



TAMAKI ESTUARY PROTECTION SOCIETY

Founded 1969

TEPS Newsletter #55 August 2020

2020 Annual General Meeting



The elected TEPS Executive Committee (L-R): Robert Minhinnick, Bridget Thompson, Chris Millward, Dr Julie Chambers, Dr Julie Robson, Jim Sinclair, Dorthe Siggaard (Secretary), Paul Engles (Vice Chairperson), Beth Evans (Chairperson), Maureen Titchener. Not pictured: Bruce Douglas (Treasurer).

It was an important milestone for the society to finally have our Annual General Meeting (AGM), held at the Glen Innes Community Centre on 25 July 2020. This meeting enabled the society to recommence its work and to ensure that the statutory requirements of the incorporated society are being met.

The meeting was made possible by order of the Auckland High Court. The society was fortunate to have Jane Anderson QC appointed to chair the meeting. An executive committee was duly elected (see photo).

The new executive committee would like to thank our financial members, especially those present at the AGM, for giving us the mandate to re-activate TEPS and get the society moving forward again to fulfill its objectives of advocating for and protecting the Tāmaki Estuary.

TEPS Bank Accounts

As many of you will be aware, the society's ASB bank accounts were frozen in April 2018 by requested court order to prevent further usage of the accounts while in dispute. A temporary account was set up for the AGM and closed the day before the AGM, as authorised by Independent Chair, Jane Anderson QC.

The committee is working with ASB to authorise new signatories and set up internet banking (cheques are being phased out). Past expenditure and ASB's actions during the dispute will now be investigated. We will apply to have the court order lifted so accounts can be unfrozen.

Reset of Subscription Period and AGM Month

The TEPS AGM's constitutionally need to be held within three months of the end of our financial year, 31 March. Therefore, the 2021 AGM will be held in June. The committee has resolved to extend the current subscription period to 31 March 2021. This means those that have paid their subscription this year or join now will be financial members until 31 March 2021. The new subscription period will be 1 April to 31 March.

Donations to offset the drop in income from this reset are most welcome to the society's ASB account 12 3057 0634462 01 with 'donation' and your name as a reference.

If you wish to rejoin the society and have yet to do so, please pay a subscription of \$5 per person to the above account with 'sub' and your name(s) as a reference and email: tamakiestuaryprotectionsociety@gmail.com confirming your payment and contact details.

The next newsletter will only be sent to current members. The next subscription renewal notice will be in March 2021. Kindly let us know if your contact details change.

TEPS Clubrooms



In October 2017, the previous committee purchased the Waipuna Ski Club building at Peterson Reserve, Panmure Basin for \$5,000. The land is sub-leased from Auckland Council until 2024. The clubrooms sit between the Panmure Basin pathway and the Auckland Society of Model Engineers train tracks.

It is in a great location but has significant repair issues. A clubrooms sub-committee is currently assessing what is the most urgent work for weather tightness and security. Unfortunately, there has been recent repeated vandalism - glueing the locks - and some graffiti.

There is a lot of potential here to raise the profile of the society through community outreach and events. The executive committee will consider the costs, benefits and risks once an assessment has been completed.

Local Board Draft Plans 2020

SUBMIT ▶

TEPS has just submitted on the draft plans of the five local boards around the estuary. The society's objects informed the submission to each local board. One of the things we brought attention to was the need to consider shorebirds in any

proposal for artificial turf or night lighting of sports fields as these are increasingly used by shorebirds to rest and feed.

Commitment to continue jointly funding the Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum (TEEF); advocacy for regional funding for integrated catchment management, pollution prevention and enforcement; along with getting official signage of the set net ban installed around the estuary were among the items in our feedback.

TEEF have also made submissions to the draft plans, with TEPS Chair Beth Evans assisting with these in her role as part of the TEEF Executive.

Tāmaki Estuary News

Tahuna Torea Shorebirds 'Parking Sign'



New shorebird parking sign designed by TEPS member Shaun Lee and installed at Tahuna Torea sandspit this winter. Taken at low tide.

