



**Manukau Harbour Restoration Society  
MHRS AGM  
17<sup>th</sup> August 2015 7-00pm**

**The Landing  
Onehunga Harbour Rd  
Onehunga**

**Chairman's Report**



# Overview

The Manukau Restoration Society (MHRS) continues to grow and sets goals to bring long term positive change to the Manukau Harbour by developing strong relationships between with central and local government and the community surrounding the Manukau Harbour.

## **Membership:**

Number of members: 151

## **Followers:**

Number of people following the various MHRS posts.

Facebook      5000 views  
Webpage      4000 views  
Twitter      300 followers

We are indebted to **Leonie Norton** who has revamped our social media presence and website making them all more attractive and helping us reach more people who are passionate about the harbour.



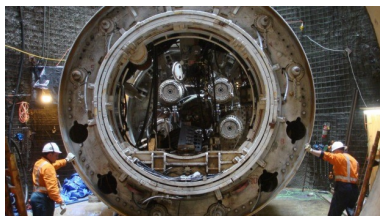
# Projects Update for 2014/2015

## ***Central Interceptor:***

Much of the year was spent in our appeal of Watercare's resource consent for emergency discharge from the Central Interceptor. We were granted \$40,000-00 by the Ministry for the Environment to support our appeal which we used for legal, ecologist and planning expertise. We were able to strengthen the requirements around emergency discharges and increase the backup equipment required to prevent discharges.

We were disappointed lack of continuing funding meant we were unable to continue the appeal. However, we gained a lot of information on the project, the nature of the current operation and quality of the current discharge which has led us to question it's effects on the harbour.

**Thanks to Roger Baldwin, Ken Duff and Brian Pilkington from Mangere Bridge and Judi Goldsworthy and Fred Buck** contributing the Weymouth perspective who have over many years worked with Watercare and Council to improve their operations affecting the harbour.



**Applied for Grant from  
Ministry of the  
Environment  
Granted \$40,000**



**We strengthened  
requirements on  
emergency discharges**



**Increased backup  
equipment**



## ***Watercare's effect on harbour water quality:***

Through the Central Interceptor appeal we learned the current discharge resource consent recommended Auckland Council review in October 2014 the effect of the current discharge on the harbour. We spent many hours trying to convince Councillors and staff members of the need for this review but we were unsuccessful. We have grave concerns that the improvements to water quality that were promised as a result of upgrading the treatment plant have not occurred. Our ecologist Gemma Allen continues to research data and reports to gain more information and we plan to have a top NZ scientist peer review our conclusions.

**We thank Gemma** for dedicating many hours to assist us.

**Lobbied resource  
consent changes review**



**Ecologist Gemma Allen  
continuing to Research  
data and reports**



## ***Mangroves:***

Hayden Mack has done a fantastic job obtaining \$16,920-00 in grant funds to continue to remove mangroves around Mangere Inlet in accordance with our resource consent. He and his team of volunteers have spent many weekends testing effective ways of removing mangroves and then going ahead and removing them. We anticipate this work will be finished by mid-September.

After 18 months of work we completed our research project with Dr Carolyn Lundquist and her team of scientists from NIWA. We hosted a community talk for her to present the data and conclusions. The data highlighted the rapid growth and spread of mangroves in the inlet. **Thanks to Hayden Mack, Geoff Sherman and Bronwen Turner** for leading this effort.

## ***Migratory birds:***

We hosted another community talk on the birds of the Manukau. We are having informal discussions with members of the Ornithological Society and the Miranda Shorebird Centre on the potential for establishing a bird/nature centre on the Manukau Harbour. Bronwen Turner is leading this effort.

## ***Seaweeek:***

We continued our involvement with Seaweeek and are pleased our Goodbye Godwit birdwatching morning has become an annual event at Ambury. This year we also organized morning rubbish clean up along the Mahunga Drive foreshore in cooperation with Sea Cleaners. **Thanks to James Papalii and his team of waka paddlers** for their efforts. We are pleased that due in part to our efforts, Sea Cleaners spent several weeks cleaning up the foreshore around the harbour and will be doing so now on a regular basis. We held our Seaweeek Manukau Harbour photo competition again with Ted Scott judging and hosting a photography skills class. As we had a small number of entries we need to rethink how to expand this activity if we continue. We also reached out to other partners such as Watercare and the Manukau Cruising Club to encourage them to participate in Seaweeek as well. This will be a multiyear task to get results. **We wish to thank the sponsors who donate the prizes to these events including NZ Geographic, Sanford's, Ian Prosser and Jackson Electrical.**

