

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park 10th Anniversary Speech Notes
Mayor John Tregidga, Chair Hauraki Gulf Forum
(Co MC with Regional Conservator Sean Goddard)

Hon Kate Wilkinson, Minister of Conservation, Nikki Kaye, MP for Auckland Central, Mike Lee, Chairman Auckland Regional Council, forum members, distinguished guests.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum's role is to promote and facilitate integrated management and the conservation of the Gulf.

Without high public awareness and political commitment this important job is not going to be achieved.

I am delighted to be able to support the Department of Conservation in building awareness and commitment to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park by bringing together representatives of tangata whenua, government departments and local authorities who share the goal of protecting and enhancing the Gulf for future generations.

One of the statutory responsibilities the Forum has is to produce a state of the environment report for the Gulf every three years that tells us how we are doing with looking after the Gulf.

Among the many treasures of the Gulf is its largest island, Great Barrier. I am pleased to introduce Professor John Ogden, of the Great Barrier Island Trust, to launch the first comprehensive state of the environment report for Great Barrier Island.

I am also pleased to be working with a number of partners helping to build appreciation and enhancement of the park.

Firstly I'd like to acknowledge the support of the New Zealand Herald which will include a special 3-part, 16-page magazine with the newspaper next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The supplement was produced by the Hauraki Gulf Forum, through the direction of our manager Tim Higham. It was written by Linda Bercusson With generous sponsorship from DoC, ARC, ACC, Tourism Auckland and Fullers. And support from Craig Potton Publishing, New Zealand Geographic and Auckland Museum for use of maps and images.

*I would like to acknowledge the support of Auckland Museum, who with the Auckland Regional Council, will hosts a special 10th anniversary symposium **New Perspectives on the Gulf** on March 30.*

I would like to acknowledge Tourism Auckland which is also contributing by launching a web site dedicated to the islands of the Gulf next month – www.haurakigulfnz.com.

And the Fullers Group, which play a particularly important part in the promotion, use and care of the park. They have made a significant contribution to this event, sponsored the supplement series, initiated an anniversary discovery programme and support the work many of the trusts gathered here. I am pleased to introduce Fullers general manager Michael Fitchett.