



Hauraki Gulf Forum  
Tikapa Moana  
Te Moananui a Toi

# Weaving the Strands

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

## Yes we can

I am pleased to announce this year's Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar date and line up of speakers. The 9 September event at Auckland Museum will be our fourth and will focus on the theme *Making a Difference*.

Previous seminars have attracted capacity audiences: to celebrate the *Marine Park's 10th anniversary*, to explore the findings of the *State of our Gulf* report and to *Chart the Enhancement Pathway*.

Making a difference will require contributions from many sectors.

New Zealander of the Year Dame Anne Salmond will outline her vision to restore a thousand rivers by 2050, while Auckland University Professor Charles Royal, editor of a book on Hauraki connections, looks at how a "new indigeniety" might be embraced around Tikapa Moana.

Researcher Bruce Hartill has been looking at the patterns of recreational fishing in the Gulf, while NIWA colleagues have charted long term changes in our fisheries resources from pre-Maori times.

Southern Seabird Solutions Trust's Cam Speedy will tell the remarkable story of our seabirds and what we can do to protect them, while Rotorua Island chair Barrie Brown will share his trust's efforts to turn an island for recovering alcoholics into a tourist, conservation, arts and education destination.

But vision and inspiration won't by themselves make a difference. We



are pleased to be able to support a return visit to New Zealand of Bud Ehler, author of UNESCO's step by step guide to marine spatial planning.

Bud has helped countries around the world understand how marine spatial planning can address both environmental issues and opportunities for sustainable use.

Well known author Raewyn Peart will examine the particular challenges of applying these tools in the New Zealand and Hauraki Gulf contexts.

The importance of collaborative processes and a new mapping tool called SeaSketch, which will facilitate public input into mapping and assessing areas for protection and use within the spatial plan, will be the subject of other talks in the afternoon session.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum will also announce the inaugural winners of the Holdaway Awards, for outstanding leadership in and around the marine park as a tribute to park founder Jim Holdaway.

The seminar is timed to coincide with Auckland Museum's *Moana-My Ocean* exhibition, Conservation Week and the official launch of the Hauraki Gulf marine spatial plan process.

I look forward to seeing you there.

[www.aucklandmuseum.com/1600/what's-on](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/1600/what's-on)



Mayor John Tregidga,  
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum



Te Ara Moana kayak trail opens.

## Kayak trail opens

Auckland Mayor Len Brown opened Auckland Council's first multi-day kayak trail at Tawhitokino Regional Park on Auckland's south-eastern coast in April.

Te Ara Moana – the seagoing pathway takes kayakers from Omana Regional Park near Maraetai to Waharau Regional Park in the foothills of the Hunua Ranges near Kaiaua with camping options at purpose-built campgrounds along the way.

"We are delighted to open up another opportunity for families and groups to get out, get active and explore our stunning coastline – this time, from the water," says Len Brown.

"Te Ara Moana follows the traditional sea-going trails of mana whenua and we acknowledge the support of Ngai Tai, Ngati Paoa and Ngati Whanaunga in sharing this experience with the public."

[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/newsevents/culture/OurAuckland/mediareleases/Pages/southernkayadventureopens.aspx](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/newsevents/culture/OurAuckland/mediareleases/Pages/southernkayadventureopens.aspx)

## Waitemata marine pests

Surveys for invasive marine pests in the Waitemata Harbour this summer found no new organisms but continued to detect the spread of existing pests.

The Mediterranean fanworm, *Sabella spallanzanii*, is becoming more and more prevalent throughout the harbour, and was found in 95% of the areas surveyed. It is completely dominant in some areas, with densities of up to 200 per square metre, impacting other filter feeders

and preventing native species from attaching to surfaces.

Other marine pest species in the Waitemata Harbour include the Asian paddle crab, *Charybdis japonica*, and the clubbed tunicate, *Styela clava*.

Unfortunately, Sabella was considered too widespread to eradicate when it was discovered in 2009. Currently, the focus is to prevent its spread elsewhere in the Hauraki Gulf and further afield, says the Ministry for Primary Industries, which funds the surveys by NIWA.

[www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/camp-acts/marine/cleaning](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/camp-acts/marine/cleaning)

## Cuvier tieke head south

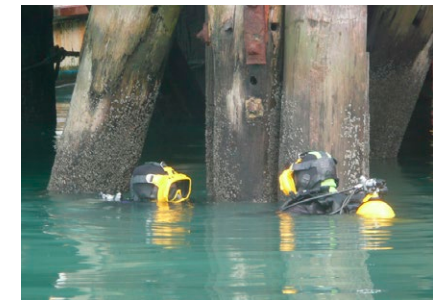
Ngati Whanaunga representatives from the Coromandel visited Cape Kidnappers in April to accompany tieke or saddlebacks from Repanga (Cuvier) Island.

