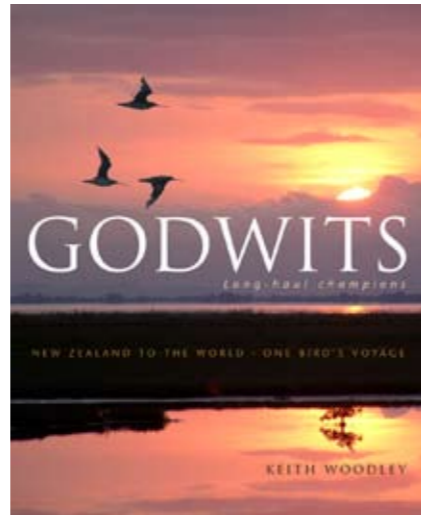




Whangateau



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Hauraki Gulf Forum  
Tikapa Moana

# Weaving the Strands

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

## Cockles die at Whangateau

Nearly 70 percent of eating size cockles appear to have died over much of the Whangateau harbour, though the reason is yet to be determined.

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand is analysing samples to determine a cause.

The die back was first noted by residents in January and has been documented by local scientists and the Whangateau Harbour Community Group.

The Ministry of Fisheries is working with local groups and scientists, iwi and councils in considering whether to close the beds to harvesting to aid recovery.

## Sewage from boats under review

Maritime New Zealand is seeking views on the adequacy of current regulations regarding discharge of untreated sewage from small vessels.

The Resource Management (Marine Pollution) Regulations 1998 prohibit untreated sewage discharge within 500 metres of land, in water less than 5 metres deep, or near marine farms, mataitai (traditional food collection) reserves or marine reserves.

Forum member and Coromandel resident Betty Williams says sewage should not be discharged from vessels anywhere at sea, for cultural, health and ecological reasons.

[www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Consultation/Public-consultation.asp#sewage](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Consultation/Public-consultation.asp#sewage)

## Godwits journey revealed

The miraculous story of the godwits and their migrations is told in a new book by Miranda Shorebird Centre manager Keith Woodley.

*Godwits: Long-haul champions* follows the birds from the Firth of Thames to mudflats on the Chinese–North Korean border and tundra nesting sites in Alaska.

The book details the amazing changes these birds undergo – from moulting into new plumage, to doubling their weight and shrinking non-essential body organs – as well as their innate skills in weather prediction and global navigation.

Keith Woodley's guided walks and talks are well known to visitors of the Miranda Shorebird Centre. The book will be published by Penguin in October.

## How lucky we are

Recent photographs in the Herald of orcas cruising city beaches with soon-to-be-pest-free Rangitoto as a backdrop makes me proud to live in this beautiful, natural part of the world.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum acts as a champion for the integrated management of this inspirational place.

The Department of Conservation deserves congratulations for completing the crucial first stages of its operation to rid Rangitoto and Motutapu of introduced pests and turn the islands into a wildlife sanctuary right at our doorstep.

The Auckland Regional Council and Mike Lee secured another important milestone by working with government and the Auckland City Council to bring Queens Wharf into public ownership and thereby create the opportunity for a world-class gateway to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

And in my district, the Government announced the Hauraki plains as one of seven areas to receive funding for the first phase of the New Zealand Cycleway Project. Included in the Hauraki Plains Trails project is a proposed cycleway skirting stopbanks on the Firth of Thames – a great opportunity to build awareness of the migratory bird habitat along the southern shores of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

The Gulf is impacted by a variety of factors. Some occur in the coastal and marine area – degradation of habitat through reclamation, trawling and



sedimentation, over-harvesting of fish and shellfish, loss of wading bird habitat through sedimentation and mangrove spread, and wildlife declines through invasive pests and human pressures.

Other impacts on the Gulf come from the land – sedimentation from forestry and earthworks, heavy metal accumulation from roads and roofs, nitrate enrichment from intensive agriculture, pollution from over-flowing sewage systems and careless development that damages cultural sites and landscape features. Climate change will add to these pressures.

This is why an integrated and comprehensive, catchment-wide policy and planning framework is needed if we are going to look after the Gulf.

The Forum has published a new guide to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act showing how regional policy statements and regional and district plans created under the Resource Management Act can be written to ensure the Gulf is protected and enhanced.

Good planning, inspired leadership and the involvement of all is the recipe for success in the Hauraki Gulf.



Mayor John Tregidga  
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum

## Under consultation

Diversification of aquaculture	EW	<a href="http://www.ew.govt.nz/finfish">www.ew.govt.nz/finfish</a>
Marine Pollution Regulations	Maritime NZ	<a href="http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Consultation/Public-consultation.asp#sewage">www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Consultation/Public-consultation.asp#sewage</a>
Regional Parks Management Plan Review	ARC	<a href="http://www.arc.govt.nz/parks/parks-projects-and-plans/regional-parks-management-plan-review.cfm">www.arc.govt.nz/parks/parks-projects-and-plans/regional-parks-management-plan-review.cfm</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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Queens Wharf

## Queens Wharf purchased for public use

Queens Wharf on Auckland's waterfront has been purchased by the Auckland Regional Council and government.

Announcing the purchase in June, ARC Chairman Mike Lee described Queens Wharf as "a tremendous asset for Auckland, starting with a public venue to enjoy the Rugby World Cup in 2011. But the real potential is the opportunity to transform the wharf into a cruise ship terminal and public open space that Auckland, and indeed New Zealand, can be proud of."

Cruise ships are projected to bring \$713 million in direct spending to the New Zealand economy over the next 10 years.

The government and the ARC each contributed \$20 million to purchase the wharf from the Ports of Auckland.

