

Hawksbury Lagoon update July 2019

I seem to have been fielding a number of emails lately, several about the beautiful and elegant White Heron (Kotuku) which has made itself at home on the Lagoon over the past few weeks, appearing in a range of different areas including nearby residential gardens. We are very privileged.

The other emails I have been receiving were to do with last month's POWA article in relation to the dumping of domestic rubbish. It is heartening to hear that other local residents are appalled by such actions and have themselves directly contacted the authorities. Thank you for your willingness to take action and do what you can to highlight such offensive behaviour. There is a fine of up to \$400 for anyone caught dumping rubbish like this. In future if you see anyone dumping illegally take a photo of the person/s and/or vehicle licence number and send to the City Council.

Last week I received another email outlining exciting news for the Hawksbury Lagoon. Ever since Dugald McTavish completed our Water Management Plan in 2013 we have wanted to progress his work. Recently, in partnership with Ngai Tahu an application was made to the Otago Regional Council's 'Ecofund'. The application was to enable electronic water monitoring of different areas of the lagoon. The monitoring would be continued for a number of months (if not years) and provide us with data as to water level, water temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen levels. In time we hope to be able to manage the three main areas of the lagoon slightly differently to encourage a wider range of birds, fish and invertebrates to the wetland. The monitoring project would provide accurate information as to what effect any changes we make in water management would have towards meeting our goals. Our successful application was gained against fierce competition, and we hope to have the monitoring equipment in place within the next six months. Matt Dale Senior Environmental Advisor – Freshwater Management for Ngai Tahu will oversee the project, in consultation with the various agencies that have an interest in restoring the health of the Hawksbury Lagoon.

The bird monitoring group met for the first time a couple of weeks ago, and there is still an opportunity for anyone else interested to join. The next monitoring session will be on Tuesday 9 July at 9.30am.

Shirley McKewen

Chair

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