



**Mountains To Sea**  
Conservation Trust  
*Nga Maunga ki te Moana*

## **Annual Report 2018-2019**

### **Message from our Chairperson:**

As chair of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, I have the privilege of presiding over a wonderful group of people whose vision is worthy, noble, generous and quite frankly still ahead of its time. The ultimate goal of the trust is to improve our environments, particularly those associated with freshwaters and the sea, guided by the ethic of kaitiakitanga. Through the efforts of the trust, people, be they children, parents of children, farmers, business leaders and politicians, are being educated about how they can protect the environment for future generations. Furthermore, the trust is also engaged in numerous environmental restoration projects. In my mind, there are no more important tasks than these on earth currently. Through its twin programs, Experiencing Marine Reserves and Whitebait Connection, the trust has been extremely successful in implementing the vision of a more environmentally friendly earth. The 2018 - 2019 season saw a significant increase in activity for the EMR programme, particularly in Auckland, where we now offer 'adventure snorkel days' to off-shore islands such as Hauturu-o-toi. Whitebait Connection (WBC) has also experienced considerable expansion since 2002, and is now active in 8 regions, with a team of 27 coordinators. The activities of the managers and coordinators are supported by a dedicated and able trust. Much work has been done in 2019 to reconfigure the workings of the trust from governance and management standpoints. This will allow the trust to be more strategic in the way it grows and expands into the regions, while maintaining a firm grasp on everyday management practices. The future of the trust and it's operations certainly looks very rosy indeed!



### **Chair of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust**



## **Trustees** *(as of September 2019)*

**Olivier Ball** - Mountains to Sea Chairperson

**Samara Nicholas** - MNZM, EMR Founder and National Lead

**Kim Jones** - WBC National Lead, DTH Founder

**Manual Springford** - Te Waha Māori

**Vince Kerr** - Marine Conservation Advocate

**Matt Keene** - Communications Specialist

**Geoff Butturini** - Outdoor Specialist

**Eden Hakaraia** - Education Specialist

**Hilton Leith** - Business Specialist

## **Dr Roger Grace 1945 ~ 2019**

Roger was an absolute champion for our marine environment. He dedicated his life to marine conservation and tirelessly shared his wealth of knowledge with others. Roger was a trustee of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust from 2002 – 2018 and an honoured patron from 2018. Our team loved spending time with Roger and I don't think we are ever going to forget the correct way to eat an artichoke! We miss you terribly but we will ensure your legacy makes waves for a long time to come. A memorial fund has been established and is administered by Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust. Moe mai ra e rangatira.



<https://emr.org.nz/roger-grace-fund>

## **Our programmes & key outcomes in Northland & Auckland 2018-19**

Mountains To Sea Conservation Trust (MTSCT) has continued to empower communities and take action towards both marine and freshwater conservation. The trust is committed to citizen science as a way of empowering local people to contribute to national science databases in a meaningful way.



## EMR

EMR has had a huge increase in the number of events across Auckland and Northland and created a number of partnerships through events at more remote locations like the Mokohinau Islands and Little Barrier Island. The geographical spread of the EMR programme nationwide now reaches from Aramoana Beach near Dunedin to Maitai Bay in the Far North. This season, EMR also delivered its first community drift snorkel in the Pataua estuary (Northland). EMR has continued to develop a reliable and skilled volunteer base to be able to run community events efficiently and safely across the country. During the summer of 2018/19, 4389 students snorkelled in a marine reserve with EMR (or 6986 including parents, teachers & whanau), with 306 kaitiaki action projects. We had 42 community snorkel and kayak day events and snorkelled with 15589 people, 12112 volunteer hours were contributed.



## WBC

Gaining the support of a new corporate sponsor MTF Finance Whangārei via a new 12 seater van and trailer for planting events. WBC Northland winning the Environmental action in water quality improvement NRC Award in recognition of 17 years of hard mahi by thousands of students, coordinators and volunteers. Finding 8 new Īnanga spawning sites in Auckland (one in each of our Auckland Council Whitebait habitat restoration project rivers!). Ramping up planting efforts in Whangārei to 15,000! Trialing bank recontouring for Īnanga spawning habitat creation in Northland with success. Obtaining funding for a sophisticated underwater camera has allowed us to capture our events in a way not possible before.



