

# WAIHEKE MARINE PROJECT

WAIHEKE KI UTA WAIHEKE KI TAI WAIHEKE KI TUA

## Annual Report 2023

Project year 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023

Mā te tauihu o tōu waka,  
e ū te waiora Kia mahue atu,  
ngā mea whakahirahira i roto i te koriporipo

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# He Whakatauki

‘Mā te tauihu o tōu waka, e ū te waiora Kia mahue atu, ngā mea whakahirahira i roto i te koriporipo’

Wherever we go, whatever we do in our life’s journey, make sure that we are the best we can be, and do whatever we can for the betterment of our land, sea and people.

## He Mihi

**Ko te mihi tuatahi ki nga mana whenua  
e honohono ana ki Te Motu Ārai Roa.  
Me mihi ka tika kia koutou e tautoko ana  
tēnei kaupapa whakahirahira, arā,  
te Waiheke Marine Project.**

**Ka rawe tō tatou whaingā mō te moana  
e piringa ana te moutere o Te Ārai roa.  
E tika ana he mihi ā ngā mātua tūpuna  
“Nau te rourou, nāku te rourou,  
Ka ora ai te iwi”**

**Nō reira, me haere tatou ki tō tatou  
waka kōtahi,  
He whakaora te mauri o Tikapa.  
Waiheke ki uta, Waiheke ki tai, Waiheke ki tua.  
Mauriora.**

Let us firstly acknowledge mana whenua that connect back to Waiheke Island. We continue to acknowledge those that have supported this important kaupapa which is the Waiheke Marine Project.

What a pleasure it is to have such an amazing collective goal for the moana around Waiheke. It is with truth what our ancestors have said, “with your basket and mine, the environment and people will thrive”

Therefore, let us move forward on this waka together, to regenerate the mauri back To Tikapa.

Mauriora.

## He Maimai Aroha

**Mauria mai o tātou tini mate  
Hoki atu ki te Kaihanga  
Ki te kaaranga a Hine-nui-i-te-pō**

**Ki te pō nui, ki te pō roa  
Ki te pō kāhore he otinga  
Ko te tatau o te pō i mua i a koe**

**Hoki atu ki te kaitiako o te pō  
Nō reira, haere, haere, haere  
Ka maumahara mātou ki a rātou.**

# Foreword

## Kia ora koutou

Back in October 2020, [nine commitments](#) were collectively made to take action that would protect and regenerate Waiheke's marine environment.

It gives us great pleasure to share the progress of the many moving pieces in this emerging story of kaitiakitanga, of Waiheke ki uta, Waiheke ki tai, Waiheke ki tua.

This second year of collaborative mana whenua and community action has been deep with learning, with relationships and with getting wet. The WMP is proving itself as a movement that honours place-based relationships and gets things done. In a world where health and safety can stifle progress, the WMP enables amazing volunteer energies to come through and actively contribute to a better marine future, for all.

Even with the invasive seaweed exotic caulerpa in the mix (and this has been a massive disruptor of time and energy), indicators of improvements are being observed. These include regrowth of rīmurimu/seaweed at the Kelp Gardeners site, increased observations of kōura density (still very low) in the yearly kōura dive survey, increased participation of volunteers in the numerous marine regenerative activities on offer with the WMP and excitingly, increased commitment to walking Te Tiriti path with indigeneity being woven into WMP learning and action.

We invite you to take a dip into this annual report and get inspired. Regenerating the mauri of Waiheke's marine environment is a task for many. The more diverse we are, the better it is for marine biodiversity, to move towards mauri ora.

This diagram shows that activity has been well underway to bring these commitments to life. In the diagram, the shades of blue depict the depth and quantity of actions. The darker the blue, the more activity has happened and the lighter the blue shows room for more effort.

Nāku noa, nā

Craig Thorburn, Dean Ogilvie, Glen Carbines,  
Grant Crawford, Jeanine Clarkin, Lindsay Jeffs,  
Matt von Sturmer, Miranda Andrews and Tessa O'Shea

Waiheke Marine Project Steering Group



# Impacts in numbers

## Kōura survey 2023

**44,000 m<sup>2</sup>**  
surveyed

**94**  
kōura found

**362**  
dives recording  
kōura around  
Waiheke since  
2021

**2.136**  
kōura per 1000m<sup>2</sup>

We now have a three year time series recording kōura distribution and abundance since 2021

## Kelp Gardeners season 2023

**1439**  
kina respectfully  
removed

**29**  
whānau delivered  
to with same day  
kina

**47**  
volunteer snorkel  
and scuba divers

Kelp Gardening is a proven reconnector activity with side benefits of local carbon sequestration

## Marine monitoring

**145**  
dives with ROV  
surveying for  
exotic caulerpa

**3**  
confirmed  
infestations of  
exotic caulerpa

**3**  
preferred response  
methods identified  
to combat exotic  
caulerpa

It is hoped that early detection of the invasive seaweed by the WMP, raises chances of successful local elimination of exotic caulerpa.

