



TĀMAKI ESTUARY PROTECTION SOCIETY

Founded 1969

TEPS Newsletter #56 December 2020

Clean-Up 12th December

Join **TEPS members and other volunteers to remove litter and microplastics from the estuary.** Event details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/779943719527401>

This clean-up is a Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ) and Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum (TEEF) collaboration.

TEPS is a participant organisation of TEEF - which meets every two months to discuss, advocate and advance the mahi of people trying to improve the estuary. It includes representatives from the five local boards around the estuary and Healthy Waters, community groups and interested residents. The forum is open to anyone with an interest in the estuary. <https://www.facebook.com/Tamakiforum>

Society News

Facebook - TEPS now has a facebook group where you can share your observations, concerns and to keep in touch <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tamakiestuary>.

We look forward to hearing about what's happening in your part of the estuary!

This is a public group that anyone with an interest in the Tāmaki Estuary can join and we hope it will lead to greater collaboration and information sharing from the diverse communities that live in the large Tāmaki Estuary catchment.

Please note that if you spot a possible pollution event your first action should be to call Auckland Council Pollution Hotline 377 3107.

Having done this, please post to the group (with photos if possible) so we can track pollution incidents in the Tāmaki Estuary and its tributaries.

Clubrooms - the TEPS committee has assessed the costs and benefits of owning this building and the substantial obligations of the sub-license. The committee has made a unanimous decision that it is a distraction from the society's core objectives of safe-

guarding the life supporting capacity of the Tāmaki Estuary and hence has begun discussions with Auckland Council to exit the sub-license and to sell the building.

Financial - Significant effort has been put into the backlog of financial and accountability reporting needing to be submitted after the hiatus without a validly elected committee. Reporting to Charities Services and Auckland Council grants is now up to date. Results of the past expenditure investigation will be presented at the next TEPS AGM in June 2021. The freezing order on TEPS bank accounts has been discharged, new signatories assigned and internet banking set up. The bank account is the same: 12 3057 0634462 01

If you are unsure of your TEPS membership status, or have friends that want to join, please contact secretary@teps.org.nz

Local Parks Management Plans

SUBMIT ▶

TEPS submitted on Local Park Management plans for Orakei and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki wards. These plans will replace existing parks management plans. Phase Two consultation will be in early 2021. We gave feedback on some specific parks as well as issues across parks such as pest plants, litter management, stormwater treatment and shorebird habitat protection.

TEPS also submitted on the Ministry for the Environment's consultation on plastics and we supported the phase out of PVC and polystyrene.

Tāmaki Estuary News

Set Net Ban Education Initiative

Please report set nets in the Tāmaki Estuary



Set nets are banned in the Tāmaki Estuary. Set nets indiscriminately catch non-target fish species; birds and mammals. There has been a recent increase in illegal set netting in the Tāmaki Estuary, please help protect our fisheries and other wildlife.

If you see a set net within the banned area:

Please urgently contact 0800 4 POACHER (0800 47 6224)

Please report the set net location details and any vehicle license plate. Photos and details can be emailed to ncc@mpi.govt.nz



Your kaitiakitanga will be appreciated by generations to come, kia kaha!

Tāmaki Estuary
Environmental
Forum


New set net ban educational campaign being rolled out on local board facebook pages and directly to local boating and waka ama groups.

Graphic Credit: Shaun Lee & Beth Evans.

There has been a set net ban in the Tāmaki Estuary (advocated for by Pam Howlett to protect pīdī shags) since 1993, however, most people are unaware of it.

In September this year, TEPS submissions to local board draft plans asked the five boards to: *"Work with MPI and other local boards to have set net ban official signage installed around the estuary including known set net spots."*

In October, Kathryn le Grove & Shaun Lee formally requested the Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum (TEEF) to advocate for set net ban signage. MPI now has a

formal request for set net ban signage to be placed at known set net locations around the estuary.

TEPS Chair Beth Evans and Shaun designed a poster (above) which is being distributed to local boating clubs by Kathryn to increase reporting and enforcement of the set net ban in the Tāmaki Estuary.

A good idea to have the Illegal Fishing Hotline number **0800 47 62 24** on your mobile phone so if you see a set net you can call it in straight away. A fisheries officer will try and locate the net and confiscate it.

