



Hauraki Gulf Forum  
Tikapa Moana

# Weaving the Strands

Promoting and facilitating integrated management around the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana



*Rangitoto to become pest free*



*Bar-tailed godwit*



*People power*



## A coordinated approach

Recently I travelled by boat from Great Barrier to Auckland, across the waters Hauraki iwi call Tikapa Moana, past the nature reserve of Hauturu, the vineyards and luxury homes of Waiheke, and past a cluster of fishing boats off the tip of Motuihe, through a flotilla of colourful sails in Rangitoto channel and huge container ships leaving port.

It is clear that we place immense value on the Hauraki Gulf, but there is no simple, integrated way of managing its resources. The need to provide a coherent vision and a coordinated approach to management is the reason for the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Although the Forum has existed since 2000, meeting quarterly to share information and plan joint projects, recent decisions have enabled us

to become more visible, active and ambitious in carrying out our work.

This is the first issue of what will be a quarterly newsletter highlighting important activities being carried out by agencies and community groups around the region.

The visual identity we have chosen, based on the weave of a kete, represents the Hauraki Gulf Forum's role of bringing together the organisations, cultures, catchments and issues of Tikapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf.

We have created a new full-time position to service the forum and recently appointed Tim Higham, who has a background in communications with the United Nations, Antarctica New Zealand and other government agencies, to this role.

We are currently preparing an update of our State of the Environment Report for the Hauraki Gulf, as well as a guidance document to assist agencies in implementing the management objectives of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act.

Further issues of this newsletter and our web site [www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz](http://www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz) aim to keep you informed of these projects and other important initiatives happening around Tikapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf.

*John Tregidga  
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum*



## New marine protection regime in Hauraki Gulf

The Hauraki Gulf is one of the first four regions to be considered under new government plans to better protect the marine environment.

The government is committed to having 10 percent of its marine coastal area protected by 2010 according to the Biodiversity Strategy of 2000.

In each of 14 coastal regions three types of marine protection are proposed: marine reserves, marine protected areas that prohibit damaging activity such as dredging and bottom trawling, and other marine protection tools to protect certain plants and animals.

Advisory groups representing community interests will be set up to help the Ministry of Fisheries and Department of Conservation identify appropriate areas for protection.

[www.biodiveristy.govt.nz/mpas](http://www.biodiveristy.govt.nz/mpas)

## Pest-free Rangitoto and Motutapu

Conservation Minister Steve Chadwick has released the details of plans to create the largest pest-free island territory in the Hauraki Gulf, by removing all pests from Rangitoto and Motutapu Islands.

The project aims to remove two types of rat, mice, stoats, feral cats, rabbits and hedgehogs, and will include a public education campaign, development of new

tracks and infrastructure, monitoring programmes, and an aerial poison drop.

[www.doc.govt.nz/templates/news.aspx?id=45432](http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/news.aspx?id=45432)

## Changes in Firth of Thames wetland

The Muddy Feet Project's latest report shows potentially serious threats to internationally recognised wetland and migratory bird habitats in the Firth of Thames and charts a series of steps to protect them.

Sedimentation, habitat loss, disturbance, invasive species, harvesting and exploitation, contaminants and nutrients are the key stressors on the habitats of the Ramsar site.

The report found significant long term ecosystem change happening, particularly the sedimentation related to the history of deforestation and drainage of the Hauraki Plains.

It calls for a more integrated, catchment management approach, as well as intensive intervention at specific sites to preserve bird habitat. The project is co-ordinated by a multi-agency steering committee, including Environment Waikato, Auckland Regional Council, Thames Coromandel District Council, Hauraki District Council, Franklin District Council, Ministry of Fisheries and the Department of Conservation.

The report is available from Environment Waikato.

## Waitakere catchments tap people power

Community groups are playing a huge role in improving the habitat and water quality of streams feeding the Waitemata harbour.