## From beach cleans summer

**9**  
beach clean events  
held

**206**  
volunteer beach  
cleaners in action

**24**  
sacks

**195kg**  
of rubbish  
collected

Gumboots on the ground work connected youth, mana whenua and community and helped reduce the litter load on the moana

# Impacts in connection

## Youth snorkelers

“I would like to thank WMP for providing the amazing opportunity for our rangatahi to participate in. My son took part in the 2 day youth snorkel program and loved it. He was apprehensive at first, but once he was in the water, he adapted to the environment and he was happy. He thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. I loved how quickly the instructors made the kids feel comfortable and how easily trust was built between the generations. I witnessed how this kaupapa brings communities together... I watched many people ask how to join in, saw people watching with curiosity and just by chatting to other people on the beach with their views. All with great admiration. ‘Tiaki mai i ahau, maku ano koe e tiaki’... ‘If you look after me, then I will look after you’ – nā Tangaroa.

Pani Taiapa, parent of mana whenua youth snorkel participant)

## Kelp gardeners

The dive day was a unique experience that connected us and the sea. Thank you kind souls. I had the best time, and am interested in doing more with you all.

Emma Heatley, KG participant 2023

## Regen divers

E te tī, e te tā papaki kau ana te tai o mihi ki a koutou katoa.

We had a great day, the refresher was helpful and built my confidence up to get into the water. I was concerned about how much I’d remember from last year and this refresher day helped to build upon skills and alleviate my fears.

Once again thank you to you all for the time and mahi that you put in behind the scenes, it fills my cup to be serving our communities and doing our bit for the moana with Waiheke locals and experts. Thank you for welcoming us home to Waiheke.

Leah Thompson, Ngāti Pāoa Regen Dive participant 2023



I talk a lot about regeneration in theory through my job in sustainability. The WMP Regen Dive programme is a great gateway to putting that theory into practice. The WMP is an awesome model of iwi and local community co-partnership in practice. It’s so nice to have my passion cross through to my profession.

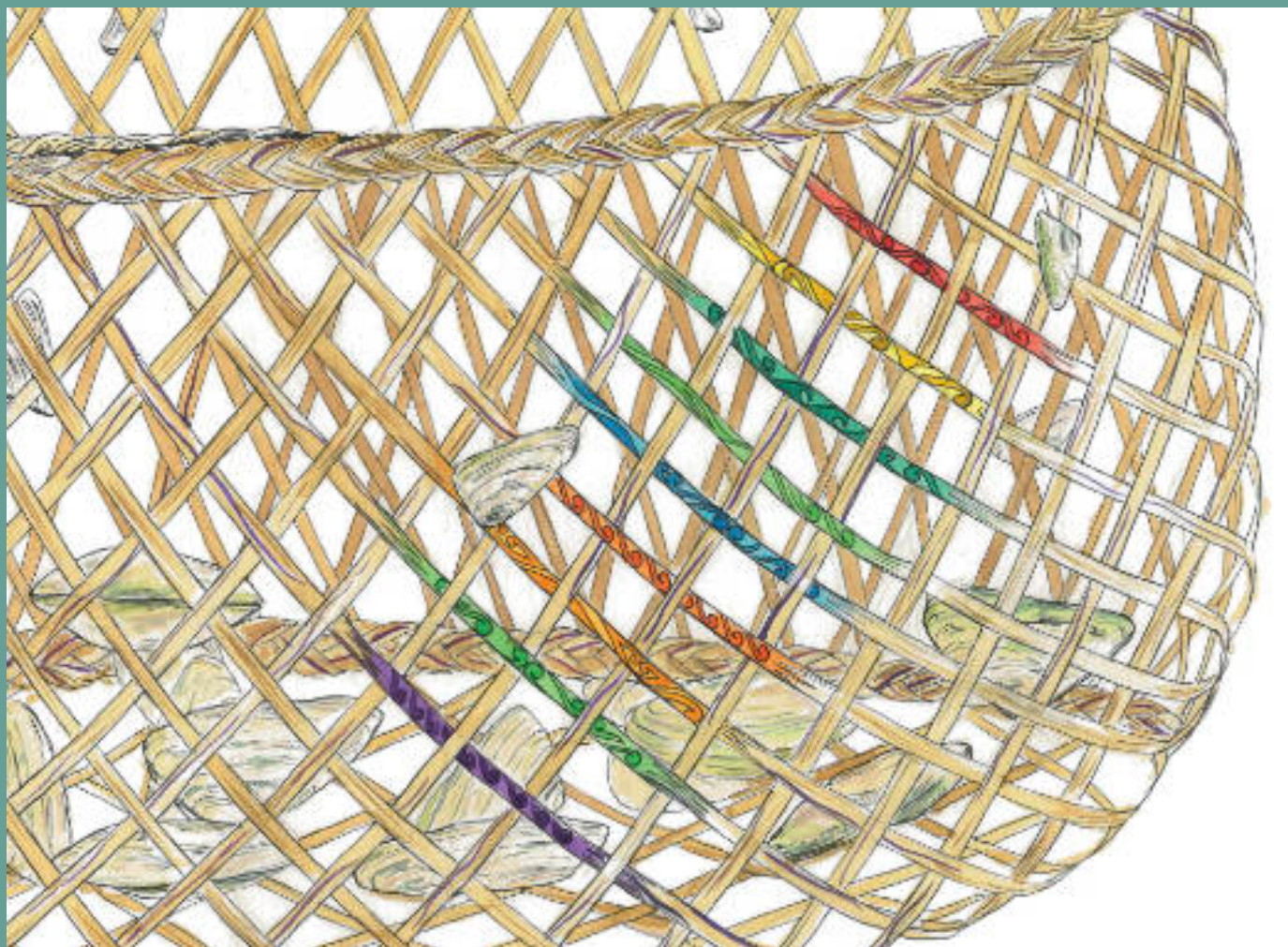
Beth Rose, Waiheke community Regen Dive participant 2023T

