

Murray Stewart

### Shelly Bay Submission Part 1

I am very concerned about a lack of awareness of this major iconic asset existing within only 6 minutes of the CBD! In any major city of New Zealand and the world such an asset so close to the city centre is highly treasured and preserved to enhance the essential and diverse recreational requirements for the health and well-being of a large urban population. So many people of so many ages and cultures have discovered and use this wonderful, accessible Wellington taonga.



<http://theatlasheart.com/2014/07/09/postcard-from-scorching-bay/>

What is this asset? People arriving from the airport or Wellington CBD are able, in a couple minutes, to experience a leisurely scenic drive through a classic kiwi experience of a native bush ecosystem including, pohutukawa, harakeke (flax), cabbage trees, karo, pittosporum and olearia to name just a few, uniquely growing right down to the very tidal mark. This provides a rich habitat which supports some of our wonderful native birds, including yellow-heads, tuis, bellbirds, piwakawaka (fantails) and introduced birds like sparrows and thrush and most important of all a sanctuary for our precious endangered Little Blue Penguin. In the early evening the air is alive with their wonderful calls as they greet each other from a short distance out to sea until they arrive at nesting sites along the rocky shore and the steep cliffs, where the jubilant singing speaks of a joyful family reunion. There are Forest and Bird Penguin nesting boxes in this roadside ecosystem, one of which is located 3 to 4 metres from the road. Over the years we have been privileged to witness the rearing of several penguin chicks, at one time seeing a large fat bundle of downy feathers made visible from the bush edge following an incident of vandalism when some miscreant child removed the lid of the box. It was a precious sight for the family to be able to witness this endearing creature at such close range. We liaised with these officers on many occasions, reporting on the numerous sightings and gaining invaluable insights into the life and habits of this remarkable, loveable bird.



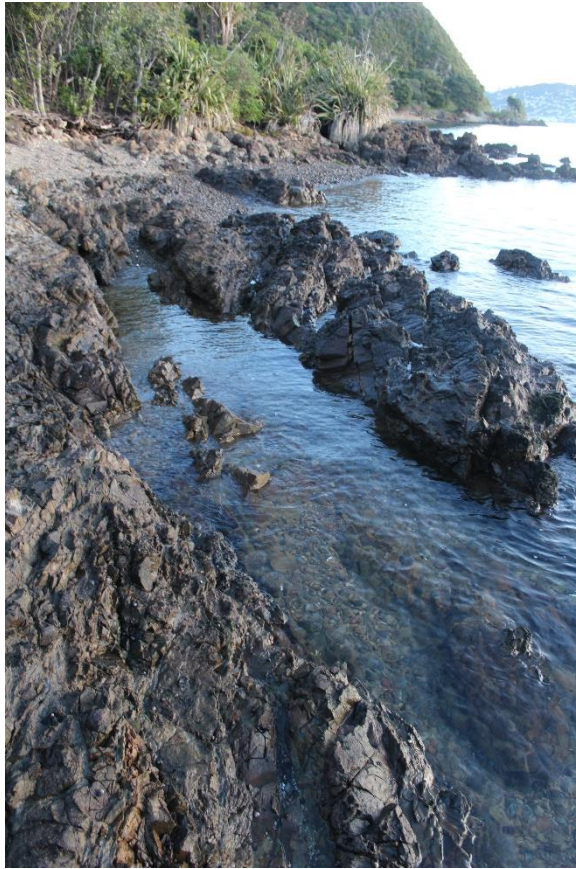
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/pagefiles/50048/little-blue-penguin-1920-2.jpg>

My own family, from children to teenagers to students, have enjoyed this life-enriching experience at a highly attractive tree lined bay which we visit every Saturday of the year, located about a kilometre from the Mirimar turnoff and directly opposite Niwa, and about half a kilometre from the Shelly Bay turnoff.

After a day of swimming and barbecue tea alongside numerous other families (often as many as 7 family groups) all sharing the same small piece of coastline and beach. Groups of 4 or 5 divers have made their way out of the sea to partake of their successful gathering or fishing efforts from the plenty of the sea by way of an improvised barbeque in the rocks by the seashore. Many remarkable outcroppings of fascinating geometrically structured volcanic rock adorn this seaside haven, intriguing to behold, even more so on close inspection, and providing easy access at the top curve of the bay, out into the deeper fish-rich areas, which many fishermen of all cultures - Chinese, European, Samoan, Maori and others take advantage of. The classic kiwi outdoor dream is often enacted as swimmers and recreationalists gather wood to gain cheer from small heartening fires, with some reveller inevitably producing a guitar to entertain all and sundry and completing this shared communal experience. This curve of beach is also a favourite spot for windsurfers, both novice and experienced enough to venture all the way across the bay to *Seatoun*. Often as many as 8 or 9 sails can be seen scudding across the bay, and they use the little beach as a safe place to either stop and unpack or to assemble windsurf sail and board. The park at the point makes a great meeting and gear unloading point for these recreational sports people. This park is also at the meeting point of a substantial walkway up through a dense piece of native bush which creates a link with the housing nestled at the top of the hillside overlooking this wonderful bay. (##PHOTO##.) Scores of joggers and walkers of all ages traverse this winding path, which provides close access for all those residences to partake in many recreational and fitness activities in the bay below. It is the attractiveness - the trees, bush, rock formations and people-friendly environment in the bay that draws people to use wonderful, free asset.

Shelly Bay Submission Part 2

ROCKS, ROCKPOOLS :



Widening of the road would destroy these ecosystems. Its north-facing aspect creates a bay with a unique environment, sheltered from the wind and receiving nearly all-day sun. This allows the shallow beach to warm to a swimmable temperature, unlike Wellington's many other more exposed seaside locations. Its gradual slope from the shallows to deeper water provides a safe, welcoming place for small children's first ventures into the mysterious sea. Here I have witnessed many doting fathers and mothers pointing out and investigating (in an impromptu marine-biology lesson) around the abundant variety of marine life amongst the volcanic rocks and tidal pools. Excited children whiling away the languid hours searching the rockpools to find several species of crabs, jelly-like purple sea anemones, large prickly starfish, schools of minnows and "oo-ing" and "yucking" at the scores of large plate-like jellyfish strewn along the shoreline.



NEXT; The Road as it stands.

As a responsible Council I know that it will be of the utmost concern to you that you will invest these millions of dollars required to amend the infrastructure, wisely and with due diligence to all pertinent points-namely taking into consideration that most important of issues, future proofing. What is a major issue confronting all seaside developments? Rising sea levels. How counter it would be to build a road further out to the sea, rather you should be building in the other direction.

There is absolutely no need to create a substantially wider road with separate cyclist /pedestrian lanes. Bigger, wider road will only encourage faster driving and create a danger to the other road users. At the moment cyclists, walkers and traffic respectfully coexist (commonly uncharacteristic for kiwi's). In the 25 years I have been at Shelly Bay I have never observed a tussle between these varied road users. The winding nature of the road and the 40 km/h speed limit means that even the most impatient road users, boy racers (and sometimes myself) desist in trying to resist the leisurely ride and kick back and enjoy the passing vista of the many varied greens of the trees, the blue of the sky and the enticing glimmer of the sun bouncing off the blue/green waves.

Please don't destroy this invaluable iconic asset to create cycle/walk ways which would become unattractive to use – who is excited by a large road and the concrete sea wall.? This beautiful Bay, and other similarly attractive parts of this road are far too valuable to be lost, reduced to yet another bland urban road and concrete /stone sea wall, uninviting to both people and nature alike. This would be such a tragedy,

If you haven't visited it yet, please take the time to come and see it for yourself on a sunny day.