

Introduction– John Tregidga

Four years ago when we held this seminar we examined the State of our Gulf.

It ruffled a few feathers

We suggested that change was needed.

Today I think we are starting to see signs that we are on the right track.

In past seminars we have heard about the threats to Bryde's whales. Today we have commitment to internationally recognised target speeds by the shipping sector.

We have heard about the threats to black petrels. Today we have a long line fleet committed to being seabird smart.

We have seen historic milestones in the settlement of treaty claims, the transfers of ownership of some of our iconic islands and the reassertion of kaitiakitanga alongside nature presentation.

We heard the inspiring stories of restoration on Hauturu, Motutapu, Rotoroa and elsewhere, of mussel reefs, through partnerships, philanthropy, volunteerism and innovation.

We are facing up to the big challenges, how to fish, to farm, to intensify our urban spaces, profitably and within limits.

What is new and different is often the processes for those decisions – we are having difficult conversations with more people in the room, with more transparency, with more skin in the game, and consequently more potential for resolution.

We all need to share the responsibility of operating in and around the Gulf in ways that contribute to its wellbeing and enhancement.

This is our sixth seminar and I believe they have helped create a climate, a community, and a mood for success.

This year we have sessions that encourage 'heart talk', 'science talk', 'smart talk' and 'doing talk', all ingredients we feel are necessary to move Forward Together.