## Beach cleaners

The beach cleaning events brought together the Waiheke community, mana whenua, and visitors in caring for our moana. It was amazing to see how the events created awareness of our impacts on the environment and how we interact with it. It was truly uplifting to see how much of a difference each of us can make when we take time care for our motu.

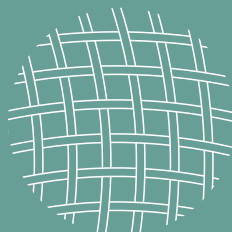
Tilde Sorensen, Beach Clean Coordinator 2023

The WMP has an innovative collaborative structure known as Te Kete that is depicted in this image and best described as an open weave kete with 6 backbone threads  or workstreams that work together to support multiple reinforcing projects (or pipi)  that collectively deliver on the 9 common ground commitments. Just like a kete, there are overlaps that contribute to the strength of the container. This woven way of working is notably different from the silos common in organisations.



Te Kete imagery by rangatahi artist, Grace Driscoll

In the following pages, pages marked with the backbone icon indicate the 6 core threads to the WMP, while pages marked with the pipi icon indicate the many reinforcing projects that align with our nine commitments to protecting and regenerating Waiheke's marine environment.



Backbone



Pipi

# Mana whenua Ngā Uri o Ngāti Paoa (NPKW)

## Purpose

The descendants of Ngāti Paoa hapū for which Waiheke is our turangawaewae have wholeheartedly taken on this opportunity to collaborate with the Waiheke community and are supported by our Iwi authorities to engage directly in this kaupapa and to uphold our own rights and obligations. We have established our own mana whenua working group known as NPKW to engage in the WMP at all levels. We are cognizant of the need to come into a strong relationship with the community and that together we can be a force for positive change.

## Activity

This year has been all about “getting our assets wet” with many Ngāti Paoa descendants diving into the opportunities with the WMP, locally, nationally and internationally. With three Ngāti Paoa as members on the WMP steering group, an active NPKW rūpu/ group, several Ngāti Paoa contractors and a steady stream of Ngāti Paoa volunteers, the energy of Paoatanga is strong for te moana o Waiheke.

## Highlights of the year

- Presenting to IMPAC5, 5th International Marine Protected Areas Conference in Canada
- Ngāti Paoa leadership of Kelp Gardeners with embrace of mātauranga Māori
- Strong rangatahi voice and leadership at Kōura survey presentations
- Taking a proactive role to combat Exotic Caulerpa
- High participation in Te Wero Nui, a collaborative response to the threat
- Full participation in crewing Remote Operated Vehicle survey sessions
- Supporting our Iwi Trust, NPIT, as they lead caulerpa treatment trials
- Ngāti Paoa taking on several contractor roles with WMP (details in each pipi)

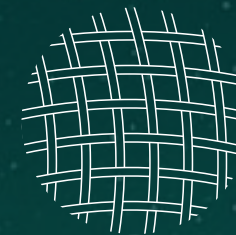
## Looking ahead

**Recruitment is underway for a new Mana whenua Kāimahi, to ensure the momentum described above continues and that the wider Ngāti Paoa whānui are supported and engaged to build their capability and capacity in caring for the moana. Relationships with other iwi of Tīkapa Moana are crucial as is the determination to learn from the richness of mātauranga Māori.**





# Knowledge Amplification



## Purpose

The WMP aims to “hold space for the amplification and open-source sharing of all knowledge sources, including mātauranga Māori, citizen and western science, so that the best available information supports decision making.” The partnership with Sustainable Seas in 2022 was helpful in setting the infrastructure for the WMP Action Tracker. This is an emerging user-friendly google platform tool that enables the WMP to openly share its data and experiences.

