

Floating waste barges open

Litter and marine debris are apparent in waters around the island, particularly over the summer with the influx of recreational boats and visitors.

To try to mitigate the issue, Auckland Council is providing a floating waste barge to encourage boaties to dispose of their rubbish correctly. The barge, located at Man O'War Bay, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including public holidays. Boaties will be able to dispose of general waste and recyclables. However, commercial waste, inorganic and bulky items, along with hazardous waste will not be accepted.

"I'm delighted that the barges give people the option to dispose of waste responsibly," says local board chair Cath Handley.

"If you're at sea for a few weeks or days you can't keep all of the rubbish on board so the barges are necessary."

Boaties can tie up to the barge or row out and safely secure their vessels alongside it. The barge is set up with 240-litre wheelie bins - some are assigned for general waste, and others are for recyclable materials, according to council.

The clearly marked bins are designed to be clean and watertight and should

contain all refuse and recycling, as well as any odours that may occur in the heat of summer. The bulwarks of the barge are also designed to hold any waste that may escape the wheelie bins.

surface every year, and the local board hopes boaties either contain their waste on board until returning home or dispose of it appropriately.

"We have asked that they also put one at Oneroa which is regularly full of boaties," says Ms Handley, who hopes that a pump-out facility will also be available in future.

"It would be great if there were a



Not only does rubbish hurt the environment, marine creatures and the underwater ecosystem, but it is also one of the leading causes of injuries at the beach.

Of the approximately 7800 injuries sustained on New Zealand beaches in 2016, 595 were due to beach litter, according to a recent study undertaken by researchers at Murdoch University in Perth. Reports of condoms, tampons, nails and other hazardous waste on Waiheke's beaches

pump-out facility at Matiatia for boaties. The board has been working on this as an option."

The Waiheke summer waste barge is open until Thursday, 7 February 2019. There's also a floating rubbish barge at Great Barrier Island. The barge is moored at Port Fitzroy, on the south side of the Man of War Passage, just north of Smokehouse Bay. It will be in operation until Wednesday 6 February. • *Sophie Boladeras*



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How to use the summer barges

- Pre-sort your waste into rubbish and recyclable materials before you arrive at the barge
- Place all items in the appropriately marked wheelie bins - general waste or recycling
- Recyclable materials wheelie bins have a green body and yellow lid
- Please do not leave rubbish bags or loose items on the deck of the barge. Ensure all rubbish bags are placed in the general waste bins
- Recycle as much as you can: glass bottles and jars, aluminium cans/empty aerosols, steel and tin cans; plastics labelled 1-7, paper and cardboard, and Tetra Pak cartons (milk and juice)
- Remember to rinse all containers and leave the lids on all bottles and containers. Containers should be no larger than four litres
- The Great Barrier Island Barge is unable to accept Tetra Pak cartons or bottle lids. Please place these items with your general waste
- A rule of thumb to follow is that you can recycle most packaging containers from your kitchen, bathroom, and laundry.

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Ph 0274 735 204
email: jgautomarine@gmail.com