The Inlet

Newsletter for Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet

APRIL 2025

The Inlet is a newsletter that brings together local and regional news affecting the Pāuatahanui 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.

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Inside this issue:

FROM THE CHAIR

On Waitangi Day this year, the *Te Wai Ora o Parirua* Harbour Accord* was launched. Its joint signatories were Ngati Toa, Porirua City, Wellington City, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Wellington Water. It has been a decade since the predecessor arrangement — the Harbour Strategy and its related Action Plan — was initiated.

Sadly the old Strategy didn't result in much change to the harbour. If anything its ecological condition has gone backwards in the last decade. Incursions of sediment and related fine muds plus contaminants from land and transport based stormwater have been a major cause of its degraded state.

The Vision of the newly minted Accord is that:

> *The health and mauri of Te Awarua o Porirua is restored, its waters are healthy and sustainable for future generations and for those who live, work, play or connect with the Harbour.*

Its purpose says the Accord will:

> *1. Establish an agreed approach between the partner organisations to improve the health of Porirua Harbour;*
>
> *2. Agree consistent, harmonised and collaborative actions which improve, restore and positively impact the Harbour; and*
>
> *3. Establish, implement and monitor well-resourced, accountable work programmes that deliver the improvements that will restore harbour health.*

Underpinning this are 10 objectives:

> *1. The Accord seeks to achieve Te Mana o Te Wai and other relevant objectives of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM);*
>
> *2. The role of tikanga is upheld and guided by mana whenua through the practice of kaitiakitanga;*
>
> *3. Restoration of the Harbour provides for the safe and sustainable gathering of mahinga kai;*
>
> *4. A water sensitive catchment is established, where natural water systems are integrated with the built environment to minimise environmental degradation and promote sustainable water outcomes;*
>
> *5. The Harbour's terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecology and biodiversity is restored and protected;*

From the Chair cont...

6. Freshwater and coastal water quality in the catchment is restored and protected;

7. Current and future development and growth must contribute to the protection and restoration of harbour health;

8. Efforts to restore the health of the Harbour must also support efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change;

9. Creative and innovative infrastructure minimises degradation to, and protects the health of, the Harbour; and

10. Equitable partnership is developed and maintained through the life and application of The Accord.

The purpose and objectives are challenging. Unlike the Harbour Strategy, the Accord requires a chief executive-led governance structure:

1. The chief executives of each partner organisation are accountable for implementing The Accord and formalising an agreed governance structure; and

2. The chief executives will set the terms of reference for how their organisations will implement The Accord.

It formally provides for community input:

1. The Accord supports the participation of the community and community groups dedicated to restoring the health of the Harbour; and

2. Community groups are encouraged to participate to help achieve the vision and objectives; however they are not subject to the same level of accountability as the partner organisations.

Further, it sets out clear resourcing, implementation and monitoring requirements:

1. Resourcing and funding of actions and work programmes should be prioritised through each partner organisation's strategic planning activities, wānanga, long-term plans and other planning processes and funding mechanisms;

2. Agreed actions should include a combination of capital investment, regulatory and non-regulatory actions;

3. Decisions relating to the resourcing of actions and work programmes of the partner organisations are joined-up and aligned;

4. To share, in a timely fashion, progress on meeting obligations under The Accord by monitoring and reporting using a Performance Monitoring Framework which will be supported by an iwi-led mauri ora approach for the restoration of Te Awarua o Porirua.

The mauri ora approach is to be developed before the LGA's next LTP cycle for 2027 and a matured approach to monitoring agreed by the governing parties; and

5. To give effect to The Accord, the governance parties agree the timeframes and priorities for implementation within six-months of the document's signing.

As can be seen in the above extracts, Ngati Toa is taking a leading role in making this agreement happen. It will be interesting to see the detail of the timeframes and priorities for implementation. Let's hope that, this time, with coordinated collective action, the degradation of Te Awarua o Porirua can be arrested and its ecological health can be improved.

