



## PAUATAHANUI INLET COMMUNITY TRUST

### ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

#### INTRODUCTION

The Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust was established in May of 2002 and has now completed its eighth year of operation. The Trust 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”*

Tremendous progress has been made with the implementation of the Plan by various responsible agencies and I hope that is reflected in the rest of this report.

#### TRUSTEES

Trustees have continued to contribute a significant amount of voluntary time into achieving the aims and objectives of the Trust by convening specialist groups, attending public meetings, preparing submissions and responding to a growing number of developments in the catchment.

The Trust accepted, with great regret, the resignation of George McMillan in April 2010. George had made a major contribution to the Trust since its establishment and has gained the respect of everyone he has dealt with. His professionalism, dignity, perseverance and great depth of

knowledge will be greatly missed by the Trust. George has agreed to continue in the role of Advisory Trustee as he is able.

Trustees at the end of July 2010 were;

#### Nominated Trustees

Jenny Brash	Mayor of Porirua City (PCC);
Barbara Donaldson	Regional Councillor for Porirua/Tawa Ward representing the Chairperson Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC);
Graeme Hastilow	Representing the Chairman, Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira

#### Appointed Trustees

Grant Baker  
Cheryl Cameron  
John McKoy  
Russell Morrison (Treasurer)  
Philippa Richardson  
John Wells  
Christine Stanley  
Wanda Tate

#### Advisory Trustees

Margaret Shields, George McMillan

### **MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST**

In February 2010 the Trust Board accepted the resignation of Christine Stanley as Chair of the Board after 2 years energetic service. The Board nominated John McKoy as Chair. Christine will be continuing as a trustee.

Secretarial services have been very ably provided over the year by Paul Carey. Paul's contribution has demonstrated the considerable wisdom of the decision to appoint professional secretarial services to contribute to the efficient running of the Trust and the easing of the load on volunteer Trustees

In May 2010 the Trust resolved to seek up to 4 new trustees. Advertising was done in June/July 2010 and expressions of interest were received from 3 promising candidates. The interview and appointment process will be completed in September 2010.

### **TRUST ACTIVITIES**

#### **Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan Review**

The Trust has continued a process of review of the Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan. The review is identifying issues which are still relevant but unresolved, suggesting current priorities among those issues, assembling views on how to resolve the issues, and identifying any new issues which should be considered for the future. This process will, we hope be a useful contribution to the development and activities being considered by the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust.

#### **Porirua Harbour Programme**

The Porirua Harbour Programme continues to develop and to be one of the most significant developments for PICT. The programme recognises that the waters of Pauatahanui Inlet, the Onepoto Arm and the Channel constitute one body of water, and that planning for both catchments

and all areas of water must be integrated. PICT continues to have a close relationship with the Programme co-ordinator Keith Calder. Keith is invited to all Trust meetings and he regularly reports on progress with the Programme.

### **Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust**

PCC, Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira and GWRC have made solid progress on establishing a new 'whole-of-harbour' Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust (PHACCT) to extend the work that PICT started and which will formally involve WCC communities in harbour and catchment issues. Papers seeking council nominations to PHACCT went to PCC, GWRC and WCC in June/July. Ngati Toa participation is still under discussion. We are advised that the mechanics and timing of formal establishment of PHACCT will be addressed once all four key partners have responded to the recommendations in papers. PICT continues to assist with all aspects of the establishment of this group as far as it is able. Once PHACCT is established and operating the Trust will then review its own role and relationships with councils, Ngati Toa and PHACCT.

### **Research**

The literature review of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment was completed in early 2010 and the extremely valuable documents produced are available on the PCC webpage at:  
<http://www.pcc.govt.nz/Publications/Porirua-Harbour-and-Catchment-Management-Programme>

A further key document which has been published and which is available on the PCC website is "*Porirua Harbour Patterns and Rates of Sedimentation Report*". This report reviews all of the available information, including data from the recent hydrographic survey, and attempts to draw some conclusions about rates and patterns of sedimentation in the Inlet. The review points to some particular areas where significant changes have taken place, including a large increase in the average sedimentation rate in the Harbour. However, the Trust is concerned to note that the quality of the earlier hydrographic data make some of the general conclusions which can be drawn questionable. The Trust Research and Ecology Group has continued a discussion with the Harbour Strategy Coordinator about the care required when using the conclusions of this analysis.

With the completion of the important hydrographic survey, the Porirua Harbour Programme developed specifications for the development of a hydrodynamic model aimed at providing a good basis for evaluating the effects of various activities, structures and other interventions in the Porirua Harbour. The Programme has since negotiated arrangements with the NZ Transport Agency Transmission Gully Motorway team for the modelling to be done by SKM, consultants working for TGM. The modelling is well advanced, although arrangements for funding the part of the modelling that is required to meet the specific questions for the Porirua Harbour Programme is still under discussion.

A proposal has been prepared for an as yet undisclosed party for a full survey of the fishery resources in Porirua Harbour. If this research proceeds it will fill a key gap in our knowledge of Harbour functioning and value – and provide a baseline from which to measure important biological changes especially in those parts of the Harbour not covered by the DSIR studies in the 1970s.

### **Harbour Strategy**

The joint Councils recently produced a public discussion brochure on the Harbour Programme intended to inform the general public and interested organisations about the issues and seek input from the community and community groups to assist the development of the strategy. The 3 councils are working at key officer level to develop a draft working strategy which would then be consulted on with key stakeholders. The aim to complete the draft by the end of 2010 with a view to having the strategy in place by mid 2011.

