

Amended Final DoC Community Grant Report

DOC COMMUNITY FUND – PŪTEA TAUTIAKI HAPORI

Project title	Pāuatahanui Inlet revegetation and pest trapping project		
Organisation name	Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet (GOPI)	Contact name	Andre van Halderen
DOCCF ref number	DOCCF6-215	Email address	pauainlet@gmail.com
Date	24 th June 2024	Phone number	02989 40543
		Payment number (as per deed)	

The deed: modus operandi

The Deed states that *“To perform its functions, the Department wants to work with others, recognising that New Zealanders want to connect with, and contribute their expertise to restore and protect their unique natural environment, historic and cultural heritage.*

The Group (Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet (GOPI)) is working in conjunction with Porirua City Council (PCC) on the ‘Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan’ which has been in place since 2015 and guides activity to ensure the health of streams and the harbour are improved

The parties have developed a project involving restoration and enhancement with planting and pest control on the margins of key habitat areas of the Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve, which is managed by the Department. The project is supported by Porirua City Council and involves significant community volunteer input”.

The deed: aims of the project

The focus of the project was a first step to restore the poorly vegetated buffers at key sites around the Pāuatahanui inlet, and attempt to substantially reduce the effects of road traffic and human activity on bird feeding and breeding zones. This included re-establishing saltmarsh on the beach margins.

The other major component of the project was to enhance pest trapping along the edges of the inlet.

The Porirua Harbour Estuary Restoration Plan prepared by Boffa Miskell is an action from the Strategy referred to above. The Restoration and Enhancement Action Plan that formed the basis of this project is intended to be practical first stage implementation of the Porirua Harbour Estuary Restoration Plan recommendations.

Porirua City Council, in conjunction with Ngāti Toa Rangatira, undertook extensive complementary work by also restoring saltmarsh in the harbour and carrying out a public awareness campaign about sites around the inlet. The Council is continuing to work on programmes to substantially reduce sediment and pollutants going into the Inlet.