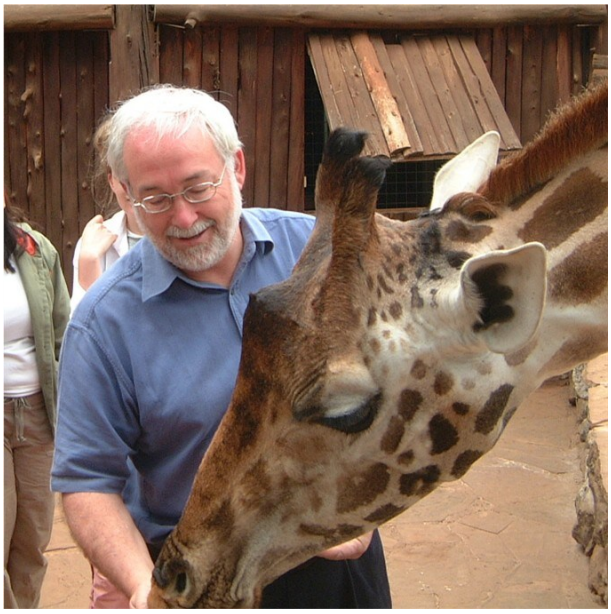
A copy of the Harbour Accord is available on the GOPI website.

**Note: This is not a spelling error. The title 'Te Wai Ora o Parirua' is the Ngati Toa term for the Harbour Accord.*

DR JOHN MCKOY - MNZM!!!

At the beginning of this year we were thrilled to learn that our own Dr John McKoy, science advisor on the GOPI committee, had been awarded a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2025 New Year's Honours. Needless to say we received this news with some pride because John is part of our organisation and we passed on our congratulations to him for receiving such esteemed recognition.

The award, announced 31 December 2024, was for services to fisheries science and environment management.



Dr John McKoy has more than 50 years' experience in fisheries research and consulting and has contributed his expertise to environmental initiatives.

John was Chief Scientist, Fisheries, for the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) from 1995 to 2010 and previously to this was Director of Fisheries Research for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries from 1987 to 1995. In these roles he was responsible for strategic development of fisheries science in New Zealand and the management of major fisheries science clients.

He has contributed to or led numerous international assessments of fisheries stocks. He developed and supervised collaborative stock assessment processes for a range of fisheries nationally. He chaired the National Rock Lobster Management Group from 2012 to 2016.

John became a Trustee of Pāuatahanui Inlet Community Trust (PICT) in 2005 and was Chair from 2010 to 2015. In addition, he joined Friends of Mana Island, also in 2005, and was President there from 2018 to 2024. More recently he has volunteered his expertise to local and regional environmental initiatives including Friends of Taupō Swamp and Catchment from 2018. And... he has been a committee member of Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet since 2016.

In addition, Dr McKoy was community representative on the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee from 2015 to 2019.

We think the award is well deserved.

INLET CLEAN-UP

Pāuatahanui Inlet Clean-up day at Browns Bay, Sunday 23 March, turned out to be a very successful and productive day for all concerned and, as usual, Janet and Ray Ryan are to be thanked for making the job easy for everyone. We had a great attendance with around 52 volunteers, with individuals, families and groups all making an appearance. Geocachers always come to this annual event to make it one of their recorded targets and this time at least 16, we believe, were there. We had the pleasure of seeing Anita Baker, Mayor of Porirua, take part, dressed like most in a hi-vis vest for the sake of visibility on the roadside. One young couple had just moved from Dunedin to Wellington and were thrilled to take part in such a worthwhile exercise, coming all the way from their home in Kelburn to do so. Little Green Olive Café, from Mana Esplanade, also came along after we had posted the event on their social media website.

Inlet Clean-up cont…

Another group of visitors were from the team, led by Cam Feast, that plans to produce an updated series of the Living Waters documentaries, successor to that created about 10 years ago. They videoed the activities of the various volunteers and interviewed a number of GOPI committee members about the activity and its importance to the Inlet.

While this clean-up exercise is conducted every year, and local volunteers also regularly scout the shoreline in between times to help keep it clean, the amount of litter collected this time was considerable. A lot of plastic bottles were brought in as well as a large collection of cardboard, paper, wood, glass and heavier plastics including pieces of vehicle parts (presumably from one or more collisions with the barriers along SH58). In addition, a number of larger items were collected: a road sign discarded some months ago from the Spinnaker Drive intersection, two tyres and several wooden objects including a complete wooden pallet. All told, it was a disappointing reflection on the local population's attitude to waste disposal.

