



Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi

Weaving the Strands

Promoting and facilitating integrated management around the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana, Te Moananui a Toi.

Strokes through time

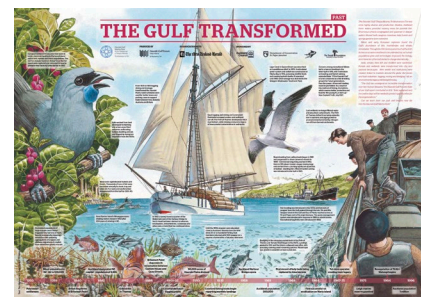
Last month the Hauraki Gulf Forum published its fourth Hauraki Gulf Marine Park poster series in association with the New Zealand Herald.

Artist Dave Gunson (pictured) helped us illustrate the full sweep of ecological history—past, present and future. Fifty milestones are recorded on a timeline along the sequence of posters. It is the story of the Hauraki Gulf/ Tikapa Moana as documented in our recent State of our Gulf assessments.

Poster one documents the transformation of a landscape and marine environment that our first Polynesian and European settlers found remarkable for its abundance. But trawling, dredging, mining, draining and felling created boom and bust industries and a legacy still felt today.

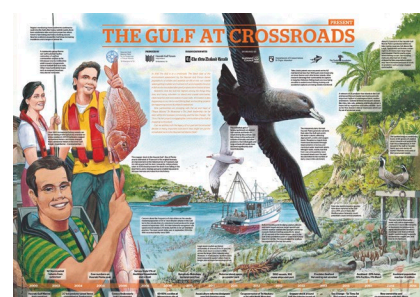
With world-leading fisheries and resource management legislation we have improved many of our practices. But the pressures of growing population and demands for returns of investments too often lead to incremental decline in environmental quality. Poster two shows how we are at a crossroads.

Putting together the third poster, set 25 years in the future, was the most interesting writing task says Forum executive officer Tim Higham. “I could extend the historical timeline into the future using targets within plans and strategies prepared by councils, government agencies, iwi and community groups. But to make



the story of achieving our desired future plausible it became clear we need to reinvent our economy with transformational change across sectors.”

I commend the posters to you. The third, The Gulf Recovers, shows successful fishing, farming, transport and infrastructure practices very different than today. Auckland’s 200th Anniversary Day is an opportunity to celebrate a rebound in health and productivity; one brought about by hundreds of thousands of citizens and a clever mix of business, government and Māori-led programmes. He waka eke noa – a boat we are all in, no exceptions.



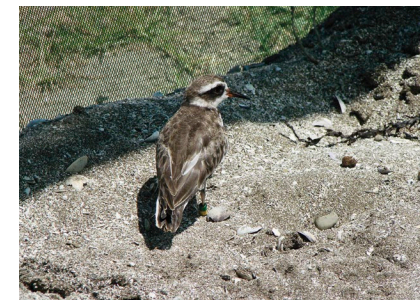
Thanks to the generous support of Auckland Council (stormwater education and community programme), the Department of Conservation, Tindall Foundation and Soar Print the posters will also be sent out to all schools in the region. Extra copies can be ordered from GulfPosters@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



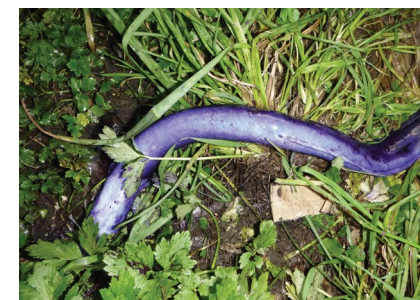
Mayor John Tregidga,
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum



Fisheries inspectors keeping close eye on Kawakawa cockles.



Motutapu safe haven for shore plover.



Heavy price for wildlife and polluting company.

Motutapu to rescue

Motutapu is playing an important part in the conservation of critically endangered tuturuatu or shore plover. Nineteen were released in January 2015, the third time a small flock has been released onto the pest free island.

While most disperse to other parts of the coast where they are not safe from predators, some have remained and the Department of Conservation hopes to build up a nucleus of breeding pairs on the island. There are only 63 breeding pairs in the world so every one of them is significant.

