

Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust

Annual Report

2005/2006



Table of Contents

Summary	1
Introduction	2
Trustees	2
Acknowledgements	3
Financial Report 2005/06	3
Internal Issues	3
Trust Structure.....	3
Website	3
Logo.....	4
Activities 2005/06	4
Pauatahanui Inlet Painting Series	4
Roading	4
Plantation Forests.....	5
Small and Ephemeral Streams.....	6
Porirua Stream and Catchment.....	6
Inter-Council Action Group.....	6
Ngatitoa Domain Management Plan Review.....	6
Subdivision and Land Use Proposals	6
Pauatahanui Inlet Pathway.....	7
Pauatahanui Inter-Agency Group.....	7
Pauatahanui Country Festival	8
Glenside Streamcare Group.....	8
Research, Ecology and Hydrology.....	8
Harbour Activities	9
Recreation	9
Inlet Valuation.....	9
Harbour Integration.....	9
Council Planning.....	10
Annual Accounts, 2005/06	12
Audit Report.....	12
Financial Position.....	13
Statement of Financial Performance.....	14

SUMMARY

The Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust was established in May of 2002. It was charged with the responsibility of facilitating the implementation of the Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan: *Towards Integrated Management*.

The Vision Statement in the Plan is

"The Pauatahanui Inlet and its catchment will be managed to

Enhance the quality of the environment by protecting the integrity of existing ecosystems and by restoring degraded ecosystems wherever possible.

Enable people to enjoy recreational activities and to undertake economic activities without compromising the reasonably foreseeable needs of present and future generations.

This can only be achieved by management agencies and the community working together"

The Trust has now completed its fourth year of operation.

During the year, significant events have occurred which will have an important positive impact on the Inlet:

1. **Long Term Council Community Plans:** During the year three councils produced Long Term Council Community Plans:
 - a. **Greater Wellington Regional Council:** The Trust supported the maintenance of financial support for implementation of the Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan.
 - b. **Porirua City Council:** The *Porirua Harbour and Catchment Management Plan* represents a very positive commitment to the preservation of the Porirua Harbour. It includes \$2.4 million over 10 years devoted to development and implementation of programmes for promoting the health of the Porirua Harbour¹.
 - c. **Wellington City Council:** The Trust made a submission pointing out the fact that developments in the Porirua Stream Catchment inevitably have an impact on the Porirua Harbour both arms of which are linked by tidal movement.
2. **Transmission Gully:** The Trust was very active in the debate on the Transmission Gully Motorway. The Trust supported Transmission Gully primarily because it provides the opportunity to move traffic away from close proximity to the Inlet.

The Trust has always recognised the importance of roading with respect to the Inlet simply because once south of Waikanae there is no route to Wellington that does not cross the catchment of the Inlet. It is indeed, a case of '**All Roads Lead to the Inlet**'.

The Trust is gratified that the regional agreement supporting Transmission Gully has now been achieved. Nevertheless, the Trust continues to urge the earliest possible commencement of construction.

¹ The Pauatahanui Inlet and the Onepoto Arm together make up the Porirua Harbour.

INTRODUCTION

The history of the Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust goes back to 1999 when the Pauatahanui Inlet Advisory Group began the formulation of a community-endorsed vision and action plan for the Inlet. The Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan *Towards Integrated Management* was published in August 2000.

One of the recommendations in that Plan was to establish a body to facilitate the implementation of the Plan. The Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust is that body and it became a legal entity in May of 2002 charged with the responsibility of promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Action Plan. The overriding purpose of the Trust is to oversee the conversion of subjective intent into concrete action that is consistent with preserving or improving the health of the Inlet while enabling activities to continue in the catchment.

Trustees

The Trust's fourth year began with the following Trustees:

Nominated Trustees

Jenny Brash	Mayor, Porirua City
Margaret Shields	Regional Councillor for Porirua Ward representing the Chairperson, GWRC
Robert Solomon	Chairman, Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira

Appointed Trustees

Graeme Blanchard	
Alan Bulleyment	
Geordie Cassin	
Mike Gould	
Andrew Gray	
George McMillan	
Russell Morrison	Interim Treasurer
Russell Plume	Chairperson
Philippa Richardson	
Wanda Tate	
John Wells	

Advisory Trustees

Ken Betteridge
John McKoy

The appointment terms of five Trustees ended in August 2005. Of those Trustees one did not seek re-appointment. The remaining four were appointed to a second term. Those Trustees were George McMillan, Russell Morrison, Russell Plume, and Wanda Tate. In addition to these changes, during the year three Trustees resigned. John McKoy was appointed to a full Trusteeship to fill the vacancy created by one of these resignations. The Trust continues to seek a suitable person to take responsibility for issues relating to the rural community.

