

Date: Thursday 1 June 2017
Time: 6.00pm
Meeting Room: Manurewa Local Board Office
Venue: 7 Hill Road
Manurewa

Manurewa Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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9.1	Public Forum - Manukau Harbour Forum - David Hopkins	
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2017 Manukau Harbour Symposium

The symposium is a one day public event with many speakers sharing their love and knowledge of the harbour. Speakers came from Iwi, Auckland Council, Watercare, community groups, scientists, churches, historians, educators, students, artists and other interested people.

All agree the waters of the Manukau Harbour are a 'taonga', a treasure.

Hero Potini from Ngati Tamaoho (one of the local iwi or Maori tribes) gave the welcome and opening mihi or prayer for the 2017 Manukau Harbour Symposium held in Mangere on 19 May.

Richelle Kahui-McConnell facilitated the busy day and kept the meeting on track and informed through the packed agenda.



Local iwi including Ngati Tamaoho have lived with and managed this amazing environment of the Manukau Harbour for a very long time.

Kaumatua (or respected elder) Ted Ngataki shared some of his history of the harbour and how his wider whanau (or family) used the harbour and its then bountiful abundance of seafood at different times over the year.

Rereata Makiha shared by video some of the knowledge Maori have developed by careful observation of nature including the stars.

Together these speakers emphasised a closeness to the abundant natural life of the harbour and how the harbour's mauri or well-being is reflected in the visible life in the waters.

We heard of the work of the 'Watercare Kaitiaki (or guardians) Forum' in which local iwi and Watercare (the Council body responsible for providing drinking water and managing waste water) meet to decide direction for Watercare's work.

Later in the day people from many different backgrounds shared their knowledge and understanding of the harbour.

Dylan Clarke is a fresh water specialist with Auckland Council's Healthy Waters Department. Dylan loves caring for the waters through partnerships with landowners. He is part of a Council programme, the waterways protection fund, which supports work in targeted catchments. Dylan showed slides of some of the great work which has been done planting alongside streams with combinations of plants that will hold stream banks and let water filter in gradually through swales. This reduces erosion and runoff and benefits farmers as well as the waterways. Dylan is pictured receiving an award for this work.



Manukau Beautification Trust featured prominently during the day. The Trust volunteers had taken shopping trolleys rescued from the Puhinui Stream clean up and turned them into works of art.



The Manukau Beautification Trust won an award for this Puhinui stream clean-up work.

Over on Auckland's east coast, there is work underway to protect the Hauraki Gulf waters. All different interest groups have come together as the 'Hauraki Gulf forum' and negotiated a Marine Spatial plan they can agree on. Laurie Beamish outlined this plan called 'Sea Change' and some of the issues the Hauraki Gulf forum has faced. Laurie pointed out for the Manukau side some of the opportunities and challenges ahead as we start down the path towards creating and implementing a 'Marine Spatial plan' for the Manukau Harbour.



Laurie Beamish of Ngai Tai ki Umupuia talks about the Hauraki Gulf which now has a Marine Spatial plan.

Watercare

Knowing how and where water flows through the harbour is an early step in making a Marine Spatial Plan for Manukau Harbour.

Watercare and Council have agreed to fund studies called 'hydrodynamic modelling' of how water flows into and through the harbour. NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) is coordinating the research.

Raveen Jaduram and Roseline Klein of Watercare talked about funding this study & research into waters of Manukau harbour and how Watercare is making sure the results will be fully publically shared. The project involves bringing together several different data sets from different organisations and creating an overall model of where the harbour water moves. The model will help show how various sediments and nutrients move in the water. So for example if sediment runoff enters the harbour from one of the streams, where does that sediment end up in the harbour?



Trish Rea of LegaSea (part of NZ Sport Fishing Council) told of the abundance of fish and natural habitat that fishing folk use to enjoy in the Manukau Harbour. She explained how increased sedimentation after runoff from hard surfaces like sealed roads creates mud flats where previously there had been sea grasses. Trish outlined some of the sustainability work the fishing community are undertaking including providing fish off cuts for use in South Auckland's Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae. Recreational fishers are committed to rebuilding inshore fisheries in the harbour.



Trish Rea from LegaSea with young people from Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae. LegaSea facilitated a partnership between a boating club and the Marae to enable fishheads and trimmings to be collected, smoked and distributed to needy families.

Simon Wilkinson of 'Wilkinson Environmental' showcased 'Industry Pollution Prevention' programmes in which his team visit and educate business about care of waterways. Many business operators do not even realise that the pollution and chemical spills they direct down drains go straight into streams and

into the harbour without being treated. Simon's work gives practical steps that businesses can and usually do adopt to avoid spills or deal with them differently so as to protect the waterways. Local Boards and the Manukau Harbour Forum have allocated funding to this key programme.

Keith Vallabh of Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association laid out the impressive achievements of the 'Franklin Sustainability Project' in which Pukekohe vegetable growers have taken huge steps to reduce sediment run off from their farms. After heavy rain events, valuable top soil use to run off into neighbouring properties, streets, drains and into waterways.

Now through this long term sustainability project, growers have seen how to use different methods including big swales or depressions at the bottom of their fields to catch the soil run off after heavy rains. Once they have installed the swales, farmers can, after heavy rain, simply scoop out the washed away soil again using diggers and return it to the growing fields where it can be profitable. Meanwhile the streams of the Pukekohe district run much clearer and bring less silt into the harbour. A win-win for all.

