



Weaving the Strands

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



Everything is connected

When you scan the stories in this issue of *Weaving the Strands* it will quickly become apparent how significant and powerful integrated management is.

An educational trust, Ngāi Tai and the Ministry of Fisheries have played roles in the recent closure of shellfish beds ... Environment Waikato's report on water and soil quality requires responses from farmers, industry and government ... Northland kiwis born in a regional park cared for with a volunteer trust will be used to repopulate other Auckland forests ... A regional and city council, community group and forestry company are working together to ensure tree harvesting methods don't have downstream effects on the Gulf.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act places particular importance on the concept

of interrelationship – between the marine area, islands and catchments – and the ability of that interrelationship to sustain the life-supporting capacity of the environment.

As we head towards the 10th anniversary of the legislation in February 2010 it is important that we apply these concepts in our new policies and plans.

The Auckland Regional Council is beginning a review of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement and preparation of a new Land Transport Strategy. Environment Waikato will initiate a similar review next year, which in turn will influence new district and city plans scheduled over the next decade.

The Auckland and the Waikato conservancies of the Department of Conservation are in the middle of consultation over their conservation

management strategies and Ministry of Fisheries has fisheries management plans and marine protected areas consultations on its horizon.

Enjoy the summer months: take the opportunities to get out and about around the Gulf and also keep an eye on the decision making processes that will determine the way we manage these resources for the future.



Mayor John Tregidga
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum



Wild kiwi at Tawharanui



Bridge to link waterfront



Progress with treaty settlements

Cockle Bay, Umupuia beds closed

Two Hauraki Gulf beaches have been closed to shellfish gathering, due to concern about the effect large numbers of people gathering cockles is having on the beds.

Umupuia Beach near Duder Regional Park will be closed to the gathering of cockles for a two-year temporary closure or rāhui under section 186A of the Fisheries Act.

Cockle Bay near Howick will be closed to the gathering of all shellfish from 16 October this year to 30 April 2009 and then each year from 1 October to 30 April the following year.

www.beehive.govt.nz/release/closure+beaches+shellfish+gathering

Winning design for Viaduct Harbour bridge

Auckland City Council has announced an innovative opening bridge winner of a design competition to help regenerate the Auckland waterfront.

The Te Wero bridge features a vertical tower – shaped like sail – to mark the entrance to the inner Viaduct Harbour and two retractable decks, resembling the hull of a yacht. The decks, designed to carry pedestrians, cyclists and public transport, separate when raised to allow the passage of masted boats.

The bridge would link the CBD with the parks, markets, cafés and events that are planned as part of a

redevelopment of the Wynyard Quarter being undertaken by the Auckland City Council, Auckland Regional Council and Auckland Regional Holdings.

www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/council/projects/tewero/default.asp

Waikato water quality deteriorating

Water quality in the Waikato is deteriorating because of significant extra nutrient leaching and run-off from farms, a new report from Environment Waikato shows. Three quarters of monitored waterways may be unsafe for stock to drink and a similar proportion are unsafe to swim in.

The report was produced to show urgent action is needed, and to support initiatives such as nutrient budgeting and the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord.

www.ew.govt.nz/Audiences/For-farmers/

Rangitoto bach wins heritage award

A wooden bach on Rangitoto Island has gained an Honourable Mention in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards.

The 1928 bach took Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust volunteers four years to restore and turn into a museum and information centre about the importance of bach settlements in NZ's architectural and social history.

www.rangitoto.org/

Auckland's first wild kiwi in 60 years

The first wild kiwi to be born on the Auckland mainland for 60 years hatched at Tawharanui Open Sanctuary in September.

Brown kiwi from Northland and born in captivity were released at Tawharanui in November 2006 and were joined in November 2007 by another 25 birds.

The two eggs were incubated and hatched naturally in burrows created by these birds.

www.tossi.org.nz/

Progress with treaty settlements

The iwi Ngati Whatua and Te Kawerau a Maki have signed separate terms of negotiation with the Crown for settlement of historic Treaty of Waitangi claims.

The agreement with Te Runanga o Ngati Whatua will negotiate the settlement of remaining historical claims the tribe has in the areas from Tutamoe to the Manukau Harbour.

Te Kawerau a Maki's claim includes exclusive or shared interests across Mahurangi and Tamaki isthmus areas.

Hauraki iwi were included in a one-off cash settlement by the Crown to meet its obligations for provision of aquaculture space developed under previous marine farming legislation. The government must either find space within newly created aquaculture



Website makes connections



Whitianga waste water plant



Ngati whatua takes to the water

management areas (AMAs) or, where this is not possible, make a cash settlement by 2014.

The \$97 million is an early payment for iwi in Hauraki and Te Tau Ihu (at the top of the South Island) where there is existing, intensive marine farming and few prospects of new AMAs providing settlement space.

www.beehive.govt.nz/release/te+runanga+o+ngati+whatua+sign+terms+negotiation+crown

www.beehive.co.nz/release/te+kawerau+maki+crown+sign+terms+negotiation

www.beehive.govt.nz/release/maori+aquaculture+settlement+signed

Waka trips on Waitemata

Auckland's first iwi and marae-based waka tourism venture has been launched on the Waitemata harbour.