Map of the project area

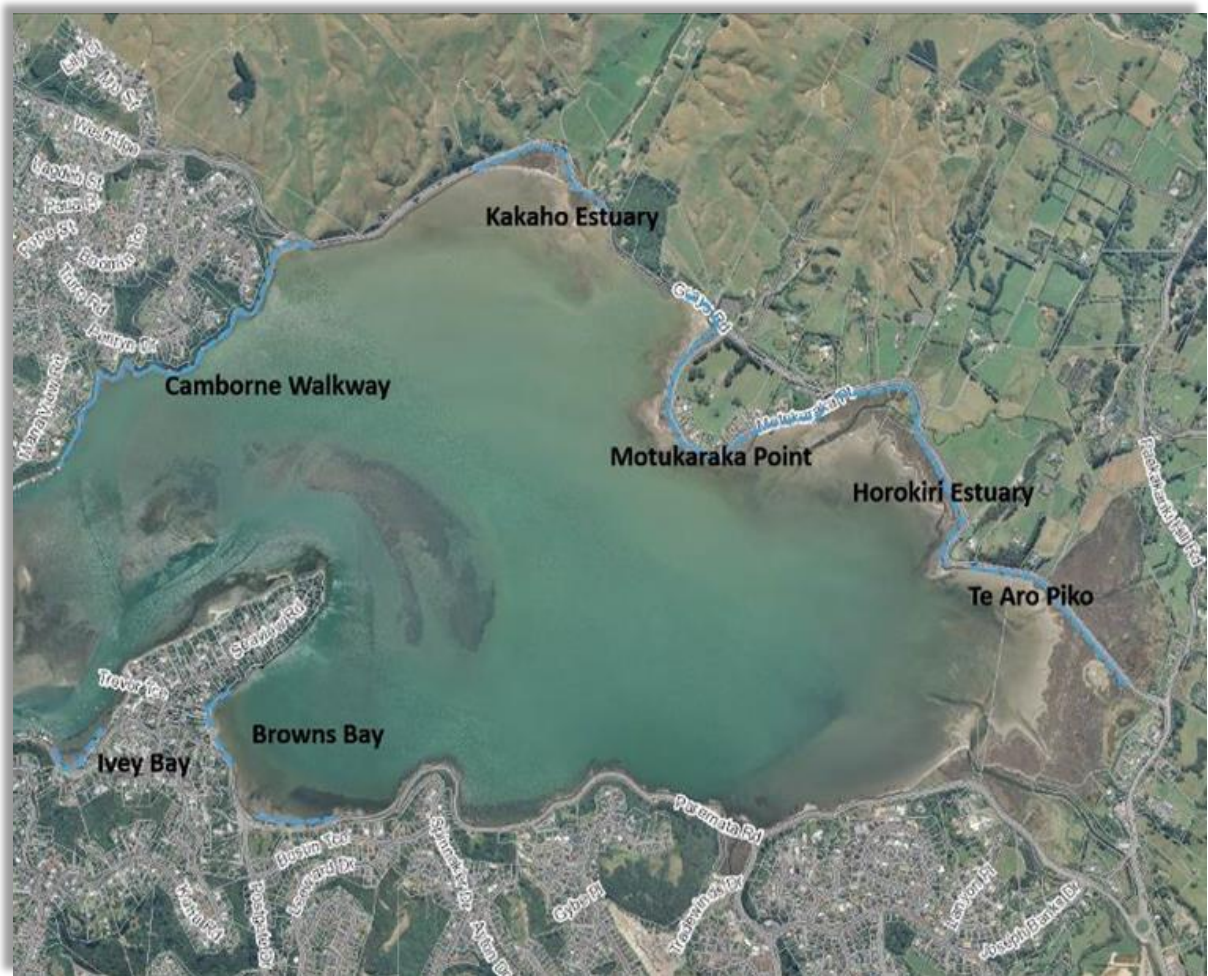


Figure1: Pāuatahanui Inlet arm of Te Awarua-o-Porirua (Porirua Harbour)

Activities since the report issued February 2023

A review of the financial accounting for the grant identified that there was a surplus in hand and the full amount of the grant had not been drawn down. An opportunity to use this to further develop the rush beds in the inlet was identified and agreement for a final planting in June (2024) was reached with DoC and a supplementary planting organised. The overall financial budget for the grant is attached at the end of this document.

400 sea rushes (*Juncus maritimus*) were purchased from PCC and more than 20 volunteers (GOPI and other community members) turned out on a lovely sunny day to provide in-fill planting to the previously planted areas. PCC staff (and family) provided assistance and equipment for the planting event. Photos of the event (Figures 1a and 1b) are below.



Figure 1a: Volunteers planting rushes, Ivey Bay 24th June 2024



Figure 1b: Ivey Bay 24th June 2024 following planting event

A side by side of Figures 1b (2024) and Figure 3 (2022) demonstrates the success of these planting events



Activities since last report (as at February 2023)

All activities to December 2021 were reported in the first DoC Community Grant report submitted on 10 February 2022. A Progress Report submitted in September 2022 covered the period up to 4 September 2022. This is the third and final report for this project.

GOPI has continued to work closely with Porirua City Council and Ngāti Toa on this collaborative project, which aims to help restore the inlet to health.

A final GOPI volunteer planting day (with the assistance of PCC) was held on 20 November 2022 at Ivey Bay, where the final instalment of approximately 360 sea rush (*Juncus kraussii/J.maritimus*), mākaka/saltmarsh ribbonwood (*Plagianthus divaricatus*) and oioi/jointed wire rush (*Apodasmia similis*) were planted.



Figure 2:

Ivey Bay prior to the planting event

(all photos Andre van Halderen)



Figure 3:
Ivey Bay

Newly planted
rushes,

20 November
2022.



Figure 4:
Ivey Bay

After the
planting
event.

The end results

The following photographs represent a chronological record (from 2021 to 2023) of the revegetation process at some of the key areas around the Pāuatahanui inlet, as part of a collaboration between GOPI, PCC and Ngāti Toa.

Planting was undertaken at:

- Motukaraka Point (several sites)
- Camborne Walkway (several sites)
- Mana beach
- Ivey Bay
- Browns Bay

Planting consisted of 3 species: sea rush (*Juncus kraussii*/*J.maritimus*), mākaka/saltmarsh ribbonwood (*Plagianthus divaricatus*) and oioi/jointed wire rush (*Apodasmia similis*).



Figure 5: Joint GOPI/PCC planting event, Browns Bay. July 2022



Figure 6. Browns Bay. All the rushes in the photo (including those in front of the car park) were planted – this area was previously bare. Photo taken 27 January 2023.



Figures 7 & 8: Views of Motukaraka Point (site A) prior to revegetation in July 2021





Figures 9 and 10: The same site in January 2023.





Figure 11: Motukaraka Point (site B) prior to planting – July 2021.



Figure 12: The same site in January 2023.



Figure 13: Motukaraka (site B) showing full extent of rush planting. January 2023.



Figure 14: Views from the water show the success of the rush revegetation at Motukaraka Point. January 2023.



Figure 15: Views from the water show the success of the rush revegetation at Motukaraka Point. January 2023.



Figure 16: Evidence of cockle shell accumulation between planted rushes – an indication of the role of rushes in stabilising inlet edges.