Consistently with last year, we weighed most of the material in the bags as the volunteers returned from each shoreline section. The total collected in the bags amounted to 100kg, but then there were the larger items which collectively were estimated to be at least another 100kg in total.

We always provide a sausage sizzle to express our thanks to all the volunteers. This was put on with the admirable assistance of Janet and Ray Ryan using a trailer customised to suit the purpose. It's an opportunity for everyone to talk about their morning and chew over the disappointing behaviour of others who discard their unwanted items in such a thoughtless way. Some planning for future activities also takes place at these times, with the social atmosphere an ideal environment for discussion.

The sausages, bread and condiments were supplied by Paremata Auto Services for which we offer many thanks. Hot drinks, juice and water, were also available. Thanks also go to Denise Gow who stepped in to help at the end of the morning, dishing out the onions and sausages to a queue of hungry mouths.

Well done everyone.

The gathering of the willing

The reward afterwards

Inlet Clean-up cont...

This is what was gathered during 1.5 hours of collection from all the volunteers (minus the road sign just out of view) overseen by Caroline van Halderen and Janet Ryan.

Images by Andre van Halderen

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

GOPI held a Special General Meeting on Wednesday 19 March which was called to establish two very different objectives. The meeting required a vote to be taken and we were pleased to see a good number of members turn up to be counted. We also, for the first time, allowed proxy votes to be included so that there was no risk we would not get a quorum.

The first objective was to approve the new Constitution. This was a revised edition of the 2016 Constitution to conform with the changed requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. It needed to be approved and in operation by the start of our financial year on 1 April.

This new Constitution had been previously circulated to all our members so that they could read the updated version and compare it with the earlier one, posted on our website. The meeting therefore was just a simple vote of acceptance from the membership and it was passed with full agreement. The new Constitution is now on our website and you can read this here.

The second objective was much more involved. It was a discussion on the current and future strategy of the Guardians. We wanted to discuss who we are, how we fit in with Te Awarua-o-Parirua Harbour Accord, what we offer that is not already effectively covered by other groups and what our strategy is for the future.

A number of subjects were covered and included scientific objectives, re-vegetation projects with pest trapping, the annual Inlet Clean-up, information dissemination, advice and submissions, and photographic competitions. GOPI's work on science and related activities, such as the Cockle Count (due again later this year) and community information was much appreciated.

The Cockle Count should continue it was decided. While it is not the only indicator of the health of the Inlet, it does provide an important contribution to our understanding of this objective and provides an opportunity for the community to engage in activities that encourage 'ownership' of the Inlet.

Further discussion introduced the idea of providing access to technical information on our website. This would be in the form of a bibliography of scientific and technical work and it's an idea that is already being

Special General Meeting cont...

developed. We could also explore the opportunity of GOPI becoming a focal point for community activity using our website or to have an Instagram account to provide links to other groups and Inlet users such as Jetski, Waka Ama, the sailing club, windsurfing etc.

Also discussed was the idea of a Harbour Scorecard and related Dashboard. It was noted that this had been done in the past by PHACCT and also by Porirua City. The advent of the Harbour Accord (the first pan -agency agreement since 2015 on the Harbour and its future state) should be the basis for this. It was agreed that it's important to have ongoing timely notifications (by PCC and GWRC) on harbour water quality and these need to be extended beyond summer water quality at selected swimming sites.

Inlet Restoration Planting has been very successful in recent years with funding from a number of grants. It is strongly supported, especially as it provides opportunities for members and others to participate in hands-on activities that will benefit the Harbour ecosystem. It's important to publicise these planting events and increase the emphasis on maintenance of areas that have been planted to improve the viability of the juvenile plants. An increased focus on removing weeds as well as adding natives should be provided. It was suggest we should develop a closer relationship with volunteers, find ways of recognising their contribution and use these opportunities to expand membership.

On the subject of Inlet Clean-ups it was recognised that this event is both popular and important to GOPI's visibility and functions. Like the planting project, clean-ups provide hands-on opportunities for members and people from the wider community. One member has suggested more than a yearly clean up. However, it was noted that, with the logistics and time involved in organising this one clean-up, it's not easy to arrange more than one per year. But again, recognising volunteers who become involved in keeping the shoreline clear of rubbish would be a supportive gesture that could further encourage involvement in these activities.

