings, including taking turns as minute-secretary and demonstrating their passion for pursuit of our collective long-term vision of restoration of the health of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and its catchments.

Michael Player

Chairperson

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust

30 June 2025