Trustees at year-end were:

Nominated Trustees

Jenny Brash
Margaret Shields

Mayor, Porirua City
Regional Councillor for Porirua Ward
representing the Chairperson, GWRC
Chairman, Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira

Robert Solomon

Appointed Trustees

Graeme Blanchard
Alan Bulleyment
Mike Gould
John McKoy
George McMillan
Russell Morrison
Russell Plume
Wanda Tate
John Wells

Interim Treasurer
Chairperson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of the Action Plan provided for an active role for Ngati Toa, Porirua City Council (PCC), and the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

The continued, positive, and active support and partnership of Transit New Zealand, the Department of Conservation, PCC, GWRC, Ngati Toa, the Guardians of the Pauatahanui Inlet and the community is gratefully acknowledged.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2005/06

The annual accounts for the year ended 30 June 2006 are attached as an appendix.

INTERNAL ISSUES

Trust Structure

It has become evident that managing the day-to-day affairs of the Trust has become effectively a full-time job. The Trust is looking for ways to remain effective while not imposing too heavily on volunteer Trustees. During 2005/06 the Trust came to the view that the issue would be best addressed in the 2006/07 year.

Website

During the year, the PICT website² went online, providing a cost-effective vehicle for conveying PICT information to the wider community. As well as being a source of general information, the ratified minutes of PICT's monthly meetings are posted and major activities carried out by the Trust will be increasingly featured. It is expected that the

² www.pict.org.nz

website will expand in use as PICT becomes more familiar with the benefits of using this technology.

Logo.^[RWP1]

Over the past year, the Trust developed a logo which is evocative of its objectives. The design³ meets the Trust's requirement for the logo to be unambiguously visually associated with the Inlet. The pied stilt motif was chosen because it is a bird closely associated with estuaries, its appearance suggests fragility and it lends itself to a stylised design.



The Māori words mean "Guard the treasures". The logo was developed with the help of a \$2,000 grant from Landcorp for which the Trust is very grateful.

ACTIVITIES 2005/06

Pauatahanui Inlet Painting Series

One of the most important events for the Trust during this year was the exhibition of the Inlet series of 18 watercolour paintings by Janet Andrews at the St James Theatre in Wellington from 31 October to 10 November 2005.

The exhibition and in particular the exhibition opening, was a major promotional event for the Trust and generated considerable interest, both for the Inlet and for the Trust. The Trust received 50% of gross sales from the exhibition for which it is extremely grateful.



The artist in conjunction with the St James Theatre and the Trust also presented one of the paintings to the Porirua City Council. **Wetlands. By Janet Andrews.**

Roading

During the year considerable time and effort was directed towards the Western Corridor [Roading] Plan.

The Trust supports proposals that lead to a reduction in:

- The effects of vehicle emissions within the catchment area.
- The need for maintenance and upgrading of existing roads adjacent to the Inlet.
- Traffic flow on existing roads around the Inlet (SH58 and Grays Road).

³ By Jenny Palmer, graphic designer of Pauatahanui.
Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust

In response to the Western Corridor Consultation document (1 October 2005) the Trust presented a comprehensive submission to Hearing Subcommittee which strongly supported the Transmission Gully option. During that time the Trust participated in public meetings and maintained close liaison with the Porirua City Council and the Transmission Gully Action Group.

The Hearing Subcommittee report (8 March 2006) in support of the Transmission Gully option was welcomed by the Trust as the option with the least adverse effect on the Inlet.

SH58 Rock wall maintenance & planting

The Trust made submissions to Transit NZ during the year on the most suitable plants to be used along the seaward side of SH58 and will be monitoring developments.

Memorandum of Understanding

During the year, the Trust took very preliminary steps towards developing a Memorandum of Understanding with roading agencies, contractors, and emergency service organisations. This was called for in the Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan and is intended to set out agreed policies and procedures for any construction or maintenance works on roads and highways adjacent to both arms of the Porirua Harbour. The matter will be given more urgency during the coming year.