Prime Minister John Key said "Queens Wharf will be the cornerstone asset in a wider waterfront development programme. By purchasing this site we have secured an asset that will live long after the Rugby World Cup has finished and give pleasure to visitors and locals alike for generations to come."

Auckland City Council will be responsible for the development of infrastructure on the wharf. A design competition will be announced later this month to stimulate innovative ideas on ways to transform the space into a world-class attraction.

## Rangitoto-Motutapu restoration on-track

The Department of Conservation is awaiting a fine weather window to enable a third and final aerial application of bait containing brodifacoum on Rangitoto-Motutapu. The department hopes this will complete a campaign to rid the islands of mice and rats.

Restoration of the 3,850 ha islands will also involve removal of wild cats, rabbits, stoats and hedgehogs through trapping, shooting and the use of specialist detection dogs.

The eradications will protect the world's largest pohutukawa forest and help create an important sanctuary for species such as kaka, kiwi and takahe, a half-hour ferry ride from Auckland.

The department has been supported by iwi, island groups and stakeholders, including the Motutapu Restoration Trust which has planted over 400,000 trees since 1994.

A public awareness campaign has been initiated to remind visitors to check boats and gear for pests to prevent re-invasion.

[www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/pest-control/rangitoto-and-motutapu-islands-restoration-project/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/pest-control/rangitoto-and-motutapu-islands-restoration-project/)



Pest bust on Rangitoto

## Kopu bridge and cycleway started

Work on the new and much-anticipated Kopu bridge, the gateway to the Coromandel Peninsula at the bottom of the Firth of Thames will start this month.

Land Transport New Zealand has estimated delays caused by the bridge have cost the Thames Coromandel district about \$92 million each year in lost time, fuel and extra distance travelled for those who choose to bypass Kopu. Traffic queues have stretched up to 10km in summer holiday periods. The \$47 million dollar project will be built alongside the existing 81 year old single-lane bridge over the Waihou River.

The Hauraki Plains Trails was among seven proposed cycleway routes announced as part of the National Cycleway Project by the Prime Minister in July.

Funding of \$9 million is available for feasibility studies and construction of initial sections of the seven routes, beginning this summer.

The Hauraki Plains Trails includes two linked rail corridors, between Paeroa and Waihi through the Karangahake Gorge, and from Paeroa to Thames.

A cycleway from Kopu to Miranda using stop banks along the southern shores of the Firth of Thames is proposed as part of the trail.

[www.beehive.govt.nz/release/pm+announces+firs+t+cycleway+projects](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/pm+announces+firs+t+cycleway+projects)



Wastewater outfall



Set net deaths

## Te Arai development turned down

Rodney District Council has accepted the recommendations of independent commissioners not to permit the development of a coastal settlement at Te Arai, one of the last, significant undeveloped areas on the east coast of the Auckland region.

The Te Arai Coastal Lands Trust had proposed to change district plan zoning to allow a development involving 1,400 households – later scaled back to 850 and then 180 homes – and a boutique thermal spa, golf course, visitor facilities and coastal park and campground.

1,724 submissions were received on the trust's proposal, the vast majority opposing the development.

The commissioners noted that the site was highly valued by local residents and people who lived outside of the area as a special place with an undeveloped, remote character. The report identified significant ecological values at the Te Arai site and noted that it provided a habitat for endangered and threatened species such as New Zealand fairy tern and the New Zealand dotterel.

## Wastewater outfall extended into Channel

A \$116 million outfall project at the Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Plant is on schedule.

When commissioned next year it will discharge treated effluent 2.8km into the Rangitoto Channel, replacing an



Te Arai

existing lower capacity outfall pipe 600 metres off Castor Bay.

It is part of a series of upgrades at the plant to treat sewage produced by more than 200,000 North Shore residents and businesses to a high environmental standard and cater for projected growth.

An underground tunnel is currently being bored from the Rosedale plant to Mairangi Bay, which will connect to the outfall pipe.

Sections of the pipe were assembled near Kaiaua on the Firth of Thames then towed by tugboat, flooded, sunk and weighted into place in a trench in the sea bed.

As the weather improves, divers will attach diffusers along the final section of the marine pipe.

[www.northshorecity.govt.nz/Water/outfall/intro.htm](http://www.northshorecity.govt.nz/Water/outfall/intro.htm)

## Set net deaths unnecessary

At set net containing 166 seabirds has sickened rangers at Shakespear Regional Park. The net, found tangled on the beach in May, contained 11 kahawai and 166 dead or dying fluttering shearwaters.

The Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Fisheries were notified of the incident. The net was not named or securely anchored. Poor netting practices cause fish wastage as well as threatening seabirds and marine mammals. A set net code of practice is available at

[www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Recreational/Set+nets/default.htm](http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Recreational/Set+nets/default.htm)

## Forum publishes guidance on Park Act

A guide to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act has been published by the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

*Governing the Gulf: Giving Effect to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act through Policies and Plans* shows how the legislation – which aims to sustain the life-supporting capacity of the Gulf – can be applied in practice by councils throughout its catchments and marine area.

The guide explains the nature of environmental impacts on the Gulf, its governance and management frameworks, the requirements of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, the Act's relationship to the Resource Management Act, and how courts have interpreted the legislation to date.

[www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz/guide](http://www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz/guide)

## New parkland at Tapapakanga

A significant wedge of land overlooking parkland and out to the Firth of Thames has been added to Tapapakanga Regional Park.

The 27 ha block was purchased by the Auckland Regional Council in June linking two existing pieces of parkland. Tapapakanga, south of Orere Point, is popular with families, campers, kayakers and is home to the Slore music and arts festival.