



Tāiko welcomed back to Hirakimata.



Rangitoto among motu vested back from iwi.



Pateke on Rotoroa.

## Slowing for whales

Average large vessel transit speeds through the Gulf are approaching the internationally-recognised target speed of 10 knots.

A meeting in September of a collaborative working group set up to address ship strike of Bryde's whales found average speed to be 10.9 knots, which should reduce the chances of collisions and also the lethality of strikes by around 50 percent.

The Gulf's resident whale population was suffering an average of two deaths per year before the group was established to find urgent solutions. Only one death has been reported since Ports of Auckland Ltd introduced a voluntary protocol in September 2013.

The group, supported by the Hauraki Gulf Forum, will share data on vessel speeds each quarter.

[www.poal.co.nz/news\\_media/2015\\_mediareleases/20150925\\_Brydes\\_Whales.htm](http://www.poal.co.nz/news_media/2015_mediareleases/20150925_Brydes_Whales.htm)

## Sea Change

A refreshed process for Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari was announced in September, with the final Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana Marine Spatial Plan now to be delivered in 2016.

*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/Tikapa Moana. The Forum has representation on behalf of the Ministers for Conservation, Primary Industries 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 tāngata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands.*

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Photo credits: Richard Toft Entecol, Kennedy Warne, Auckland Zoo, Shaun Lee, Auckland Council, Sanford, Richard Robinson, Department of Conservation.

New leadership was confirmed with Paul Beverley appointed as Independent Chair of the Stakeholder Working Group and Nigel Bradley confirmed as Lead Plan Writer.

Project Steering Group co-chair Councillor Penny Webster said extra time and breathing space for important discussions was required as the identified topics are complex and wide-ranging.

The Stakeholder Working Group reconvened their work in October and will continue to meet monthly to work through the issues and options identified through roundtable discussions with stakeholders.

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

## Pateke spread

Three breeding pairs of pateke are the latest native species to be re-introduced to Rotoroa Island.

In September the rare native duck joined saddleback, whitehead, kiwi, moko, shore skinks and takahe on the island, through a partnership between Auckland Zoo and the Rotoroa Island Trust.

The project plans to introduce up to 20 species by 2018, providing hands-on education and conservation training "to foster future conservationists."

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGff\\_xHdUd8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGff_xHdUd8)

## Motu vested back

Four islands of the Tikapa Moana/Hauraki Gulf were vested back to the Crown on 31 September, after a month in iwi ownership; part of a Treaty of Waitangi redress settlement reached in 2014.

Rangitoto, Motutapu, Te Motu-a-Ihenga (Motuihe), and Tiritiri Matangi were transferred to the Tupuna Taonga Trust, representing the interests of 13 iwi of Tāmaki Makaurau.

Four bronze plaques were unveiled at a ceremony on Maungauika/ North Head to be installed on each of the islands to acknowledge the deep connections iwi have with the motu and the generosity of the people of Aotearoa.

A Conservation Management Plan for Rangitoto, Motutapu, Te Motu-a-Ihenga and Motukorea (Browns Island) is being developed in partnership with iwi to ensure that the iwi o Tāmaki Makaurau have ongoing involvement in the governance and management of the islands.

<http://www.mana.co.nz/news/iwi-the-gift-that-keep-giving>



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Te Moananui a Toi

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# Weaving the Strands

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

## Reaching out

I wrote in the NZ Herald recently of the mood for change in and around the Gulf.

<http://tinyurl.com/q898s9d>

The message from the Forum's State of our Gulf reports is being heeded with responsibility and innovation becoming the new normal among resource users.

The shipping, fishing and aquaculture sectors are early movers; adopting practices that will help safeguard our resident whales and seabirds and contribute to restoration of our marine habitats.

Promoting and facilitating this shift in approach has been the mission of the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

We have documented change in the Gulf and shared the story through four State of our Gulf reports, 32 issues of Weaving the Strands, five poster series with the New Zealand Herald and six marine park seminars with Auckland Museum.

We have commissioned economic research showing how valuable use of the Gulf is, profiled its place of a global seabird hotspot and championed a joined up spatial planning approach, being addressed through the Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari project.

Creating this mood for change is based on one simple premise: educate, educate, educate. Appreciate the magic of the Gulf, understand the need to change and we can all rise to the challenge.

So starting next quarter we are taking Weaving the Strands up a few notches: to create a new platform for news,



resources and stories that "support inspired management and action around the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana/ Te Moananui a Toi."

We've invited some 'friends' of the Forum to help get the first few editions rolling: Dan Hikuroa is research director at Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga and he is keen to see the transformational shift in engagement and involvement of mana whenua captured in the pages of our new journal. James Russell is one of a new generation of conservation scientists leading research around the Gulf, while Ewen Cameron is an experienced hand, organising botanical exploration around our islands for many years. Rochelle Constantine is our marine expert while Jo Ritchie is involved with many of the Gulf's practical restoration programmes. Shaun Lee is our design guru.