Involvement in the information arena is a critically important function for GOPI. The idea of improving communication and outreach using social media and related video clips was endorsed and supported. Working with Ngati Toa and local authorities was endorsed. A proposal has been put forward for GOPI to use its website to host links to reports and other information on publicly available locations. This would also provide a portal for the community to access other groups such as Residents' Associations, and get an understanding of who is doing what.

Submissions, often made together with Porirua Harbour Trust, will continue as the need arises, and we will provide informal advice to local authorities as and when required. This is a technical area but one of major importance in setting the plans and rules for future harbour quality. Working with PHACCT helps to provide a wider range of expertise to support this often time-consuming activity.

Pest trapping is deemed to be important, especially in limiting predation by mustelids on bird populations and is likely to continue. Working with Predator Free groups was endorsed.

We are unlikely to run another annual Photographic Competition for just the Pāuatahanui Inlet alone, and recognise that the future of these competitions is in combining with PHACCT to run a bigger and more widely publicised competition that hopefully will attract many quality entries.

In summary, the meeting endorsed all the activity areas outlined above. There were no suggestions about undertaking new activities except to enhance GOPI's communications channels and perhaps organise more meetings where like-minded people from the community can come together and agree on various priorities and activities. It was noted that this is already happening through connections with PHACCT and groups such as Friends of Taupo Swamp and Catchment, Predator Free groups, Ngati Toa and various agencies and authorities.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Stand on the shores of Pāuatahanui Inlet and look out across this gem of ours. What do you see? A body of water surrounded by hills that form its boundary with the land. Some of these hills are covered by trees and shrubs, others by homes and farms. There is some wildlife visible, birds being the most obvious. Low tide uncovers more evidence of life. Masses of shells, mostly empty, and sometimes marine plants such as seagrass and sea lettuce. These are obvious. But there's something missing in this overview. It's the life that is buried in the sands and muds exposed at low tide or crawling over the surface. It's the invertebrates.

Making up 99% of the total biomass of the Inlet, this collection of marine animals without backbones is colossal. There are untold millions of small creatures that form the majority of the ecosystem of the Inlet and comprise by far the largest and most important element in the Inlet's web of life. Energy from the sun is captured by phytoplankton, algae, seagrass and reeds and much of this is repurposed by bacteria that break down dead plant material. But it is the invertebrates feeding on the bacteria and microscopic plant and animal life, as well as dead plant material, that convert this energy into a form more useful for larger predatory invertebrates and the fish and birds that live in and around the Inlet. These animals are the subject of our next two feature articles, a summarized overview of the many invertebrates that live in the Inlet.

Yvette Pierce - 1st Scenic 2023

INVERTEBRATES OF THE INLET - Part 1

There are so many invertebrates in the Inlet, many with an important role to play in the food chain, that it is not possible to name them all here. A number of studies of Inlet sediments, both intertidal and subtidal, have identified around 60 species, of which 27 were polychaetes, 14 were crustaceans and 17 were bivalves. Most of the major Phyla (singular 'Phylum') are represented, from the less complex coelenterates, through to platyhelminths, annelids, molluscs, arthropods and more evolved echinoderms, along with a few less well known groups.

Invertebrates can also be classified into different feeding modes which cut across these phyletic groups depending on how food is harvested. They are classed either as predators, scavengers, parasites, surface-deposit feeders, subsurface-deposit feeders or suspension and filter-feeders. Each type plays a part in the complex web of life.

This summary will focus on the intertidal sand and mud flats which can be explored when exposed by low tides. While some of the species are easily seen in the intertidal shoreline, significant numbers are small and out of sight to the cursory observer but make up a high percentage of the biomass in the Inlet.

Also, while many of these species are only found in the intertidal zone, some can be found in deeper waters where a different range of animals exist, those less able to withstand the harsh effects of wave action,

Feature Article cont...

water currents, temperature and salinity extremes. A couple of interesting examples are included in these articles.

Not included are those animals that exist as part of the zooplankton, the minute and very small animals that live in the upper layers of the harbour waters. Many of these are larvae, the free-living intermediate stages in the life cycle of otherwise benthic species — those that live on the sea floor.

