



TĀMAKI ESTUARY PROTECTION SOCIETY

Founded 1969

TEPS Newsletter #57 August 2021

Erosion Prevention Planting 14 & 15 August, Dunkirk Reserve, Point England.

Join TEP members to plant native grass/sedge *Carex virgata* - eco-sourced and grown by TEPS Chair Beth Evans - to help prevent further erosion along this stream/estuary bank.

BYO gloves; trowel/spade.

Sat 14th Aug 1000-1200

Sun 15th Aug 1000-1200

Please contact Beth chair@teps.org.nz mobile 021 119 8599 to register and get location details & event updates.

Churchill Park Community Open Day 22nd August

Join Friends of Churchill Park for a Community Open Day 11am -3pm, Scout Hall, 19 Kinsdale Cres, Glendowie. Find out about the natural history, flora and fauna of this park; the park management plan progress and next steps.

Society News

June 2021 AGM - 25 financial members attended the AGM.

The elected 2021-2022 TEPS Executive Committee are:

Chair: Beth Evans

Vice-Chair: Paul Engles

Treasurer: Bruce Douglas

Secretary: Julie Chambers

Committee: Joanna Boileau, Chris Millward, Robert Minhinnick, Dorthe Siggaard, Maureen Titchener, Lora Young.

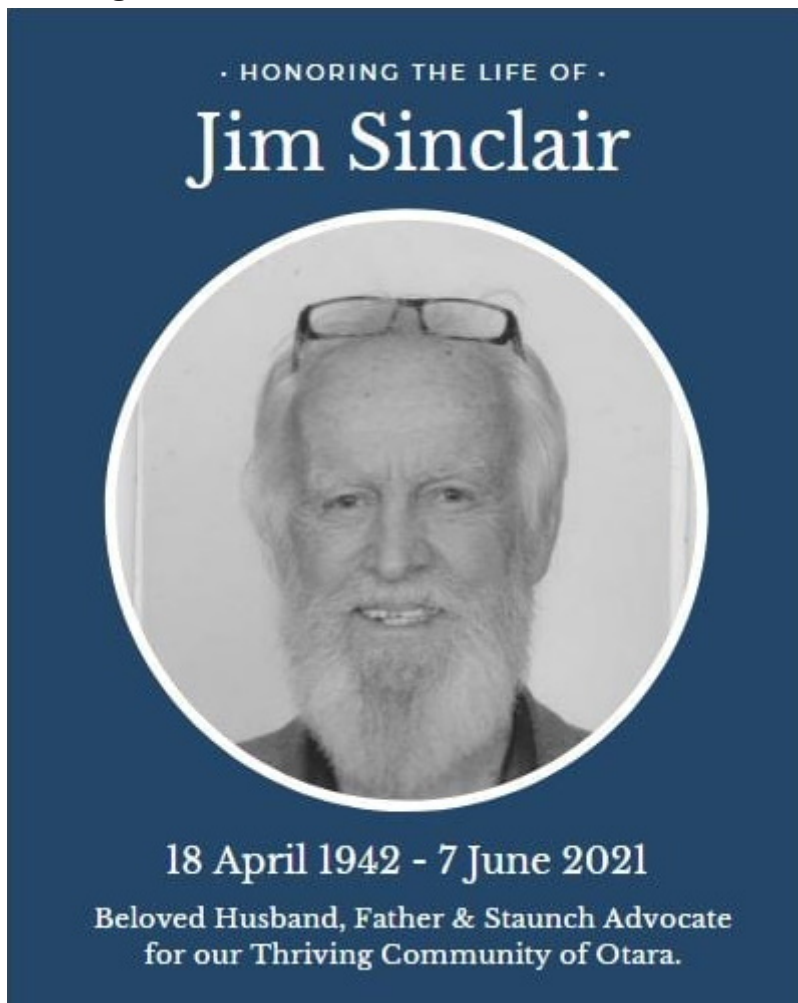
Four years of financial performance reports were passed, two constitutional amendments unanimously agreed to and it was noted that the TEPS constitution will need to be overhauled to meet requirements of incoming new legislation for incorporated societies.

The clubrooms have been sold to another society. TEPS can hire the clubrooms on a as needed basis.

Afterwards, Shaun Lee, Trustee of the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust provided a fascinating insight into mussel reef restoration and the ecosystem services these bivalves provide. Next steps for possible shellfish restoration in the Tāmaki Estuary were discussed.

The new committee has been busy establishing priorities for the next 12 months and is already engaged in developing a new TEPS logo and promotional materials to make the society and its goals more visible to the wider community.

Passing of Jim Sinclair



Jim Sinclair was a member of the 2020-2021 TEPS committee, helping get TEPS back on track over the last year. But as many of you will know, Jim's

contribution to TEPS goes much further back, having joined TEPS in 2010 and serving as Chair for five years as well as years as Vice-Chair. Jim was also a regular participant at the Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum (TEEF).

Jim's passion was the restoration of Otara Lake and its waterways – which feed into the Tāmaki Estuary. He was a trustee of the Otara Network Action Committee; then part of the Otara Waterways and Lake Steering Group; a founding board member of the Otara Waterways and Lake Trust (OWLT) and in the last few years, was Patron of OWLT. Jim never missed one of the countless Otara Creek clean-ups!

