



THE MANUKAU HARBOUR RESTORATION SOCIETY Inc.

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Dear MHRS member and supporter:

Happy New Year.

I hope you've all enjoyed wonderful Christmas holidays. MHRS has been busy over the last few months and here's just a quick update.

Manukau Harbour Tourism and Recreation Study

AUT has completed Phase 1 of the study which entailed compiling a data base of all the recreation and tourism amenities around the Manukau Harbour that they could discover using the web. We plan to present this information at community meetings at 3 locations around the harbour during March. We'll send out details as these plans are finalized.

Phase 2 is an online survey of residents and visitors to the harbour. If you haven't already done so **please would you complete the survey by visiting** www.manukauharcoursurvey.co.nz or our web page www.mhrs.org.nz

Please encourage any visitors, including family members, who come to stay with you, to complete the survey before April 23rd. Perhaps you had family visit you over Christmas? It's not too late for them to complete the survey as well by going to the above web addresses.

We will use the information to help us work with elected officials and organizations to improve recreation amenities and tourism opportunities around the harbour and make a case to Ports of Auckland for different uses at Onehunga Wharf.

Appealing the Watercare Central Interceptor Project

The hearings Commissioners in December granted Watercare approval to pursue the Central Interceptor project. MHRS has objected to the project because it does not include reducing the discharges of untreated sewage and stormwater into the Manukau Harbour. In a major storm event, if Watercare's systems are overloaded the CI project could discharge additional untreated sewage and stormwater into the harbour area that has just been restored, potentially severely damaging the ecology and making shellfish and seafood unfit for eating. MHRS believes there are alternatives that will safeguard the harbour. We are concerned the project is sized to serve substantial new growth on the isthmus which will lock the harbour into another 50 -100 years of waste discharges.

MHRS, TOES and the Mangere Bridge Residents and Ratepayers have joined together to appeal this approval with the Environment Court. To mount this appeal we will have to hire expensive legal and ecological expertise and we don't have the funds. MHRS, TOES and MBR&R members have donated their time free to mount objections so far. We now need funds to pay for expert advice.

Please would you help us and donate to our legal fund by clicking on the "Please Donate" button on the homepage of our website www.mhrs.org.nz?

Waka Ama Festival and Regatta and Mangrove Removal

The biennial waka ama Festival and Regatta celebrating the historic portage route from the Waitemata to the Manukau Harbour will be held on **Saturday, 15 February from 10:00am – 4:00pm at Waterfront Road Reserve, Mangere Bridge.**

Paddlers will race from Okahu Bay to Auckland Rowing Club on the Tamaki Estuary, waka will then be pushed on trailers through to Otahuhu. From there, paddlers race up the Mangere Inlet to Hillsborough then back to the family festival at Waterfront Rd Reserve, Mangere Bridge, with free childrens' rides, arts, crafts and food stalls and live bands. Plan on coming to this fun, free, family-friendly event.

As we did 2 years ago, MHRS is removing the mangroves from the Mangere Inlet to allow the waka to put in to the harbour at Otahuhu. This is a site covered by our resource consent. We are managing PD workers to complete the clean up.

And we continue working with NIWA on monitoring mangrove reseeding at our research sites on the inlet. NIWA has expanded its research and is now looking at a number of cleared sites to better understand patterns of sedimentation, root decay and ecological change. Become part of our research team. **Join NIWA and us the first Saturday of each month.** We meet under the highway bridges just off Onehunga Wharf Rd. Times vary depending on the low tide. For more information email info@mhrs.org.nz.

Seaweek – Goodbye Godwits March 1 and MHRS photo competition Feb 26 – Mar 8

Now in it's 3rd year, Goodbye Godwits will be held again at Ambury Regional Park on Saturday 1 March. Godwits, turnstones and knots gather on the shellbanks before their annual migration north. Bring your binoculars. Ornithologists will be on hand to help identify the birds. Ambury park rangers have organized lots of free activities for families featuring godwits.

New this year will be a photo competition focused on the Manukau Harbour. Grab your cell phone or digital camera and starting February 26 upload your photos of the harbour to a special webpage <http://photocompetition.mhrs.org.nz/> featuring all the photos. Noted West Photographer Ted Scott will select the best photos and prizes will be awarded in the Adult and School-Aged categories.

Both these activities are being held in conjunction with Seaweek taking place from 1 to 9 March. More information on Goodbye Godwits and Seaweek can be found on www.seaweek.org.nz.

We thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or comments please email me at Jim@jackson.co.nz.

Many thanks.



Jim Jackson
Chairman,
The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society Inc