## Activity

2023 has been a year of learning by doing with the action tracker. The WMP team has been working to engage with pipi generated data in an interactive way, both sharing data generated by WMP action and enabling volunteers to input their data into the WMP Action Tracker.

## Sharing data

The WMP has been pouring energy into surveillance and monitoring for the seaweed exotic caulerpa. Partnering with Logan Marine and crewed by NPKW, the WMP has been enabling multiple surveys using Remote Operated Vehicle (underwater drone). Data gathered from these ROV surveys has been quickly shared on a Surveillance Tracking Map, on the WMP website. CE of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, Alex Rogers, said that “the WMP map was the most user friendly and informative of all caulerpa coverage.”

## Interactive data

The Kōura Dive Survey 2023 had a Digital Home Base for the period of the survey. This enabled volunteer divers and skippers to interact with each other and the data as it was generated. It also made collation and analysis of the data easier as it allowed handwritten data sheets to be uploaded the day of for prompt data entry and sorting.

Parallel to the Action Tracker work has been ongoing efforts in advocacy. The WMP has collaboratively compiled submissions on issues important to Waiheke’s marine environment. WMP folk have also taken many opportunities to share their experiences and learn from others in the field of marine regeneration at wānanga, workshops and conferences across the country.

## Looking ahead

**Taking confidence from the year of testing the Action Tracker with real data sets, the WMP is aiming to sharpen up the public facing side of the Action Tracker, so more people can be empowered by the latest information. Knowledge Amplification must operate at the pace of trust that honours and opens space for the often marginalised knowledge systems in conventional research practice.**



# Communication

## Purpose & Activity

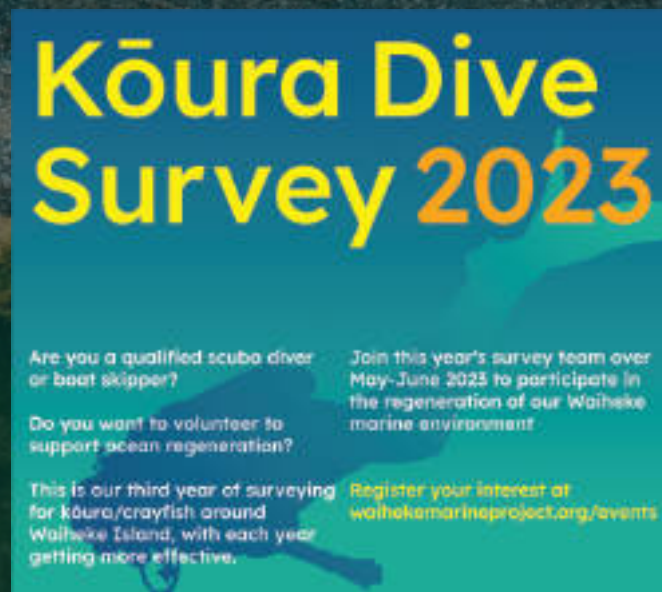
A broad range of communication methods have continued to be key for the project throughout 2023. This allows the accurate informing of activities, survey results and learnings to our community, our contributors, partner agencies and Pipi participants

The largely volunteer team of up to 10 has evolved with a mix of new energy coming from Pipi coordinators and those who have become familiar with the goals and purpose from the project's beginning.

With precious funds being diverted to boost in-water activity this year, the initial communication plan needed to be paired back. Despite this we have been able to raise the general awareness of the whakaaro and produce topical content which raises the awareness of the need to regenerate and protect the moana, the threats to its progress and the success stories. Mahi ngātahi with Ngāti Paoa ki Waiheke continues to be at the core of the content produced by this enthusiastic group.

## Key examples

- A refreshed website format focused on Pipi (sub-projects)
- Quarterly Newsletters
- A Presentation to the Hauraki Gulf Forum AGM
- Two presentations of Kōura survey results
- Waiheke Collective's Film Festival
- Bi-weekly Social Media posts
- A Marine Monitoring hub focused on the Exotic Caulerpa response
- Tracking map of Exotic Caulerpa surveys - Niwa & WMP transects
- Presentations to community groups
- Merchandise - Bucket Hats & Drink Bottles

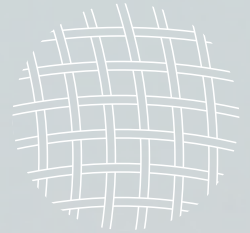


## Exotic Caulerpa

The discovery of the invasive Exotic Caulerpa Seaweed has seen a strong pull of resources and energy in this direction. With the support of MPI/ Biosecurity NZ and Auckland Council, content has been developed to amplify the messages of agencies as well as develop Waiheke specific messages to help with what is hoped to be the eventual removal of this challenging organism,

## Looking ahead

Looking forward to 2024 we plan to continue a positive and effective campaign which expresses a goal of marine regeneration. Waiheke ki uta, Waiheke ki tai, Waiheke ki tua ~ Waiheke here, to the sea and into the future



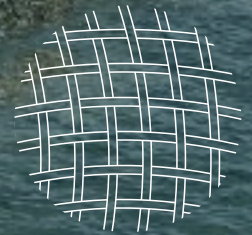
# Youth Action

## Purpose

The WMP whakatauki refers to ki tua and it is this focus on the future and what is beyond, that makes the role of rangatahi and youth so incredibly important to the WMP.