The range of species illustrated has been gathered from the 1980 DSIR survey of the Inlet compiled by W. B. Healy and more recent harbour surveys. The biology of each example has been summarized from sources like Wikipedia and published scientific research papers. We'll start with something familiar.

Molluscs

Probably the most obvious invertebrate group that one thinks about when exploring the shores of the Inlet at low tide are the molluscs. That's because the exposed sediments are often covered with these animals or their remains, the shells.

Molluscs are soft-bodied animals that typically secrete a shell to live in, including bivalve shellfish and marine snails. Most are able to move around by the use of a muscular foot which is the part of the animal that is mostly of interest as a food source. Octopuses and their relatives, as well as garden slugs, are also molluscs but they have evolved to live without the protection of a shell.

The most prominent Inlet example is the cockle, *Austrovenus stutchburyi* which we often refer to when talking about the Inlet. We have a page on our website devoted to the description of this shellfish. It will also be a focus of attention for GOPI this year because of our triennial cockle survey which will take place in November. Traditionally, the cockle has also been a food source for Māori and middens around the Inlet contain many discarded cockle shells.

One half of a cockle shell

The cockle is a bivalve, having two halves to its shell, and it is a dominant species in the Inlet, estimated by some to amount to 80% of the total intertidal biomass. Its size ranges from 1mm to around 50mm. It lives in the subtidal and intertidal zones preferring fine sands where it can bury itself by up to 2 or 3 cm without being smothered. Its place in the ecosystem is as a filter-feeder, siphoning seawater through its gills to trap the organic matter present. Collectively these animals may filter up to 1.6 million cubic metres of water on each tidal cycle with, potentially, a profound effect on water quality. Needless to say, it is an important indicator of Inlet health.

But its significance doesn't end there. Its relationships with other species are numerous and the cockle will be mentioned several times in these articles when introducing other animals that live in the harbour. In summary, it has importance in a mutually beneficial relationship, with its shell is a firm surface for other species to make use of, as the host of a parasite, as prey of another mollusc and as food for birds as well as humans. Pretty impressive for one little animal.

Another very common bivalve mollusc is the nut shell, *Linucula hartvigiana*. Unlike the cockle this only grows up to 8mm in width but at this size it is very often confused with young cockles that are less than 10mm. They are very different to look at on close inspection but GOPI makes specific reference to them in

Feature Article cont…

Linucula hartvigiana © Javier.
[iNaturalist]

the cockle survey instructions because of this confusion. To Include it in the population statistics would skew the end result.

Unlike the cockle, the nut shell is not a filter-feeder, instead grazing on organic matter within the sediments of the surface and subsurface deposits.

A prevalence of nut shells is also an indicator of unpolluted subtidal and intertidal habitats throughout New Zealand.

Of particular interest next is a small marine snail called the mud whelk, *Cominella glandiformis*, which will appear again in the section on platyhelminths. Snails have a single coiled shell and this one, growing to about 25mm long, lives on the mud flats of the Inlet. Many other species are grazers feeding on algae, but this snail is decidedly carnivorous. Its diet consists mainly of the cockle, or another shellfish called the large wedge shell, *Macomona Liliana.* It's not very active in winter but in summer it can be found in large groups feeding on dead or dying shellfish. The mud whelk can actively bore into a shell to reach the flesh as a predator, but usually it scavenges on moribund or dead animals.

Cominella glandiformis
[© Andrew Spurgeon)

As we will see later, this relationship between whelk and cockle is not the only link between these two species.

Coelenterates

The coelenterates are a more primitive group of animals having bodies with just two layers of cells separated by a jelly-like substance and enclosing a sac-like stomach with only one opening. These are the sea anemones, jellyfish and corals. While corals are colonial animals that excrete a calcareous exoskeleton, the other forms are largely solitary and unprotected. All coelenterates are suspension feeders and capture small free-living animals in the surrounding water with barb-covered tentacles.

The Inlet really only has sea anemones representing this phylum but these include two small but distinctive species, one that burrows and another that hitches a ride on the shells of molluscs.

Edwardsia sp. © Bernard Picton.
[iNaturalist. Creative Commons]

The burrowing sea anemone *Edwardsia neozelanica* is a worm-like animal up to 5cm in length that lives in soft muds and silts. It is unusual for a sea anemone, pushing down into the sediment with its long body and anchoring there by a swollen base. Only the whorl of tentacles protrudes above the sea floor, spreading out when the tide is in to capture organic detritus in the water and drawing the food to the mouth at the centre. With the almost transparent tentacles being the only part that shows, this is a very difficult animal to find.