OWLT was successful last year in getting \$1 million dollars from the 1 Billion Trees government Programme, to restore the waterways of the Flatbush area and reconnect people to these waterways. Here are their 2020-2021 results, in honour of Jim:



<https://www.facebook.com/otarawaterways>

This magnificent result doesn't happen without the persistence and long term advocacy of people like Jim. In the Tāmaki Estuary, Jim was keen to see a

TEPS advocate for each sub-catchment of the estuary. The TEPS committee agreed with him and hopefully we can make his vision a reality. It's a big catchment!

Let's honour Jim's tireless advocacy by appreciating the estuary as it is now; and also, by stepping up to protect and enhance the estuary so it is a thriving ecosystem for future generations.

Howick Local Board Volunteer recognition - TEEF nominated Beth Evans, Bruce Douglas, Richard Henty and Matthew Brajkovich. Each received a certificate recognising their contribution at an event held in honour of volunteers by the Howick Local Board in June.

Tāmaki Estuary News

Winter Shorebird Cenus



66 Wrybill were observed during the 2021 mid-tide Winter Census of the Tāmaki Estuary.

Photo Credit: Shaun Lee.

The Tāmaki Estuary winter shorebird count was a little different this year. On the advice of experts, the Tāmaki count was synchronised in late June with the Manukau Harbour high tide count. Because of a three-hour time difference between high tide

on the Manukau and the Tāmaki, this meant volunteers were surveying at mid-tide rather than high tide on the Tāmaki.

Due to a shortage of high tide roosting space on the Tāmaki, it was hoped a mid-tide count might provide more information on species diversity and abundance, as well as providing a more accurate estimate of total shorebird numbers across these closely connected feeding grounds.

Volunteers recorded endemic Banded dotterel and Wrybill which are threatened with extinction and no longer seen in the Tāmaki at high tide. The North Eastern side of the estuary was not well covered. Several TEPS members participated in the census - if you are interested in helping with the next Tāmaki Estuary shorebird census, please contact Shaun shaun@stet.co.nz

Litter Intelligence Survey



Little Bucklands Beach Litter Intelligence Survey volunteers, 24 July 2021.

Photo Credit: Bruce Kendall.

In late July, Bucklands Beach Yacht Club board member and TEPS member Helene Winter led a litter intelligence survey of a demarcated area at Little Bucklands Beach, with support from Carla from Sustainable Coastlines.

This is a citizen science project by volunteers where the same exact area is surveyed every 3 months and the litter collected is categorised, counted and weighed to learn

more about what litter is frequenting the beach (potentially leading to eradication/disruption of source of the litter).

TEPS members Joanna Boileau, Beth Evans, Kevin McCready and Bruce Kendall participated in the survey along with members of the local Lions Club, local residents and friends. The survey results can be found here:

<https://litterintelligence.org/data/survey?id=1082>

If you would like to participate in the next litter intelligence survey, please contact TEPS Committee member Joanna Boileau at joanna1boileau@gmail.com



Categorising, counting and weighing the litter at Bucklands Beach Yacht Club. Photo:

Volunteers Needed for Urban Predator Control



Newly installed possum trap to protect the Little Shag colony at Point England Reserve this spring.

Photo credit: Beth Evans

Bruce Douglas, our TEPS Treasurer, is also the Co-ordinator for Pakuranga PestFree. They now have predator traps on both sides of the Pakuranga stream and

since starting in mid-2019, have killed over 440 predators including 37 possums. Last spring, residents near the traplines noted a surge in newly fledged Tui and Fantails, much to their delight!

Bruce has high hopes of a bumper crop of native fledglings this spring and needs your help to ensure breeding success for our native birds by controlling introduced predators.

How you can help:

- No brainer - free trap for your backyard if you live in the **Pakuranga** area.
- Exercise & make a difference – Bruce needs more volunteers to help check established traplines in public reserves and to expand the trapline network in the Pakuranga/ Highland Park area. No poisons involved; training provided.

Contact: Bruce Douglas

Co-ordinator, Pakuranga Pest Free.

pakurangapestfree@gmail.com

021 029 54771

If you live in the **Point England/Glen Innes** area or can travel there, volunteer to join the group checking traplines at Point England Reserve. Trapline volunteer co-ordinator and TEPS committee member Chris Millward is currently seeking volunteers to join a new trapline on the north side of Omaru Creek and additional volunteers for the south side of Omaru Creek. No poisons involved, training provided, roster for weekly or fortnightly checks.

Since Sept 2020, volunteers have caught 8 possums, 52 mice, 29 rats and 2 hedgehogs on the south side of Omaru Creek.

Pt England Reserve is a favourite high-tide roosting spot for our native shorebirds (e.g. NZ Dotterel, Oystercatchers) & international shorebirds (e.g. Godwit, Royal Spoonbills). Northern NZ Dotterel have previously bred successfully at Point England Reserve. There is also a Little Shag breeding colony at the Pt England Reserve stormwater pond.

Contact: Chris Millward

Co-ordinator Point England traplines volunteers

021 025 98840

(Pt England Reserve traplines are overseen and supported by Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ) and Auckland Council Community Park Ranger).

FYI

Estuary Art and Ecology Award Exhibition,
Uxbridge, Malcolm Smith Gallery, 35 Uxbridge Rd, Howick, until 28th

August 2021.

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).



Email:

Julie Chambers secretary@teps.org.nz

Beth Evans chair@teps.org.nz

Online:

www.teps.org.nz

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tamakiestuary>

Phone:

Beth Evans, Chairperson 09 527 1787 or mobile 021 119 8599

Julie Chambers, Secretary mobile 021 204 4118



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

Our mailing address is:

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