

Winter Newsletter 2025

Winter Greetings Everyone,

We have passed the Winter Solstice:
Matariki/Pleiades is rising in the mornings before dawn.

Many thanks to those who join our estuary Litter Clean-Ups on the second Sunday of the month.
Much appreciated.

And here's Sadie with her haul this month.

Thanks very much Sadie and Mum, for your help in keeping that litter out of the water.
Notice the large piece of polystyrene in the bucket – something we regularly find.



Photo: Winter at Te Whanganui a Orotū,
(photographer: Derek Rossiter)



Dates to Remember:

Beach Clean-Up – by 'Save the Dotterels HB': Saturday 5 July, 9am

Meet at Westshore or Bayview end of Westshore/Bayview coastal walkway.

AEPS July Estuary Litter Clean-Up: Sunday 14 July, 1.30pm, meet Pandora Pond

AEPS August Estuary Litter Clean-Up: Sunday 10 August, 1.30pm, as above

AEPS Winter Speakers Event: August – venue/speakers to be confirmed.

Save the Dotterels Volunteers Workshop: Sunday 10 August – flyer attached

**** Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society AGM **:** Saturday 20 September, 1.30pm

St Paul's Church lounge, Tennyson St, Napier. We'll send members our updated Constitution prior and vote on it at our AGM. A notice will be sent closer to time.

Welcome the Godwits Event: Sunday 28 September – flyer at later date

What we have been doing?

News ... you may have heard ... the Waka Kotahi/NZTA plan for a four-lane Expressway across the estuary, between Prebensen Drive and Watchman Rd, is not going ahead for now. The traffic volumes and 'wait times' at roundabouts do not warrant it.

Ahuriri Regional Park (ARP)



Several AEPS committee members have been attending the meetings and workshops of the ARP Joint Committee (NCC, HBRC, Mana Ahuriri Trust). It has been interesting to follow the process. We put in a submission and attended the Joint Committee meeting that ratified the ARP Masterplan on 9 June.

The core purpose of ARP, to be developed on NCC Lagoon Farm, is to create planted-up wetlands that will 'polish' (clean) stormwater before it goes into the estuary. Currently approximately 70% of

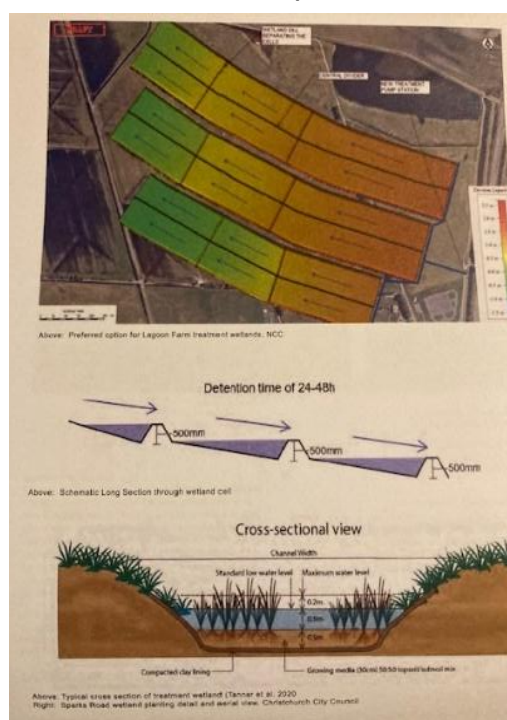
Napier's untreated stormwater goes straight into the estuary. The challenge for the designers and the engineers is how can they direct all this stormwater into the new wetland.

We have copies of the Draft ARP Masterplan if anyone would like to read it. Email me.

Article, including AEPS thoughts in "BayBuzz".

This is the link following:

https://baybuzz.co.nz/ahuriri-regional-park-on-the-right-path/?utm_source=BayBuzz%20-%20Email%20subscribers&utm_campaign=4108430fa7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_10_23_02_08_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_87f3fe1203-4108430fa7-345210110



Submissions

It seems to have been a year (so far) of intense submission writing. As an organisation advocating for the protection of the estuary, since the last newsletter in March, we have written letters, submitted on and spoken at Hearings, and presented at:

- NCC Draft District Plan Variation – Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity
- NCC Reserves Management Plan – Humber St Reserve

- NZTA/Waka Kotahi letter to express concerns re the 4-Lane Expressway over the estuary
- Local Green Party meeting presentation re the proposed 4-lane expressway across the estuary
- Presentation at Forest and Bird meeting re 'development' around the estuary
- NCC Annual Plan
- NCC 'Local Water Done Well' re Stormwater

Sherwood School (Ashley Clinton, CHB)

At the base of the Ruahine Ranges is Sherwood School, an Enviroschool, and 'the most beautifully situated school in Central Hawkes Bay.' (website). Their maunga (mountain) is Tiraha, and awa (river) is Tukipo. A large group of their students came to stay in Napier at Kennedy Park, and made an afternoon visit to Te Whanganui a Orotū/Ahuriri Estuary. Lynne led a talk/walk through the Humber St Walkway and on to Embankment Bridge, observing the birdlife and answering questions. Three boys had brought their fishing gear and dropped their lines from the bridge. Bird-wise, the highlight was the landing of a NZ Falcon (Karearea) on the bridge railing near all the children. The falcon possibly had its eye on the pigeons living under the bridge??

