

## Sandspit SOS Inc Newsletter Summer 2016



[www.sandspit.org](http://www.sandspit.org)

### Vale Michael Arthur Taplin



29 January 1940 – 13 January 2016

SSOSI lost one of its leaders when Sandspit resident Michael Taplin died on 13 January 2016. Michael and his partner Chris Rowe have lived and run their business Corporate Dynamics Ltd from Sandspit for 21 years. Michael's profession was management consulting and teaching. He was a Teaching Fellow for Massey University throughout NZ and the Pacific; and provided business advice and mentoring services to many businesses and organisations in the north.

Michael's contribution to the local community was significant. He provided free mentoring for business owners through Business in the Community. He served on the Sandspit Residents and Ratepayers Association Committee for several years, including two terms as Chair. Being an experienced international sailor, he was for some years a member of the SYC, and a Kawai Coastguard volunteer.

Michael was a founding member of SSOSI, and we have benefitted from his big brain, strategic thinking, and sheer commitment and drive. Above all Michael was passionate about Sandspit, a place he loved. His legacy for SSOSI will be his commitment to protecting and preserving what is left of Sandspit's natural environment for others to enjoy as much as he did. Before he died, Michael donated his treasured sea kayak for SSOSI members to enjoy. Generous, convivial, focused, and a key member of our team. We'll miss you Michael.

### **Sandspit Harbourside Reserves**

It's great to see the reserves being used in their designated way.

The lagoons are regarded as one of the most reliable and popular local and international places for bird watchers to see endangered banded rails.



Like Cat Stevens' song says *Where do the children play?* Sandspit reserve adjacent to the SYC of course.



### **Bad News for the 2015 Bird of the Year**

The bar tailed godwit (NZ species) is now on the IUCN (International Union for

Conservation of Nature's Red List) threatened list. Habitat loss for feeding and roosting is of greatest concern. SSOSI welcomes any photographic evidence that godwits have been seen roosting at Sandspit since 2014.

### **Community Shellfish Survey at Rainbow's End**

The November survey was postponed due to inclement weather. Our two communities joined to survey this very large shellfish bed on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The resulting data is sent to Auckland Council and Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI). Shellfish are extremely important for filtering the estuary's water, maintaining water quality and clarity. Circulating sediment is one of their greatest survival threats. Cockles also act like re-enforcing mesh in concrete. They hold together the integrity of the sand shoals. Likewise, mussels filter large amounts of seawater. One mussel can filter up to 350 litres of seawater daily. To watch the speed of the filtering process go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sRII SDmNLQ>

### **Wasps**

Ground nesting wasps and paper wasps are not only a danger to humans, they also are making a huge impact on native insect life.

The once 'common copper' small butterfly and the little blue have almost vanished and native moths are rapidly decreasing. This affects the foodchain for our native birds along with pollination. Paper wasps are easily controlled by spraying the nest with flyspray. Ground wasp eradication is best left to experts. Contact Auckland Council for names of wasp eradicators.