Ngai Tai Ki Tāmaki chairman James Brown says tuturuatu are seen as navigational beacons, helping locate particular kai moana (seafood).

infringement per offence up to a fine of \$20,000, which can include the seizure and forfeiture of possessions.

MPI recently commissioned a survey on the Kawakawa Bay cockle population and if results indicate a significant reduction in biomass, rule changes may be considered.

There are three Eastern beaches that have sustainability measures in place to protect the cockle populations: Eastern Beach is closed to all shellfish gathering, Cockle Bay has a seasonal closure for all shellfish gathering between 1 October to 30 April, and Umupuia (Duders beach) has a rahui in place which also prohibits all shell fish gathering.

Heavy fine for polluter

Heavy fines have been imposed on a freight forwarding company for causing Auckland’s most destructive freshwater and marine pollution incident in decades.

Jenners Worldwide Freight was fined \$103,000 and ordered to pay \$25,000 costs after a spill of over 1000 litres of dye turned parts of the Manukau Harbour purple.

Auckland Council says business owners and managers must find out what their obligations are under the Resource Management Act and other relevant regulations. Storage within secondary containment, as required by regulations, would have prevented the death of eels and fish, mud snails and other estuary species in 2013. Fishing was banned in the Oruarangi Stream and Estuary area for months following the spill.

See the future

King tides later this month will provide a glimpse of how sea level rise might change our coast in the future.

The next king tide in the Hauraki Gulf is predicted to peak on Sunday 22nd March 2015 at around 9.45 am.

The Auckland King Tides Initiative encourages people to visit coastal spots and take photos at the highest tides. This helps understanding and planning for what are expected to become normal daily high tides in 30 to 50 years’ with global sea level rise. King tides occur naturally when a new or full moon occurs at the same time the lunar cycle is closest to the earth.

Two new GoPro Hero cameras are on offer to the best photos submitted before 31 March.

<http://auckland.kingtides.org.nz/>

Government and iwi tackle freshwater

The Government and iwi leaders have agreed a programme of work to improve management of freshwater.

“Iwi have long raised concerns about water quality, how water is allocated and want their kaitiaki responsibilities better recognised,” says Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith. The programme will involve case studies, new local clean-up initiatives and policy improvement.

A Te Mana o te Wai Fund has been created providing \$5 million over two years to support iwi restoration initiatives such as riparian planting,



Council and developers protect Long Bay.



Tuatara thrive on Hauturu.



Megayacht Serene one of many to refit in Auckland.



Mangrove removal no quick fix.



Boardwalk opens up Westhaven Marina.



Coastguard fleet updated.

projects to reduce nitrate levels, and community-run water restoration efforts for local waterways.

<http://beehive.govt.nz/release/work-plan-agreed-iwi-leaders-freshwater>

www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding/te-mana-o-te-wai-fund/about-te-mana-o-te-wai-fund

Superyacht hangout

Auckland's Silo Marina is currently playing host to one of the world's largest, most luxurious and best-equipped superyachts.

Serene is owned by a Russian vodka billionaire, cost US\$330 million to build and is available for lease at €1.6 million a week. It is equipped with two helipads, a submarine dock, a climbing wall, multiple deck waterslide and boasts a crew of 52.

Auckland Tourism Events and Economic Development (ATEED) in partnership with Tourism New Zealand, NZ Marine and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, have set up a programme to attract superyachts for cruising, chartering and refit work.

An independent report commissioned by the group says \$29.3 million was spent by visiting yachts in Auckland during the 2013-14 season, on refits, repairs and maintenance, and operational expenses. Crews spent \$4.3 million on tourism activities.

There are about 4900 supervachts over 30 metres in the global fleet with more than 400 being built. Since July 2014, 58 have visited Auckland.

Godwits' year

2015 is the Year of the Godwit and to raise the profile of this special Gulf inhabitant the Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust is hosting public lectures by experts from around the world, beginning 18 March.

Trust manager Keith Woodley says protecting godwits here is not enough as they depend on a network of habitats in East Asia, Russia and Alaska, each a vital link in their global migration story.

