

**Date:** Thursday 3 August 2017  
**Time:** 6.30pm  
**Meeting Room:** Upper Harbour Local Board Office  
**Venue:** 30 Kell Drive  
Albany

---

## **Upper Harbour Local Board Community Forum OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS**

---

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Upper Harbour Ecology Network</b>	
	A. North-West Wildlink Eco Fun Day presentation	3
	B. Gecko Trust presentation	7
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Whenuapai Ratepayers and Residents Association</b>	
	A. Whenuapai Residents and Ratepayers Association speech	13





Strengthening  
Upper Harbour  
communities  
through  
environmental  
activity



# Upper Harbour NWWL Eco Fun Day

Spring (early October)

- Multiplied investment
  - ✓ HLC and Good Health sponsorship
- Promoting Network activities
- Easy steps to get active





# NWWWL community planting days

Winter season (Herald Is and Greenhithe – early September)



- +600 trees
  - Eco-sourced
  - Organic
- KP support
- Promotion
  - Organisation
  - Healthy BBQ
  - Zero waste
  - Expertise
  - Teaching





# Gecko

People Healing Nature  
Healing People



# NWW Action Information Packs

Seven information sheets produced including:

- Summary sheet
- Pests and Predators
- Weeds, how to undertake weed control
- Taking Care of Our Waterways
- What to Plant
- The North-West Wildlink
- Key Contacts

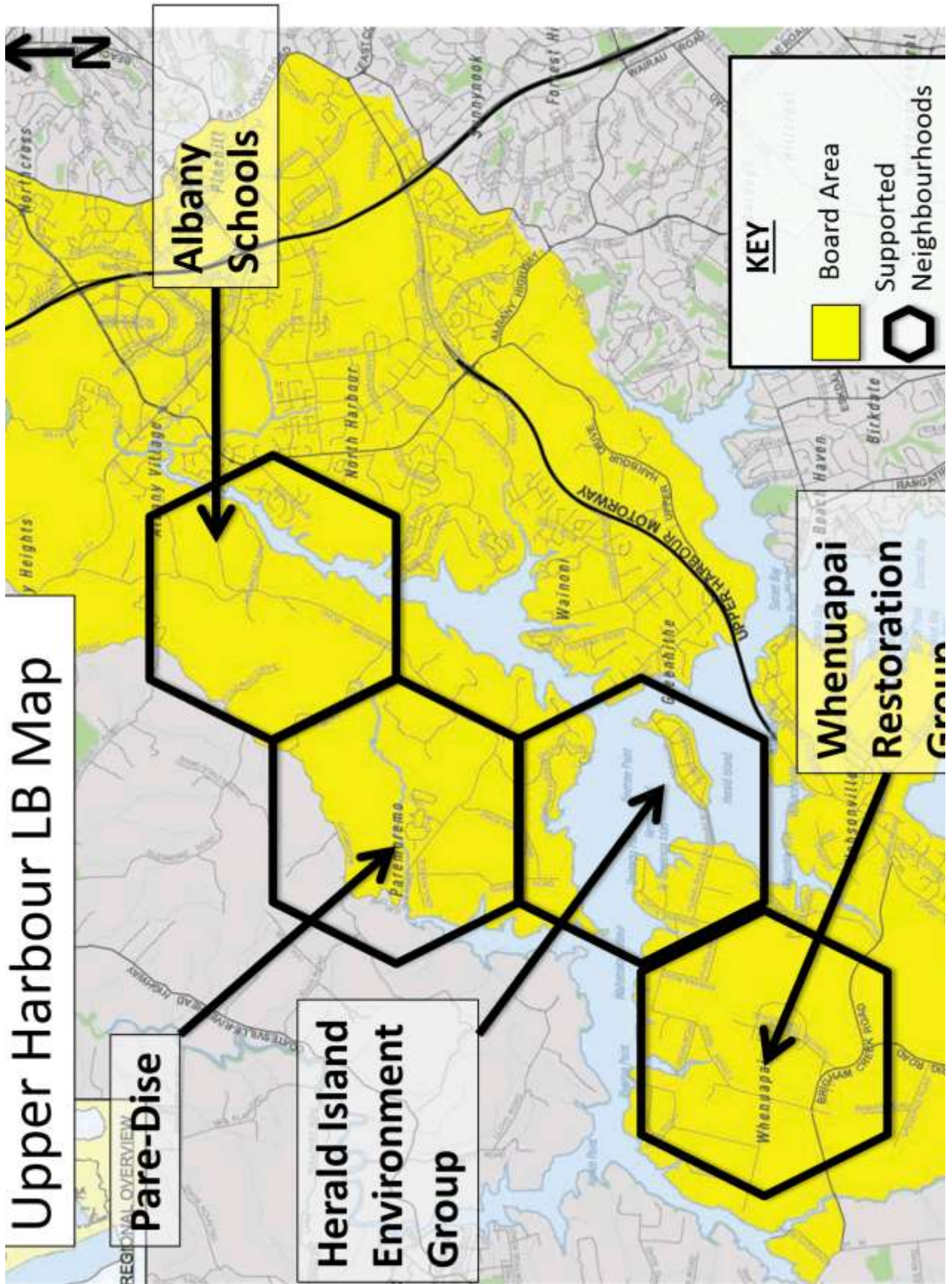
Project Successes:

- A local and specific resource for Upper Harbour Groups/Individuals to contribute towards the NWW in a unified way
- Sheets available electronically for all to use.
- Over 1000 sheets have been used for Herald Island project

Recommendations:

- The use of these sheets be encouraged among UHEN members and other non environment-based groups in the Upper Harbour area





# Upper Harbour Community Capacity Building

## Supported Communities:

- Whenuapai
- Herald Island
- Paremoremo
- Chinese Conservation Education Trust
- Contact made with Albany Schools

## Project Info:

- Gecko Trust has supported groups in these communities to initiate environmental restoration and education projects and build their capacity to contribute towards the NWW.

