

Wards unite for waterway

Stream project launching

2021 ENVIRONMENT FRANKLIN WARD MANUREWA-PAPAKURA WARD

Manukau Harbour Forum 2021 End of year report

Manukau Harbour Forum Vision:

"The Manukau Harbour is recognised and valued as a significant cultural, ecological and economic asset, and through integrated management has a rich and diverse marine and terrestrial environment that is able to be enjoyed by all"



Message from the Chairs

This 2021 year has again been challenging, with continuing restrictions of our daily lives. Despite these the Manukau Harbour Forum has continued. We wish to acknowledge the commitment, focus and professionalism of the Council and Healthy Waters Teams in their support for achieving improvements in the Manukau Harbour - Wendy D'Arcy, Brenda Riley, Donna Carter and Glenn Boyd – thank you.

We also acknowledge Forum Members (past and present) for their support of the Manukau and work of the Forum..

The Forum held five meetings, with workshops and business meetings well attended. Our work programme is moving forward with the appointment of a Co-Ordinator (part time), and engagement of a communications professional to develop our communications strategy.

In July, this year the “Synthesis Monitoring Report” was released by the Environment and Climate Change Committee. This is a good start to the work we need to better appreciate the impact of urbanisation, climate change and changing water and land use around the Harbour.

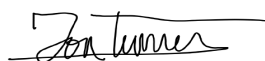
The comprehensive Council stocktake of activities released in Nov 2020 continues to inform our decision making and permit progress. This report underlines the vital role the Governing Body plays in achieving better outcomes for the Manukau Harbour. Projects are listed in this report.

Manukau Harbour conservation projects featured strongly as finalists in this year’s Mayoral Conservation Awards 2021 and our congratulations are given to the winners; Predator Free Franklin, Te Pu-a Nga Maara, Peter & Jean King, Pekapeka tou roa o Waitakere, Puhoi Pioneers Memorial Park, Pest Free Howick ward schools.

Sadly, we must acknowledge the tragic drowning of four men in the Manukau Harbour, which occurred during 2021 in two separate boating incidents. We must do all we can to ensure future tragedies are avoided. Water safety must be a priority for all who provide and enjoy water activities on and around the Harbour.

Manukau Harbour Restoration Society volunteers work tirelessly to improve outcomes for the Manukau Harbour. During the past year, the Society provided Forum members with a guided tour of the Harbour to highlight its special features. Last but by no means least, we acknowledge mana whenua who have live by and care for the Manukau. The value of mana whenua in supporting and restoring this taonga is vital.

As 2021 draws to close, we look forward to the next year and again working with the Governing Body, Mana whenua and the community as we move forward to our shared goal of protecting and restoring the Manukau Harbour. A lot of work still needs to be done. Mā whero, mā pango ka oti ai te mahi: With red and black the work will be complete.



Jon Turner
Manukau Harbour Forum
Chair



Alan Cole
Manukau Harbour Forum
Deputy Chair



Manukau Harbour Forum Members

The Harbour Forum is made up of the 9 local boards that surround the Harbour and was established in 2010 to provide advocacy for the restoration and sustainable management of Te Manuka-O-Hoturoa.



Jon Turner
Manukau Harbour Forum Chair
Deputy Chair Puketāpapa Local Board



Alan Cole
Manukau Harbour Forum
Deputy Chair
Franklin Local Board Member



Sue Smurthwaite
Papakura Local Board



Kay Thomas
Whau Local Board



Maria Meredith
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki
Local Board



Rangī McLean
Manurewa Local Board



Saffron Toms
Waitākere Ranges Local
Board



Dawn Trenberth
Ōtara-Papatoetoe
Local Board



Lemauga Sosene
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
Local Board

Monitoring Report

In June, this year “A Synthesis of State of the Environment Monitoring in the Manukau Harbour” report was released by the Environment and Climate Change Committee. As Forum Chair I was invited to speak, providing the opportunity to advocate for greater resourcing for the Harbour and improved systems.

The report identifies areas of concern about the ecology of the Harbour, notes stability in some areas and provides glimmers of hope in others where monitoring shows a stable, not deteriorating situation.

