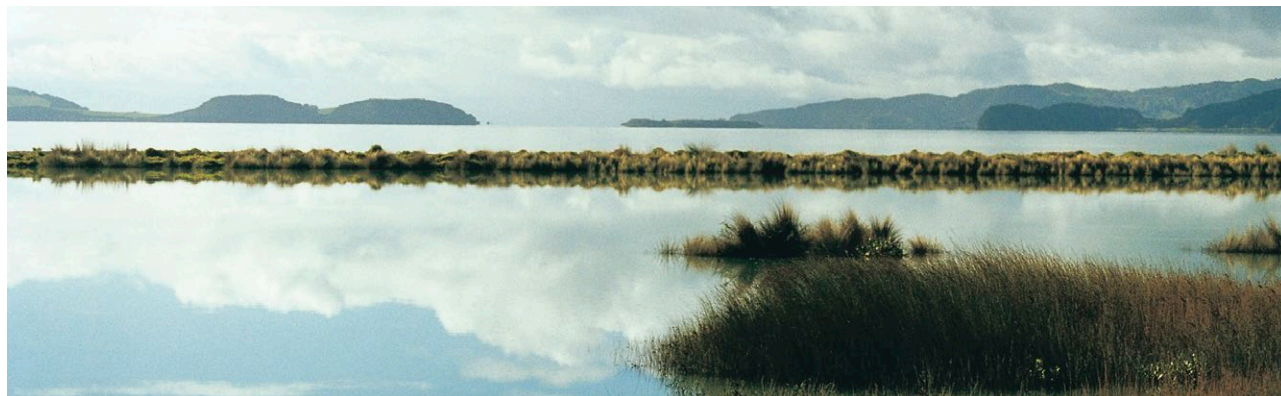




Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana

Weaving the Strands

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



Finding inspiration around the Gulf

Wherever we go we find inspiring stories of how people and organisations are working together to make a difference.

Recently the Hauraki Gulf Forum has been holding some of its meetings outside the Auckland Regional Council chamber. In March we met at Miranda, this month the North Shore City Council is hosting the forum and over summer we plan to get out to one of the Gulf islands.

At Miranda, the Muddy Feet Project briefed us on its research and action programme to protect migratory seabird habitat, bringing together management agencies and community interests. Forum

member Teddy Andrews related Ngati Paoa's history to the natural features of the Pukorokoro area.

The North Shore City Council hosts the forum this month and will show us around the recently upgraded Rosedale treatment plant, the biggest source of wastewater discharge into the Gulf. The council is taking innovative approaches to water management, helping address issues such the build up of heavy metals in upper harbours identified in our recent state of the environment report.

Community action is a feature of the Gulf where many islands are the scene of habitat restoration and species recovery work by volunteer trusts in partnership with the Department of Conservation.

As this issue of *Weaving the Strands*, shows there are a lot of important decisions and developments happening around the Hauraki Gulf.

The forum's role is to champion a co-ordinated approach that serves to protect and enhance the environment and the wellbeing of the people of the region.



Mayor John Tregidga
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum



Long Bay



North Shore mayor opens upgraded Rosedale plant



Chelsea Park

Upgrade to Rosedale wastewater

North Shore City Council officially opened the Stage 5 upgrade of its Rosedale wastewater treatment plant in May.

The \$17 million upgrade enables a 40 per cent increase in capacity, reduction in odour emissions, and boosts energy efficiency, with 60 per cent of power requirements now generated on site.

The next phase of project work involves construction of an underground pipe to take fully treated water from the plant 2.6km to Mairangi Bay then 2.8km out into Rangitoto Channel.

Subdivision rules for Long Bay

The Environment Court released its interim decisions in July on a structure plan to manage the subdivision and use of 360 hectares of land above the regional park and marine reserve at Long Bay.

The decision enables the North Shore City Council to go to the next stage in the finalisation of plan with developer Landco and other parties to the Environment Court appeal.