The trust, which marks its 40th anniversary this year, has signed an agreement with officials in Pyongyang to investigate shorebird sites on the coast of North Korea, and is supporting collaborative work in South Korea, China and the Arctic.

www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz

Tuatara thrive on Hauturu

The tuatara population on Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island is looking healthy with 19 eggs confirmed for this year's breeding season.

Since the island was declared pest-free in 2006, the number of tuatara living in the wild has grown from eight to 300, as well as providing sanctuary for the only self-sustaining population of hihi (stitchbirds), twelve species of geckos and skinks, tieke (saddleback), wetapunga (giant weta) and a breeding population of nine kakapo.

Conservation Minister Maggie Barry acknowledged Ngāti Manuhiri, which gifted the island back to the people of New Zealand in 2012, and the Little Barrier Island (Hauturu) Supporters Trust for contributions to conservation gains on "the most intact ecosystem in New Zealand."

<http://beehive.govt.nz/release/bumper-tuatara-season-little-barrier-island>

Long Bay buffer

The transfer of 19 hectares of headland from private to public ownership at Long Bay has helped preserve the heritage and natural environment of the area.

Long Bay is Auckland Council's most popular regional park and the open space creates a buffer between the park and residential development.

Todd Property says handing over the land reflects its long-term commitment to preserving the bay's unique character, which also includes the creation of an additional 13 parks and reserves, and an extensive wetland network within its residential development.

Councillor Christine Fletcher said it is great to see council and developers working together. She also acknowledged the Great Park Society and local iwi in enabling the transfer.

Marina opens up

A new promenade and cycleway around Westhaven Marina is enabling more people to enjoy Auckland's waterfront.

The five metre wide path and boardwalk caters for pedestrians and cyclists, includes new street furniture, lighting, signage, landscaping and viewing platforms, plus re-uses an old marina pontoon to create a public access pier. Māori whakatauki (proverbs) and waka stories are integrated within the design.

The route extends the harbour-side walking and cycling network which will eventually link Auckland Harbour Bridge with St Heliers. The route was ranked as the highest priority for early investment during consultation of the draft Waterfront Plan in 2011.

Mangrove removal no quick fix

A new report prepared by NIWA for Auckland Council shows sites are slow to recover when mangroves are removed.

Surveys at 20 sites, three months to eight years after mangrove removal, revealed few with ecological recovery towards a typical sand flat.

"The general lack of full recovery suggests that change to a sandier non-mangrove state will require at least a decade, if not far longer, for erosion of muddy sediment and dispersal or

decomposition of remaining mangrove vegetative biomass. In sheltered locations, change to a sandier state appears unlikely."

<http://tinyurl.com/ko74wjc>

Run to the finish

The Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) is on track to complete a Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan by 30 June 2015.

SWG Independent Chair Nick Main says the project's information gathering phase was completed when issue-based roundtable groups handed their findings and recommendations back to the SWG in Whitianga in February.

"The next few months of plan writing is a very exciting – and vital – time in our work, the culmination of an 18-month collaborative, stakeholder-led development process."

www.seachange.org.nz

Ready for rescue

Coastguard has a brand new purpose-built search and rescue vessel and it was put to the test even before arriving at its new home in Mechanics Bay in February.

It assisted finding divers separated from their vessel when passing through the Bay of Islands, on route from Wanganui where it was built.

The 'New Lion Foundation Rescue', replaces the old vessel which gave 11 years of service, and joins ASB Rescue and Trillian Rescue Alpha in the Coastguard Auckland fleet.

The diesel jet, foil assisted catamaran has improved cockpit, ambulance bay and bridge facilities, and will be able to respond quickly in extreme conditions on the Gulf.

Web guide expands

The Environment Foundation has expanded its web-based guide to the management of New Zealand's natural environment, with new sections on coastal and marine issues.

The guide provides freely accessible, practical and user-friendly information on laws and policies which apply to the environment, and is designed to assist individuals, community groups, landowners and businesses to better participate in decision-making processes.

www.environmentguide.org.nz

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: Dave Gunson, MPI, DOC, Auckland Council, ATEED, Coastguard Auckland.