## ***Unitary Plan hearings:***

Submissions on the Unitary Plan and now appearing before the Independent Hearings Panel is consuming a lot of time and effort. This will continue through the first half of the year. Topics we have been active in include use of coastal areas and access to the harbour; removing transmission pylons from the foreshore; rewriting rules to allow restoration of the foreshore; mangrove removal provisions and the zoning of the Port of Onehunga. We have been promoting zoning in the Unitary Plan that would facilitate redevelopment of the Port of Onehunga as a transportation, visitor and recreation and fishing hub connected to Onehunga and the harbour communities and have been opposing POAL's submission to turn the property into industrial space. **Bronwen Turner is leading this effort.**

## ***Port of Onehunga:***

We continue to work with TOES, OBA and Sanford's and our political representatives on the community's vision for redeveloping the port. We completed our study with AUT which showed overwhelming community support for this vision of public use, a vibrant public transportation, recreation and visitor hub incorporating the fishing industry. We are also working with Sea Link on commencing ferry service on the harbour. An interesting project was working with architecture students from the University of Auckland on potential reuse options for the Port of Onehunga. **We thank Peter Gibson and Amanda Kinzett**

**\$16,920 grant funding to remove Mangroves**  
**Removing Mangroves**



**Research Project completed with NIWA**



**Hosted community talk In discussions re Bird/Nature Centre on Manukau Harbour**



**Involved in Seaweeek**



**Goodbye Godwit annual event**



**Rubbish clean up**

**Photo competition**



**Submission sent and presented on**



- Transmission Lines
- Coastal areas (SEA)\_
- Access to harbour
- Zoning of Port
- Mangroves

**Working with others to open access to Port**



**Architectural Students designed potential Port use**





## Manukau Harbour Forum:

We appreciate the support we receive from the MHF and work closely particularly with **Chair Jill Naysmith** on many of our projects. We are encouraged that the MHF continues to press for funds for research that will help us all understand the condition of the harbour and hopefully lead to better decision making.

## Transmission pylons:

We are grateful for the support of **David Holm of the Puketapapa Local Board** and **MP Phil Goff**, who led the petition drive seeking the removal of the pylons from the foreshore and harbour neighbourhoods. A Select Committee of Parliament is now pursuing the petition, our submission and the questions we raised of Transpower. We recommended a fund be established by Government to fund undergrounding in communities across the country. Bronwen and I continue to work with David and Phil through the Select Committee process.

## East West Connection and the replacement of the Mangere Pedestrian Bridge:

Auckland Transport and NZTA continue to work their way through the best route option. MHRS is opposed to reclamations of the style undertaken some 50 years ago however we would support such initiatives if new reclamation is undertaken for the right reasons, follows best practice, and addresses the upgrade of a highly compromised environment and the completed project provides a much improved outcome. The East West link located on the northern side of the harbour could use the sediment that our society has allowed to accumulate in the harbour as a structural component for the expressway. The expressway has the ability to provide a new foreshore right around the upper harbour for walkers and cyclists and by reducing the travel time between Onehunga and Highbrook, it could reduce the size of the truck fleet and associated carbon footprint. This project has the ability to bring economic and environmental benefits not only to Onehunga but all of NZ if all parties work together.

## Mangere Bridge All Tide Ramp

The Mangere Bridge All Tide Boat Ramp is now operational however there is the ongoing issue of sediment build up on the new boat ramp. Because of the build-up the ramp is not operational as a true all tide ramp during low tide unless council contractors have removed the sediment. This is a very disappointing outcome after Auckland Council invested \$3.1m to add one additional boat ramp to an existing boat ramp. The community advised Council on many occasions during the design and construction process that the angle of the new ramp was incorrect (below the mudline) however the community was ignored. It should be acknowledged the effort of **Mr Bill Kirk** former MCC councillor for the effort he has made to address this problem to make the ramp useable during periods of low tide.

Received support from  
Manukau Harbour Forum



Petition for removal of  
pylons



Present to Government  
Select Committee  
Recommendations for a  
fund



Support East West Link on  
Northern reclamation



Push for best practice and  
Mitigation



Use of sediment as con-  
struction material



Expressway for all  
Onehunga to Highbrook  
economic benefits



Ongoing issues re All Tide  
Ramp



Unable to get changes  
made



# Manukau Harbour Ongoing issues:

MHRS continues to have serious concerns about both the volume and quality of the treated waste water being discharged into the Manukau Harbour.

A report prepared by the Auckland Regional Council (2009) regarding the environmental condition and values of the Harbour makes disturbing reading as the Manukau Harbour supplies a mere 2% of juvenile snapper to the West Coast snapper fishery while Kaipara Harbour contributes 98%.

The report is unable to rule out environmental degradation and questions the quality of the treated waste water being discharged daily from Watercare’s various discharge points around the harbour including the Mangere Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Watercare’s Mangere waste water treatment plant discharges on average 300,000m3 of treated waste water plus suspended solids every day from their Puketutu Island outlet in effect making it Auckland’s biggest river with a flow greater than the Wairoa River in the Hunua Ranges.