## Activity

This year has seen a blossoming of youth action throughout WMP backbone and pipi, bringing such hopeful energy to everyone involved. Five of the contractors hired have been young; in Communications, Beach Cleans, Kōura Dive Survey, Kelp Gardeners, Fishing Tackle Recycling and a WMP-wide internship. A Tuakana/Teina or buddy system has been in place, with each youth matched with a support person. The learning has been reciprocal and the outcomes incredible, such as a youthful ease with the google platform Action Tracker and a liveliness to marine education initiatives.



## Highlights of the year

- Attending the Love Rimurimu wānanga in Wellington.
- Persisting through the red tape to gain consent to install Fishing Tackle Recycling pods around Waiheke Island. The pods are well used with rubbish taken off the beaches.
- Supporting the MEI (Marine Education Initiative) with several school sessions that brought an ahua Māori focus and a love of the ocean to the children.
- Providing another successful summer snorkel training to 9 youth and follow up snorkel outings around the island, the Gulf and to Poor Knights.
- A hugely successful Beach Clean series (more detail on page 19) run by a youth contractor.

## Looking ahead

The WMP will keep finding opportunities for youth internships and contracts with mentoring support and increase ways to hear and action youth ideas for marine protection and regeneration. Securing funding dedicated to feeding this youth energy is a priority goal.



**“The experiences we encountered on this day were unparalleled, leaving both of us brimming with newfound knowledge and a renewed sense of enthusiasm for our roles within the Waiheke Marine Project.”**

**Brianna Marvin and Emily Griffiths  
comments on attending Love Rimurimu  
wānanga in Wellington**



# Kaimahi Navigation and Coordination

## Purpose

To have contractors dedicated to maintaining the flow of the WMP movement by ensuring the WMP Backbone is vibrant and that all pipi are championed to be effective.

## Activity

This project year has seen a big shift in contractors with travel, illness and career moves closing some doors and opening more. It is a testimony to the potency of the WMP mission and goals that personnel changes have not slowed progress rather have expanded the perspectives on marine protection and regeneration.

Backbone contractor roles this year have consisted of a Kaiwhakatere (Navigator), two holders of the Hapori Kaimahi (community coordinator) role, a Manawhenua Kaimahi and a secondment arrangement with BLAKE enabled a Pou Kōkiri role that brings mana whenua guidance to many of the backbone threads of the WMP. The Comms team also has dedicated contractor roles.

Pipi contractor roles have been well filled by mana whenua, community and youth over the course of the project year. All of these roles are part-time and many are fixed-term to align with the activity of the particular pipi. At one point in the 2023 project year, there were 17 active contractors, although this drops to a lesser number in the off season.

For all Kaimahi who contribute to the WMP, the feeding of relationships is the priority task. With high trust relationships, everything is possible.



## Looking ahead

**Recruitment to the Manawhenua Kaimahi role is a priority as is the ongoing recruitment and support of a diversity of contractors to the WMP movement. A project plan for the years 2024 to 2027 will be agreed in this coming project year. Lessons learned by the various Kaimahi over the first three years of WMP operation will guide just what contractor roles are needed in the future.**

# Planning and Funding

## Purpose

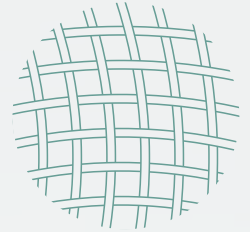
The steering group for the WMP consists of nine volunteers, three who bring Ngāti Paoa guidance and a diversity of perspectives to continue the whole system of the nine voice groups which launched the WMP in 2020. The Steering Group provides oversight of the complex multiple reinforcing activities underway to protect and regenerate the marine environment, ensuring core values are embodied and that sufficient funds are in place for implementation.

## Activity

The Steering Group meets monthly in addition to SG members contributing to WMP activity within each month. The Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust operates as Treasurer and umbrella NGO for the WMP. All Steering Group members contribute to the constant mission of raising funds. This second year of activity has seen more spent than raised with acknowledgement that it is important to maintain the momentum of so many people engaging in marine regeneration and to maintain a time series of key projects. New funding and in-kind partners have joined the WMP movement over this project year.

## Looking ahead

Funds are needed to be raised from a diversity of sources to meet WMP budget targets. The continuing growth of allies in marine protection and regeneration helps with this yet it is worth acknowledging that the WMP could do more if more funds were accessible.



