



The Inlet

Newsletter for the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet

AUGUST

2013

The Inlet is a newsletter that brings together local and regional news affecting the Pauatahanui Inlet and its environs.

The Inlet comes out three times a year and current or back issues can be downloaded from our website.

The newsletter includes items of concern that affect the area as well as general interest topics for everyone.

Please contact us if you would like to contribute to *The Inlet*.

P O Box 57034

Mana

Porirua 5247

pauainlet@gmail.com

www.gopi.org.nz

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Hello to all GOPI members. While I am slightly apprehensive about becoming the chairperson of an organisation I regard as having such an important role to play in the future of the Inlet, I am also excited to have this involvement at a time when I believe we will see major progress in the restoration plans for the Inlet. I very much appreciate the confidence shown in me by my friends on the committee and I also want to thank all members for your support. I would like to personally thank our outgoing chairperson, John Wells, who has been one of the key people in the restoration plans being successfully brought to the strong stage they are at now. John's contribution has been even greater than being the GOPI chairperson and representative on numerous related groups; he has also served in his own right as a scientific advisor on several panels and groups. I am extremely pleased that John will continue to be a committee member and our representative on groups such as PICT and PHACCT. You will see a story later in this newsletter showing how highly John is regarded by the Porirua City Council.

Progress is slowly being made on finalising the Porirua Harbour Estuary Restoration Plan. In early May we sent Greater Wellington Regional Council feedback on the draft plan. GOPI and other community groups will meet with Greater Wellington staff to discuss specific details of the individual projects. We hope the first meeting will be held some time this month.

We were very pleased to read in a recent edition of *Kapi-Mana News* that Jenny Brash, our former Mayor and current Greater Wellington Regional councillor, is taking the lead in organising a cull of Canada Geese at Lanes Flat next year. The numbers of these birds have been steadily increasing to the point that they are doing damage in the reserve at Pauatahanui. Eradication of unwanted wildlife is always a sensitive matter so we are particularly pleased that the cull will be carried out humanely during the annual moult.

Tony Shaw

2013 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Photographic Competition this year was highly successful with 222 entries. Our judge, Geoff Marshall, remarked on the improvements over previous years, citing the reduced number of poor images, the creativity employed in the *Artistic* section and the amount of 'in-camera' work, where the effects were created by the photography rather than by computer manipulation of the images. In addition Geoff noted that images in the *Nature* category showed significant representation of the 'character and way of life of the subjects as well as showing how the subject looked'.

Our Photographic Competition has now been running for 13 years and has given many enthusiastic photographers the opportunity to have their skills judged against those of others. More importantly however, the competition has focused attention on the Inlet and its environs, thereby highlighting how valuable this natural, cultural and recreational area is for all of us and, we hope, increasing concern for its protection and restoration for future generations.

We offer our thanks to everyone who entered this year and our congratulations to the winners. If you missed the chance to see the photographs on display you can still check them out on our website.

A PHOTO-FUN STORY

Gaela Crothers earned 'Highly Commended' for her photo of sea lettuce in the *Human Impact* category of our Photographic Competition this year. In talking about her success Gaela regaled us with this story of how the image was conceived. She writes:



'There's not too much to the story; it was just funny.'

'I thought the light looked kind of interesting from Camborne, so I grabbed my camera and headed out for a walk to see if there was anything to photograph for this year's GOPI photo competition.'

'I decided that the little stream off Grays road didn't really look that interesting close up but, seeing some sea lettuce on the shore opposite, I had an idea. The stream didn't seem that wide so.... I did a run — and a jump.....!!! As it turned out I landed in some really soft mud; my foot got stuck; I didn't make it the whole way across; and.... I acquired two nice wet, VERY stinking, feet!'

'As it was a tad blustery on the shore I took some sea lettuce to the jetty and, trying to avoid the stench from my feet, wrote 'G O P I' with the weed. The wind tried a few times to blow it away but, in the end, I managed to snap this picture.'

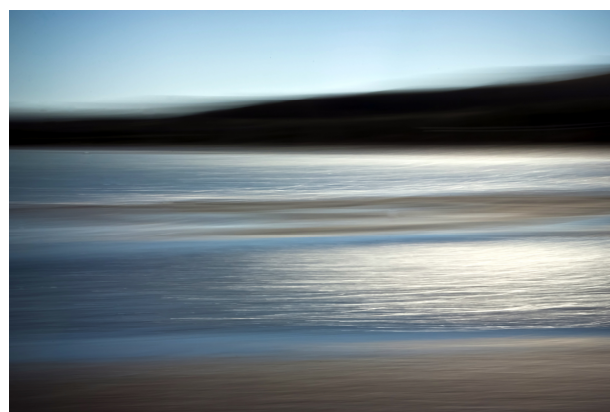
CONGRATULATIONS to HELEN WALDRON

Our congratulations go out to Helen Waldron for her image of the Inlet entitled 'Ripples of Light'.

