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**Tāmaki  
Estuary  
Protection  
Society**  
EST. 1969

**TEPS  
Newsletter #60  
October 2022**

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## TEPS News from Your Chair



**TEPS Committee 2022 from left to right:** Julie Chambers (Chairperson) Chris Millward (Committee) Joanna Boileau (Committee – in front) Bruce Douglas (Treasurer – at the back) Bruce Kendall (Committee at the back), Lora Young (Committee), Paul Engles (Committee); David Doleman (Committee). Absent: Dorthe Siggaard (Deputy Chairperson)

Daffodils and kowhai flowers can now be found around the Estuary, sure signs summer is on the way.

In July, despite ongoing COVID restrictions, TEPS held our 2022 AGM. **Beth Evans** was confirmed as our newest Life Member, two committee members retired, and we welcomed a new committee member, **Bruce Kendall** MBE, and my acting Chair role was confirmed. The Chair's 2022 AGM report is available here <https://teps.org.nz/>

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Over winter the TEPS committee has remained active, including (among other

activities) adopting our 2022/3 annual plan, holding and supporting clean-up events, and updating our administration.

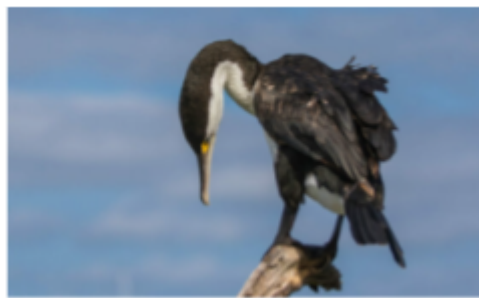
Cleaning up Tāmaki waterways, advocacy for erosion control and prevention, and caring for our shore birds, continue to be TEPS priorities, as well as building relationships with, and supporting all who work to improve the Estuary.

Councillor Josephine Bartley is calling for better protection for the Panmure Shag Colony. A Council report is planned for 2023, which will identify the steps needed to secure this important local colony. <https://www.times.co.nz/environment/shags-are-dying-in-panmure-basin-councillor-says/>

Charities Services requires charities to update their constitutions before 2023. The TEPS committee will draft a replacement constitution and consult members over the next eighteen months. As a start, a document with a draft of the TEPS purpose, definitions for the constitution and a 'complaints and disputes policy' is available for comment <https://teps.org.nz/resources> – please email [Chair@teps.org.nz](mailto:Chair@teps.org.nz).

Thank you for the work you all do in supporting the Tāmaki Estuary and TEPS. Together we are achieving a great deal, and there is much to do.

Dr Julie Chambers PhD  
TEPS Chairperson



A pied shag hooked with a fishing line. Photo supplied Shaun Lee Photo/Pied Shag-Panmure

**Chris Barfoot Honoured**

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Image acknowledgement: Manu te Oriori/Eastern Songbird Project

Ōrākei Local Board Member Margaret Voyce's presentation of the Board's 2022 Environment Award to **Chris Barfoot** (TEPS Life Member) was a major highlight of this year's Ōrākei Local Board Environmental Forum. The award — a Toki pounamu — ethically sourced from Ngai Tahu and blessed by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, recognises Chris's lifetime of championing the environment, and his instrumental role in the rescue and rehabilitation of Tahuna Torea.

Congratulations Chris!

## Ōmaru Creek Walk About



*Images above: TEPS members walked across the fields beside Omaru Creek and enjoyed the early morning beauty of the location.*



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In July several TEPS Committee members enjoyed a brisk, winter early morning walk around Omaru Creek and were reminded of the beauty of this local area, so near to the city, and so rural and calm.

The walk-about went from the pathway to the Glen Innes pools, across the bridge to follow the creek eastwards to the coast then back along the northern side pathway back to the Taniwha Street culvert. We were accompanied by John, from Healthy Waters Infrastructure and Environment Services, who graciously joined us. Thanks to David for making this excellent contact.

The purpose of the walk was to highlight to John the issues that distract from the beauty of the area. These range from pools of stagnant water, what appears to be sewage spilling onto the stream bank, accumulated rubbish, and pruned wood stacked too close to the creek which then sweeps into the water during flooding, creating dams.

John took photos and listened in a concerned manner. Whilst he may not be able to act on all our issues, we received John's undertaking to raise as many of them as possible with his colleagues. Our sincere thanks to John for taking the time from his busy schedule to join us and listen.

We look forward to working constructively together with our communities and with Council to improve all these issues – lots of things are happening, and there is still much to do.