<https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/a-synthesis-of-state-of-the-environment-monitoring-in-the-manukau-harbour/>

A Synthesis of State of the Environment Monitoring in the Manukau Harbour

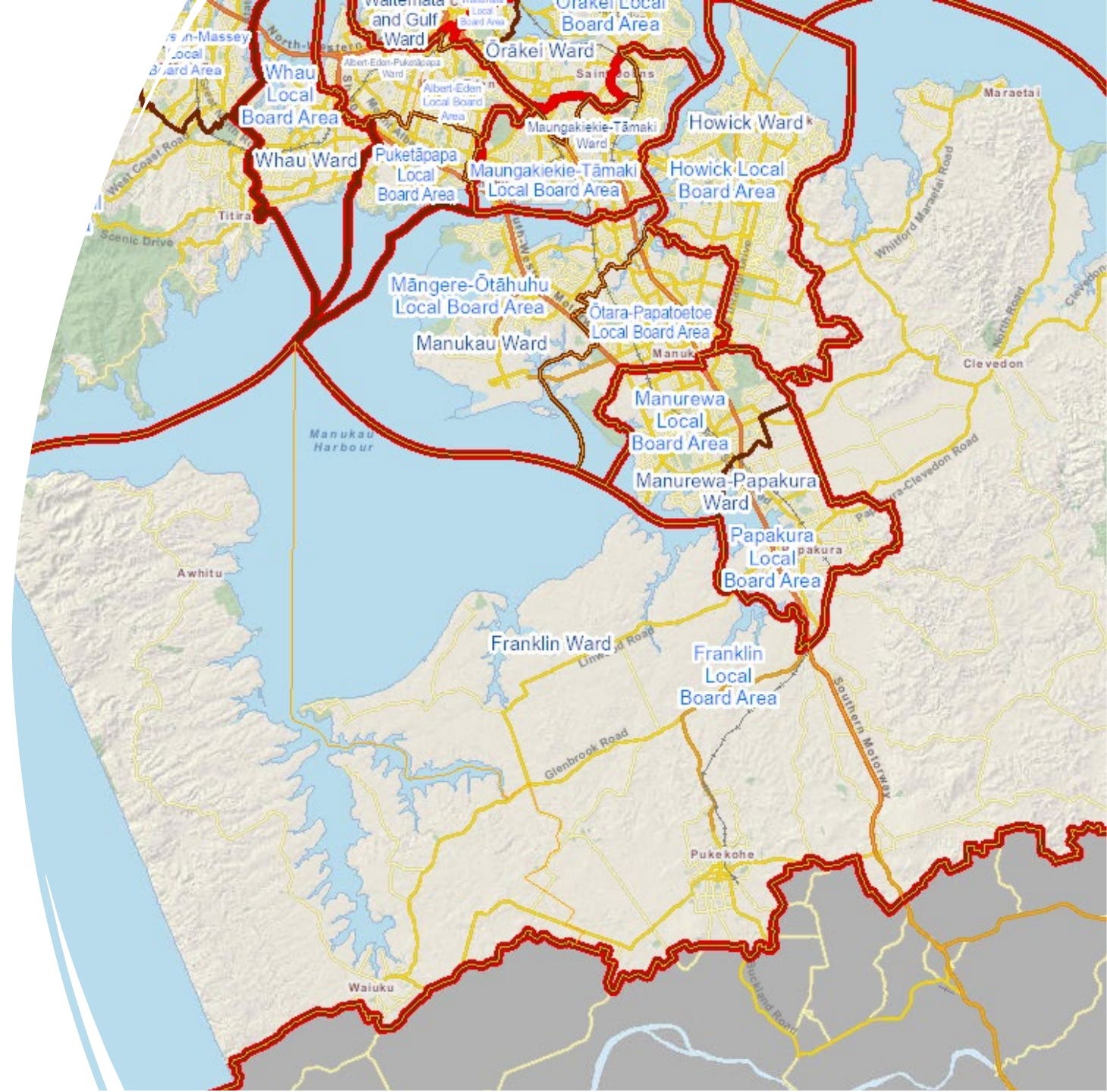
June 2021



Activity Stocktake

It was gratifying to see the stock take of activities within the Manukau Harbour completed, even if the list of Local Board activities was limited only to those delivered under I&ES.

There are many more activities taking place that affect the Harbour under different work streams, and for the future updates it would be great if members can work with staff to ensure these are captured in the stocktake.



