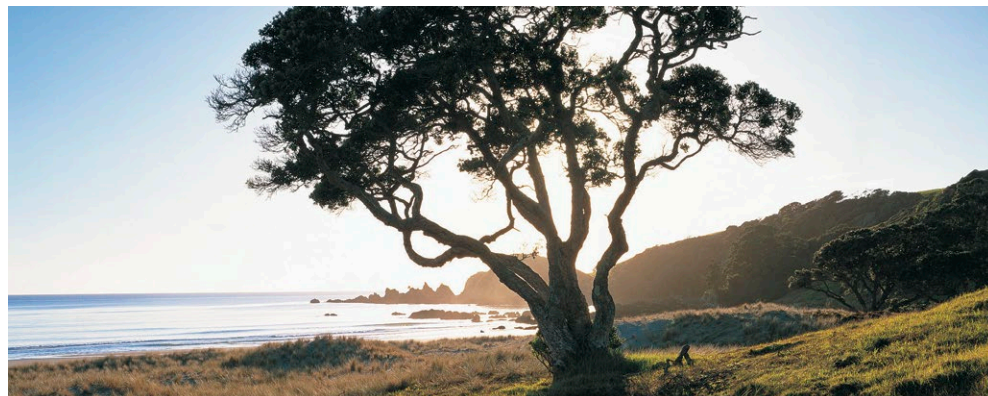
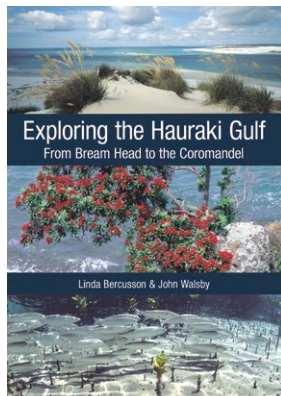




Hauraki Gulf Forum  
Tikapa Moana

# Weaving the Strands

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



## Championing the Gulf

Just before Christmas I was delighted to host the launch of a new guidebook: *Exploring the Hauraki Gulf: From Bream Head to the Coromandel*, written by Linda Bercusson and John Walsby.

A who's who of people working on restoration, research and management around the Gulf attended.

Hauraki Maori Trust Board Chairman Toko Renata Te Taniwha welcomed guests and new Auckland Central MP Nikki Kaye spoke about her commitment and interest in better management and protection of the Gulf.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum helped the book's production with a modest writer's grant and assistance from the technical officers who support forum members.

The result is an engaging and informative introduction to the

natural and human history of the islands and places around the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Already the book is into its second print run and is an asset for those wanting greater experience and understanding of the area.

It draws on the state of environment reports produced by the forum and shows that beyond the fringing pohutukawas and sparkling waters there are challenging issues to address around Tikapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf.

Increased awareness helps motivate action and it is pleasing to see many organisations and community groups getting involved in Seaweed (March 1-8, [www.seaweed.org](http://www.seaweed.org)).

Beach clean ups, marine outdoor education courses, art exhibitions and shellfish monitoring are among the many activities planned.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum is also working to stimulate a more integrated approach to managing the Gulf and at our March meeting we will consider a new policy and planning guide to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act.

I will report on this important piece of work in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, this issue should provide another useful snapshot of the valuable work happening around the Gulf.

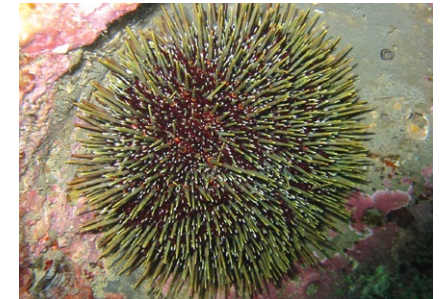
Enjoy the rest of the summer and autumn out and about around the Gulf.



Mayor John Tregidga  
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum



Boaties urged to check, bait and trap



New shellfish plan



Farewell godwits

## Treasure islands

The Department of Conservation and Auckland Regional Council initiated a joint summer campaign asking people to keep stowaway pests from jumping ship to predator-free Gulf islands.

New signs and brochures, and rat trap "giveaways" at the New Zealand Boat Show, are being used to urge boaties to "check, bait and trap" their vessels.

The campaign also involves inspections of commercial freighters and ferries and audits of the ships' pest management systems.

Meanwhile, preparations for the largest and most ambitious pest eradication operation in the Gulf are well advanced. An aerial bait application on Rangitoto and Motutapu is planned for June 2009, as part of a campaign to rid the island of rats, mice, stoats, feral cats, rabbits and hedgehogs.