In 2007 the Waitakere City Council-led Project Twin Streams:

- planted 113,364 plants, 62 percent of them by local communities.
- cleared 33 percent of the project area of weeds.
- involved 5,944 volunteers in planting, site preparation, weeding and maintenance
- enabled 29 groups and 11 schools to adopt sections of stream bank.

Jenny Chilcott, WCC's Strategic Advisor – Sustainable Catchments, and technical officer to the Hauraki Gulf Forum, says central to the long-term success of the project is finding ways of raising people's awareness of the causes of the degradation of streams, and behaviour changes to address these. "This requires working across all aspects of wellbeing and actions that promote strong, healthy, engaged local communities who understand the challenges facing their catchment and take responsibility for them."

Project Twin Streams began in 2003 as a stream bank restoration programme aiming to replant 56km of Waitakere waterways. Funded by Auckland Regional Holdings (a division of ARC), the project was recently extended to include the Sustainable Household – Sustainable Living Programme.

[www.waitakere.govt.nz/abtctit/ne/twinstreams.asp](http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/abtctit/ne/twinstreams.asp)





Downtown finger wharves



Little spotted kiwi



Awana, Great Barrier Island

## Gateway to Hauraki Gulf Marine Park?

Michael Lee, Auckland Regional Council chairman and Hauraki Gulf Forum deputy chair, has floated the idea of transforming Queens Wharf, at the heart of Auckland's waterfront, into a major cruise ship terminal and maritime gateway between the city and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

"It could include exhibition space and a range of amenities to attract visitors and Aucklanders alike," says Mr Lee.

Ten years ago 27 cruise ships visited Auckland while this year there will be 73 visits, up 58 percent from last year. "Auckland has become a major port for cruise ships in the southwest Pacific and we need to seize the opportunity this renaissance in passenger shipping brings," says Mr Lee.

## Great Walk for Great Barrier

Auckland City Council is leading a project to create a walkway around Great Barrier Island, in the style of the Department of Conservation's "great walks". The walkway would largely follow "paper" roads, legal roads which are unformed and generally result in a circular walkway right around the island's exterior. Council is currently negotiating with a landowner to obtain a walkway over private land at the southern end of the island as a first step to launching the project in the Cape Barrier – Rosalie Bay area during 2008. The Great Walk is a long

term collaborative project with the Department of Conservation and the island's communities aimed at assisting with economic development, by providing opportunities for locals to service walkers through accommodation, transport etc.

## Good news for island birds

Little spotted kiwi have more than doubled in number on Tiritiri Matangi in the last five years, according to the results of a recent Department of Conservation survey. The population has grown to 60-80 birds from about 30 birds in 2002.

Recent research on Cook's petrels on Little Barrier Island has found that breeding success – measured by breeding burrows fledging chicks – has climbed from 5% to around 60% following rat eradication.

## Island restoration groups share success

A networking day for volunteer restoration groups working in the Hauraki Gulf was hosted by the Department of Conservation in December as part of a celebration of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

It was the first time members of volunteer trusts and societies had had the opportunity to share their experiences and vision for the future.

Newly appointed conservation minister Steve Chadwick described their work

as "truly inspirational" and "a vital role in conservation in this country." She pledged to provide regular opportunities for such groups to share successes and work together for the benefit of the park.

*Information about the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi, the Motutapu Restoration Trust, Motuora Restoration Society, Motuihe Trust, Little Barrier Island (Haututu) Supporters' Trust and other volunteer initiatives can be found at [www.doc.govt.nz/templates/summary.aspx?id=32493](http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/summary.aspx?id=32493)*

## Fish farms for Gulf?

Environment Waikato is consulting on a plan change to provide opportunities for the aquaculture industry to trial new forms of aquaculture, including fish farming, within existing Aquaculture Management Areas. Currently the rules of the Regional Coastal Plan only provide for shellfish farming.