### Income in NZD

Grants	35,028	10.6%
Donations received	293,971	89.2%
Interest	661	0.2%

**Total Income in NZD**

**329,660 100.0%**

### Expenses in NZD

<b>Independent Contractors</b>	<b>139,085</b>	<b>42.8%</b>
<b>Mana whenua</b>	<b>14,658</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>Project Expenses</b>	<b>96,610</b>	<b>29.8%</b>
<b>Youth Knowledge</b>	<b>8,283</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
	<b>4,864</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>29,381</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Accounting &amp; Legal</b>	<b>17,306</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>Other Administration</b>	<b>6,977</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>IMPAC Conference</b>	<b>7,979</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

**Total Expenses in NZD**

**325,143 100.0%**



# Supporters

## Funders



## Contributors



P Kean

Private Donations



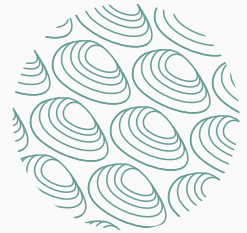
## Endorsements



## Whānau



# Regenerative Dive Programme



## Purpose

To build the diving capabilities and capacity of mana whenua and Waiheke locals. Improved diving abilities will then enable on-island data collection, collation, monitoring and evidence-based decision making for marine care actions. This journey is depicted in the spiral graphic below to show the evolving pathway from training to action for mana whenua and Waiheke locals.



## Activity

This year has seen solid progress on the highly successful prototype of WMP Regen diving from 2022. Hiring a Ngāti Paoa contractor as Kaihāpai rukuruku brought heart centred and cultural leadership and enabled a clarity of focus to the Regen Dive Programme.

The programme has two arms that work together:

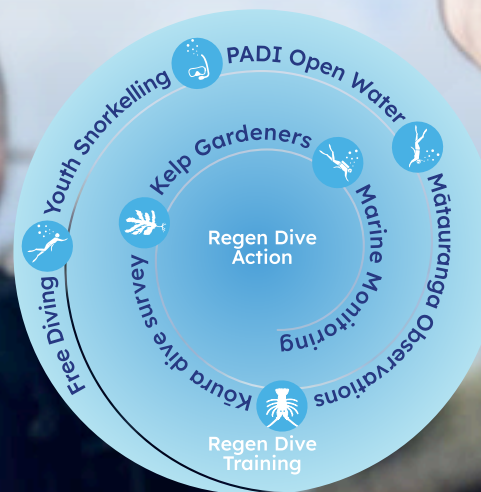
1. Dive training includes youth snorkelling, open water scuba and freediving.
2. Regen dive action has endless potential and for the moment, is focused on the yearly Kōura dive survey, Kelp gardening, Marine monitoring for invasive species and Rubbish collection.

2023 saw another 15 scuba divers trained, 12 youth snorkellers and 2 refresher tickets renewed. Achievements in the Regen dive action are described in the relevant pipi in this report.

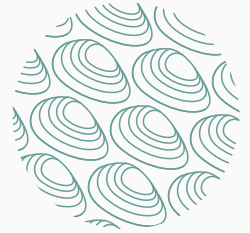
The year has not been plain sailing. The impact of consecutive tough summers and covid meant an end to the wonderful partnership with Waiheke Dive. The WMP wishes to thank Waiheke Dive for their courage in beginning the Regen Dive Programme back in 2021.

## Looking ahead

**Building on the new dive provider partnerships with Epic Scuba and Salt Aotearoa to keep providing dive training for Youth Snorkelling, Scuba diving, free diving and having exceptional dive support for Regenerative dive action like Kelp Gardeners, marine monitoring and more.**



# Kōura Dive Survey



## Purpose

To run an annual dive survey of the abundance and distribution of kōura/ crayfish around Waiheke Island so as to achieve a time series of data that informs about the health of the local kōura population. We now have a three year time series of 362 dives recording kōura.



## Activity

2023 was the 3rd annual kōura dive survey and was a big success on all indicators. A new youth contractor was hired as Kōura dive survey coordinator and she brought a tech savvy that enabled a Digital Home Base to be in operation for the duration of the survey months. 187 volunteers registered for the 2023 survey with 78 divers getting in the water and 16 skippers providing their crucial boat support to get the divers into the water around the island.

For the first time, Community Support boats were also in action, with neighbouring iwi, Ngāti Manuhiri taking this role on one dive weekend. Dive shops around the Tāmaki region provided discounts to many volunteer divers and the incredible WMP partner, SEALIFE Kelly Tarltons, once again provided their aquarium venue to share the survey results. The Lou & Iris Fisher Charitable Trust generously funded the entire 2023 Kōura dive survey.

Divers covered the entire northern coastline of Waiheke Island. A total of 44,000 m<sup>2</sup> was surveyed - an increase of 16,000m<sup>2</sup> from 2022. 94 kōura were found with a density of 2.136 kōura per 1000m. This is a sizeable increase on the 22 kōura found in 2022, yet is still a long way from the desirable density of 70 kōura per 1000m.

The data was shared at 2 events on 28th July and 20th August. Noticeable at these events was the leadership of youth and the weaving of the maramataka into understanding the survey results.