[www.treasureislands.co.nz](http://www.treasureislands.co.nz)

## New shellfish plan

The Ministry of Fisheries is initiating a North East Shellfish Fishery Plan to address the management of 21 shellfish species from North Cape to Cape Runaway.

Five main species – cockle, pipi, tuatua, green lipped mussel and kina – are included, but there is also growing interest in species that have seen little or no harvest to date. Non-commercial harvest pressure, compliance and the effects of land use activities are key management issues.

MFish wishes to establish management objectives for the fishery through consultation with tangata whenua and stakeholders.

The ministry is also seeking further tangata whenua input on a draft Coromandel Scallop Fishery Plan, covering the area from Cape Rodney to Town Point Maketu, including Little and Great Barrier Islands.

<http://fpcs.fish.govt.nz/FishPlanComplex.aspx?ID=23>

## Mangrove plan changes

Proposed plan changes by the Auckland Regional Council will permit small scale mangrove removal when there are low environmental risks and provide a framework for the assessment of more significant proposals.

Regional Strategy and Planning Committee chair Paul Walbran said the proposed changes reflect a balanced approach to mangroves – recognising their ecological value, but noting their rapid spread in some areas largely in response to the increased amount of sediment in waterways.

The decision report and amended Chapter 16 (Plan Change 4) can be viewed at

[www.arc.govt.nz/coastalplan](http://www.arc.govt.nz/coastalplan)

## Godwits take flight

One of nature's great migrations will begin in late March when around 10,000 bar-tailed godwits depart

Miranda for their northern nesting grounds.

The birds will travel over 12,000 km to Eastern Siberia and Alaska, with a single refuelling stop at estuaries around the Yellow Sea, near Korea and China.

The birds will return exhausted and hungry in late September through to early November to feed, rest and moult in the Firth of Thames over summer.

The Miranda Naturalists Trust is hosting an Autumn Migration Day on March 15, with a talk and field visit to view thousands of godwits and other shorebirds on the shellbanks and tidal flats at Miranda.

[www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz](http://www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz)

## New boats for Harbourmaster

Safety on the Hauraki Gulf was boosted in December with the launching of two new boats in the Auckland Regional Council Harbourmaster fleet.

A patrol boat (HM2) is the second of two 8.5m Rayglass Protector boats, used for navigational safety.

The other new boat (Hiki Moana) is an 8m purpose-built aluminium barge to be used for containing oil spills, installing and maintaining harbour signs and beach markers, and recovering floating debris.

The harbourmaster's team carried out daily patrols on the Gulf over summer and the boats were used to assist with the Louis Vuitton Pacific Series.





Mangrove changes



Titi research



Central and local government leaders witness tunnel breakthrough

Hiki Moana was given its first oil spill response outing in February to contain about 180 litres of engine oil dumped in the Viaduct Harbour.

The boats help meet new requirements under the Port and Harbour Safety Code set by Maritime New Zealand.

[www.arc.govt.nz/environment/coastal-and-marine/harbourmaster](http://www.arc.govt.nz/environment/coastal-and-marine/harbourmaster)

## Bacteria levels spike

Bacteria levels at Judges Bay on Tamaki Drive were found to be eight times the safe level after routine testing in February by the Auckland City Council.

High levels of *Enterococci* bacteria, found in the human gut, indicates sewage pollution, usually caused after heavy rain when overflows occur from combined waste and stormwater pipes.

Power outages last month were also responsible for spills of raw sewage in Mission Bay, Kohimarama and St Heliers.

Water quality at popular Auckland bathing beaches can be checked at [www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/safeswim](http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/safeswim)

## Breakthrough in sewer replacement

A significant milestone in the development of infrastructure to reduce wet weather sewage overflows into Waitemata Harbour was reached last month, with the completion of a wastewater tunnel under Orakei Ridge and Hobson Bay.

The seven month, three kilometre excavation using a special tunnel boring machine is part of a \$118 million project by Watercare to replace the aging sewer pipe across Hobson Bay.

The new tunnel and its pumping station should be operating by December. The project will be completed in 2010 with removal of the old sewer pipe, opening up the bay for recreation and improving views around popular Tamaki Drive.

[www.watercare.co.nz/default,229.sm](http://www.watercare.co.nz/default,229.sm)

## Plan for water infrastructure

Territorial councils and water/wastewater network operators in the Auckland region have developed a co-ordinated strategy that aims to ensure the integrated and efficient delivery of water supply, wastewater and stormwater services throughout the region. The cost of upgrading the water, wastewater and stormwater systems in the region has been estimated at between \$1.9 billion and \$11.2 billion over 20 years.