Helen won our Photographic Competition this year in the category *Artistic* for this stunning photograph.

These congratulations are in double measure because Helen's submission was also voted the best image for the Readers' Choice competition held by the local publication *Kapi-Mana News*.

Well done Helen.



REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM was held at the Mana Cruising Club and was notable for the announcement that our Chairman of eleven years, John Wells, was resigning his position. Tony Shaw has agreed to replace John this year, and was duly voted in by all present. John, however, will remain on the committee so that he can continue to contribute his considerable knowledge and experience to the work that the Guardians do.

What was a double blow was the simultaneous resignation of our secretary, Denis Fairfax, along

with another committee member, Jen Deben. Consequently we are in need of new blood on the team, particularly with the very important roles that the secretary undertakes. We extend a welcoming hand to those of our wider membership who would like to provide help in this area.

If you, or someone you know, would like to give a little time to this important work, please contact us. Details are provided with our membership form at the back of the newsletter.

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE 2013

The following officers and committee members were elected at our 2013 AGM.

Tony Shaw	Chairman
Dick Fernyhough	Treasurer
Beverly Fairfax	Webmaster
Michael Waldron	Newsletter Editor
John Wells	
Janet Ryan	
Wendy Edwards	

As a candidate for the position of secretary was not forthcoming Denis Fairfax has since been co-opted onto the committee as Acting Secretary.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHAIRPERSON

Tony Shaw was elected Chairperson at the AGM on 25 June and, as you will have seen, is already contributing to *The Inlet* in that role.

Tony joined the committee in 2005 after becoming involved in the stream monitoring programme. Together with Keep Porirua Beautiful he has regularly organised the annual Inlet cleanups since 2005.

Tony has been a Paremata resident since 1985. He had a career in meteorology with the NZ Meteorological Service including a year working on the remote subantarctic Campbell Island where he first developed his interest in the natural environment.

We welcome Tony in his new position with our team.



CHRISTINE STANLEY - PICTURES OF THE PAST

The highlight of this year's AGM was a presentation given by Christine Stanley on the forthcoming book about the history of the Pauatahanui area - *Pictures of the Past*.

This book is the culmination of four years' work by The Pauatahanui History Group, a team that included local volunteers and a professional historian. The publishing process has brought together many photos, paintings and drawings, some of which are from private collections not seen publicly before.

Christine's presentation featured a selection of these images supported by a fascinating talk that gave a background to each of the pictures and drawings and covered a timeline from the early 1800s to recent times.

We thank Christine for her wonderful introduction to the book and look forward to its release in the near future.

FURTHER READING

We receive and read with great interest a monthly newsletter entitled *Stormwater Meanderings* written by Earl Shaver, an expert on stormwater, erosion and sediment control. We recommend these newsletters as they contain comprehensive information often directly relevant to the Inlet.

You can sign up to *Stormwater Meanderings* by contacting Earl on earl.s@xtra.co.nz and the latest edition is available on our website - just go to the link at bottom left of our home page.

Also...

We are continuing to develop the *Useful Links* page on our website. This page gathers together a number of links to other websites that offer information relevant to Pauatahanui Inlet. You can go directly to this page by clicking <http://www.gopi.org.nz/useful-links/>.

OUR NEW BROCHURE

Since the first print of our new brochure we have found the copies to be very popular wherever we have displayed them, and almost all have been given out to members of the public. We are therefore about to publish a second batch in larger quantities.

To coincide with the new print the design of the pamphlet has been upgraded and some details in the text changed to improve the accuracy and readability of the information.

Please look out for an updated copy in Pataka and wherever we are found during the coming school gala season.



JOHN WELLS RECEIVES AWARD

Each year the Porirua City Council recognises individuals who, in one way or another, have made an outstanding voluntary contribution to the local community. This award is the 'Porirua City Civic Award for Voluntary Service'.

This year, 2013, one such award was bestowed on our very own Dr John Wells, former Chairman of the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet.

While John was somewhat embarrassed by this accolade we at GOPI are very proud of the contribution he has made to our organisation and the community at large.

Congratulations John.



From the left: Mayor Nick Leggett, Dave Wilson, Rihia Kenny, John Wells, Kris Faafoi MP
Photo courtesy of Caroline Fotualii, Porirua City Council

PICT, PHACCT, PHIAG etc.—What do they mean to GOPI?

These three acronyms often occur in relation to Pauatahanui Inlet and the work being undertaken to care for its environs. If you have wondered what they mean and how they relate to our organisation these are the answers.