## **Roading**

After many years of involvement, consultation and submissions the Trust has noted with some satisfaction the decisions that have been made to proceed with the Transmission Gully project. We have appreciated the informative updates provided by the NZ Transport Agency team working on the project. We expect to continue to engage, as appropriate, in the upcoming processes – where relevant to the interests of the Trust. NZTA expects to lodge regulatory consent applications in March 2011.

The Trust has continued to be involved in discussions about the effects on the Inlet of proposed road safety improvement measures on Greys Road.

The Trust provided a submission on the proposed new link roads to Transmission Gully Motorway

## **Catchment issues**

The Trust has been an active correspondent on the following matters relating to catchment management:

- Resource consents for earthworks in the Lanes Flat area around Pauatahanui Stream.
- Management plan for Whitirea Park, especially as it relates to the possible effects on the Harbour of the recent fire in the Park.
- Roothing requirements through Pauatahanui for wind farm construction.

## **Communication and Education**

Over the year a significant contribution to education and communication about the Inlet and the wider Porirua Harbour has been the *Harbour Talk* column produced by Trustee Cheryl Cameron for *Kapi Mana News*. 8 columns have been produced to date. Each column has been placed on the PICT and GOPI websites, usually accompanied by a short video.

In its 2008-9 review of the action plan, education and communication were identified as needing urgent attention. In order to rectify this, the PICT Trustees endorsed a dynamic proposal to make a series of 12 (monthly) short films provisionally entitled "*Living Waters*". The films will inform viewers about the importance and dynamics of Porirua Harbour and encourage them to take positive action to protect the Harbour. These "DVD Diaries" will be promoted through multiple web sites including the Porirua City Council and Wellington Regional Council web sites; DVDs will be distributed to schools and community groups and promoted through local news media, community and church groups, and local and regional businesses.

Key elements of the films are:

- A strong tangata whenua perspective and presence
- Positive stories focused on solutions not problems
- Features on 'care group' activities
- A strong focus on the complexity of life in the Harbour
- A wildlife element in each episode

Telling the stories on film is seen as the most effective way to reach people at an emotional level. The reaction of people who have seen some of the material already filmed confirms our belief that this project will have a significant impact. A "trailer" providing an outline of the approach for "Living Waters" is available at: [www.livingwatersdoco.co.nz](http://www.livingwatersdoco.co.nz)

The PICT Trustees have engaged a local company, Wild Thyme Ltd, to produce the films. Filming has commenced. Wild Thyme has produced a number of documentaries and professional

web based short films and is committed to environmental and social issues. PICT Trustees are contributing to the project their time and expertise, and intimate knowledge of the Harbour.

A significant activity for trustees has been raising funding for this project. PICT is applying for funds for this project in three stages:

- Filming
- Post-Production
- Distribution and Promotion.

The Trust gratefully acknowledges the contributions to date from the following organisations:

Hutt Mana Charitable Trust	\$ 3,000
Mana Community Grants Foundation	\$ 25,000
Carrus	\$ 5,625

### **Pauatahanui wastewater management**

The Trust has maintained an active interest in discussions and developments for the management of wastewater in Pauatahanui village. The Pauatahanui Residents Association has been very active in researching and developing possible solutions and we note that PCC officers have taken an extremely constructive attitude to potential solutions.

### **Pauatahanui Inlet pathway**

The community signalled its desire to have a recreational strip around the entire seaward edge of the inlet, and this was acknowledged in PICT's Action Plan in 2000. In August 2002, the Pauatahanui Restoration Plan Stage 1 prepared for GWRC and PCC developed guidelines as to how the walkway (as it was then called) should be designed. In 2004 Rotary took an interest in developing the pathway and in 2007 teamed up with PCC to work together, funding and designing the pathway. Whilst the initial, less controversial, stages have been developed PICT remains cautious about the impacts of the next stages – one to the east from Ration Point to Pauatahanui and the other being the western extension from Motukaraka point to Camborne. These stages will pass alongside the Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve, and the Horokiwi and the Kakaho Reserves.

PICT trustees have contributed to a number of discussions over the last year regarding the proposed extension of the pathway on Grays Road between Ration Point and the Village. PICT will continue to work with PCC and Rotary to mitigate the effects of the pathway.

### **Rural Review Reference Group**

The Trust is a member of this Group which has been set up to provide input into the review of the Rural Zone of the Porirua City District Plan. Unfortunately, the group has made little progress this year. The Trust will continue to look for opportunities to make a constructive contribution to the group. It has been acknowledged that the rural section of the existing District Plan is no longer adequate to address the pressure that the rural area is under.

### **THE FUTURE**

As can be seen from the above report, the Trust has remained active in its role of promoting the integrated management of activities in the Inlet and its catchment.

A key element in our future will be the successful formation of PHACCT. This is likely to see PICT losing its nominated trustees from PCC and GWRC. Whilst PICT will be able to 'hand over' some of the wider catchment issues to PHACCT it will need to remain vigilant to ensure that PHAACT,

with its focus on the wider Harbour issues, is able to give appropriate attention to the Pauatahanui Inlet and its catchment and to its Action Plan that the community created.

The proposed settlement between the Crown and Ngati Toa will also be of importance to the inlet and to PICT.

We look forward to this challenge and to enhancing the many relationships we have developed.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to publicly acknowledge the huge efforts and input that have been contributed by Christine Stanley over a number of years, most recently as Chair of the Trust.

I would also once again like to acknowledge the contribution from the Original Chair of the Trust – Russell Plume.

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable work done in the Inlet and its catchment from two groups in particular, the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet from whom PICT emerged, and the Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve Management Committee who have developed and maintain the precious resource at the head of the Inlet.

I would also like to thank Paul Carey who has been the Trust secretary over the last year. Paul has been extremely efficient and has taken a great load off the other Trust members.

John McKoy  
Chair  
August 2010