Hydrodynamic modelling could provide valuable information regarding current flow confirming how many days the treated waste water discharged by Watercare each day takes to reach the Tasman Sea.

The shallow upper harbour tidal areas have little current flow that results in large areas with high concentrations of treated waste water which is potentially compromising the natural saltwater environment of this harbour.

There is concern that this significant volume of treated waste water is having a negative impact on the historical natural saltwater environment that the harbours shellfish birds fish that they have enjoyed for 1000’s of years

There are plans to build some 2000 new homes in the Clarks and Glenbrook Beach areas which will require an upgrade of the waste water treatment facilities in this area. MHRS would support such initiatives on the basis that there is no net increase of treated waste water entering the harbour and other options for discharge are researched.

Many years ago it was proposed to pipe the treated waste water from Watercare’s Mangere facility into the Tasman Sea but was rejected on cost. Placing greater waste water loadings into a shallow harbour is no longer appropriate and have we reached the point where the Tasman outlet needs to be reviewed and implemented to allow sensible residential and industrial development in the Waiuku, Glenbrook, Clarks Beach, Kingseat and Karaka areas? By taking the outflows from these satellite plants and using a common pipe discharging high quality treated waste water into the Tasman Sea it will become quickly diluted would be a cost effective and environmentally effective solution if the next generation of piping system was to be used.

Communities living along the Waikato River extract water from it clean it use it for human toileting purposes clean it up and then discharge back into the river. This process occurs many times as the water travels from Taupo to the Waikato Heads where it is finally discharged into the Tasman Sea where it becomes highly diluted in deep water with tidal flow. To meet Auckland’s ongoing development goals and become the world’s most liveable city should we consider the undersea pipeline option into the Tasman Sea.

**Concerns about volume and quality of discharge**

**Only 2% of Juvenile snapper from Manukau Harbour**

**Potential environmental degradation from Watercare and Mangere Waste Water Treatment Plant**

**Discharges 300,000m3 of treated waste plus suspended solids every day**

**Hydrodynamic modelling needed**

**Compromised natural saltwater environment**

**Impact on Shellfish, birds and fish**

**New housing around Manukau will require upgrade of infrastructure**

**Review of Tasman Outlet needs to be reviewed**

**Waikato River system used from Taupo to Waikato Heads**

***This coming year:***

We anticipate the official opening of the Onehunga Foreshore Restoration project in November this year and believe this will be stunning and well used community asset for all of Auckland to enjoy and will start to change process and people’s perception regarding Onehunga and the overall Manukau Harbour. Design of the East-West link will have an enormous effect on the foreshore of the harbour and Mangere Inlet. We are working hard to ensure the project enhances access to the foreshore and the Port of Onehunga. It is an opportunity to restore degraded parts of the foreshore and create some real community gems – or it could create a huge barrier and cut the community off from the foreshore and port and doom the harbour to continued neglect. One of the biggest issues facing the Manukau Harbour is its declining fish stocks. Rebuilding the harbours fish stock is critical to its long term survival and MHRS should be lobbying central and local government to start an effective change process of which will be generational.

I am indebted to the continuing dedication and hard work of all members of the MHRS executive team especially **Bronwen Turner** our deputy chair for their support. We also welcome Judi Goldsworthy and Fred Buck to the committee who joined us during the year.

1. Deputy Chair	Bronwen Turner	
2. Secretary	Geoff Sherman	
3. Treasurer	Jill Rowe	
4. Committee member	James Papali’i	Waka Ama
5. Committee member	Roger Baldwin	Water Quality
6. Committee member	Ken Duff	Water Quality
7. Committee member	Peter Gibson	Onehunga
8. Committee member	John Carr	Waiuku
9. Committee member	Hayden Mack	Mangrove Project
10. Committee member	Leonie Norton	Communications
11. Committee member	Judi Goldsworthy	Weymouth
12. Committee member	Fred Buck	Weymouth

We also acknowledge the resignation of **Murray McNaughten** (Awhitu Peninsula) from the executive team who has resigned due to changing personal circumstances however will remain as a member of MHRS.

We all appreciate the support shown to MHRS and I believe MHRS will continue to provide strong leadership in implementing positive change to the Manukau Harbour.

Signed



**Jim Jackson**  
**Chairman**  
**MHRS**

- Opening of Onehunga Foreshore Restoration East West Design** ✓
- Port of Onehunga** ✓
- Rebuilding the Harbours fish stock** ✓
- Advocating for Manukau Harbour for positive Changes** ✓

**Thank you to all of the committee Members**

**Acknowledge Murray McNaughten**