First steps have also been taken to release another 520 ha of water space for marine farming, adding to 690 ha already in use or consented but not yet developed in the Wilson Bay Marine Farming Zone near Coromandel.

The council is establishing "a multi-stakeholder working group to develop and critique a policy framework that allows the trialling of new types of aquaculture" and says "additional consultation will occur in parallel to the working group."

Environment Waikato intends that once that framework has been developed it will be notified as a change to the Regional Coastal Plan and formal written submissions sought.

[www.ew.govt.nz/policyandplans/rcpintro/aquaculture.htm](http://www.ew.govt.nz/policyandplans/rcpintro/aquaculture.htm)



New education resource

## New kits for community shellfish monitoring

The Hauraki Gulf Forum has completed a project flyer, shellfish identification guide and teacher resources to assist schools and community groups monitoring shellfish populations around the Hauraki Gulf.

Shellfish populations are currently monitored by community and school groups at 12 sites around the Gulf, supported by councils, the Department of Conservation and iwi. The teacher resource kits link the shellfish surveys to learning outcomes and unit standards within the NZ curriculum at two levels – upper primary/ intermediate and senior biology. The resources will support



New publication

the collection of quality, comparable information which will be recorded in a new database and used in future State of the Environment reporting.

## New book on managing coast

The Environmental Defence Society has recently published Beyond the Tide: Integrating the Management of New Zealand's Coasts. Based on a detailed study of the Hauraki Gulf and the Kaipara Harbour the report investigates how the coast is currently managed and ways in which management can be strengthened in the future.

[www.eds.org.nz/](http://www.eds.org.nz/)

## MFish concerned at cockle take

An estimated 1500 people collected cockles at Cockle Bay, Manukau City during low tide on January 28th. And according to inspections by honorary fisheries officers, many ignored the daily bag limit of 50 per day, discarding piles and bags of cockles on the beach and in rubbish tins.

At Umupuia Beach, near Maraetai, monitoring has shown a marked decrease in cockle population, from 96 million in 2000 to 12 million in 2006.

The Ministry of Fisheries is investigating alternative management options at these sites.

## Under consultation

Kawau Vision Document	Rodney District Council	<a href="http://www.rodney.govt.nz/services/kawau-vision/Kawau-Island-Vision.htm">www.rodney.govt.nz/services/kawau-vision/Kawau-Island-Vision.htm</a>
Mangrove Management Plan Change	ARC	<a href="http://www.arc.govt.nz/plans/regional-policy-and-plans/operative-auckland-regional-plan-coastal/mangroves-and-the-auckland-regional-plan-coastal.cfm">www.arc.govt.nz/plans/regional-policy-and-plans/operative-auckland-regional-plan-coastal/mangroves-and-the-auckland-regional-plan-coastal.cfm</a>
Auckland Conservation Management Strategy	DoC	<a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/page.aspx?id=44533">www.doc.govt.nz/templates/page.aspx?id=44533</a>
Northland Scallops Fishery Plan	Mfish	<a href="http://fpcs.fish.govt.nz">http://fpcs.fish.govt.nz</a>
Highly Migratory Species Fishery Plan	Mfish	<a href="http://fpcs.fish.govt.nz">http://fpcs.fish.govt.nz</a>
Aquaculture Plan Change	Environment Waikato	<a href="http://www.ew.govt.nz/policyandplans/rcpintro/aquaculture.htm">www.ew.govt.nz/policyandplans/rcpintro/aquaculture.htm</a>

*Inspired by the weave of a kete, the Hauraki Gulf Forum identity represents the bringing together of the organisations, cultures, catchments and issues of Tikapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf. The Forum members are representatives of tangata whenua and the main government departments and local authorities with statutory responsibilities in the catchments of the Hauraki Gulf. Its mission is to promote and facilitate integrated and coordinated management. The Auckland Regional Council is the administering authority for the Forum. [www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz](http://www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz)*