The court favoured the city council plan which includes buffers to protect important landscape features such as park and coastal edges and streams; it concentrates development around a new village centre, and places high priority on environmental initiatives such as water retention tanks and specialised stormwater management.

All parties were directed by the court to work through its findings and judgements and develop a final version of a land use strategy for determination by March 2009.

MFish, Ngai Tai propose cockle bed closures

Concerns about depletion of shellfish at Cockle Bay, near Howick, have prompted the Ministry of Fisheries to propose closing cockle beds to harvesting over summer.

An initial position paper, released in July, proposes a closed season from 1 October to 30 April, when harvesting pressure is greatest. MFish says the level of offending at Cockle Bay is high and believes the cumulative take of cockles is unsustainable.

An open season from 1 May to 30 September is proposed, during which the existing daily limit of 50 cockles per person would apply. MFish is seeking submissions on its position paper by 18 August.

At Umupuia Beach, where cockle populations have also shown a marked decline, MFish is processing an application by Ngai Tai for a two year closure of the beds.

Chelsea Park gets go ahead

The 36.7 hectare Chelsea Park, on the Uruamo headland in Birkenhead, has been given the go-ahead.

A \$20 million purchase of the land from the Chelsea Estate was negotiated in March by the Chelsea Park Trust and will be met through contributions from North Shore City Council, the ASB Charitable Trust, central government and the Auckland Regional Council.

The historic grounds contain parkland, lakes, wetlands, regenerated forest, open spaces and historic houses and constitute the longest section of bush clad coastline on the Waitemata Harbour.

Chelsea Sugar will retain ownership of 14 hectares of the former estate. If its refinery operations stop in the future, the land could be rezoned but would require a comprehensive development plan.

Aquaculture wananga

Te Puni Kokiri, the Ministry of Maori Affairs, held wananga (or workshops) in Auckland and Hamilton in June to enhance iwi participation in aquaculture planning under the Resource Management Act.

Aquaculture legislation reforms and government economic development policy anticipates significant Maori involvement in expanded aquaculture and allocates 20 per cent of any new aquaculture space to iwi.

Forum technical officer Keir Volkerling told the workshops of Ngatiwai's experience with aquaculture and iwi development plans. He believes there are potentially significant benefits for Maori in aquaculture as it enables them to continue their role as kaitiaki



Oyster farming



Marinas fund enhancement



Ngatiwai alert for strandings

in relation to the management over marine resources, create jobs close to traditional marae, and cater for guests with customary foods.

Minister declines Great Barrier marine reserve

Fisheries minister Jim Anderton rejected a proposed 495 square kilometre marine reserve on the northeast coast of Great Barrier Island in May.

The proposal was declined due to the impacts of the proposal on the local community and tangata whenua who are reliant on resources from the sea for their day to day living.

The Ministry of Fisheries and the Department of Conservation will soon commence work on the north-east biogeographic region marine protected area strategy. The process will be assisted by a community-based marine protection planning forum consisting of up to 14 members from tangata whenua and stakeholders with strong links to the region.

The forum is expected to hold its first meeting in mid 2009 and make recommendations to the ministers on marine protected areas for the region from Ahipara around North Cape to East Cape.

www.biodiversity.govt.nz/mpas

Matariki celebrated

Matariki, the Maori New Year, was celebrated around the Gulf region recently and in the north

is associated with the migration of whales through the Hauraki Gulf.

According to Ngatiwai Trust Board resource management co-ordinator Tui Shortland, "a new moon and the rise of the Pleiades constellation of stars guides Maori to plan for the coming year with its lengthening days, and we know from our tribal stories, as well as from science, that there are other mammalian patterns occurring at this time, so we are particularly alert for whales and whale strandings."

Ngatiwai has established protocols with the Department of Conservation to deal with whale strandings and the use of materials recovered from carcasses. It also has a collaborative research project with Auckland University of Technology (AUT) on the diets of marine mammals, and provides scientists with stomach samples, DNA and observations about unusual physical deformities.