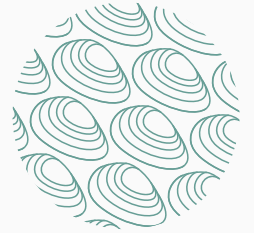
## Looking ahead

**The aim is to improve the survey each year to be a world leading locally run marine survey that benefits from te Ao Māori and local knowledge. The WMP Kōura dive survey is gaining credibility in Govt and science circles for locally gathered data and we look forward to Government authorities turning to this local data to make decisions that are locally applicable.**





# Kelp Gardeners



## Purpose

To ease pressure on rimurimu (seaweed) so that we may regenerate and improve the vitality of near-shore reef systems of Waiheke Island. Operating within a 50m<sup>2</sup> test zone, the Kelp Gardeners pipi/project respectfully removes kina to enable rimurimu regeneration and rebalancing of the local ecosystem.

## Activity

The 2022/23 Kelp Gardener season saw the contracting of a dedicated Kelp Gardener Coordinator who was assisted by a mana whenua intern and both were guided by a Kaiarahi. This three person team enabled very effective delivery of the KG days. 1439 kina were respectfully removed, 29 whānau were delivered to with same day kina and 47 volunteer snorkel and scuba divers experienced the power of active marine regeneration.

While we have a robust foundation to stand upon, Kelp Gardeners are always in a constant state of reflecting and always striving towards future possibilities. This season we extended the project to form a Kelp Gardeners subgroup or rōpu to truly champion the project's activity from a mana whenua lens. We ran specific whānau days, learning about what is important to mana whenua with Kelp Gardening. We gathered some fabulous video footage of Kelp Gardeners in action.

We have come to learn that diving for kina and sharing it with whānau is easy. What takes more effort and thought is striving to develop our knowledge base, and community engagement, and have the community understand the root of the problem, while also forging solutions forward.

This rōpu has been hard at work preparing for the 2024 season, including selecting all KG dives based on the maramataka and tides. Beyond the hands-on experience, we're eager to share knowledge about rimurimu (seaweed) regeneration, insights into the moana and te taiao, and the cultural richness of tikanga and mātauranga Māori that shapes our mahi (work).



## Looking ahead

**The 2024 Kelp Gardener season is in good heart with Foundation North providing specific funding for this Pipi. This embraces the Kelp Gardener subgroup priorities to lead with mātauranga Māori and learn about ways to really regenerate seaweed as a foundational habitat for Waiheke's marine environment. At the time of publishing this Annual Report, all Kelp Gardener diving sessions were fully booked and a mātauranga Māori wānanga was in preparation. Looking further ahead there is interest in Kelp Gardening over a greater coastal area and turning the video footage into a compelling narrative.**

# Marine monitoring including Exotic Caulerpa



## Purpose

To embody Kia tūtakarerewa (Be alert, Out of sight, front of mind) so that Waiheke's marine environment is protected from biosecurity threats.

## Activity

With the discovery and subsequent growth of the invasive seaweed exotic caulerpa at neighbouring island Aotea Great Barrier in August 2021, the WMP dived into the world of marine monitoring and surveillance. In October 2022, the WMP formed a group to focus on exotic caulerpa specifically and marine monitoring generally. This group has continued to meet every three weeks since, proactively learning and taking action to locally combat exotic caulerpa.

Highlights of this all-consuming activity include:

- Ongoing meetings and forming of relationships with both Biosecurity New Zealand and Auckland Council that formed the basis of formal agreements for 2024.
- Reached out to international experts and formed relationships with Californians.
- Establishing a highly effective working partnership with Logan Marine Project that has enabled ongoing ROV (remote operated vehicle) surveys, looking for exotic caulerpa.
- Building local capabilities with mana whenua and community crew on all ROV surveys.
- Discovery of exotic caulerpa by WMP survey on 29th July at Thompson's Point and trigger of countdown clock on WMP website.
- Learning from and supporting fellow exotic caulerpa infestation locales in Aotea, Te Rawhiti, Kawau, Ahuahu.
- Participated in and supported Te Wero Nui, a collaborative effort hosted by Ngāti Manuhiri to combat caulerpa across the country.
- Observing the MPI trial removal at Aotea Great Barrier.
- Open sharing of all ROV data on WMP Surveillance Tracking Map on WMP website.
- Being in service and support of NPIT as they lead a Caulerpa treatment and removal trial.

## Looking ahead

The WMP will be leaning into newly agreed partnerships with Biosecurity New Zealand and Auckland Council to keep building local capacity for marine monitoring and surveillance. Wānanga to learn from mātauranga Māori and workshops to raise knowledge of invasive species will take place. Advocacy will continue for a systems-approach to marine biosecurity that has local capability well supported by ultimate national government responsibility.

As with all WMP pipi, dedicated fundraising will take place to ensure that this local capability is honoured and can grow.



