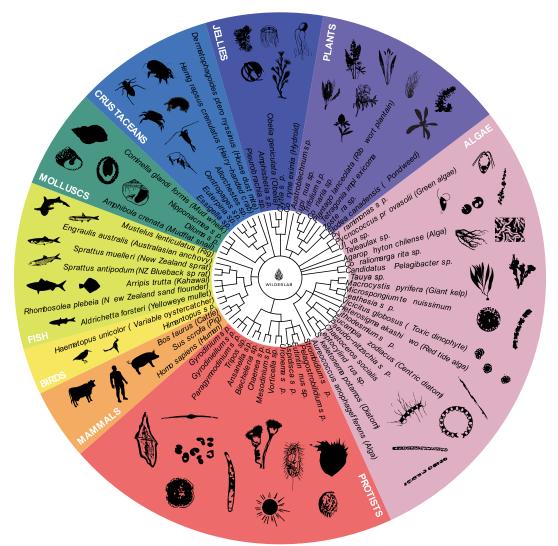


BOEE Newsletter: Autumn/Winter 2022 Past, Present and Future

Welcome to this BOEE Newsletter. You are receiving this occasional newsletter if you have registered with our website, taken part in a BOEE event, or indicated you wanted to hear more about our work or events.

<u>From the Past</u>: On our community field-courses, (Dunedays) we take environmental samples. On the last Southshore Dunesday, [Thank you to *Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd.*, <u>https://www.esr.cri.nz/</u>], we took estuary and seawater samples and had their DNA content analysed. Although some of the DNA signatures found in the estuary sample were not able to be identified, the diagram below shows those that were:



This technique does not tell us how many individuals there are, but instead it is presence/absence. Much of what was found is reasonably expected, including some mammals. The technique measures any DNA in the water. For example if cattle have either got into the water, or their effluent has drained into the estuary, then that explains the cattle results, likewise human beings. However, the Pig Signal is interesting...this is not the domestic pig, but instead *Sus scrofa*, the Wild Boar. It is likely that the DNA detected is from

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the Wild Boar populations originating either in the Port Hills getting into the Heathcote River, or possibly from the Burwood areas getting into the Avon River. Many Thanks to Wilderlab who carried out the analysis, (<u>https://www.wilderlab.co.nz/</u>).

From the Present: we have moved into a shared office in New Brighton. We will share the space with *Renew Brighton* at the Te Waka Aroha St Faith's on Hawke Street. Our new office opens at the end May and is available to support our community operations. We are planning to have the office staffed at least three days each week, please do pop in to say hello: enter *via* the South entrance (Hawke Street) as shown below.



Te Waka Aroha St Faith's showing entrance and Marsden Point Refinery (image courtesy of newshub.co.nz).

We are also busy on the other side of our operations: Research. The project - Ruakākā: Marsden Point Reimagined (Transition and Disruptive Paradigm Change) is about the sustainable adaptation to climate change of the *ex*-Marsden Point Refinery site alongside our current waste system. We head up an international consortium seeking funding for a Feasibility Study for a new use for the refinery and evolution of our waste system.

From the Future: post *Covid* we have re-opened our community events, see below:

- We will be running a Dunesday Field-course event at Travis Wetland on the last Saturday of the school holidays (23 July), and then starting next year's series from November around the coast. <u>https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/travis-wetland-dunesday-field-course-tickets-374640318277</u>
- In early September we will be running a Speaker event entitled: "What can Covid Teach us about adapting to Climate Change?" This will follow our usual pattern of each speaker spending a maximum of 20 minutes on their theme, then together acting as a panel to address audience questions. Finalised Speaker lists and booking will be available on our website in early August.

All our events are free but booking (via Eventbrite) is required. Finalised Programmes and booking for our Spring/Summer events will be available on our website in September. If anybody reading this would like to get involved in any of our activities, comment on or support BOEE in any way, please drop us an email (address above) or get in touch via our website.

Ngā mihi nui. Simon Watts, Observatory Director.