TEPS encourages members to contact the Auckland Council Pollution Hotline [Report pollution \(aucklandcouncil.govt.nz\)](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) to report pollution.

*Images below: What appears to be sewage was spilling onto the Ōmaru Creek stream bank. An example of accumulated plastic rubbish in Ōmaru Creek - an unhealthy eyesore.*



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## Join in for the Omaru Clean Up Event



We invite you to join us to help clean up Omaru creek of rubbish.

**16 October 2022, 1-2pm**

We will meet at the entrance to Omaru creek, next to 104 Taniwha Street (across from Tamaki college).

Dress: gardening clothes, garden gloves if you have, suitable footwear.

Please bring a bucket if you have one.

In case of bad weather the event will be cancelled.  
Check on Facebook.

Looking forward to seeing you there, thanks.

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## Cleaning Up Tāmaki Estuary

Clean up projects are hard work but can be very rewarding. TEPS members are keen to support everyone involved in clean-up projects, in whatever way we can.

Clearing discarded plastic and rubbish from the foreshores and stream banks around the Tāmaki Estuary is an important part of how we can improve the environment. Auckland Council, on its own, is unable to achieve what is needed to clean up the Estuary.

TEPS now has a tool shed in Glen Innes, in which to store clean up equipment, kindly donated by **Cristian Butcovan** and family and erected by Javier Yebenes, residents of Fenchurch Park, many thanks.

The TEPS committee hopes to build on this kind donation and create a local store of

Thanks to our TEPS subcommittee we also have a suite of documents to help plan and safely deliver clean-up projects, in development. We look forward to creating helpful resources to support local clean-up events.



TEPS tool shed kindly donated.

## Ōmaru Creek: TEPS Committee at Work!



The TEPS committee started 2022 with our usual energy and commitment. In January a sub-committee organised an Omaru Creek clean-up event for committee members. The purpose of the event was twofold. First, we wanted to start cleaning up the area many of us regularly use. Second our wonderful subcommittee created guidance documents for others doing clean up and for us to use in future.

We are looking forward to when picking up rubbish around streams becomes



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Please email [chair@teps.org.nz](mailto:chair@teps.org.nz) for information.

## Other Local Clean Up Events



The team at work cleaning up at Cascades Stream. Well done.



St George's Rowing Club and Students Volunteer Army at Panmure Beach clean. Good one.

In June **Bruce Kendall**, Howick Local Board Member and TEPS Committee Member, helped to arrange a clean-up at Cascades Stream, a stream which flows into the Estuary from between Highland Park and Lloyd Elsmore Park.

Bruce acknowledges Howick Local Board, who paid for the clean-up, Pest Free Howick for organising it and the 40 motivated volunteers who turned up on the day!

There was a great result, with volunteers collecting 20 shopping trolleys, 1 bike, 2 chairs, a streetlight, 4 road cones, lots of broken bottles, balls, plastic bottles, plastic bags, polystyrene, rags, blanket, school bag [with lots in in] and baskets, wheels, tyres, a car battery, electrical devices, and more.

St Georges Rowing Club and the Student Volunteer Army joined forces for an inaugural Panmure Beach clean-up in July. Great work! Looking forward to supporting this great work in future.

These were just two events we have become aware of, there may be more. A huge thank you to all who organise and participate.

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Please report any pollution you see to Auckland Council's pollution hotline 077 1707 (24hrs/7 days) and get a reference number (they can text it to your mobile number).

## A Pest Free Estuary – Volunteers Needed

**Great work: Looking for local volunteers to eradicate pests and bring back the birds.**

Trappers doing pest control of Omaru Creek are working with the Eastern Bays Songbird project. Beth, Tina, Chris, with support from Edward and David from the Songbird project, are, twice a week, visiting the 11 box traps and 6 possum traps in rain, hail or shine. They have humanely dispatched 59 rats, mice, and possums with no poisonous bait by only using peanut butter and apple.

### Help needed!

Pakuranga Pest Free is looking for volunteers to check and handle rat trapping lines in the Pakuranga area.

Please contact Bruce Douglas on [pakurangapestfree@gmail.com](mailto:pakurangapestfree@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Event



**Hauraki Gulf Forum**

Tikapa Moana

Te Moananui-ā-Toi

Te Mana o te Moana  
Hauraki Gulf Marine Park  
Conference

**COMING SOON - TUES 18 Oct 9am to 4pm**  
**\$95.00 ADULT \$30.00 student**



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[Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Conference 2022 - What's on - Auckland War Memorial Museum \(aucklandmuseum.com\)](#)

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

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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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