Speed Zoning Proposal

The Trust made submissions on proposals by Transit NZ (SH58) and PCC (Grays Road) and at this stage is satisfied with the decisions reached and the speed restrictions decided upon which reduced speed limits on both roads.

Plantation Forests

The Trust has been examining the situation in respect of the possibly imminent logging of large forest blocks in the catchment owned by Greater Wellington Regional Council. This could be as soon as next year, and has real potential to cause sedimentation of the Inlet through erosion and uncontrolled runoff. An inspection of the Council's logging operations on the northern side of the ridge behind Battle Hill Reserve allayed the Trust's fears somewhat, but it remains an issue of concern to the Trust.

The other aspect of this plantation forestry matter is the question of how forest owners other than the Regional Council will approach the logging of their blocks. There is some 2,000ha, or 18.4% of the total land area, of planted land in the catchment. The majority of this is privately owned.

The Trust is concerned that neither the Porirua City Council nor the GWRC have particularly strong ordinances in their respective planning documents that ensure appropriate logging and erosion prevention regimes. The Trust is currently discussing this with both bodies and may seek direct discussion with the forest owners.

Small and Ephemeral Streams

The Trust has been discussing with GWRC the situation concerning small and ephemeral streams⁴. These are recognised worldwide as being an important feature of the overall environment. In the Pauatahanui catchment there has been no significant mapping of such streams and the Trust will be examining ways and means of achieving this.

Porirua Stream and Catchment

The Porirua Stream has an important bearing on the health and attractiveness of the Onepoto Arm of the Porirua Harbour and the Inlet. The Trust is concerned about the actual and potential damaging effects of activities in the Porirua Stream catchment, and is closely watching proposals for large-scale residential subdivisions in that catchment.

The Trust has established a liaison with the Glenside Streamcare Group which shares similar aims and concerns

Inter-Council Action Group

An action group was set up during the year to address the major issues of silting and water pollution affecting the Porirua Harbour that require co-ordinated from the three local councils: PCC, GWRC and WCC. Meetings were held with WCC councillors and staff to address these issues in the Porirua Stream, which comes under the administration of both the PCC and WCC at various stages of its length. Other, mainly rural catchment issues, relating to the health of the Pauatahanui Inlet are administered separately by the GWRC and PCC.

It has been gratifying to see the need for a more co-ordinated effort among Councils being addressed by the PCC in the recently released proposed *Porirua Harbour and Catchment Management Programme* as part of its 2006-16 Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

PICT has been identified as a key local group involved with PCC in the development of the programme. PICT welcomes this involvement and will be closely monitoring progress to ensure the *Healthy Harbour, Inlet and Waterways* strategic focus area for the PCC 2006-16 LTCCP is reflected in funding being allocated and work being carried out during the period.

Ngatitoa Domain Management Plan Review

The Trust made a submission on the proposed plan review from PCC. The main concern was to ensure that the Trust is made aware of any proposal for drainage off the Domain into the Inlet or wider Harbour, and has the opportunity to comment.

Subdivision and Land Use Proposals

The Trust made submissions on a number of consent applications referred to it by PCC. In both the Whitby Golf Course and Navigation Drive Extension cases (subdivisions promoted by Whitby Coastal Estates), the Trust's submissions were restricted to the issue of likely or

⁴ Streams which run only at times of heavy rainfall but are otherwise dry.

possible adverse impacts on the Inlet. There has not been a final decision on either of these proposals.

Earlier the Trust made a policy decision to refrain from commenting on any development proposal prior to receiving a formal request by the official agency to do so, or prior to formal public notification of the proposal.

Pauatahanui Inlet Pathway

Over the past year PICT had further discussions with Plimmerton Rotary over the development of the Inlet Pathway. The first stage is in progress. Porirua City Council approached PICT to give guidance on the nature of the second stage, including plantings and ideas for restoration after the earthworks are complete.

In the interests of supporting development of the Pathway, PICT introduced Plimmerton Rotary to the Interagency Technical Group.

Planning is currently being undertaken for the longest stage so far: from Ration Point through to the Paekakariki Hill Road. Rotary hopes to complete that stage during the next 12 months. Although for most of this section it should be possible to accommodate the pathway within the road reserve, there are a number of parts that need special care – most notably an area beside the Reserve approximately 150m long, east of Ration Creek, which contains an important bird nesting area within 15 metres of the road. PICT will work with PCC and Rotary during planning to mitigate the effect on this important bird habitat.

