



Herald 3-part magazine series proves popular



Crack down on fisheries offenders



Pateke back on Motutapu

Herald celebrates marine park

The New Zealand Herald published a 3 part, 16 page magazine supplement in early March to mark the 10th anniversary of the marine park.

It profiles the natural features of the marine park and the visitor attractions of many of the islands and regional parks around it.

Produced by the Hauraki Gulf Forum, it boosted Herald sales by 1500 on the days it appeared and led to Fullers putting on extra discovery cruises after the first sold out in days.

Additional copies can be obtained from the Hauraki Gulf Forum—tim.higham@arc.govt.nz

Ministry of Fisheries crack down

The Ministry of Fisheries cracked down on fisheries offenders over summer.

A five-day operation around Anniversary Weekend saw about 800 fishers checked and resulted in 84 recorded offences.

Most involved people taking excess mussels and undersized snapper. Three people were caught in the Hauraki Gulf with 155 snapper. The legal limit is nine fish per person per day. Two cars and boat were seized as part of the operation.

www.fish.govt.nz

Kaimai catchment agreement

The headwaters of the Waihou River, which drains into the Firth of Thames, will benefit from a partnership agreement signed in February between the Department of Conservation, Environment Bay of Plenty and Environment Waikato.

The agreement aims to coordinate agency and community effort to protect the Kaimai catchments and their receiving harbours and estuaries. The first action will be to commission a state of the environment report, to inform the community and help set priorities.

www.landcare.org.nz/regional-focus/central-north-island/kaimai-catchments/

Opportunities

ACC Heritage Fund applications, by Apr 2
www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/council/services/grants

Auckland Festival of Sailing, Mar 1-25
www.rnzys.org.nz

Fullers 10th Anniversary Discovery Cruises, From Mar 14
www.fullers.co.nz

Dual Motutapu-Rangitoto Traverse, Mar 27
www.thedual.co.nz

HGMP 10th Anniversary Symposium, Mar 30
www.aucklandmuseum.com/1380/hauraki-gulf-symposium

Auckland Seabirds Seminar, Apr 16
www.cbb.org.nz/seminars.asp



Free Seminar: New Perspectives on the Gulf

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and ... treaty settlements, whales, the Supercity, island eradications, fishing, dairy run-off, seabirds, stormwater, volunteers, critical ecosystems, urban grown, tourism ... and more. Auckland Museum and the Auckland Regional Council are hosting a free 10th anniversary symposium on New Perspectives on the Gulf on March 30. Register at:

bookings@aucklandmuseum.com
or phone 09 306 7048

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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Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana

Weaving the Strands

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

Celebrating 10 years

On February 27 more than 130 people marked the 10th anniversary of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park on Motutapu.

Guests were welcomed onto the beachfront near Reid Homestead at Home Bay by tangata whenua of the island.

The mihi reminded guests that a primary purpose of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act is to recognise the relationships of tangata whenua with the gulf. Recent progress towards settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims in the Auckland area, creates opportunities to further explore the Act's provisions to recognise Maori contributions to management of the park.

Auckland Regional Council chairman Mike Lee recalled the origins of the marine park – the leaders who championed the idea of a national park of the sea. He imagined a journey through the park visiting the islands in turn and acknowledging the contributions of volunteer trusts in transforming them into vibrant wildlife sanctuaries. He ended on Motutapu, which - recently liberated from introduced pests – has seen the arrival of kakariki and pateke already and is increasingly catering for visitors and special events through the efforts of the Motutapu Restoration Trust.

Other speakers announced new initiatives and commitments to make the marine park bigger and better. The Minister of Conservation Hon Kate Wilkinson welcomed the addition of



Top left: Sean Goddard and John Tregidga, Top right: Mike Lee and Hon Kate Wilkinson

Waitakere City Council reserves fringing the Waitemata Harbour and Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society covenanted land on Waiheke to the marine park, and invited other councils to do the same.

Regional Conservator Sean Goddard closed the speeches by recounting the words made by his predecessor Stella Frances at the opening of the marine park 10 years ago:

“The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act in not just a replacement for the old Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Act which was repealed in 1990. In its scope it is visionary. It takes a 21st Century approach to protection and resource management. It doesn't impose a further bureaucratic regime, it works to strengthen and enable and connect

what is already there from rangatiratanga and kiatiaki to local government, the RMA, ministers, fisheries, and reserves. It reflects the complexity of the gulf's dynamic environment, and the complexity of its communities and it provides opportunities to act. In summary it is an enabling piece of legislation which is forward-looking and principled: But it is only as good as the ability, wit, willingness of people to use it. I hope that you will use it, add to it, and celebrate within it. But use it as a tool to construct and protect a better gulf for our mokopuna.”

Mayor John Tregidga
Chairman, Hauraki Gulf Forum



Partners dig first hole for Shakespear Open Sanctuary Fence

Shakespear fence begins

Work has started on pest proof fence that will stretch across the end of the Whangaparoa peninsula, creating a vital wildlife link with nearby Tiritiri Matangi Island and other gulf sanctuaries.

The 1.75km long Shakespear Open Sanctuary fence from Okoromai Bay to Army Bay will protect 555 hectares which includes Shakespear Regional Park and land owned by the New Zealand Defence Force and Rodney District Council.

Automated vehicle gates will allow the public access to the park while keeping unwanted pests out. The Shakespear Open Sanctuary Society Inc has raised over \$400,000 for the project. A further \$150,000 in needed to create a safe haven for bellbirds, parakeets, hihi, kaka, kiwi and other wildlife.