Almost as hard to see, however, is the small brown sea anemone, *Anthopleura hermaphroditica*. The dull brown colour and small size

Feature Article cont...

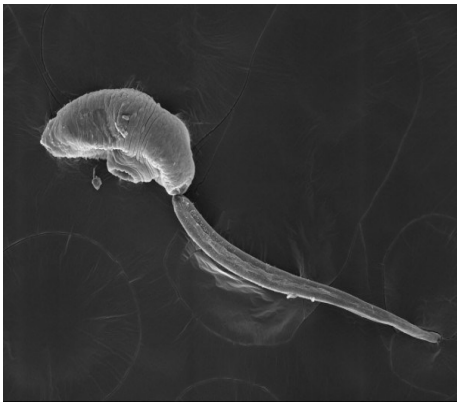
A. hermaphroditica on a cockle shell.
© David Wilson [Creative Commons]

help to hide it from predators. Like most sea anemones this one clings to firm surfaces but is unusual in that it often chooses a living shell for this, which in many cases is the cockle. By so doing it acquires a mutual relationship with the shellfish, one that benefits both species. The sea anemone gives some camouflage to the cockle while the cockle provides protection for the sea anemone. Like many anemones it uses tentacles to capture plankton and small animals suspended in the water.

Platyhelminths

Platyhelminths are known as flatworms and most are parasitic. Examples you will probably be familiar with are liver flukes and tapeworms. Less well known, however, but having a significant contribution to Inlet ecology, is another example of this animal group which is also is a parasite - *Curtuteria australis.* Like many flatworms, *Curtuteria* has more than one host and, in this case, three, all of which are associated with life in the Inlet.

The first host is the mud whelk. This marine snail becomes infected with the first intermediate stage of *Curtuteria australis* which hatches from eggs that have been laid in the seawater. While the snail is not harmed, the gut provides the conditions in which the flatworm can replicate itself, producing many free-swimming larvae that are released back into the sea.



Curtuteria australis free-swimming larva
[© New Zealand Geographic]

Now we come again to the cockle. Being a filter-feeder, it siphons seawater through its gills by which it extracts organic particles for food. In this way the larvae of *C. australis* gain entry into the shellfish which becomes the second host. Once inside, the larvae migrate through the mollusc to reach the all important muscular foot by which the cockle moves and buries itself. There the larvae change into dormant cysts to await the next phase in the parasite's life cycle.

Large numbers of cysts can build up in the foot and eventually these cause it to atrophy, making it impossible for the animal to burrow into the sediment. Thus the cockle remains exposed at low tide and becomes easy pickings for predatory birds. In this case the most important bird is the oystercatcher.

The cockle is one of the oystercatcher's main food sources, for which it digs in the exposed mud flats at low tide. Cockles that can't burrow are easiest for the birds to collect. Oystercatchers either penetrate a slightly open shell with the beak or smash a closed shell against rocks to get at the flesh. In this way the parasitic cysts now gain entry into the oystercatcher as the final host. The flatworms emerge from the cyst within the gut as adults and, there, mature and lay eggs. The eggs become deposited with the bird's droppings back into the sea and the life cycle is complete.

You can begin to see from this life cycle, and the previously mentioned inter-relationships, how important the cockle is to life in the Inlet's intertidal zone, not just by being a filter-feeder of significance but also by

Feature Article cont...

its connections with several other invertebrates that live there, both beneficial and detrimental.

Priapulida

You possibly haven't heard of these little creatures before. The Phylum *Priapulida* is a group of primitive, cylindrical, worm-like marine animals that are considered to be living fossils having been found in rocks from the Cambrian period, over 500mya. They are unsegmented but, like the forest dwelling *Peripatus*, they are distantly related to arthropods.

Priapulus caudata © Bernard Picton [iNaturalist license CC by 4.0]

Just 22 species have been described but they have a world-wide distribution. The most common species identified in Pāuatahanui Inlet is called *Priapulopsis australis*, but there isn't a photograph, nor is there a size specified. Internationally, *P. caudata* has been the most studied species. It grows to 15cm in length.