Encroachment into the Inlet is an issue that will need to be addressed during the development of this section of the pathway.

Pauatahanui Inter-Agency Group

The Pauatahanui Inter-Agency Group⁵ has made a significant contribution to achieving the aims of the Trust. The primary purpose of the Group is to ensure that decisions and activities which impact on the Inlet are carried out in a coordinated manner.

In addition to the Trust, the Group comprises representatives from:

- Porirua City Council
 - Utilities
 - Strategic Policy
 - Leisure & Recreation
 - Consents
- GWRC
 - Resource Investigations
 - Harbours
 - Consents
 - Biodiversity Policy
- Ngati Toa
- Transit NZ
- Department of Conservation

⁵ Also known as the Inter-Agency Technical Group (ITG).
Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust

Pauatahanui Country Festival

PICT was represented at the Pauatahanui Country Festival held at Battle Hill Park in early 2006 with PICT mounting a display. Contact was made with numerous members of the public and people who lived in the catchment. Copies of the planting guide *Planting with a Purpose*, the 2004/05 Annual Report, contact information etc were passed out to members of the public.

Glenside Streamcare Group

The Trust has established a liaison with the Glenside Streamcare Group which has amongst its aims the protection and beautification of the Porirua Stream. The Stream and its catchment has a significant impact on the Onepoto Arm of the Porirua Harbour. Tidal movement within the Harbour means that the Pauatahanui Inlet is also vulnerable to what comes down the Porirua Stream. The liaison with the Glenside Group is proving valuable.

Research, Ecology and Hydrology

In April 2005 a comprehensive study commissioned by GWRC and PCC from NIWA⁶ entitled: *Pauatahanui Inlet: Effects of Historical Catchment Landcover Changes on Inlet Sedimentation* was released. This report complemented and updated, using modern techniques, the work reported in the seminal study by Healy *et al.*, 1980⁷. It was a major improvement in our understanding of sedimentation history and processes in the Inlet and has been a valuable resource for evaluation of future impacts of human activity on the Inlet.

PICT is greatly encouraged by the commitment to research and remedial action proposed in the PCC Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2006-16 under the *Porirua Harbour and Catchment Management Programme* within a new strategic focus for the city: *Healthy Harbour, Inlet and Waterways*. Achieving this level of recognition by the Council of the very high value and importance of the Harbour to the city and its people represents for the Trust the culmination of four years of effort on behalf of our community. Particularly pleasing is the emphasis in the programme for the necessity of understanding harbour processes prior to formulating plans for action.

The Trust particularly applauds the recognition that a comprehensive hydrological model of the harbour is an essential prerequisite for research on such controversial issues as sediment removal and habitat restoration. Similarly pleasing is the clear commitment by the Council to working with the rural community on measures to reduce avoidable soil erosion in the catchment, with its consequent release into the Inlet of sediment and the dangerous pesticide residues it contains as a legacy of long past agricultural practices

PICT is pleased also to see the commitment of GWRC to the continuation of research and monitoring that will provide data on the effects of contaminants that enter the harbour via streams and stormwater outlets on benthic⁸ biodiversity and help to identify areas of

⁶ National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research.

⁷ Healy *et al.*, 1980. *Pauatahanui Inlet – An Environmental Study*. New Zealand Dept of Scientific and Industrial Research. DSIR Information Series 141. ISSN 0077-9636.

⁸ Bottom-dwelling.

maximum accumulation of contaminants. This knowledge is an essential prerequisite for any plan for sediment removal, especially from the deeper basins of the harbour

PICT looks forward to working with PCC, GWRC, and WCC to develop effective research and implementation strategies for the renewal of harbour health which can only be fully effective if complete cooperation of the Councils, and other responsible agencies, is achieved

Harbour Activities

With recent increases in the use of kayaks in the Inlet, there are now many people in craft on the water. Advice from GWRC's Harbour Master was that there are not too many problems with boating use on the Inlet at present.

PICT was consulted by PCC on the permit request for landing of the float-plane in the Onepoto Arm of the Porirua Harbour. It was PICT's submission that no ecological ill effects were likely to arise from this operation.

