



June 2021

The Greenie

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Harbour Watch—A Thumbs-Up to Council Staff and Officers

Written by Robyn Pearce

The M.V. RATAHI was an integral element in a very important excursion recently when she took a group of Council officials and senior staff on a fact-finding trip around the harbour. Community representatives from Waiau Pa, Clarks Beach and Glenbrook accompanied them and fruitful discussions were held on a wide range of topics. The aim was to give the Council people a chance to really see the Manukau, for you can't know the harbour by looking at it from a road. Thanks to Jim Jackson for facilitating this and to Trevor Pennington for providing his vessel.



Everyone who knows and loves our harbour has the same long-term goal—to protect and enhance it. For those who live here, this region is our turangawaewae and we want to educate people about both its beauty and what's needed to protect it. So, congratulations to the Council people who invested the time to be informed. It is much appreciated. Discussion topics included:

- The need for a master plan for the harbour to include ferries, wharves, boat ramps and fishing wharves
- Rebuilding of boat ramps to ensure safety and best practice when launching and retrieving vessels
- Better management of sedimentation
- Improvement of navigation markers—a safety issue
- Rebuilding marine life, including juvenile snapper and scallops
- Research on weed now appearing in the harbour and what impact it's having on scallops & fish numbers
- Access to the Port of Onehunga
- Automated water quality monitoring of harbour and streams
- Research into the range of contamination sources entering the Harbour
- Introduction of a high-speed commuter ferry between Clarks Beach and Onehunga
- Support to grow the tourism sector of the Harbour
- Dredging the sediment around the Waiuku Wharf

Have you seen the M.V. RATAHI cruising by? Interest in M.V. RATAHI is picking up as people talk to others about the joy of leisurely water-based travel. Over the last few months she's been regularly spotted going down the Waiuku River and out into the harbour. One of their very popular new excursions is the Little Fish Kids Cruise (for the joy of something biting the line. Little hooks mean little fish!) During the school holidays Ratahi Cruises ran two of these events and there is strong demand for more. Conference organisers are also now using the vessel as a way of entertaining their delegates. Check <https://www.facebook.com/ratahicruises/> for future events and dates.

Did You Know?

- Auckland Council are recommencing water quality testing soon. Funds to undertake these tests, which had been occurring more regularly in the past, are again available. We await these results with interest. If you have water quality issues in your community you can ring them in to 09 3010 101 for investigation.
- The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society sets out on their website a number of important issues related to the Harbour. Go to www.mhrs.org.nz to read about them. It's fascinating.
- The Clarks Beach Public Wharf Society are close to submitting an application for consent to establish a wharf below the Yacht Club and two contributions to this important project have been received from: Residents and Ratepayers - \$750, and the Business Association - \$1500.