Priapulid worms live in the muds of the seafloor and therefore can be found deeper in the Inlet in areas never exposed by a falling tide.

Sitting in an intermediate place in the food chain, they are carnivorous predators, feeding on other slow-moving invertebrates like polychaete worms and, it has been suggested, will even exhibit cannibalism.

In the August issue the remaining invertebrate groups to be described will be the Annelids, Arthropods and Echinoderms.

ON THE HORIZON

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Announcing the date of this year's AGM set for 18 June 2025 starting as usual at 7:30pm.

The venue is the Baptist Church, Whitby.

COCKLE SURVEY

Every three years we organise a citizen-science event to determine the population of cockles in the Inlet and this year, 2025, is one of those years. This is the longest running citizen-science project in New Zealand, having been running now since 1993, and we are pleased to confirm that it will continue into the future.

We have chosen November this year, on a Sunday coinciding with low tide. This enables all involved to conduct the survey in the intertidal zone from low to high. The exact Sunday will be notified when tide tables become more reliable.

Planning for this has just got underway with a review of the previously run events to see how we can improve the process and make it easier for everyone to conduct the survey in the most efficient way. We

On the Horizon cont...

are for instance designing and constructing new sieves to more effectively separate live cockles from the other shells, stones and sediment in a shorter timeframe.

A review of the actual transects is also underway to check that they are still able to be analysed. Changes over the years have made some transects more difficult to survey.

We will modify the instructions to accommodate any changes to the procedures that are made.

Details of this year's survey will be published on our website in the coming months, and we would recommend a visit to our site from August onwards to find the date of the survey and other important information for those taking part.

FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW - UPDATE

The meeting with Porirua City Council to present submissions on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw, discussed in our December newsletter, was held on 6 March. GOPI made a joint PHT/GOPI submission while an individual submission was made by Marg Glover, our treasurer, who is familiar with the issues related to freedom camping from personal experience.

PCC are debating the issue, taking into account the written and oral submissions, and a full deliberation will take place on 1 May where changes will be agreed.

A final decision on freedom camping sites for Porirua will be announced on 31 May.

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.

On the back page of this newsletter is our Membership Form which can be filled in and emailed to us at pauainlet@gmail.com. Also, you can forward this newsletter to someone else with just a note encouraging them to join.

Alternatively, you can visit our website where we have an on-line Membership Form which can be submitted directly from the site gopi.org.nz/join-us

EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR THE PĀUATAHANUI INLET

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

Boating infringements: Greater Wellington Regional Council – 384 5708 (24 hours)

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

Pāuatahanui 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.

235 5052 (Chair, GOPI) or ***pauainlet@gmail.com*.**

Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join the Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet you may pay your subscription in person or on line.

TO MAKE YOUR PAYMENT	NOTE
Pay your subscription at a bank branch, or on line, into our Westpac account: **03-1533-0009387-00**. When on line, use the 'Particulars', 'Code' and 'Reference' columns to write your **surname, initials** and the **period** of your sub (1-yr or 5-yr).	We do not have a postal address so please email all correspondence. If you have something that cannot be delivered electronically please send a request by email and we will contact you to arrange collection.

Then fill in this form with all details.
*(If you are filling in this form electronically **CLICK** at the beginning of a dotted line and then type).*

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Email ..... **Phone** .....

Please put 'x' next to the subscription you are paying. (For electronic completion HIGHLIGHT the box and type a lower case 'x').

You can also make a donation. (*We are a registered charity for tax purposes. Registration Number: CC47523).*

One-year individual ($12.00) ..... ☐ Five-year individual ($50.00) ..... ☐
One-year family ($15.00) ..... ☐ Five-year family ($60.00) ..... ☐

Donation $..... Do you require a receipt for your sub? ☐ or your donation? ..... ☐

For online banking – Bank **Reference** appears as .....
Date subs were paid .....

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

Please put 'x' in a box if you would like to take part in one or more of our activities.

Annual Clean Up day ..... ☐
Three-yearly cockle survey ..... ☐
Website and video clips ..... ☐
Submissions to local bodies ..... ☐
Restoration Planting ..... ☐
Other: ..... ☐

Now email the form to: pauainlet@gmail.com

Thank you and welcome to the Guardians