Content from Weaving the Strands and in-depth news and features will be published in regular issues, along with access to the other educational products from the Forum. We'll provide opportunities for you to contribute stories too.

Subscribe now so we can let you know when each issue is released at

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



Mayor John Tregidga,  
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum





2016 Holdaway Award winners.



Island waste plan.



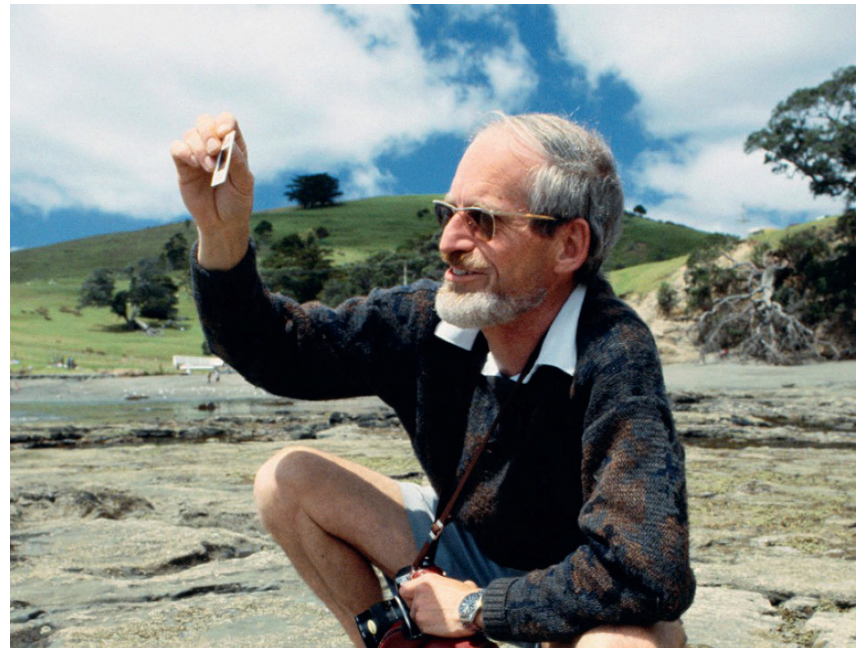
Ngai Tai associated with Te Naupata/ Musick Point.



Sanford offers withdrawal.



Argentine Ant.



Dr Bill Ballantine.

## Creative waste approach

Auckland Council will be working with communities of the Gulf to create a Hauraki Gulf Islands Waste Plan in the first half of 2016, focusing on Great Barrier, Waiheke, Rakino and Kawau and on managing waste from boats and fishing. Programme manager Jenny Chilcott says each island community is unique and the aim will be to work with local communities to develop creative, sustainable solutions that support local interests.

There are over 7,000 households in the Gulf and on Great Barrier alone around 500 tonnes of refuse and inorganic waste is produced each year. Key issues include how to minimise waste coming on to Gulf islands, handling visitors, addressing fishing and boating waste and maximising local recycling and reusing of materials.

The plan will be guided by the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan adopted by Auckland Council in 2012 and Waiheke, Great Barrier and Rodney Local Boards will be closely involved.

[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/environmentwaste/rubbishrecycling/wastemanagementandminimisationplan/pages/home.aspx](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/environmentwaste/rubbishrecycling/wastemanagementandminimisationplan/pages/home.aspx)

## Pest plan overhaul

Auckland Council has begun a major overhaul of its Regional Pest Management Plan. The plan is the main statutory document implementing the Biosecurity Act 1993 in the region, and provides a framework for managing plant and animal pests in Auckland, including the Hauraki Gulf.

The review covers changes in pest species and management; along with community expectations and available resources. Particular pest management issues affecting the gulf include control of plants such as Agave americana and Rhamnus and invasive animals like Rainbow/plague skinks and Argentine ants. The council will also consider the plan's role in the management of marine pests.

It is proposed that the specific rules which prevent and manage pests on the Hauraki Gulf islands are continued in the new plan.

[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/environmentwaste/biosecurity/Pages/regionalpestmanagementsstrategy.aspx](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/environmentwaste/biosecurity/Pages/regionalpestmanagementsstrategy.aspx)

## Environmental check up

The Health of Auckland's Natural Environment In 2015 was released by Auckland Council in October.

Contributing scientist Dr Megan Carbines said the five-yearly report showed some improvements in air quality and localised successes for native biodiversity, but also a continued decline in marine and freshwater environments. Twenty two indicators and 12 case studies provide a baseline and platform for considering the challenges of a growing Auckland.

Mayor Len Brown described the report as a call to action. "There is only one Auckland, and as we grow we must grow greener." A companion document Auckland Growing Greener sets out the city's Auckland Plan-based commitment to the environment and green growth.