Photo Credit: Shaun Lee.

There are very few high tide roosts for shorebirds in the Tāmaki Estuary and these are threatened with erosion, sea level rise or development. Human and dog disturbance of the sleeping shorebirds causes them to use up precious energy reserves and can adversely affect breeding and migrations, leading to population decline. Birds New Zealand members Shaun Lee and Rowena West offered

Auckland Council a design to educate people and hopefully leave the birds to their rest.

Auckland Council have now installed it and are requesting to use it elsewhere in Auckland. Do you know a shorebird location that could benefit from a sign like this?

Shaun Lee is embarking on a shorebird roost design project for the Tāmaki Estuary in an effort to provide safe roosting spots and would like TEPS input. If you have any big ideas, please contact shaun@stet.co.nz

Shorebird Census Winter 2020



Some of the 284 South Island Oystercatcher (SIPO) feeding at high tide at Pt England Reserve sports fields and paddocks during the census.

Photo Credit: Shaun Lee.

Shaun led TEPS members and other volunteers in a simultaneous, multi-site shorebird count around the estuary in June to provide a snapshot of shorebird populations and high tide roosting sites.

It was a king tide and some shore roosting sites were underwater at full tide, forcing birds such as a flock of twenty three pied stilt to relocate first from the Tahuna Torea lagoon roost to the Omaru Stream rivermouth roost and when that also went underwater to fly on to the Pt England Reserve paddocks. This was observable because of the detailed observations of volunteers at different sites. Fifty one SIPO were also observed using Sacred Heart Colleges lower sports fields and twenty one white faced herons were found in a macrocarpa tree at Wai o Taiki Bay.

Dotterel Minding at St Kent's



Early in the year, a pair of Northern New Zealand Dotterel (NNZD) laid 3 eggs in a nest on Saint Kentigern College (SKC) upper sports field. Unfortunately two were predated but with the full support of SKC especially the grounds staff; dotterel minders and other volunteers, the final chick hatched and successfully fledged.

We are likely to see another nesting attempt late 2020 as NNZD show a high degree of site fidelity and five NNZD were observed there last week.

Pollution



*Catchpit in Line Rd with polystyrene beads and containers, Glen Innes.
Photo credit: Beth Evans*

Beth Evans, TEPS new chairperson and TEEF Event Coordinator and Nurdle Project Leader, has a habit of looking into catchpits. A casual glance into a Glen Innes catchpit led her to photographing and videoing almost every catchpit in the main town centre and informing the pollution hotline of multiple catchpits with polystyrene beads and other rubbish.

Using catchpit numbers from Auckland Council's GeoMaps, Beth identified which

catchpits needed to be cleaned before the next rain so this litter didn't end up in Omaru Creek. Most of the catchpits had been emptied when she checked them again but one hadn't so it was back to the hotline. The polystyrene balls cling to surfaces so even after 'emptying', some balls still remain. No source was found but it was likely packaging material not properly/insecurely disposed of or someone's dumped beanbag. Pollution officers do take polystyrene in the stormwater network seriously.

Please report any pollution you see to Auckland Council's **pollution hotline 377 1707** (24hrs/7 days) and get a reference number (they can text it to your mobile number).

FYI

Deadlines

26th August: feedback to Maungakiekie-Tāmaki and Ōrākei Local Boards Local Parks Management Plans close.

<https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/maungakiekie-tamaki-local-parks-management-plan>.

A new interactive tool allows you to search for parks on a map and give feedback on them by dropping your comments right on the map.

<https://aucklandcouncil.mysocialpinpoint.com/orakei-maungakiekie-tamaki-local-parks-management-plan#/sidebar/tab/comment>

New Publications

Last week the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment released the report *Managing Our Estuaries*. It finds that estuary management is not about managing the body of water itself but rather about managing the activities that affect it.

<https://www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/managing-our-estuaries>



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Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society - preserving, protecting and improving the waters, life and shores of the Tāmaki Estuary.

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