PICT is the acronym for the Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust. Aided by GOPI, it was founded in 2001 with the express purpose of 'facilitating the implementation of the Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan'. Again, with our assistance, PICT also lobbied for a similar action plan to be developed for the rest of Porirua Harbour. These objectives were reached with the launch of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan. PICT trustees have always included one or two GOPI members.

PHACCT stands for the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust. Its formation followed the establishment of the Harbour Strategy and its functions are similar to those of PICT but with reference to the whole harbour and, very importantly, its catchment. Three members of GOPI are current trustees of PHACCT.

PHIAG is shorthand for the Porirua Harbour Inter-Agency Group. It is a discussion group that brings together all the government departments, local authorities, infrastructure organisations, wildlife interests and community groups with an interest or formal function in the harbour and catchment. Participants exchange information about what they are doing (and intending or hoping to do) that might affect the harbour. GOPI, PICT and PHACCT are represented on PHIAG.

ON THE HORIZON

Cockle Survey. Our regular three-yearly cockle survey is due this year and is scheduled for 1st December.

FEATURE ARTICLE

In previous feature articles we have focused on life that we expect to find in Pauatahanui Inlet and which contributes to the environment in a largely positive way. This time however we introduce an invader, and a serious one at that.

Styela clava (leathery sea squirt)

Thought to originate from the Northwest Pacific this invasive sea squirt has spread to many parts of the world, largely on the hulls of ships. It has the potential to alter the marine environment, impede marine farming and foul boats and fishing gear. Now it has been found in Pauatahanui Inlet and it is important that we all look out for this little organism and do what we can to lessen the threat it poses.

Styela clava is a non-colonial (i.e. solitary) sea squirt with a long club-shaped body. It attaches itself to rigid submerged surfaces (wharfs, boat hulls, etc) by means of a fixed, or sessile, stalk. The surface is tough, leathery, rumpled and knobbly and has a brownish-white, yellowish-brown or reddish-brown colour. It can grow up to 16cm long. A filter feeder, it has two siphons, one inhalant and the other exhalant, through which it draws water in and out of its body, straining planktonic organisms as it does so.

Like all sea squirts *Styela* is hermaphroditic, but the gonads mature at different times, avoiding self-fertilization. Given the right conditions it spawns during spring and autumn shedding eggs or sperm into the water every 24 hours. Larvae remain planktonic for only a short time before settling down and metamorphosing. Maturity is reached in around 6 months.

Styela clava has the potential to spread rapidly and can form densities of up to 1500 individuals per square metre.

An adult can filter approximately 150 millilitres of water per minute for each gram of body weight. With such statistics it can and does compete severely for the planktonic food supplies of native invertebrate species and those that are commercially and recreationally important. It also consumes the larvae of fish and molluscs and as such it is a major problem for shellfish aquaculture. While predated upon in larval and juvenile form there are no known predators for the adult and wherever it has occurred it has proved impossible to eradicate.

Fortunately for Pauatahanui Inlet *Styela* doesn't breed at temperatures below 15°C, a level exceeded only during the summer months, and while salinities are generally high enough for *Styela* to establish itself the general lack of firm surfaces will provide limited areas for the larvae to settle. Given these factors the threat to local filtering fauna and fish larvae is likely to be relatively small compared to many places in northerly NZ.

Despite these limitations to its spread Greater Wellington Regional Council is asking all boaties to be vigilant and reduce the chances of this organism becoming a region-wide nuisance by keeping the hulls of moored boats clean and well antifouled. If you have a boat on the Inlet, we urge you to follow this advice.

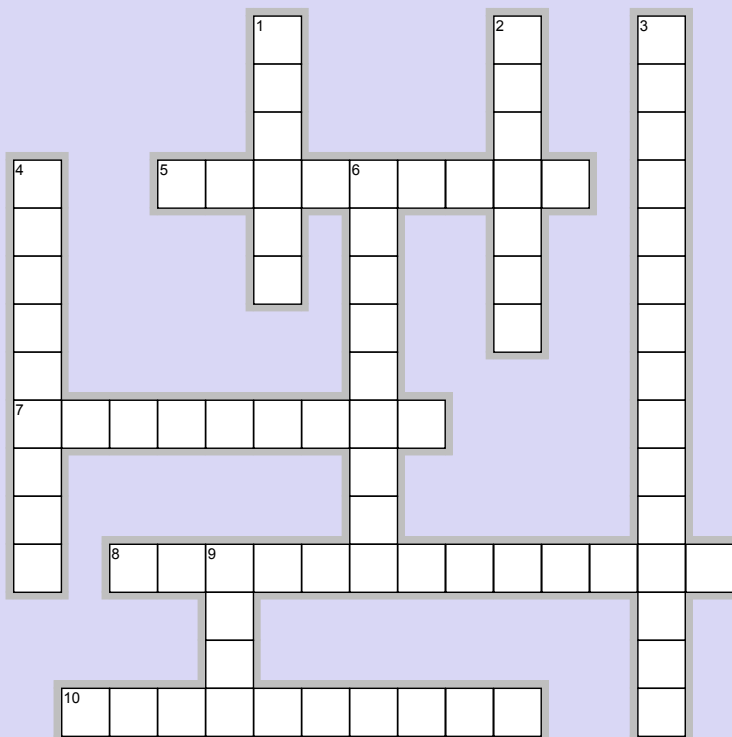
As a point of interest sea squirts, also known as *Tunicates*, are an offshoot of the phylum Chordata and as such a sister group to the vertebrates. Evolutionarily therefore, believe it or not, they are very distantly related to humans.