Lessons learned

The 20 month duration of the programme has allowed us to review what worked well and what did not:

- Plants (and in particular rushes) need to be as large and healthy as possible, to be able to withstand smothering (by seagrass and other debris during storms) and trampling. Smaller plants and those that were already struggling did not take well to replanting, and losses were high.
- Avoid planting in areas where there is heavy people and dog traffic. Most people are unaware of plantings and trampling killed many of the plants. And where planting is undertaken on the margins of high traffic areas these should ideally be demarcated (even a low barrier helps) to avoid trampling.
- Planting is only the first stage of the revegetation process - ongoing maintenance of newly planted areas is crucial to their survival– especially for the first year. This includes regular watering over the dry summer months, and releasing of plants to avoid smothering by weeds.

Pest animal control

38 self-resetting Goodnature A24 traps, with Bluetooth Chirp, lure and CO2 gas canister refills were ordered and received in January 2022. GOPI continues to liaise closely with Porirua City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council (which manages a range of traps and bait stations in the region), and with Pestfree Porirua (the group that oversees all the community trapping initiatives in the area) to complement existing control operations around the inlet with these A24 traps. Our primary local partners are Pest Free Pāuatahanui, Pest Free Mana-Camborne, Pest Free Golden Gate and the Forest & Bird sub-committee overseeing the network across the Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve.

The A24s are individually numbered, serial numbers and Chirp ID recorded in a Google Sheet along with installation location details. Locations have been selected to increase habitat protection at key ecological sites around the Inlet. Traps located on private land at Motukaraka Point, Golden Gate, Grays Road and Ration Point, and on Territorial Authority (Porirua City Council) operated land along parts of the Camborne Walkway and near to Duck Creek. Placement and deployment is ongoing.

Each individual Chirp device is activated and synced with GOPI's Goodnature account. Those traps hosted on private property are also shared with the landowner, allowing data transfer any time the landowner picks up data from that trap via Bluetooth. Each trap is registered and data logged within the project at Trap.NZ. At time of this report there have been 16 recorded strikes with 1 hedgehog and 1 mouse (identified), the remainder unsighted (recorded as 'other').

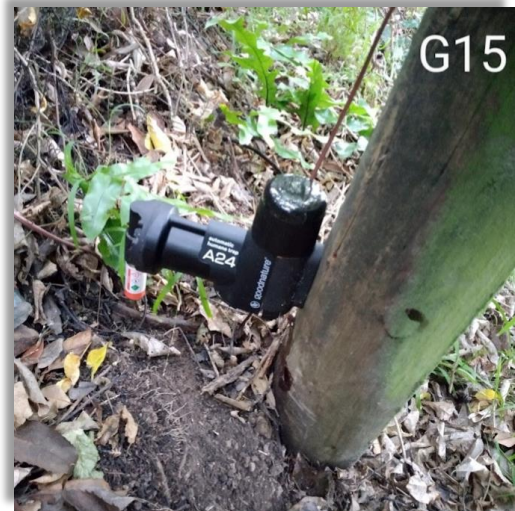


Figure 17: – selection of installed A24 trap locations.

Department of Conservation Community Grant

Grant approved by DOC 15th February 2021 **\$41,989.00**

DOCCF6-215 (project number)

DOCCM-6514711 (File number)

GOPI Invoices to DOC

14/12/2021 \$32,638.00

13/12/2022 \$7,991.00

26/06/2024 \$1,360.00

Total Grant Received/Invoiced **\$41,989.00**

Invoices paid by GOPI against project (copies of invoices provided)

20/12/2021 Good Nature Traps for Inlet Planting \$7,297.27

22/12/2021 Porirua City Council Plants for Inlet Planting \$25,200.00

26/09/2022 Porirua City Council Plants for Inlet Planting \$5,791.89

26/06/2024 Porirua City Council Plants for Inlet Planting \$3,700.00

\$41,989.16

Acknowledgements

Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet would like to thank:

- The Department of Conservation for the Community Grant that made this planting project possible.
- GOPI volunteers and Aspiring Leadership Forum volunteers for their planting efforts.
- Porirua City Council for their invaluable support, including the provision of plants, logistics support with planting, and health and safety support. We would like to thank in particular Nigel Clarke, Baillie Graham and Rachel McClellan.
- Ngāti Toa for the excellent collaboration.

We look forward to future collaboration to restore the inlet to health.

GRANTEE STATEMENT

I confirm that all information contained in this document (and any supporting information attached) is accurate.

Andre van Halderen

7 May 2024

Name

Date

Note: By typing your name into the space provided you are electronically signing this progress report.