



**Tāmaki
Estuary
Protection
Society**
EST. 1969

**Newsletter #58
December 2021**

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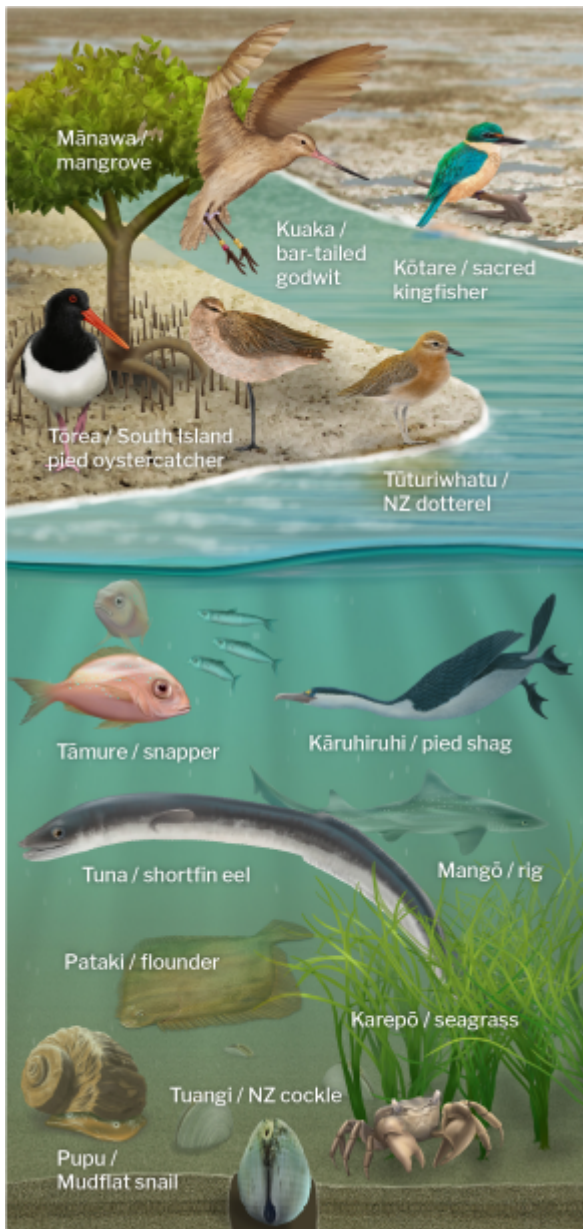
Society News

New TEPS Logo

The TEPS committee is thrilled with the new logo (see above), most generously designed and gifted to TEPS by Shaun and Tracy Lee.

New TEPS brochure

The promotions sub-committee has been hard at work over lock-down developing the content of a tri-fold brochure to promote TEPS, the estuary's value and to educate about current threats to our estuary's health. A specially commissioned graphic to depict life in our estuary forms part of the brochure:



Shaun Lee once again kindly donated his time and photographs to produce the finished brochure which has now been printed and will be used at upcoming community events. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this project!

Auckland Rowing Club fundraising for TEPS

Auckland Rowing Club, located at Ian Shaw Park on the edge of the Tāmaki Estuary, are participating in the whale tales art trail, an Auckland-wide event organised by WWF and Auckland Unlimited. 24 Jan 2022 to 18 April 2022

<https://whaletales2022.org/event/whale-tales-art-trail/>

Two rowing families have sponsored the creation and installation of a whale tail sculpture at Ian Shaw Park, in memory of Dudley Storey (1939-2017) Olympian #201. The name of the art piece is 'Kaitiakitanga', the artist is Stephen Njoto.

The art trail comes with a mobile app. Each whale tail has an unlock code. Once the code is unlocked on the app, there is a prompt to “donate now” to an agreed cause (in this case, TEPS, by buying a t-shirt, with all proceeds going to TEPS.)

TEPS & Auckland Rowing Club are planning a summer clean up of the foreshore, probably in February - keep up to date with TEPS events at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tamakiestuary>.

Tāmaki Estuary News

Spring Shorebird Census



Pied shag colony in a pohutukawa tree opposite Panmure bridge were counted in the census 21 November 2021 - 6 adults, 5 chicks. Photo Credit: Beth Evans.

The Tāmaki spring shorebird count was again synchronised in late November 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.

The census gives us a snapshot of what birds are present, how many, and where.

For example, the pied shag colony at Panmure is not just in the two pine trees viewable from Jubilee Bridge. There is also another little colony in a pohutukawa tree, found by walking south about 200 metres along the pathway. From here you get a good view of both the 'pohutukawa colony' below and if you have binoculars, the red-billed gull colony across the water under the Panmure bridge. Viewing both colonies from a kayak/boat is another option (please respect their space).



Red-billed gull and chick, Panmure bridge colony. Photo Credit: Shaun Lee

Counts for the red-billed gull colony under the Panmure bridge this breeding season varied substantially before, during and after this census. Census organiser Shaun Lee sought advice from avian experts as to how much the colony numbers might naturally vary within a breeding season.

We learnt that the gull count would be affected by:

- the state of the tide (higher numbers likely at high tide due to less food accessibility)
- when in the breeding season (higher numbers likely early in season as pre-breeders, non-breeders and juveniles congregate along with breeding adults)
- time of day (higher numbers likely at dusk and dawn)

Most importantly, we learned that counting the active nests (rather than individual birds) was the best way to measure the size and fortunes of the colony over time. So now we just have to figure out the most feasible and accurate way for volunteers to do that.

It might surprise some that red-billed gulls have the conservation status of 'At Risk - Declining'. A published NZ national survey of red-billed gull colonies, survey methods and possible reasons for population decline is available [here](#).

Six TEPS members participated in the spring census and we need more volunteers so we can cover sufficient sites. If you are interested in helping (or in training to help) with the next Tāmaki Estuary shorebird census, please contact Shaun shaun@stet.co.nz

Set Net Ban Signage Success



New signage by MPI at Point England boat ramp. Photo Credit: Beth Evans

Our December 2020 newsletter highlighted the set net ban education initiative embarked on by Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum (TEEF) participants and TEPS submissions to local boards to get set net ban signage around the estuary.

We are delighted to report that the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has recently installed set net ban signage at Point England boat ramp, Otahuhu Lake weir and at two points along the Highbrook path.

Help protect wildlife by putting this number on your mobile phone and promptly reporting the location of any set net you see in the banned area: **Illegal Fishing Hotline 0800 47 62 24.**

Seasons Greetings from the TEPS Executive Committee and wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday.



Please report any pollution you see to Auckland Council's **pollution hotline 377 1707**



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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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