If the transfer of 120 birds is successful, this would be only the third mainland population of this species established since the early 1960s, when saddleback were lost from mainland New Zealand. Repanga is believed to be close to carrying capacity, with 2000 tieke present.

Cape Sanctuary is a large scale wild-life restoration project on the Cape Kidnappers peninsula in Hawke's Bay, driven and funded by the landowners. The Tieke will be protected behind a 10.5 km predator proof fence. Bone fragments indicate they were once prolific in the area.

The birds were welcomed to their new home by Ngati Mihiroa.

[www.facebook.com/CapeSanctuary](http://www.facebook.com/CapeSanctuary)



Marine pest surveillance.



Ngati mihiroa welcome tieke.

## National seabird plan

The Ministry for Primary Industries launched a revised National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Seabirds in April.

The development of this NPOA-Seabirds is the result of the combined efforts of government, industry and environmental NGOs and will provide a framework to inform management for the next five years.

The NPOA-Seabirds will be implemented through annual fisheries planning processes that will identify key actions and opportunities to work with the fishing industry to reduce the amount of incidental seabird by-catch. One of the key actions for 2013 is to address risks from fishing to the black petrel, a migratory seabird that breeds only on Great Barrier and Little Barrier Islands. This will consist of a package of immediate actions in preparation for the return of the black petrels to the Gulf in October, and the development of a medium-term Black Petrel Action Plan by the end of 2013.

[www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Environmental/Seabirds/FAQ.htm](http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Environmental/Seabirds/FAQ.htm)

## Surf's up?

Concerns about changes in surfing wave quality at Whangamata have prompted a new campaign.

The Whangamata Bar Association, with the support of the Surfbreak Protection Society, believes dredging practices associated with a new marina in the harbour may be impacting negatively on the renowned surfing spot.





Surf break watchdog formed.



Fisherman Adam Clow with black petrel.

The campaign website backgrounds the concerns and provides links to related resources.

<http://onebigvoice.com/petition/save-the-whangamata-bar>

## Inspired by black petrels

Longline fishermen from Whitianga and Leigh rubbed shoulders with seabird researchers on Great Barrier this summer.

The initiative by Southern Seabird Solutions Trust was designed to build awareness of the vulnerability of the black petrel population and reinforce the important role fishers have in ensuring survival of the species.

Fisherman Gavin Perry said, “This experience hammered in the vulnerability of these birds and their importance as a species. It gave me a totally new respect for them. It would be great if all fishermen did this trip to the colony at least once.”

Fishermen on the visit follow a code of practice and agree danger time is when they're setting gear before dawn and birds want to dive on the baited hooks. They use tori lines to keep the birds out of the danger zone and weights to sink the baited hooks quickly. They make sure deck lights point inwards to minimise the visual presence of the boat. And they hold scraps on board when there are hooks in the water – tipping a bucket of fish scraps overboard is like a dinner gong for seabirds.



Cuvier tike head to Cape Kidnapper sanctuary.

A DVD of the fishermen's Great Barrier experience is in production.

[www.southernseabirds.org](http://www.southernseabirds.org)

## Mine clean-up complete

Environment Minister Amy Adams marked the completion of a five year, \$22.5 million government-funded project to clean up the Tui mine near Te Aroha at a ceremony in May.

The Waikato Regional Council and Matamata-Piako District Council contributed \$1 million. The tailings dam has been stabilised and 110,000 cubic metres of old mine tailings have been treated. Water quality of the Tunakohoa stream has improved and the site will be left to naturally regenerate.

The Department of Conservation and Matamata-Piako District Council have responsibility for on-going monitoring and maintenance.

<http://beehive.govt.nz/release/225-million-tui-mine-clean-complete>

## Gulf to Kaipara

Gulf-bred kiwi have helped bring our national bird back to the Auckland mainland for the first time in more than 50 years.

Fourteen Northland Brown kiwi from Motuora Island are now setting up burrows at Gill and Kevin Adshead's Southern Kaipara property.

In 2006, the farming couple established the Mataia Restoration project with the aim of re-establishing the ecological

values of the area. This involved retiring more than 400 hectares of their 1300 hectare property from farming. With the help of school groups and community volunteers they have undertaken extensive pest and predator control as well as stream fencing and native planting.

