



MHRS

Manukau Harbour Restoration Society



Jim Jackson Retires as MHRS Chair

Jim Jackson was the brains and motivation behind the formation of the Manukau Harbour Restoration Society in 2011. Jim worked alongside Peter Gibson and Bridget Graham to get the funding and approvals to restore the Onehunga foreshore to what is now the hugely successful Taumanu beachfront. They used the momentum from this project to gather community volunteers to form MHRS. We are hugely grateful to Jim for all the time, passion and his own resources he has put into chairing MHRS since it began. Now he has decided the time is right to retire and move to the Clarks Beach area. He will continue to be involved in Manukau Harbour projects and belong to MHRS.

Under his guidance MHRS has undertaken an enormous amount of work resulting in greater public attention to restoring the harbour as a recreation and environmental gem for Auckland. These include:

- Lobbying to improve the designs of the Mangere Bridge all-tide boat ramp and replacing pedestrian bridge to better serve local residents and public transport
- Countless hours throughout the Unitary Plan process trying to get reasonable regulations in place to restore the harbour and improve recreation use
- Working to open the Port of Onehunga to public use and ferry services and upgrading the wharf's infrastructure
- Initiating a study for the Manukau Harbour Forum by AUT of the tourism and recreation potential of the harbour that supported expanded public use of the Port of Onehunga
- Through the Unitary Plan process and Select Committee hearings in Parliament, making the case with Transpower for reasonable regulations governing transmission lines and the removal of pylons from the foreshore
- 18 month long research project with NIWA on the spread of mangroves on the foreshore
- Obtaining resource consent and grant funds to allow MHRS volunteers to remove mangroves from portions of the Port of Onehunga and Mangere Bridge foreshores
- Purchasing a vehicle that supported community working bees to remove Pacific oysters from the foreshore
- Supporting research projects with AUT on crushing and the reuse of oyster shells
- Funding research on RFID's – remote sensing mechanisms to determine illegal connections and discharges into the harbour
- Installing boat ramps on Mangere Inlet that allowed the waka ama clubs to again race from the Waitematā to the Manukau Harbour.
- Funding experts to support MHRS on legal challenges to the resource consents for the Central Interceptor and the Waiuku Treatment Plant Discharge Outfall that resulted in stricter standards being required
- Assisting with community harbour clean-up days
- Promoting public knowledge of the international importance of the harbour to migratory shore and wading birds
- Lobbying for design changes to the East West Link to better serve local businesses and restore the harbour, improve use of the port and protect the Onehunga foreshore.
- Pushing Auckland Council and Watercare to rectify the stormwater overflows in and around Onehunga and in the Weymouth area
- Increasing the public and decision-makers' knowledge of the history and potential of the harbour.

This is a staggering list of projects for a volunteer organization to take on. MHRS can't thank Jim enough for his dedication to the harbour over the past decade. We wish him a happy retirement and know he will work tirelessly and creatively to be successful with his next project, installing a public pontoon at Clarks Beach

With Jim's departure the Executive Committee is taking the opportunity to rethink MHRS objectives for this year. This includes taking time to consider carefully the role of Chair in taking the organization forward.

In identifying priorities for action, the Committee has been paying close attention to the Kaipara Harbour Remediation Programme. We believe a funding and management model similar to the one established for the Kaipara can align with the MHRS mission : *to unlock the potential of the Manukau Harbour and surrounds*. The work being done on the Kaipara is a good indication that the Crown, local government, iwi and local groups can work together for the better good of our harbours. We are thrilled for the Kaipara, and have high hopes for a similar commitment to the Manukau. We will be directing efforts to Auckland Council to champion this.

A myriad of issues face the harbour but these issues below top our list to focus our efforts on

- **Water quality** – the basis of the health of the harbour. Watercare's discharge consent for the Mangere Treatment Plant will be up for re-approval in the next few years. What can we do now to help get better outcomes for the harbour as part of the consent renewal? Is water reuse a possibility? Could the discharge be piped to a land or Tasman outfall rather than a harbour outlet? How do we monitor the construction of the new wastewater treatment plant and outfall at Waiuku? What can we learn from the hydrodynamic modelling of the harbour by NIWA and catchment modelling by Healthy Waters? How do we stay involved with the Western Isthmus water quality improvement projects and construction of the Central Interceptor
- Residents want **public use of the Port of Onehunga** and significant improvement of the wharf infrastructure, enabling ferry and water taxi services to link communities on the harbour. How would we attract public uses to the wharf?
- How do we **restore the foreshore** of the harbour especially in urban areas to improve environmental quality and public access to the water?
- How do we better engage with iwi, the Crown, the Manukau Harbour Forum and Auckland Council to **improve management** of the harbour?
- How do we get more boat ramps and fishing areas built to **increase recreation access** to the harbour?
- How do we better protect our internationally significant **shore and wading birds** and improve public knowledge and care for them?
- How do we expand the **public open space and trails** around the harbour foreshore?

Have your input. We'd like to hear from you.

You may think other issues should be top priorities for MHRS. If so, the Committee is keen to hear from members and the public about their concerns.

Please email us at mhrsanz@protonmail.com or submit them through our website mhrs.org.nz. If you prefer you can write to MHRS secretary Kerry Harvey
c/- PO Box 60-101, Titirangi, 0642.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK AROUND THE HARBOUR

We are in the process of updating our website and fixing some bugs, so if you have had trouble Joining, or Subscribing to our Newsletter, please try again. We are up and working back to normal now, but if you have any problems let us know via email at mhrsanz@protonmail.com or on our Facebook page (link below). Renewing your subscription is only \$10/year or \$15 for a family or \$200 for a Corporate, or you can donate, see our website for details www.mhrs.org.nz or visit our Facebook page,

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