

# MANGERE MATTERS



Maintenance controller Tim Burborough shows Parita (left) and Nita Dharmadhikari samples of raw wastewater as it enters the treatment plant, and the treated wastewater that leaves the plant 12 hours later.



Mangere operations controller Ian Cripps explains to Andrew Nash and Shelly Edwards how the biological treatment of wastewater occurs within a reactor clarifier.

## Mangere plant's inner workings prove popular

Andrew Nash was sitting on the toilet reading the paper when he spotted our recent invitation to the Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant open days.

The Auckland resident realised this was his opportunity to 'follow the action' as it were.

"As I flushed I said 'I'll see you guys on Saturday,'" he says.

Mr Nash was among more than 200 people who came along to see our Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant in action over the weekend of April 9 and 10. The plant

is the largest wastewater treatment plant in New Zealand and serves more than one million people.

Our staff took visitors, many of whom were locals who said they'd lived near the plant for years and wondered how it all worked, on guided tours of the facilities and explained the wastewater treatment process. They were also taken to Puketutu Island to learn about our rehabilitation of the former quarry using biosolids, a by-product of the wastewater treatment process.

Southern area wastewater manager Paul Bickers says the open days have proven extremely popular, with all 24 tours booked out.

"People were fascinated to learn that we generate electricity from biogas which supplies about 50 per cent of the plant's energy needs.

"A lot of our guests were also surprised to discover that we use natural processes instead of chemicals to treat wastewater."



## New road safeguards access for community

The new road that links Ascot and Island roads on the southern side of the Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant has been named Mark Ford Drive in recognition of our long-running chief executive, Mark Ford, who passed away in 2014.

The 530-metre road, which is due to open later this year, will replace the northern section of Island Road and ensure continued safe public access to the rehabilitated area adjoining the Manukau Harbour as well as Puketutu Island.

A large carpark has been constructed as part of the project to improve access to the Watercare Coastal Walkway, and a new walkway on a landform next to the treatment plant completes the link between the Greenwood Road Park and the coastal walkway. It features magnificent views over the Manukau Harbour and Manukau Heads and of Auckland's volcanic cones.

Mark Ford was a key figure in the push to open Puketutu Island as a regional park and also drove the biggest environmental rehabilitation programme to have been undertaken in New Zealand: Project Manukau. This \$450-million project saw the restoration of 500 hectares of the oxidation ponds to natural tidal flats and the rehabilitation of 13-kilometres of coastline. As a result of this continued focus on the

environment, the Manukau Harbour is the healthiest it has been for generations.

We constructed Mark Ford Drive on our land as part of a significant construction project underway at Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant.

“Island Road presently runs between the existing plant and the new facility we are building. Mark Ford Drive goes around the treatment plant, which is safer and more convenient for the community and for us, and fits in with the work we are doing to rehabilitate Puketutu Island,” project manager Sven Harlos says.

The section of Island Road that runs between Greenwood Road and the foreshore will close as part of the Mangere plant's new Biological Nutrient Removal facility. This will increase the plant's secondary treatment capacity to both meet population growth and ensure the health of the Manukau Harbour. The new facility will be capable of handling a volumetric flow of two cubic meters per second.

The project is on track and construction is due for completion in late 2017.

## Plants on track to become energy neutral by 2025

By 2025, we plan to run our Rosedale and Mangere wastewater treatment plants entirely on self-generated electricity, a target that will see us reduce our electricity demand on the grid by about 37GWh every year.

Chief executive Raveen Jaduram says Watercare is committed to integrating sustainability into all aspects of the business.

“If our Mangere plant becomes self-sufficient in terms of generating electricity, we will have achieved a world-first for a plant of its size.”

### DID YOU KNOW?

MANGERE IS NEW ZEALAND'S LARGEST WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

IT TREATS AROUND 319 MILLION LITRES OF WASTEWATER EACH DAY

### CONTACT US

Mangere Matters is your newsletter.

If you would like to talk to us about any stories from this edition or your ideas for future issues, we'd love to hear from you.

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