## Project Recommendations:

- Continue work with communities to engage, upskill, and grow participation from street level to organization level.

## Project Successes:

- Initiating a pest control program and upskilling street coordinators in Whenuapai
- Engaging community leaders on Herald Island and supporting with an engagement plan
- Pest control plan development, community property assessments in Paremoremo
- Assisting CCET to plan and run a “weed day” event (with Greenhithe Community Trust)









Good evening everyone. I am Andrea Stratton and this is Andy Milne and Suzanne McFadden from the the Whenuapai R&R. We would like to thank the board for the opportunity to discuss the ecological damage being done to the Upper Waitemata Harbour.

The sparkling Waitemata Harbour has always been a jewel in Auckland's crown. The upper reaches of this waterway are among the hidden \*taonga\*, treasures, of our city. The Upper Harbour plays a major role in the lives of the Whenuapai Village community - for our recreational enjoyment, as a food source, and in giving us a true sense of place. We know that you also share and appreciation and respect for this unique corner of Auckland - and you have made it one of your principal missions to protect and restore the Upper Waitemata.

We want to bring to your attention to a major threat to the ecology of the harbour in Whenuapai, which we fear is flowing "under the radar" of council planning.

The central area of Whenuapai Village, including Pohutukawa Road, has recently been zoned "Single House Dwelling" with a minimum land area of 600 square metres. Given that most existing sections are at least double that area in size, this would allow for the intensification of Whenuapai Village to happen now, rather than under the future Structure/Unitary Plan.

We have now learned that subdivision is already taking place within the village. This will undoubtedly lead to increased sewage production in an area that is still governed by septic systems.

Practical experience in Whenuapai with modern treatment systems shows that they do not always run optimally even with prescribed servicing. With best efforts they still produce contaminated outflow, and sewage irrigation eventually ends up in the waters of the harbour. Auckland Council has approved the intensification, without local knowledge of the soil types and the run-off issues which residents of the village already experience.

Since the new zoning, allowing minimum sections of 600 square metres for much of Whenuapai, came into force in July this year, two new subdivisions have already taken advantage of this blunder. Even though noncompliance with the Unitary Plan was noted by a council staff member during a pre-consent meeting regarding the first and only consented development that we have looked into.

This current two house subdivision:

- Does not comply with minimum wastewater-to-land ratio under TP58 of the Auckland regional wastewater design and management manual.
- Does not comply with the disposal field-to-water course distance minimum of 15 metres.
- All stormwater is planned to be discharged to the street as the sites are now too small to cope with any normal stormwater catchment. No residential stormwater system exists in Whenuapai Village.

1. The design policy "minimising visual dominance of garage doors" fails dramatically in this case. The double garage doors are front and foremost. The only off-street parking available is directly in front of the garages.

Due to thin topsoil and a solid, generally impervious clay base, the ground in Whenuapai has very little capacity to absorb bacteria, nitrates and chemicals that even the best private treatment systems in good condition will produce. New Zealand-wide testing shows that generally, at least 20% of private systems are allowing partial or untreated sewage into the disposal area.

The poor condition of the Upper Waitemata harbour water soon after rain, at any time of the year, is well-known. In winter the whole area is sodden and this makes all groundwater retention null.

Despite all of the above, this property has been given a building consent.

In the case of road usage, 95% of the streets in Whenuapai are narrow, and most with open drains; when cars park opposite each other and in some places, singly, the road becomes one narrow lane. This is dangerous for the many children who live in the area, and problematic for both emergency and collection services. This is already an issue in Pohutukawa Rd and should not be allowed to worsen.

Small sections in Whenuapai are out of character with the area and therefore a contradiction of the Single House Zone objectives which state:

"H3.1. Zone description: The purpose of the Residential – Single House Zone is to maintain and enhance the amenity values of established residential neighbourhoods in a number of locations. The particular amenity values of a neighbourhood may be based on special character informed by the past, spacious sites with some large trees, a coastal setting or other factors such as established neighbourhood character."

What is the point of having regulations and guidelines if they are going to be disregarded to the detriment of the environment and living standards?

It is clear that important decisions have been made, that

- don't consider the local infrastructure, visual aspects and environment;
- fail to follow the guidelines and principles of the new zoning objectives;
- And have been made with no interest in maintaining or improving these aspects.

This has to change.

At the very least, there must be an interim halt to any subdivision or intensification consent applications in the Whenuapai Village area until town sewerage, curb and channeling, road upgrades and a suitable stormwater system are all in place.

We know how important it is to the Upper Harbour Local Board to reduce the deterioration of our harbour's health, and we therefore implore that you investigate the increased pollution

being caused by unplanned intensification, prior to the necessary infrastructure being installed for the entire area.