[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/stateofauckland](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/stateofauckland)

## Fisheries system review

The Ministry for Primary Industries has initiated a review of the fisheries management system to ensure it is fit-for-purpose and that fisheries are managed sustainably into the future

The Fisheries Act and the Quota Management System have been in place for 20 and 30 years respectively and the ministry said that while the system is sound, it is timely to examine how the system is operating and if processes can be improved. Feedback has been sought through community drop-in sessions and formal consultation will be undertaken next year.

[www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legal-overviews/fisheries/fisheries-management-system-review/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legal-overviews/fisheries/fisheries-management-system-review/)

## Ngai Tai settlement

The Crown signed a deed of settlement with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki at Umupuia Marae, Maraetai in November

The deed settles the historical grievances of the iwi and includes an acknowledgement and apology for the acts, omissions and historical breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi committed by the Crown

Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki were rendered virtually landless by the late nineteenth century. In the decades following the signing of the Treaty, the Crown acquired large tracts of land in the iwi's rohe and confiscated 51,000 acres of land from the East Wairoa area.

"This settlement provides a basis for Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki to develop a much stronger future and an opportunity for

a genuine partnership with the Crown," said Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations Christopher Finlayson.

Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki is a member of the Tāmaki Collective and one of the twelve iwi of the Hauraki Collective.

Its area of interest is centred in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland extending to Hauraki/Coromandel and, in particular, the coastline, harbours and islands of the Tikapa Moana/Hauraki Gulf and Waitematā Harbour.

[www.govt.nz/treaty-settlement-documents/ngai-tai-ki-tamaki/](http://www.govt.nz/treaty-settlement-documents/ngai-tai-ki-tamaki/)

## Sanford challenge

Sanford's Chief Executive has said the company is prepared to stop all commercial fishing in the Hauraki Gulf if recreational fishermen record and report their catch. Volker Kuntzsch made the offer at the Forum's Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar in October.

He said an estimated 200,000 people fish in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park each year. "Complete transparency and data on all fishing in the Gulf is an important future step to preserving the fish stocks for future generations."

Forum chairman John Tregidga welcomed the challenge. "It shows a willingness to re-examine business models, to look for accommodation and encourage innovation that will turn around the health of the Hauraki Gulf/ Tikapa Moana. I'm confident the recreational fishing sector can also step up and embrace the challenge of stewardship for the Gulf."

Seminar video highlights at <https://vimeo.com/album/3666399>

## Holdaway Awards

A Māori leader, a marine reserve scientist and family owners of an island are winners of this year's Holdaway Awards.

Richelle Kahui-McConnell (Ngāti Maniapoto) has worked closely with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, leading practical restoration work at Ōkāhu Bay, encouraging youth involvement in conservation, and incorporating mātauranga Maori perspectives into policy development processes.

Dr Nick Shears from the University of Auckland has carried out internationally renowned research on marine reserves that has been crucial in understanding the ecological effects of fishing on inshore reefs and how these can be reversed with marine protection.

Rod and Sue Neureuter accepted an award on behalf of their family, who have owned the Noises since 1933, supporting the first successful island rat eradication in New Zealand 50 years ago as well as many restoration initiatives on the islands.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum-initiated awards recognise emerging leadership and were announced at the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar in October.

## Ballantine legacy

Marine conservation pioneer Dr Bill Ballantine passed away in November.

Forum Chairman John Tregidga said "Bill was instrumental in creating our marine reserves legislation and one of the world's first marine reserves at Leigh, where he lived, despite considerable opposition at the time. His legacy is

a much greater understanding and appreciation of the importance, functioning and vulnerability of our marine environment."

He attended the announcement of the Kermadec Sanctuary and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar in the weeks prior to his death. He was 78.

[www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/checkpoint/audio/201777231/father-of-marine-conservation-dies-at-78](http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/checkpoint/audio/201777231/father-of-marine-conservation-dies-at-78)

## Tāiko back

Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea welcomed tāiko back to Great Barrier Island/Aotea in November, alongside representatives from the fishing industry, government, environmental organisations, and the local community.

Chairperson of the Ngāti Rehua – Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust Board Nicola MacDonald said "All seabirds are precious taonga to Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea people and even more so the tāiko who breed exclusively on our sacred maunga Hiramakimata and Hauturu-a-toi. We want to ensure that the last remaining colonies of tāiko are protected to ensure they remain part of our natural heritage and legacy for all future generations of New Zealanders."

Tāiko/black petrels return to breed on Great Barrier and Little Barrier after a winter feeding off South America. They are vulnerable to accidental capture on long lines. The three largest fishing companies in the Gulf attended the ceremony and are committed to seabird smart fishing practices, facilitated through the work of Southern Seabird Solutions Trust.

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