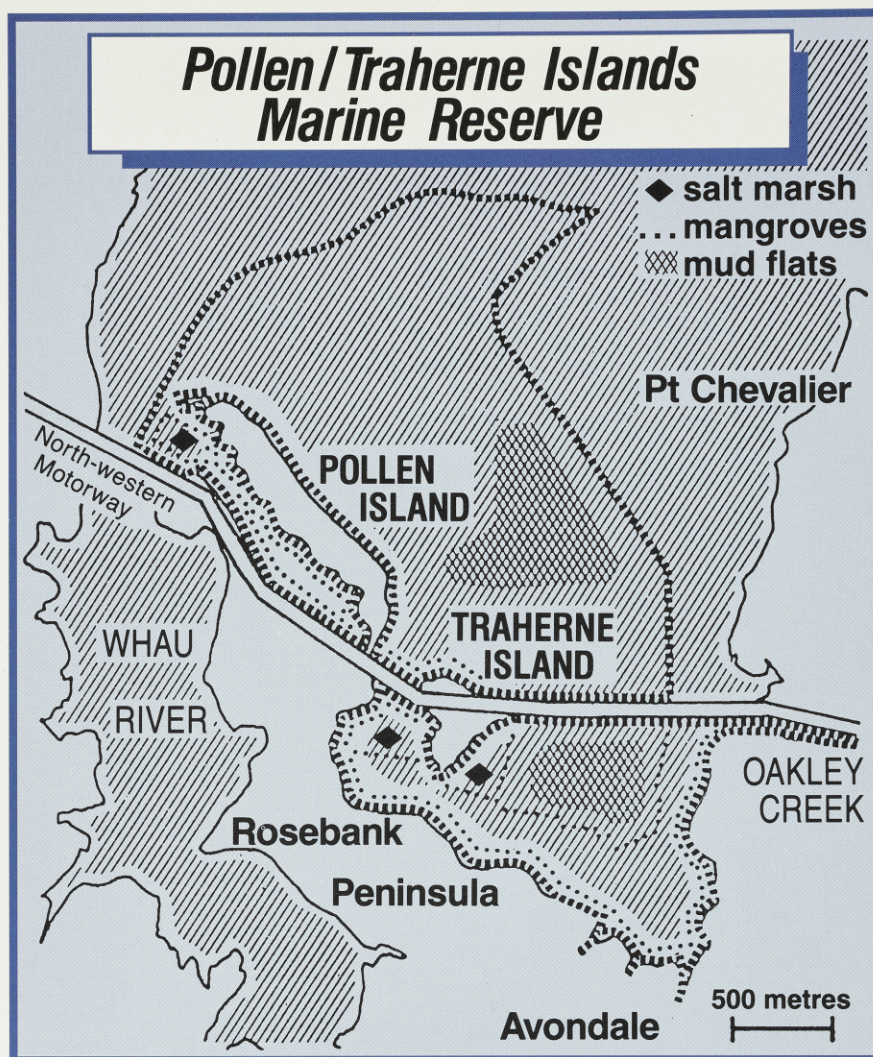


Map of the proposed Pollen Island marine reserve. Fernbirds and banded rails should continue to survive near the heart of Auckland city once Pollen Island becomes a marine reserve.

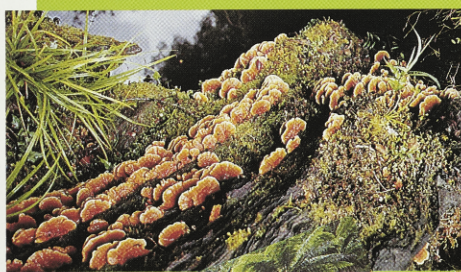
veloped the harbour with a missionary zeal. Even the Auckland public looked on in disbelief when the Harbour Board proposed a container port for Pollen Island. The port would need a large reclamation, a massive dredging scheme to turn mudflats into a shipping canal and factory relocation and further reclamations to get a railway linkage.

The Harbour Board later persuaded the Auckland Regional Authority to incorporate the container port plan into the Auckland Regional Planning Scheme. From that point on the container port myth was perpetuated in other planning schemes and led to the Minister of Transport, Bill Jefferies, giving Pollen Island away to the new Auckland Port Company in October 1988.

But in its wisdom the ARA also recognised the nationally-important biological and landscape values of Pollen Island and recommended that it be given permanent protection. Forest and Bird has now nominated the marine system around Pollen Island as a marine reserve. This would finally give permanent protection to this vestige of the Waitemata that has survived 10 millenia and deserves a chance to survive without further modification at least as long again. ✚



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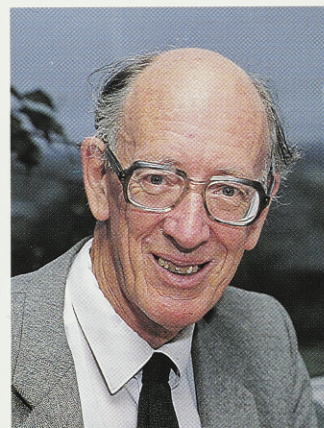
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Professor John Morton, QSO, D.Sc., Ph.D., FRSNZ (Hon.), FLS,
former Professor of Zoology at Auckland University.



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