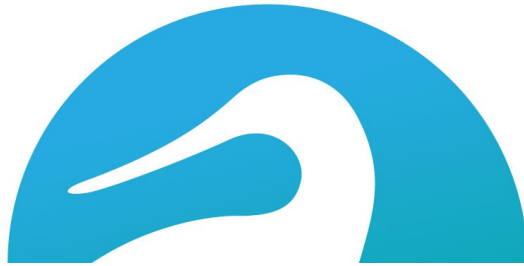


**From:** TEPS <tamakiestuaryprotectionsociety@143256537.mailchimpapp.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 March 2025 10:45 pm  
**To:** julie@chambers.net.nz  
**Subject:** TEPS Newsletter #64 (March 2025)



**TEPS**  
**Newsletter #64**  
**March 2025**

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## News From Your Chair

TEPS is continuing the hard work needed to bring our beautiful Estuary into a healthier state. Clean up events, public presentations, regular posts on TEPS and TEEF Facebook pages and maintaining the TEPS website help keep the Estuary profile maintained.

In December the updated TEPS constitution was lodged with the Companies Office, and we received our new Certificate of Incorporation. This required many hours of (unseen) work by TEPS members. The new law also requires upgrades in our administration, which is underway.

TEPS Membership year starts in April. March is membership renewal time. Members play a valuable role in keeping our organisation going. We cannot continue without members, we need you. A huge thank you to all TEPS members for your continued support.

TEPS committee meetings are usually monthly, and TEPS members are very welcome to attend. Prospective committee members are welcome. Please email me at [Chair@TEPS.org.nz](mailto:Chair@TEPS.org.nz) or text 021 204 4118 for information.

Dr Julie Chambers PhD  
TEPS Chairperson

## Clean Up Tamaki Estuary (CUTE) Events Making A Difference

During the past year TEPS members hosted five clean up events on the banks of Omaru Creek, Wai-O-Taiki Bay and around Point England.

CUTE Events are advertised on TEPS Facebook [\(4\) Tamaki Estuary Protection Society | Facebook](#).

Great news is that many other organisations are joining the clean-up effort. Teams from companies, including Fulton Hogan, and volunteers from Conservation Volunteers [Conservation Volunteers New Zealand](#), and others, have all contributed keeping our beautiful beaches and streams clean. Thank you!





## Spotlight On Sewage Spills - Who To Call?

Every year for the past five years, the Upper Tāmaki Estuary has been one of the worst catchments for raw sewage overflows in Auckland. Untreated, raw sewage spilled into Point England's Omaru Creek, 47 times during 2024. Pakuranga Stream and Otara Creek are worse.

Watercare is the Auckland Council organisation who take away and treat our sewage and unblock sewage pipes. We help Watercare monitor and record sewage problems by reporting sewage spills to their phone line, or on their website [www.Watercare.co.nz](http://www.Watercare.co.nz)

All sewage pipes and pump stations have Engineered Overflow Points (EOPs). These work when pipes block. They let raw, untreated sewage leave the pipes and flow into local parks, drains and streams (the 'receiving environment'). Overflow points prevent sewage flooding back into bathrooms through toilets and drains when a sewage pipe is blocked or overloaded.

Watercare respond to sewage spills by clearing pipes, installing larger pipes and pump stations with greater capacity. It requires committed teams to clear drains,

and huge investments to keep our beaches and streams sewage free. Thank you Watercare, we know it's worth it.

Never pour fat and oil into kitchen sinks and flush only toilet paper (never 'wet wipes'). This is how we help stop sewage blockages and overflows. Advocacy is also needed to stop the connection of too many toilets into our overloaded system - see [Network capacity in Auckland](#).

**If your stream, park or footpath smells like an unflushed toilet or toilet paper is where it shouldn't be, in a park or on a stream bank - call Watercare (09) 442 2222 and press 1.**

Watercare publishes an annual report on overflows, why they happened and how they were fixed. [https://promising-sparkle-d7f0c0cfc9.media.strapiapp.com/annual\\_NDC\\_report\\_2023\\_24\\_343bf9acc3.pdf](https://promising-sparkle-d7f0c0cfc9.media.strapiapp.com/annual_NDC_report_2023_24_343bf9acc3.pdf)

*\*Auckland Council looks after rainwater flows (stormwater) and monitors our streams and beaches through its **Healthy Waters** team – and the pollution hotline. See [Looking after Auckland's water](#)*

## TEPS Membership Renewal And Ask A Friend To Join

Renew your membership 2025 today and help us continue our work. New members are very welcome anytime.

TEPS membership is \$20.00 per year, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2026. Please renew by transferring to:

**TEPS account: 12 3057 0634462 001**

**Please remember to include your last name in the 'Particulars**

Field' so we can identify your deposit and send you a receipt.

TEPS is a registered charity. Donations are welcome.

TEPS renewal/donation form is at <https://teps.org.nz/join-renew-donate/>

We accept membership renewals at our AGM.



Email:

**Julie Chambers:** [chair@teps.org.nz](mailto:chair@teps.org.nz)

Online:

[www.teps.org.nz](http://www.teps.org.nz)

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

Phone:

**Julie Chambers:** Chairperson, 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:**

Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society · 199 St Heliers Bay Rd, St Heliers, Auckland 1077 · New Zealand

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