Kaitiaki Tours' 12-berth, fibreglass waka will paddle between Okahu Bay (Okahumatamomoe) and Devonport (Te Hau Kapua) every Sunday, weather permitting.

Experienced, local guides will share stories about Ngati Whatua tribal history as part of the experience. The return paddle takes about an hour and requires average fitness.

www.orakeiwatersports.co.nz

New coastal track on Waiheke

A new 2.5 km walking track around Park Point peninsula on Waiheke island opened in August.

The previously inaccessible coastline, on private land, was permanently opened up to public access as a condition of a subdivision consent issued by Auckland City Council. The track begins close to the Mudbrick restaurant in Oneroa.

www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/walkways/parkpoint/index.asp

New web site for community volunteers

A new website to assist community volunteers find support and information about restoration projects has received nearly 10,000 visitors in its first month.

The social networking site connects volunteers, profiles environmental activities and provides information about funding. It includes information on a new \$4 million community conservation fund to support restoration on public land launched by the Minister of Conservation in September.

www.ecoevents.org.nz

www.doc.govt.nz/communityfund

New navigation bylaws

New navigational safety bylaws came into effect on July 1.

They require kayakers travelling more than 200 metres from shore to use high visibility clothing and paddles, and a white light at night. Boats must have their name clearly marked on the hull. A 12-knot speed limit is now enforceable between North Head and the harbour

bridge and in the Motuihe channel fast ferry lane. Small boats must cross more than 500 m ahead of larger ships and not approach closer than 100 m on either side. Kite surfers and swimmers have also been designated separate areas at popular beaches such as Takapuna and Cheltenham.

www.arc.govt.nz/environment/coastal-and-marine/harbourmaster/rules-and-regulations.cfm

Sports event for Motutapu – Rangitoto

A new sports event will enable runners and mountain bikers to cross Rangitoto and Motutapu and contribute to the islands' restoration.

The DUAL Motutapu-Rangitoto Traverse is being organised by Total Sports and the Motutapu Restoration Trust in partnership with Department of Conservation and Fullers Ferries.

The annual event offers a half and full marathon, and a 50 km mountain bike ride, with all proceeds going to the Motutapu Restoration Trust.

www.thedual.co.nz

Upgrades for waste water

Thames Coromandel District Council's largest capital works programme has seen new waste water plants opened at Whitianga and Tairua-Pauanui. A Whangamata plant will open mid 2009.

For areas not serviced by reticulated wastewater systems, the Ministry for the Environment has proposed a



New rules for boaties

national environmental standard for on-site wastewater systems. This would require owners of properties with septic tanks to hold a current warrant of fitness that confirms the system is functioning properly.

Poorly functioning septic tanks combined with high water tables have contributed to faecal contamination of coastal waters and shellfish beds in areas of the Gulf.

www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/wastewater-systems-standards.html

Kauaeranga Visitor Centre opens

The Department of Conservation has opened a new visitor centre in the Kauaeranga Valley near Thames four years after the original building was destroyed in a Labour weekend fire.

The building design includes a replica kauri dam as a façade and entrance feature and has received several architecture awards.



New visitor centre for Coromandel



ARC tackles kauri dieback

Top class yachting returns to Auckland

Team New Zealand and the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron will host a fortnight-long Louis Vuitton Pacific Series beginning 30 January next year.

Up to 12 teams, expected to include Oracle and Alinghi, will use similar Americas Cup boats to race between Rangitoto Island and Orakei Wharf, enabling spectator viewing from North Head and Bastion Point.

options that limit post-harvest soil erosion and sedimentation.

Kauri disease noted around Gulf

A kauri tree killing disease first identified near Piha has also been found on the North Shore, in Rodney district, on Great Barrier Island and in soil at Trounson Kauri Park in Northland.

The Auckland Regional Council has commissioned research on the disease pathogen known as *Phytophthora* taxon Agathis and sought support from central government agencies for further research and education.

The disease is soil borne and the ARC is asking visitors to clean footwear before and after entering an infected area, keep to tracks and away from tree roots, and keep dogs on a leash. The ARC is also stepping up pig control in the Waitakere Ranges.

www.arc.govt.nz/kauridieback

Whitford Forest sedimentation study

The Auckland Regional Council is supporting a pilot project to help assess and prevent environment damage from forest clearances above Maraetai Beach.

The Pohutukawa Coast Community Association is working with forest owner Rayonier and Manukau City Council to identify land management

Under consultation

Auckland Regional Policy Statement and Land Transport Strategy	ARC	www.arc.govt.nz/workroom/
Waikato Conservation Management Strategy Review	DoC	www.doc.govt.nz/templates/page.aspx?id=42630
Vision Rodney	Rodney District Council	www.rodney.govt.nz/DISTRICTTOWNPLANNING/Pages/VisionRodney.aspx

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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Photo credits: DOC, ARC, TCDC, www.TirauDan.com



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