Shorebird Chicks & Pest Control



One of three gorgeous chicks hatched at Point England Reserve this season.

Photo Credit: Shaun Lee.

NZ Dotterel have hatched chicks on both sides of the Tāmaki Estuary for the first time in recent memory. Two chicks at Saint Kentigern's sports fields and three chicks at Point England Bird Sanctuary.

***Breaking News *** A new dotterel nest containing three eggs has been observed by Shaun at the Point England Reserve paddocks.

There is also a new Little shag colony in the trees above the stormwater pond at Point England Reserve. At last count there were 25 Little shag adults and juveniles as well as unfledged chicks in nests.

To help protect this wildlife, Beth and TEPS committee member Chris Millward

recently did the official Auckland Council trapline training enabling them to work the trapline on the north-western side of the park along with two other volunteers. Shaun also did the training with his son Jett - Shaun has been trapping on the northern side of the park for some years to protect the dotterel. So far this year he has caught four possums and one stoat has been spotted but not caught despite his best efforts!



*Little shag parent and chicks at Point England Reserve storm water pond colony.
Photo: Shaun Lee.*

This is a story of a chance connection, speaking to strangers, finding like-minded individuals wanting to make a difference and giving things a go.

TEPS Treasurer Bruce Douglas and Beth met in May 2019 - she was scoping microplastics at Farm Cove beaches for an upcoming nurdle hunt she'd volunteered to do with Farm Cove Intermediate School and Bruce was having a walk while he waited for the park gym equipment to become free.

They got talking. Bruce was concerned about the environmental degradation his grandchildren would inherit but "no one seemed interested". Beth gave Bruce her contact details and invited him to the next Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum (TEEF) meeting.

Bruce attended the June 2019 TEEF meeting and "was amazed at what everyone was doing and wondered what I could do". Bruce decided on trapping pest animals along the estuary and after two months of setting up Pakuranga Pest Free, in August 2019 with 20 traps, himself and another volunteer, they got started.

Due to health reasons, Bruce has now had to forgo working the trap lines and is the coordinator for Pakuranga Pest Free. Four volunteers handle the traplines and another four volunteer residents manage traps at Edgewater Reserve.

Bruce has had supportive feedback from a Pakuranga resident on the effects of the trapping efforts: “The resident told me we are making a big difference as a few days earlier he had ten Tuis in his garden and four Fantails. Something he hasn't seen in 30 years of living there”. Bruce says the trapping effort needs to be extended over the whole area.

Pakuranga Pest Free was a finalist in the Mayoral Conservation Awards this year.

Pollution Patrol



*Unmaintained sediment control at catchpit on Lalanga Lane development, Glen Innes.
Photo credit: Beth Evans*

In mid-October, Beth met with representatives of Kainga Ora, Tāmaki Regeneration

Company (TRC) and Healthy Waters in the first of planned quarterly meetings to bring an environmental, community spotlight to the biggest urban re-development project in New Zealand's history.

The re-development of old state houses into higher density housing across the suburbs of Glen Innes, Point England and Panmure brings both short-term and long-term environmental challenges likely to affect the health of the Tamaki Estuary and its tributaries.

Beth shared photos of poor sediment (and litter) control within the TRC development area and advocated for dedicated TRC oversight including frequent random checks to ensure a culture of high compliance for sediment & litter control.

The planned storm water treatment of gross pollutants in the Glen Innes business area, funded by the environment targeted rate, is still on track.

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

15 February - 15 March 2021 Auckland Council 10 yr budget Long Term Plan 2021-2031 consultation <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/10-year-budget-2021-2031>

"early 2021" - a watch this space situation for the 2nd phase consultation on Ōrakei and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Draft Local Parks Management Plan
<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/orakei-local-parks-management-plan/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/maungakiekie-tamaki-local-parks-management-plan/Pages/default.aspx>

New Resources

Scientific commentary on the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's report *Managing Our Estuaries*.

<https://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz/2020/08/11/estuaries-choking-under-maze-like-management-expert-reaction/>

New DOC estuaries resource for educators

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-education/resources/protecting-our-estuaries/>

Recent Sustainable Business Network webinar series on issues faced by the Hauraki Gulf

https://www.facebook.com/SustainableBusinessNetworkNZ/videos/?ref=page_internal



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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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