The Three Waters Final 2008 Strategic Plan, released in December, is the result of four years of investigations and available from Watercare's website.

[www.watercare.co.nz/default,publications.sm](http://www.watercare.co.nz/default,publications.sm)

## Cruise ship congestion

Auckland's downtown wharves have been busy with visiting cruise ships

this summer with 25 docking during February, sometimes three at a time.

Seventy four ships are booked for the season, which are estimated to bring average revenue of \$1 million each to the regional economy.

Auckland Regional Council has begun scoping work for a dedicated cruise ship facility and discussing its potential with ship operators and the government.

ARC chairman Mike Lee said a new terminal is urgently needed to improve transport connections, provide an attractive gateway for visitors and further stimulate the cruise ship market, estimated to be worth \$713 million over the next ten years.

## Titi research and matauranga

A research partnership between Hauraki Maori and Landcare Research has provided important insights into the status and management of titi, grey-faced petrels on the Ruamaahua (Aldermen) Islands.

Interviews with muttonbirders show the harvest of chicks has dropped from about 15,000 per season in the 1950s to 1500 in the late 1980s, to just a 100 birds in recent years. Fewer birders are harvesting, but they are also observing less chicks.

The harvest of titi links Hauraki people to culture, ancestors, individual well-being and tribal identity. It also maintains mana (prestige), kaitiaki (environmental guardianship)



Author Linda Bercusson, MP Nikki Kaye and forum chair John Tregidga

responsibilities and matauranga (traditional knowledge) systems.

Traditional strategies for sustaining titi populations include leaving the more mature chicks, timing harvest to minimise disturbance of provisioning adults, splitting burrows to increase breeding space, rotating harvested areas, assigning refuges on parts of islands and designating rahui (temporary harvest prohibition).

Further research is planned to assist Hauraki and other iwi to manage titi resources for future harvest and ecosystem benefit.

*Papers and proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania, Vol 142 (1), 2008*

## Tikapa Moana revealed

A colourful poster and flash cards introducing the inhabitants of Tikapa Moana have been produced by the Hauraki Maori Trust Board and Auckland Regional Council.

Predominantly in te reo the flash cards provide information on the Maori names, characteristics, preferred habitats and whakatauki, or proverbs associated with common species of the Gulf.

He wha tawhara ki uta, he kiko tamure ki tai: On land the flowers of the kiekie; in the sea the flesh of the snapper. These products symbolise abundance of food.

The resource is being made available to schools around the Hauraki area.



Te reo school resource



Rifleman

## Rifleman joins Tiri flock

The tiny rifleman (titipounamu) is the latest addition to the island sanctuary of Tiritiri Matangi.

31 of New Zealand's smallest birds were shuttled from Hauturu, Little Barrier Island by helicopter during a 12 day mission in February by volunteers and Department of Conservation staff.

Riflemen are the 12th species to be introduced to Tiritiri Matangi, joining takahe, kokako, saddleback (tieke), stitchbird (hihi) and tuatara.

Over the last 25 years volunteers have transformed the island into a world renowned sanctuary, planting 300,000 trees and removing predators in a partnership with DoC.

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

## Under consultation

Auckland Conservation Strategy Review	DoC	<a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/aucklandcmsreview">www.doc.govt.nz/aucklandcmsreview</a>
North-East Shellfish Plan	MFish	<a href="http://fpcs.fish.govt.nz/FishPlanComplex.aspx?ID=23">http://fpcs.fish.govt.nz/FishPlanComplex.aspx?ID=23</a>
Auckland Regional Policy Statement	ARC	<a href="http://www.arc.govt.nz/workroom">www.arc.govt.nz/workroom</a>
Navigation Safety Bylaw review	ARC	<a href="http://www.arc.govt.nz/albany/index.cfm?B5575274-14C2-3D2D-B9E5-9DA369303971">www.arc.govt.nz/albany/index.cfm?B5575274-14C2-3D2D-B9E5-9DA369303971</a>
Regional Plan: Coastal, Plan Change 4 (mangrove management)	ARC	<a href="http://www.arc.govt.nz/coastalplan">www.arc.govt.nz/coastalplan</a>
Wharekawa Harbour and Catchment Management Plan	EW	<a href="mailto:Emily.O'Donnell@ew.govt.nz">Emily.O'Donnell@ew.govt.nz</a>
Whangamata Harbour Plan	EW	<a href="mailto:David.Speirs@ew.govt.nz">David.Speirs@ew.govt.nz</a>

*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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