[www.kiwisforkiwi.org/news-and-media/farming-couples-passion-for-conservation-sees-return-of-kiwi-to-kaipara/](http://www.kiwisforkiwi.org/news-and-media/farming-couples-passion-for-conservation-sees-return-of-kiwi-to-kaipara/)

## New clean-up boat

The Watercare Harbour Clean-Up Trust has a new vessel to aid its work in improving the health of the Waitemata Harbour and inner Gulf islands.

The custom-built *Phil Warren 2* has twin engines enabling manoeuvrability, a flat hull to allow the crew to work the tides, and can accommodate 28 volunteers.

For more than 10 years, the Trust's contractors and volunteers have scooped up more than 25 million pieces of litter, including polystyrene, bottles, food wrappers and tyres.

[www.watercare.co.nz/community/cleanup\\_trust/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.watercare.co.nz/community/cleanup_trust/Pages/default.aspx)

## Nature Space launched

Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation recently held a launch for the Nature Space website, designed to support community restoration efforts.

Groups can share information about their projects and access resources supporting restoration efforts.

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



Dr Jacqueline Applegate, the new CEO and Managing Director of Bayer in New Zealand and Australia, releases a brown kiwi on Motutapu.

## Rangitoto and Motutapu Walk

Plans for a new multi-day walking experience in the inner Gulf was announced by Auckland Mayor Len Brown at a tourism tradeshow in April.

The *Rangitoto Motutapu Haerenga – A Journey Through Sacred Islands* concept is being developed by Department of Conservation (DOC), ATEED (Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development) and iwi in partnership with other stakeholders. The walkway has been initiated by the Motutapu Restoration Trust with support from Newmarket Rotary.

Ngai Tai Chairman James Brown says the Haerenga will enhance the kaitiakitanga and the connection of nga mana whenua to the islands and people from around the world.

The concept will encourage visitors to undertake a three day walk, either as one trip or as three separate day trips. Visitors should be able to experience the Haerenga by next summer.

[www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/new-multi-day-visitor-experience-for-rangitoto-and-motutapu-islands/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/new-multi-day-visitor-experience-for-rangitoto-and-motutapu-islands/)

*The Hauraki Gulf Forum is a statutory body charged with the promotion and facilitation of integrated management and the protection and enhancement of the Hauraki Gulf. The Forum has representation on behalf of the Ministers of Conservation, Fisheries and Māori Affairs, elected representatives from Auckland Council (including the Great Barrier and Waiheke local boards), Waikato Regional Council, and the Waikato, Hauraki, Thames Coromandel and Matamata Piako district councils, plus six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands.*

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Photo credits: DoC, Auckland Council, MPI, Cape Sanctuary, Kim Westerskov.



Multiday walk planned for Rangitoto and Motutapu.



Kiwi Ranger comes to Tiritiri Matangi.

## Bayer backs Motutapu

Bayer has joined the Motutapu Restoration Trust's donor family.

As part of its 150th anniversary, the global company donated \$25,000 and made a commitment to plant and maintain two hectares of native forest on Motutapu, to be known as the Bayer Block. The company's New Zealand employees will also help clear weeds to protect newly planted seedlings.

“We're very dependent on the generosity of individual and corporate donors,” says Christine Fletcher, chair of the Motutapu Restoration Trust. “This is an exciting development that we hope other corporations will follow.” Last year the trust raised over \$100,000 in an art auction featuring takahe drawings donated by the family of the late Don Binney.

## Kiwi Rangers on Tiri

The Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi have launched the first North Island location for Kiwi Rangers. The interactive education programme involves completing a location-based activity booklet. On completion a Kiwi Ranger

badge and certificate is awarded. Families can visit other Kiwi Ranger sites so children can build a Kiwi Ranger badge collection. The Department of Conservation hopes Kiwi Ranger will expand to other Hauraki Gulf locations, adding to 10 existing South Island sites.

[www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/queens-birthday-weekend-launch-for-kiwi-ranger-programme-at-tiritiri-matangi/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/queens-birthday-weekend-launch-for-kiwi-ranger-programme-at-tiritiri-matangi/)

## Gulf seabird report

A new report, *Seabirds of the Hauraki Gulf: Natural History, Research and Conservation* by Chris Gaskin and Matt Rayner, has been published by the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

The report details current knowledge about the 27 seabird species breeding in the region, identifies research needs and recommends conservation actions.

<http://tinyurl.com/mnynj53>

## Environment funding

Auckland Council environmental and heritage funding schemes are open to receive applications for 2013/2014.

<http://tinyurl.com/lk3fujk>



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