# Beach Cleans



## Purpose

The aim of this pipi is to connect the Waiheke community, youth and Mana Whenua while doing gumboots on the groundwork to help the moana. Beach cleaning is an activity that everyone and anyone can do thus it has an inclusive energy well aligned to the WMP. An important aim of the 2022-2023 beach clean series was to ground each event with mana whenua knowledge of the place being cared for.

## Activity

Youth Beach Clean Coordinator Tilde, ran an incredible series with 9 beach clean events held 206 volunteer beach cleaners in action Approx 24 sacks plus 195 kg of rubbish collected

A diversity of people participated in these beach cleans, with all reporting pride in their efforts and enjoyment of the organisation of the events. An engaging video was published on the WMP website in February 2023, clearly demonstrating the popularity of beach cleans. As well as the pre-planned events, some quickly organised beach cleans took place in response to Cyclone Gabrielle.

A prototype of decorated beach clean bags were created by local Māori fashion designer Jeanine Clarkin to give to volunteers as koha for their efforts.



## Looking ahead

**The aim for 2024 is to leverage off the lessons of 2023 and keep offering beach cleans, in collaboration with other local organisations like the Waiheke Resources Trust (WRT). For 2024, these beach cleans will be championed by NPKW and Waiheke youth, enabling further pathways toward kaitiakitanga. In response to local concern, a particular focus will be placed on the microplastics that wash up on the shores of Waiheke, bringing attention to the visible and invisible nature of our ongoing work. Additionally, in collaboration with WRT, beach clean kits will also be made available for locals to borrow, enabling people to start championing their own efforts with keeping our coastlines litter free.**



# Fishing Tackle Recycling



## Purpose

The purpose of this project is to tackle an issue that has been noticed by the community of hooks, line, sinkers and other fishing gear posing risk to the marine environment as well as a risk to the public. With the implementation of these bins specifically for the use of fishing tackle we hope to reduce the amount of waste left in our environment as well as raise awareness to this issue.

## Activity

The bulk of the planning and design work for the Fishing tackle recycling pods took place in 2022, yet energy and persistence was needed in 2023 to get the required landowner and local council permissions to install the pods. Hats off to Jude (youth fisher) and Carys (Kaimahi hapori) for their stickability. Eventually by summer of 2023, pods were installed at four locations around the island:

- Fishermans Rock
- Esplanade Road
- Orapiu Wharf
- Matiatia

Over 2023, these fishing tackle pods have been used frequently by fishers all over the island and contribute greatly to keeping our wharves and popular fishing spots free of litter. In many cases, there is an absence of Council-managed bins in these locations, which further shows how locally-based initiatives can support and fill the gaps in community need on the ground.

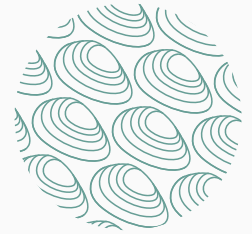
An Instagram reel was shared in March 2023, showing the pods being installed. Regular pod clearing visits have found high usage of the pods with plenty of fishing tackle being deposited for recycling.

## Looking ahead

**The aim is to understand the usage of these pods, post some more videos with tips and tricks on how to use them and how to support various sustainable fishing techniques. It would be great to get more people involved in maintaining the pods over time.**



# Emerging Pipi



## Purpose

The WMP is very much a movement of multiple reinforcing actions that emerge as the needs become apparent and people's energies coalesce to make things happen. Thus, there will always be new Pipi coming through and the WMP Backbone will do its best to support implementation of people's ideas.

## Activity

One of these emerging Pipi revolves around the interconnected health of sea birds and forage fish (also known as bait fish) such as anchovies and similar species. These fish form an important trophic link between zooplankton and seabirds, marine mammals, and large predatory fish. Their abundance can be used as an indicator species (tohu) of environmental health.

The Pipi/project seeks to increase local knowledge of anchovy abundance around Waiheke Island and raise awareness of the importance of anchovies. A next step could be to campaign for a significant reduction in the Total Allowable Catch of anchovies in the northeast North island management area.

## Looking ahead

**Specific fundraising to implement the Kokowhaha/Anchovies project will take place. The WMP is open to the emergence of 'new' Pipi that align with its values and commitment to protecting and regenerating Waiheke's marine environment.**

**Please email [team@waihekemarineproject.org](mailto:team@waihekemarineproject.org) with your ideas for a new Pipi.**



# Image credits

- |    |   |    |  |
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| 1  | Front cover Kelp, Mitchell Thorburn                                 | 17 | Kōura boat, Mitchell Thorburn<br>Kōura, Mitchell Thorburn            |
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| 11 | Comms graphic, WMP Comms team<br>Comms graphic, WMP Comms team      | 20 | Jude with tackle pod, Carys Templer                                  |
| 12 | Emily/Bri talking, Sophie Lewis<br>Snorkellers, Adam Whatton        | 22 | Anchovies background, Matt von Sturmer                               |
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