

# Safety on the rocks

The thrill of standing on a rock platform and reeling in a fish while waves pound in, appeals to many rock fishing enthusiasts that regularly visit our west coast beaches. Unfortunately, some alarming statistics - five drownings and several near misses - prompted an innovative approach to safety education this summer.

Many of those who lost their lives or ran into trouble came from Asian communities across the region, highlighting the need to carefully target a safety campaign.



The ARC, together with WaterSafe Auckland and Surf Lifesaving Northern Region, piloted a programme at four high-energy beaches on Auckland's west coast - Muriwai, Karekare, Piha and Whatipu.

Four rock fishing safety advisors, recruited for their knowledge of the outdoors as well as their involvement with Asian communities, spent summer weekends talking to rock fishers about safety and surveying them for valuable information.

Survey data is currently being analysed and will contribute to future safety programmes. Initial results have shown some disturbing trends 72% of rock fishers surveyed never wear a lifejacket or flotation device and 64% admitted to wearing gumboots or waders when fishing. Almost half sometimes or always go down the rocks to retrieve snagged lines.

By project leader **Stuart Leighton**

## Rock fishing safety tips

- Always check weather, tide and swell conditions before setting out
- Wear a lifejacket or some sort of floatation device
- Wear lightweight shoes, not gumboots
- Always let someone know where you are going
- Never turn your back on the waves

## North-West Wildlink - "Linking people to link nature"

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Great results are already being achieved by a number of community groups, landowners and agencies. But to achieve such a large vision, we need to work together, beyond the boundaries of reserves and city limits.

Officers from Auckland Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Forest and Bird, North Shore City Council, Rodney District Council and Waitakere City Council have been working together to develop the North-West Wildlink concept, with the understanding that a co-ordinated approach across



the region is the most effective way to address biodiversity conservation through community participation.

The North-West Wildlink was identified as the best opportunity for a first focus, and may provide a template for future wildlink initiatives in other areas of the region.

# Historic Mahurangi unfolds before your eyes

Fancy a little history but don't want to leaf through a whole dusty tome?

Historic Mahurangi, recently published by the ARC, is a poster-based guide to historic heritage in the Mahurangi District.

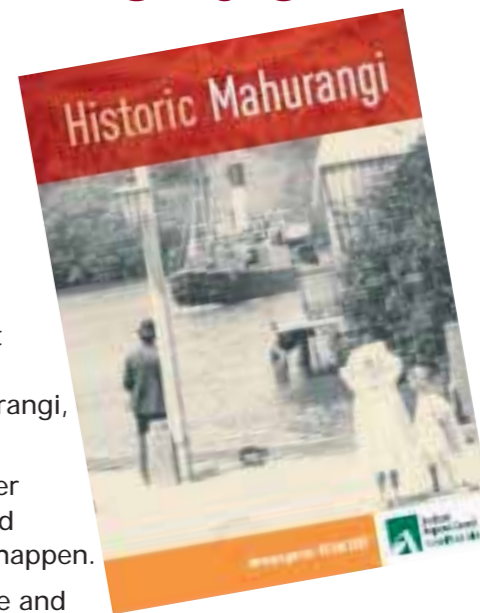
Produced in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, Rodney District Council and the Warkworth Museum, the guide focuses on the history of the coastline from Waiwera to Mullet Point and on the harbour we now call Mahurangi, but which was originally known by Maori as Kiaho.

The concept, design and production of the poster are the work of local designer and artist Chris Gaskin of Natural Lines Limited and a project grant from a fund established from Half Moon Bay Marina seabed licensing revenue made it all happen.

The aim of the guide is to raise awareness of the district's rich cultural heritage and historic maritime associations and to promote heritage conservation.

We are grateful to the local community and the Friends of Mahurangi Inc who have assisted in the production of the guide.

The Historic Mahurangi guide is available from the Auckland Regional Council, Warkworth Visitor Centre, Warkworth Museum, and Department of Conservation Auckland Visitor Centre in the downtown ferry building. Cost is \$4 folded, \$5 poster.



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