Meanwhile, the Hauraki Maori Trust Board celebrated matariki and its 20th anniversary with a special dinner in the company of the Maori king Tuheitia Pahi in Thames on July 2. A presentation on the significance of matariki to Hauraki iwi is available at www.hauraki.iwi.nz.

New Muddy Feet reports on line

New reports produced by the Muddy Feet Project on protecting the internationally important coastal environment of the southern Firth of Thames are now available on the forum's website.

Coastal enhancement funding

The Auckland Regional Council's Coastal Enhancement Fund has \$180,000 available for projects in the Auckland region. The fund allocates revenue from seabed and licence fees collected from marinas at Halfmoon Bay, Westpark and the Buckland's Beach Yacht Club.

Organisations and incorporated societies can apply if their projects involve safety and navigation improvements, environmental enhancement, or public works and infrastructure in the coastal marine area. Applications close 29 August.

Email alexandra.wilson@arc.govt.nz

Coastal protection trust launched

A New Zealand Coastal Trust was established in June to promote the preservation and protection of the coastal environment through voluntary mechanisms.

The new trust, established by the Environmental Defence Society, will receive gifts and bequests of coastal land for protection and public enjoyment, and enter into covenants and land management agreements which will preserve coastal land, and protect it from subdivision and development, in perpetuity.

www.nzcoastaltrust.com



Waitakere Ranges (on horizon) gain protection

Heritage act for Waitakere Ranges

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 came into force on 9 April, with the eastern ranges and foothills of the area forming an important part of the upper catchment of the Hauraki Gulf.

Like the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000, the new legislation responds to concerns about the adverse cumulative effects of growth on landscape and heritage and the difficulties in managing these effects under existing regulations.

www.waitakere.govt.nz/abtct/ne/ranges.asp

Conservation Week to have Gulf flavour

Conservation Week from 7-14 September will be launched at Auckland Zoo and celebrate close

to home success stories, including several around the Hauraki Gulf.

The Department of Conservation, in partnership with Television New Zealand, will produce another series of Meet the Locals mini-documentaries which highlight the inspiring conservation work of local communities, businesses and individuals.

www.doc.govt.nz/templates/summary.aspx?id=58253

Strong interest in Gulf State of the Environment Report

Summaries of the Hauraki Gulf Forum's 2008 State of the Environment Report are now available in all public libraries in the 10 cities and districts in the Gulf catchment.

Stories in newspapers, and on television and radio, resulted in increased web



Tiritiri Matangi's hihi feature in Meet the Locals



State of the Environment Report launch

traffic to www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz where the full report can be downloaded.

The report was launched on June 3 with the Minister of Conservation Steve Chadwick and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme Achim Steiner.

ARC purchases Pakiri park land

The Auckland Regional Council has purchased 50 hectares adjoining the Rodney District Council Te Arai Reserve near Pakiri, to add to its regional parks network.

The dune, wetland and forest block, near to the coast, has high ecological value and recreation potential.

Combined with the existing reserve, it creates a large area of public open space in an area under threat from further development.

Under consultation

Auckland Conservation Management Strategy Review	DoC	www.doc.govt.nz/aucklandcmsreview
Shellfish management at Cockle Bay	MFish	http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/Cockle+Bay+shellfish+stocks/default.htm
North-East Shellfish Plan	MFish	http://fpcs.fish.govt.nz/FishPlanComplex.aspx?ID=23

Photo credits: Department of Conservation, Auckland Regional Council, North Shore City Council, Aquaculture New Zealand

The Hauraki Gulf Forum is a statutory body responsible for the integrated management of the Hauraki Gulf. The Forum has representation on behalf of the Ministers of Conservation, Fisheries and Maori Affairs, Auckland Regional Council and Environment Waikato, ten local authorities (Rodney, Franklin, Waikato, Hauraki, Thames Coromandel and Matamata Piako District Councils, North Shore, Waitakere, Auckland and Manukau City Councils), plus six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands.

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