Recreation

The Harbour is an asset that offers a wide range of enjoyment – from offering a beautiful environment to walk, run, or cycle around, to nature watching, to the use of watercraft and swimming, through to taking seafood such as cockles and fish.

Although many people enjoy the Inlet currently, the Trust is looking forward to encouraging further sustainable recreational use. Developing ways to achieve this will become part of the Trust's long-term strategy.

Inlet Valuation

A project carried out this year by the Trust indicated that the value of the Inlet in terms of increased property values was at least \$50 million and could be as much as \$60 million. Although no detailed study has been carried out on the Onepoto Arm of the harbour, it is probable similar values would be found.

Thus, the value of the entire harbour to the community is likely to be approximately \$100 million. Other values, including recreation values have not been included in the calculation, but would add to this figure, making the harbour the most valuable asset owned by the community. The increased rating flowing from higher property valuations, demonstrates convincingly that Councils' outgoings on this asset is money well-spent, and that the harbour is paying its way.

Harbour Integration

The Trust considers the Porirua Harbour – which includes the Pauatahanui Inlet – to be the fundamental defining feature of Porirua City. In recent times it has become clear that the Harbour is very highly valued by the citizens of the city. This was particularly evident, for example, at the Community Forums at which virtually every speaker identified the Harbour as the vital feature of the City.

The Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan *Towards Integrated Management* notes that

"The relationship between Pauatahanui Inlet and the [Onepoto] arm of Porirua Harbour must be acknowledged. It is possible that contaminants from the Porirua arm are carried into the Inlet."

Furthermore, that document recommends that the appropriate agencies should:

"Undertake the preparation of an Action Plan for the [Onepoto] arm of Porirua Harbour."

Similarly, the Trust Deed requires the Trust

"...To promote and support the development and implementation of an action plan for the [Onepoto] arm."

It appears that the city in general and the Trust in particular have arrived at a time when the integrated management approach currently being applied to the Pauatahanui Inlet might be usefully extended to encompass the entire Harbour. It is the intention of the Trust to address this issue more formally during the coming year. Among other things the Trust needs to assess how it might participate in advocacy for the Harbour as a whole.

Because the catchment of the Onepoto Arm extends into Wellington City, it is an essential part of the integration process that the Wellington City Council becomes actively involved in the management of the Harbour. PICT met with two Wellington City Councillors on site during the year. The meeting was held to inform Wellington City of their responsibilities with respect to the Porirua Harbour but also to initiate the process of engaging WCC in the activities of the Trust.

Council Planning

Regional and District Plans must be reviewed every ten years after they become operative.

Greater Wellington Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)

The Trust put in a submission to GWRC commenting on a number of issues it saw as important. These covered our concerns about the need for overall catchment management, the importance of soil stability and the pressing need for avoidance of further sedimentation of the Inlet.

PCC Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)

The Trust put in a submission to PCC commenting on various matters primarily related to the intended Porirua Harbour and Catchment Management Plan, stormwater discharges into the Harbour arms, the Takapuwahia stormwater upgrade, and the need for certain catchment studies.

WCC Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)

The Trust made a submission pointing out the fact that developments in the Porirua Stream Catchment inevitably have an impact on the Porirua Harbour both arms of which are linked by tidal movement.

PCC Rural Review

The Trust is keen to see the PCC Rural Review progressed as quickly as possible and will be making representations to the Council accordingly. The Trust sees a danger of this important review being delayed while other proposals under the LTCCP are progressed.

Battle Hill Reserve Management Plan

The Trust made submissions on the review of this Plan to GWRC. The management of Battle Hill is of very real importance to the Inlet because the size and location of the Park means it can play an influential role in the wellbeing or otherwise of the Inlet.

PICT made two main points in the submission. First, the need for sound and supportable logging practices when the felling of the Council's plantation forests in the Park commences and, second, the need to carefully handle the impact on the Park of the proposed Transmission Gully Motorway when it is constructed.

The Trust also commented on the very important educational role the Park has in terms of showing landholders what land management practices can be followed in particular circumstances.

Regional Policy Statement

The Trust has made submissions primarily relating to the need for soil stability and avoidance of sedimentation into the Inlet and the necessity for adequate oversight by appropriate authorities.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS, 2005/06

Audit Report

Financial Position

Statement of Financial Performance