<https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/new-zealand-falcon>



Signs at the Estuary



We have been communicating with staff from the Department of Conservation to discuss upgrading the old signs around the estuary walkway. We are keen for there to be a large introductory sign at the start and end of the Humber St Walkway – introducing walkers to the wildlife, photos of what they may see, and why dogs and cycles are disturbing. We have offered to make a financial contribution to the signs. As the whole entrance to the walkway could do with some planning and tidying up, our next step is to meet with DOC, Mana Ahuriri Trust, and NCC all together to hear what each has in mind and plan some steps forward. The more we understand the wildlife, the more respect may be given to their environment.

Te Komiti Muriwai o te Whanga

This is the statutory committee, stipulated in the Treaty Settlement of Ahuriri Hapū (2022), that has the oversight of the care of Te Whanganui a Orotū/Ahuriri Estuary. It consists of Mana Ahuriri Trust, Napier City Council, Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Hastings District Council, and Dept of Conservation, chaired by Mana Ahuriri Trust Chair Te Kaha Hawaikirangi. Te komiti meets six-weekly.

We (AEPS) have certain lead roles in the plan:

- a) Twice-yearly public talk/viewing of the godwits/kuaka
- b) Taking schools to the estuary twice a year
- c) Community Monthly Litter Clean-Ups
- d) Annual picnic with speakers on estuary issues
- e) Protection of birds through signage
- f) Research of Indigenous At Risk plant speices, e.g. Thyridia repens
- g) Reporting environmental hazards to NCC



Does this sound familiar? Its what we do now. We'll continue to work on these, and broaden some aspects by working with local Ahuriri Hapū to bring a stronger historical and cultural understanding to these activities. We can provide you with a copy of the plan. Angie has attended 2 meetings.

New Project

With the encouragement of an enthusiastic 'trapper' on Napier Hill, AEPS member Glenys, we are joining in with the local 'predator-free' group, to understand predator control happening already at the estuary, and become part of establishing more predator control there. From what we know, predator control at the estuary is patchy. There is not overall coordination. We'd like to be part of moving that forward. Any members or supporters who'd like to be involved, let me know by replying to this email address.



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AEPS Constitution

We have now updated our Constitution to comply with the 2022 changes to the Charities Act. We will forward it to AEPS members soon. Members please send any feedback.

It will be discussed, amended if necessary, and ratified at the AEPS AGM.

Liaison with NCC Councillor Hayley Browne

Committee members have meetings with NCC councillor Hayley Browne every couple of months. Its an open conversation, and we talk over estuary topics like the Ahuriri Regional Park, the Napier waterway restoration ideas, and pollution in the estuary. Hayley has guided us in how to move forward to get a process underway to remove the deteriorating tyre walls and deteriorating wooden steps around Pandora Pond.



Winter Speakers Event

In August we'll be having our 'Winter Speakers Event', where we invite local people involved in the estuary to talk about what they do, any challenges, and ideas for the future. Two committee members are organising this, and we'll inform you soon.

To Become an AEPS Member

Membership is a way to show your support for the work of the Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society. You can be as active or passive as you wish!

Membership is \$5 annually, (plus a donation optional). Account name: Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society Inc. Account number: 15-3979-0038763-80.

Thank you for your interest.

Angie Denby, Chairperson, Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society



Photographer: Derek Rossiter



**SAVE THE
Dotterels**
Te Matau-a-Māui

Westshore / Bayview and Awatoto Areas

Interested to become a Volunteer for
Banded Dotterels??



“Save the Dotterels, HB” Workshop - Sunday 10th August 1-4pm 2025.

Venue: The Bayview Bowling Club, 42 Onehunga Road, Bayview.

Banded Dotterels / Pohowera nest all along Napier’s beaches from August to February – their threat status is ‘At Risk / Declining’.

Volunteering, (maybe weekly, fortnightly, or what suits you), involves working in pairs walking the beaches, identifying and monitoring nests, counting birds, recording, maybe talking with the public and more!

For more information, please contact and register attendance with:

Kay – 0272626281 email: Kayb0411@gmail.com

Or: Jane – 021 183 0557 email: janebisharch@gmail.com

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