The pest proof fence and gates will be completed by June 2011. Pest eradication, which is necessary for resident and future wildlife to thrive, will be undertaken in winter 2011.

www.sossi.org.nz

Autumn whale research

The University of Auckland will use sophisticated recorders to follow the foraging and diving behaviour of Bryde's whales in the Hauraki Gulf during April-June.

Suction cup-tags will enable scientists to track the mammals' movements and their acoustic environment.

About two whales per year are found dead in the gulf, a third of them probably due to vessel-strike.

Researcher Rochelle Constantine says the gulf is a noisy place and perhaps they don't register the noise of an approaching vessel. "The work will help us understand how to operate vessels to minimise the chance of hitting a whale."

www.eab.auckland.ac.nz/constantine.html

Treaty settlement progress

Important progress has been made towards the settlement of historic Treaty of Waitangi claims in the Auckland region.

A collective framework agreement between the Crown and 12 iwi and hapū in the wider Auckland region was signed in February, involving shared ownership of maunga and a collective Right of First Refusal for the sale of any Government land.

The framework agreement enables iwi in the Tamaki collective to fulfil their kaitiaki responsibilities for ancestral maunga and develop a comprehensive protection plan for the volcanic cones.

Separate agreements in principle have been signed with four iwi and hapū collectives with interests in the gulf to date: Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara ki Te Tonga, Te Kawarau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei.

Further negotiations are taking place to agree detail that would enable the agreements to be turned into Deeds of Settlement.



Bryde's whales to be tracked



Auckland Zoo celebrates 200th kiwi chick

Zoo cracks 200

The Auckland Zoo has celebrated the 200th kiwi chick to be successfully incubated, hatched, reared, and released for the BNZ Operation Nest Egg programme.

The chick will be transferred to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park's Motuora Island to live for a year before being transferred back to the Whangarei Kiwi Sanctuary area, where the egg was collected.

At a year old the kiwi, named Tohu nui (milestone), should be strong enough to fend off predators. In areas without predator control, cats and stoats kill about 90% of kiwi chicks before they reach six months old, but Operation Nest Egg reduces that mortality rate down to just 17%. Because kiwi can live over 50 years and produce about 100 eggs, the 200 kiwi chicks released to date have the ability to make a significant contribution to the population of Northland brown kiwi.

www.savethekiwi.org.nz/bnz-save-the-kiwi/bnz-operation-nest-egg.html

Leadership on island invasives

Two hundred and forty people from 25 countries attended an international conference on the eradication and management of invasive species on islands at Auckland University in February.

New Zealand is considered a world leader in this area.



Rotoroa to be conservation park in 2011



NZ leads with invasives conference

Conference co-organiser Professor Mick Clout said papers included the elimination of stoats and deer from Fiordland's Resolution Island, which is larger than Auckland; the social dimensions of eradications carried out on inhabited islands; and the benefits that arise from successful projects.

Abstracts are available. Peer-reviewed proceedings will be published next year.

www.cbb.org.nz/conferences.asp

Waitakere and Forest and Bird add to marine park

Waitakere City Council has added a necklace of reserves around the head of the Waitemata harbour to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, creating linkage around the coastline, providing public access, and protecting sites of significant historic value and biodiversity.

Council Director of Strategic Planning Graeme Campbell said "when people think of Waitakere, they think West – the wild west coast beaches, but one third of the city's coast is in the east, bordering the Waitemata Harbour and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park."

The addition consists of 300 parcels of land in 55 reserves, totalling 200 ha. "The gift is a token of Waitakere's connection to the gulf and its history and communities. It is a commitment to work with other councils, with DoC, with iwi and communities to protect and better manage the park," Dr Campbell said.



Great Barrier island state of the environment report shows it's no place for complacency

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society will also add its covenanted, private reserves on Waiheke Island to the marine park. "The Onetangi reserve contains the best stands of kauri remaining in the inner gulf, and is easily accessible to the public by boardwalks. Another reserve borders the ferry landing at Matiatia, where visitors first encounter Waiheke's natural environment," says Mark Bellingham, Forest and Bird North Island Conservation Manager.

Rotoroa gift

The Rotoroa Island Trust will open Salvation Army-owned Rotorua Island as a conservation park for the public in late February 2011.

Trust Chairman John Gow said "Rotoroa Island will become Auckland's newest tourist destination - just one hour from downtown Auckland, it will be like Tiritiri Matangi but with a number of important differences."

The 82 ha island, which has four stunning beaches, will have several homes available for short stay rent and 10 lifestyle blocks on 95 year renewable leases, sculpture and arts projects, and an historical exhibition on the Salvation Army's 100 year occupation of the island as an alcohol and drug rehabilitation facility.

Restoration work funded by philanthropists Neil and Annette Plowman has already seen 20,000 pine trees removed and chipped, and their replacement with thousands of native trees – 400,000 are planned before the project is finished.

www.rotoroa.org.nz

Great Barrier vulnerable

The Great Barrier Island Charitable Trust has launched the first comprehensive state of the environment report for the island.

It shows pressures set in motion by the historic transformation of the island environment, especially the arrival of rodents, could still result in a wave of further extinctions, even of species currently considered relatively common and iconic, such as brown teal and chevron skink.

"Community and agency responses do not match the nature and scale of the problems, especially the creeping decline in biodiversity. Identifying and prioritising where action is needed will be an important outcome from the report," says trust chair John Ogden.

The report recommends a technical feasibility study exploring the methods, issues, and costs/benefits of island-wide eradication of rats and feral cats be prepared.

The report has been produced in both an abridged version for the Great Barrier Island community and a full version for purchase by interested parties.

www.gbict.co.nz