Manukau Harbour Local Boards

Local Boards have conservation outcomes in their plans and provide funding for projects extending from the Waitakere Ranges to the Awhitu Peninsula. This locally focussed funding plays a major role in advancing the health and well-being of the wider Manukau Harbour environment.

Projects include, among many, Maungakiekie Tāmaki Local Board’s work with schools to educate students about invasive pest species, providing hands on experiences. Franklin, Papakura and Manurewa Local Boards are jointly funding a stream restoration project. Puketāpapa Local Board has funded water testing for the Safe Swim programme.

In addition to funding, Board Members provide advice for the local delivery of regional projects and make submissions, for the benefit the Harbour, on policy and programmes.

The Manukau Harbour Forum provides a way for Local Board Members to kōrerorero together, so ideas are shared, and greater benefit gained. We look forward to continuing this mahi in 2021.

Local boards unite for waterway

Papakura Stream project launching

Last Updated : 13 May 2021 ENVIRONMENT FRANKLIN WARD MANUREWA-PAPAKURA WARD



[Local boards unite for waterway - OurAuckland \(aucklandcouncil.govt.nz\)](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/our-auckland/our-auckland-articles/local-boards-unite-for-waterway)

Manukau Harbour Council / Healthy Waters Projects

- The [Awakeri Wetlands Project](#) to construct a 2.3km waterway, which will enable new housing, reduce flooding risk, provide recreation opportunities and improve biodiversity and water quality of the catchment runoff going into the Manukau Harbour;
- Watercare's Central Interceptor and Western Isthmus Improvement Programme, which will reduce wastewater overflows into both the Waitematā and Manukau Harbours;
- Design is underway for a new wastewater treatment plant serving Waiuku, Clarks Beach and Kingseat, which will have sophisticated treatment processes that improve the quality of the wastewater discharged;
- Stream restoration work continues in reserves, such as the Puhinui Stream, to improve stream ecology and reduce pollution;
- The council has partnered with Te Pua Nga Maara at three marae to encourage connection and kaitiaki of waterways using mātauranga Māori;
- A large new wetland has been constructed at Two Popes Road in Takanini to treat runoff from industrial land before it flows into the Papakura Stream and eventually the Manukau Harbour;
- Council works directly with the construction industry to [reduce sediment](#) run-off from earthworks;
- Investigation of contamination sources from wastewater in Huia, Foster Bay, Armour Bay, French Bay, Green Bay, [Laingholm](#), Titirangi, Weymouth, St. Annes Foreshore, Lynfield Cove and Clark's Beach;
- Continuation of the [Safe Networks](#) programme to find bad plumbing that contaminates our beaches;
- Several local boards are co-funding work to educate industries about disposing of their waste responsibly through the [Industrial Pollution Prevention Project](#).

SafeSwim

The Safeswim program is well-loved and much used by Aucklanders, with over 130,000 website visitors during the summer season.

Based on predictive modelling and regular water sampling, it provides real-time recreational water quality forecasts and beach swimming conditions.

The Puketāpapa Local Board funded sampling at Lynfield Cove, Wattle Bay and Waikōwhai Bay. Wattle Bay and Waikōwhai Bay both returned results like many of Auckland's urban beaches, with a small number (usually after heavy rainfall) of results exceeding the 'swim-ability' limit set at 280 enterococci per 100ml.

Lynfield Cove had many problematic water quality tests, which has led to it being included in Healthy Waters' "Safe Networks" program. This program looks at investigating the stormwater discharges into the Harbour, looking for illegal and older connections that may not adequately separate wastewater from stormwater.

Wairaki Stream discharges into Lynfield Cove, and it is likely that finding the cause of the poor water quality at Lynfield Cove will have a positive effect on the health of the awa.

Ensuring Aucklanders can swim safely in the Manukau without fear of contracting disease is vital. Better water quality will also improve marine life habitat, protect native species and promote biodiversity.

Although the Safe Swim project may sometimes seem small within the huge scope of Harbour projects, when it is repeated around the Harbour the benefits of being better informed about the status of the water in our beaches will multiply.



Safe Boating on the Manukau Harbour

Know the Boating Safety Code

Water Safety New Zealand, Coast Guard along with Maritime NZ and other water safety sector agencies stress the importance of always having a plan when going boating.

