



THE MANUKAU HARBOUR RESTORATION SOCIETY Inc.

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Dear members and supporters:

It's been a really busy year so far for MHRS and it looks like the pace will continue for the remainder of the year. Here's just a quick overview of our activities and what's ahead.

For those of you who have always wanted to do something about the mangroves around the foreshore, here's your opportunity. MHRS, the Portage Crossing Waka Ama Club and Mangere Bridge Residents and Ratepayers are organizing a working bee this coming Saturday **removing mangroves** (and probably a bit of rubbish too) from the Mangere Inlet. We'd love to have you join us even if just for an hour or two.

Here are the details:

When: **Saturday August 17th rain or shine**
11:00 am or 1:30pm

Where: Meet us on Waterfront Reserve at the Mangere Bridge side. We'll have teams working along the foreshore at both the Mangere Bridge and Onehunga ends of the SH20 bridges. MHRS has resource consent to remove mangroves from these areas.

What to wear: Old clothes, preferably long pants, you don't mind getting muddy and old shoes such as aquasox or diving booties that will stay on your feet in the mud. Bring old towels for cleaning up afterwards. Old gardening gloves if you have them are handy.

Sustenance: Bring your water bottle and snacks. We'll have some juice and fruit as well and a bbq at 3pm.

Please email Hayden if you plan to join us haydenmack@gmail.com. Thanks to the Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board for supporting our efforts and the Papatoetoe Lions Club for the bbq.

Many of you will have already visited our revamped website www.mhrs.org.nz and have joined us on Facebook ([Friends of the Manukau Harbour](#)) and Twitter

(@manukauharbour). Leonie Norton is doing a fantastic job taking our message to the community through social media. Members can now join MHRS through the website and this feature has been bringing us new members already. We are also posting our submissions to the website and you'll be able to find information on our other activities there as well.



It's been a big month for MHRS as a group of us has been working with Mangere Bridge R&R and residents of Waikowhai **opposing Watercare's proposed Central Interceptor (CI) project**, which would bring combined sewage and stormwater from the Central Isthmus for treatment and discharge at Mangere. We believe this interceptor would lock the Manukau Harbour into receiving waste discharges for the next 50 – 100 years without Watercare demonstrating that current discharges are not damaging the harbour. We presented our arguments to the planning Commissioners at a hearing this week. One of our main objections is to the proposal to allow raw sewage and storm water to be discharged in an emergency directly into the harbour. We believe it will cause serious harm to our vulnerable migratory bird life and marine environment. Please read our submissions on the website and take a note of the photos as they are so revealing. The Commissioners' recommendations should be available in three months.

Ports of Auckland is currently reassessing the future of the **wharf at Onehunga**. Many in the community would like to see greater public access to the wharf and more public uses. To help move these ideas forward, MHRS is embarking on **a visitor and recreation study of the harbour**, which AUT will conduct. AUT will assess the recreation and tourism activities that are around the harbour now, such as local museums, walkways, boating clubs, community festivals, and tour companies. They will survey visitors to find out as much as possible about their spending, demographics and their experiences. All this will be used to make recommendations about how to improve recreation and visitor opportunities especially existing businesses around the harbour. It's being done with a view to what could happen in the future at the Onehunga wharf such as ferry service to Waiuku and watertaxi services to communities around the harbour, all tide boat access, improved facilities for the fishing fleet, visitor amenities and so forth. The Manukau Harbour Forum supports the study and MHRS has applied to the 9 local boards around the harbour for the funds to get the study underway. Thanks to the Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board who has already committed their share of the funds. Check out our website for more information. If we are successful and receive the funds the study will start in October and go through the end of December.

Our **Unitary Plan submissions** are also on the website. MHRS focused on the regulations covering mangrove and pacific oyster removal, proposed significant ecological areas for the harbour, transmission pylons and lines, Onehunga wharf and the impact of intensification on the harbour. In July, MHRS was invited to participate in a biodiversity workshop held by Council to discuss the mangrove regulations and SEA's. MHRS argued strongly for the regulations to be simplified and the 1996 date in the mangrove

regulations to be made earlier, allowing mangroves to be removed without resource consent from areas of the harbour. We anticipate preparing submissions on the next version of the Unitary Plan, which is expected to be released in early October.



NZTA has issued a notice seeking those interested in bidding on the replacement **Mangere pedestrian bridge**. MHRS, Mangere and Onehunga community groups are pleased that based on community feedback, the bridge has been widened from 6 metres to 8 metres. We are still pressing Auckland Council and NZTA to design the bridge to accommodate a lifting section in the future to allow small boats, including waka, into the Mangere inlet.

We continue with our mangrove research with NIWA and Onehunga High School, we're talking to NIWA about sedimentation research and AUT about researching sewage outfalls into the harbour; we're pressing Transpower to remove pylons from the foreshore and underground its transmission lines; and we're engaged in the planning process for the East-West link. These are all huge projects which will affect the quality of the harbour for many years.

As we are a voluntary organization, we value your continued support and feedback. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Committee members with your thoughts and please encourage others to become MHRS members.

Many thanks.

Jim Jackson
Chairman,
The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society Inc