Maahia Nathan, principal of a kaupapa Maori language school called Te Wharekura O Manurewa at Manurewa Marae, right on the Manukau Harbour told how the school's curriculum has been focussed on Manukau harbour & Puhinui waterways. Maahia showed us the work of his students in monitoring stream water quality in the Puhinui Stream. Students were trained to use sophisticated equipment to sample and test water quality. The school won environmental awards for this work. Some school leavers are now continuing their environmental interest through studying Environmental Science at Waikato Uni.



Maahia Nathan receiving award from Councillor Denise Lee, a key advocate for the harbour.

Mangroves

Marine ecologist Dr Carolyn Lundquist from National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), launched a guide for managing mangroves at the symposium. This guide is prompted by a desire for people to learn more about mangrove ecosystems, and what happens when they are removed.

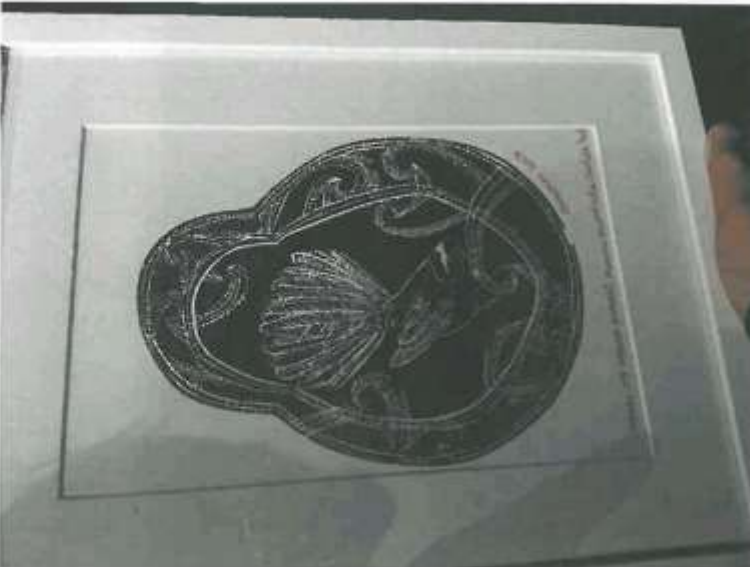
<https://www.niwa.co.nz/news/mangroves-to-clear-or-not-to-clear>

The aim of the manual is to provide research based guidance for managing mangrove expansion while maintaining the ecological functioning of estuaries and harbours.

NIWA has surveyed more than 40 areas where mangroves have been removed and found that the practice often does not result in a return of sand flats, and that many removals have had detrimental effects on the local ecosystem.

<https://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/managing-mangrove-expansion>

Charlotte Graham, a mana whenua (person of the land or Maori) artist spoke to a beautiful exhibition of art works made by herself and others in response to the inspiration of the harbour.



David Lawrie of BirdsNZ shared photos and knowledge of bird life on the harbour. Several species of birds use Manukau Harbour sites to roost as an important part of their breeding cycle. There are two notable areas on the southside of the harbour which are protected at high tide, Kids Shell banks & Seagrove Shell banks. Numbers of birds have been falling and some bird populations are at risk

Congratulations to Hayden Smith of SEA CLEANERS Trust, winner of the Kiwibank NZ Local Hero Award 2017 for his work. Hayden brought the Sea Cleaners boat used to clean huge volumes of debris & plastics from the harbour. Watercare sponsors Sea Cleaners on Manukau harbour so the volunteers can be out in the boat on the water 5 days a week collecting and removing floating rubbish. Over time, millions of items are cleaned out of waters and beaches. Community clean ups are also organised to help clear what plastics etc wash up around the harbours beaches and coastline.

<http://fb.me/80DXr3d03>

Craig McIroy of Auckland Council Healthy Waters gave a positive presentation about the work and accountability of the 'Healthy Waters' teams he oversees. Council is seeking community input & feedback about its very ambitious stormwater investment programmes.

Bruce and Trixie Harvey are from 'Friends of Whatipu', a community group working to understand and restore the environment and history of Whatipu at north head of Manukau Harbour. The area was extensively settled by Maori. There are volcanic rocks, low flats which flood and the area is now part of Waitakere Ranges conservation area. Native planting and trapping of pests is conducted to promote return of natural wildlife.

The Manukau Harbour Symposium was sponsored by Manukau Harbour Forum, a collective of Auckland Council Local Boards which border the wider Manukau Harbour. Local Board representatives are pictured opening the day along with Councillor Alf Filipaina.



Local Boards are one way people in the community arrange and fund clean-up and pollution prevention programmes that make a real difference to the harbour.

Manukau harbour forum also funds practical training for businesses preventing pollution to waterways
Knowledge is key.

Richelle Kahui-McConnell and Hero Potini wrapped up the day. The event was filmed.
Some great support from Council staffers who were in the symposium.

‘Hohonu ngā hoe’: we all dig deep to care & act for the ‘mauri’ or underlying wellbeing of waterways.



The actions that we all take now to improve water quality in Manukau harbour and its streams will make a huge difference in the future for generations to come.