FAMILY CORNER

CROSSWORD

To give you a bit more of a challenge than usual, try this crossword. The answers are all birds you will find in and around Pauatahanui Inlet.



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

5. Such long legs; looks like it's walking on sticks (4,5)
7. White and majestic, but with a piece of cutlery for a bill (9)
8. Black or pied, it's the bright orange beak that is so distinctive (13)
10. A tunnel in a river bank serves as a nest for the young (10)

Down

1. With deep blue and black plumage the purple swamp-hen has another name (6)
2. A glossy green head is the hallmark of the drake alone (7)
3. It stands like a statue, poised to strike at a moment's notice (5,5,5)
4. Cob, pen and cygnet. What do these names remind you of? (5,4)
6. The fastest waterfowl in the air, it filters prey with a broad beak (9)
9. Hanging out to dry! This fisher has to spread its wings (4)

ANSWERS

Across: 5-PiedStilt; 7-Spoonbill; 8-Oystercatcher; 10-Kingfisher.
Down: 1-Pukeko; 2-Mallard; 3-WhiteFacedHeron; 4-BlackSwan; 6-Shoveller; 9-Shag

PLEASE SIGN UP A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR

Sign up a neighbour, friend, or another family member. Just explain to them that membership numbers really count in giving us a strong voice to argue for what we all value about the Inlet. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website www.gopi.org/nz/membership-form or copied from the one at the back of this newsletter. Better still, if you've received this newsletter by email, just forward it to others with a note encouraging them to join.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR THE PAUATAHANUI INLET

Pollution: Discharges of contaminants to air, land, storm-water drains, streams, rivers or sea and for after hours consent enquiries: Greater Wellington 0800 496 734 (24 hours)

Boating infringements: Greater Wellington 384 5708 (24 hours)

Illegal fishing activity: Ministry for Primary Industries 0800 476 224 (24 hours)

Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve: Department of Conservation 0800 362 468

Let us know what you have reported so we can keep an accurate record and follow up if necessary.

233 9391 (Chairman, GOPI) or pauainlet@gmail.com.



Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet

www.gopi.org.nz
pauainlet@gmail.com

Membership Form: new members

To join the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet, you can pay your subscription either online or by post.
IF YOU ARE PAYING ONLINE, PLEASE REMEMBER TO FILL IN THIS FORM WITH ALL DETAILS, AND EMAIL OR POST IT TO US.

Online payment

1. Pay your sub via e-banking into our Westpac account 03-1533-0009387-00. In the 'Particulars' or 'Reference' columns, **YOU MUST** write your surname **AND** initials **AND** the period of your sub (1-yr or 5-yr).
2. Then fill in this form and either email it to us at pauainlet@gmail.com or post it (see next column for our postal address)

Postal payment

1. Write a cheque made payable to 'Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet'.
2. Then fill in this form and send it, along with your cheque, to: Membership Secretary, Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet, Box 57034, Mana, Porirua 5247.

Please fill in your details for our records. If you are filling in this form electronically, **click** at the beginning of a dotted line and then type.

Name:

Address:

E-mail: Phone:

Please put ☒ next to the subscription you are paying (electronic completion – **highlight** the box and type lower case x.) We are also very grateful for donations. (We are a registered charity for tax purposes: registration number CC47523.)

One-year individual (\$12.00)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Five-year individual (\$50.00)	<input type="checkbox"/>
One-year family (\$15.00)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Five-year family (\$60.00)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation: \$	Do you require a receipt for your sub?	<input type="checkbox"/>	or your donation? <input type="checkbox"/>
Date subs paid:	Reference appears as:	(e-banking only)	

We'd like to send you newsletters and notices via email. May we do this? ☐

Please tell us which of our activities you would like to be part of.

Annual Clean-up day	<input type="checkbox"/>	Submissions to local bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Three-yearly cockle survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Our educational programmes for schools	<input type="checkbox"/>
Website and video clips	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	

NOW EMAIL OR POST THE FORM. THANK YOU AND WELCOME