Knowing the local conditions is vital as well as following the Boating Safety Code:

- Always wear a fitting lifejacket
- Take two forms of waterproof ways to call for help
- Check the marine weather forecast
- Avoid alcohol
- Be a responsible skipper

More information about how boaties can keep safe is available here <https://saferboating.org.nz/>

Manukau Harbour Restoration Society



Photo Acknowledgment: Manukau Restoration Society

The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society's May 2021 newsletter drew attention to issues facing the Harbour, identifying the need for:

- Maintaining focus on achieving improved **water quality**
- **Public access and use of the Port of Onehunga** and improvement of the wharf infrastructure, enabling ferry and water taxi services to link communities on the Harbour.
- **Restoring the foreshore** of the Harbour especially in urban areas to improve environmental quality, public open space and trails around the Harbour
- Engaging with iwi, the Crown, the Manukau Harbour Forum and Auckland Council to **improve management** of the Harbour, including the need for dredging, sediment control and preventing contamination of Harbour waters.
- Increasing **recreation access** to the Harbour with more boat ramps and fishing areas
- Better protecting our internationally significant **shore and wading birds** and improve public knowledge about and care for them
- Rebuild native species, eradicate pests and grow biodiversity

[Manukau Harbour Restoration Society - Newsletter May 2021](#)

More to be achieved...

NEW ZEALAND / ENVIRONMENT

Aucklanders still need to stay out of Manukau Harbour after chemical spill

2:59 pm on 13 February 2021

Share this



Aucklanders are still being told to stay out of Manukau Harbour water while authorities are mopping up a chemical spill.



RELATED STORIES

Chemical spill kills 100 eels in Auckland stream

12 Feb 2021

About 100 eels have been found dead after a chemical compound spilled into a stormwater drain and subsequently into Manukau Harbour.



Health warning to Aucklanders after chemical spill in Penrose

12 Feb 2021

Aucklanders are being told not to go into the water within 5km of a stormwater drain which carried 5000 litres of a spilled chemical from Penrose to Manukau Harbour.



NEW ZEALAND

- Finding Bevan: 13 years without a trace
- Police union wants iwi to prove value of Northland border checkpoints
- District health boards prepare for Covid-19

Manukau Harbour National Geographic



New Zealand National Geographic recently featured the Manukau Harbour in a beautifully illustrated article by writer and photographer Iain Anderson, who travelled around the Manukau and interviewed scientists looking in detail and the ecology.

The article opens with interesting facts about the Manukau. These include its unique geographic features from buried forests to tiny crustaceans, extensive sand banks and deeper water channels. The rare Mau Dolphins, seals and sharks are among the sea creatures who live in the harbour.

Dr Hugh Grenfell, a geologist was asked if there were any new threats to the Manukau...

“Hugh told me that urban storm-water run-off into the harbour was a problem. Rainwater that falls on roofs, streets, footpaths and driveways is fed directly into the harbour by stormwater drains rather than being soaked up by the land. This can reduce the salinity of the harbour, while the run-off carries many pollutants with it, including zinc and copper, which are toxic to marine organisms.”

“...Hugh and his colleagues have observed that in the Tamaki and Riverhead estuaries, in neighbouring Waitemata Harbour, salinity changes since early European times have significantly altered the abundance of bivalves and other estuarine creatures. Without controls on storm water, numbers will not recover...”

Simon Thrush, a scientist at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research as asked about increasing sediment in the Harbour...

“Simon has compared 50-year-old aerial photographs of the harbour with recent ones, and it is clear that mangroves are spreading. Urban development seems to encourage their expansion, possibly by adding silt and nutrients to waterways as land is cleared for building, creating the shallow, muddy conditions in which they flourish...”

Refer: <https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/manukau-harbour/>

**Meri
Kirihimete!
Best wishes
for a restful
and enjoyable
holiday
Season**

The National Geographic article concludes:
“There is no doubt that humans have had a harmful effect on Manukau Harbour, as on many other inlets and estuaries. But with our increased understanding of and concern for the marine environment, we are well on the path to restoring it to something like its former state.

The future looks bright, and this is a good thing not just for marine life but also for us and our descendants. Long may the harbour remain a suitable stopping-off place for dolphin visitors from the Tasman.”

<https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/manukau-harbour/>