## Drains to Harbour (DTH)

Our Drains to Harbour programme continues to grow in the Whangarei District in partnership with the Whangarei District Council. This year saw the installation of LittaTraps with schools and community groups to track and audit stormwater gross pollutants. We also saw the programme be picked up by our national provider organisation Tasman Bay Guardians.

## Marine Advocacy

Our marine advocacy work has set up the ecological monitoring that will enable long term monitoring of the rahui at Matai Bay. We have been supporting hapu in their kaitiaki role and responding to hapu around Northland in a support role for marine conservation.



## He Kākano

The He Kākano community native plant nursery in Whangārei that we run for Whangārei riparian restoration, is thriving thanks to the hard mahi of many regular volunteers and our nursery manager Jordan MacDonald. Thanks to Foundation North, Whangateau Harbourcare and Whangārei District Council funding we've been able to upgrade the nursery facilities, reinitiate free school nursery programmes and produce over 10,000 plants this year. Over the 2018/2019 planting season our team have planted 15,000 plants next to waterways around Whangārei.



## National Outcomes

Since 2001, our Mountains to Sea programmes have planted 105,028 trees, we engaged 92,330 in monitoring their river, we have helped identify and restore 87 inanga spawning sites, we have taken 119,131 people snorkelling, delivered 230 public community guided snorkel and kayak days, guiding a total of 65,518 through our marine reserves. Information is transferred into the wider community by our 713 media articles. 153315 volunteer hours have been contributed. Our annual wananga has attracted the attendance of 576 people. The total reach for our engagement is 245,945.

## Highlights

### **This year we celebrated some of our big picture outcomes:**

- 🌿 Poor Knights competition trip remains a highlight of the year for EMR, we featured on the front page of the New Zealand diving magazine
- 🌿 Trialing bank recontouring for Īnanga spawning habitat creation in Northland with success that will be documented and shared with other regions.
- 🌿 Working on our capacity and capability with LEAD and developing our national strategy alongside our theory of change and methods of measuring our progress and sharing our stories.
- 🌿 Continued focus on Succession planning and successful national Mountains to Sea wānanga in Kaitaia with 61 participants.
- 🌿 Continuation and expansion of our Mountains to Sea programmes in ten different regions including: Northland, Auckland, Gisborne, Coromandel, Wellington, Nelson, Tasman, Canterbury, Taranaki and Otago..
- 🌿 Continuing the expansion of our National Īnanga Spawning Programme (NISP) in English, Te Reo and Te Whāriki in eight regions of NZ!
- 🌿 Inspiring action for the environment - many diverse action projects have been reported from regional coordinators this year including inanga spawning site adoption, marine reserve extension, marine monitoring, riparian planting, whitebait spawning habitat restoration, stream clean ups, presentations to local politicians, artwork on display in schools and letters to the editors of local newspapers about local conservation issues.
- 🌿 Over 1000 people have participated in our local free events including whitebait spawning site monitoring, community planting days, native fish spotlighting nights and community group freshwater biodiversity workshops. We took 15589 kiwis snorkelling over the season!
- 🌿 Ramping up our contribution to national databases such as the NZ Freshwater Fish database and NZ Water Citizens and support for community groups and schools to do the same across NZ. Expansion of our DTH programme into Nelson thanks to funding from Nelson City Council.
- 🌿 Delivery of a community guided snorkel day in Otago.

## Challenges

The biggest challenges the Trust currently faces concern sustaining funding streams in a contestable funding environment, and ensuring infrastructure and processes are in place to support growth and a regional approach. These challenges are not unique to MTSCT and with ongoing leadership complemented by the level of community support we are privileged to receive, we will continue to deliver quality programmes.

## Student/Community Quotes

*It was fun and there was heaps of different fish. One of the best times of my life.*  
~ Aria Macdonald (student from Coroglen, Coromandel)

*Thank you so much for a wonderful experience. To be able to come with my daughter, to feel challenged, excited and learn so much about our marine environment. I feel so inspired going home, to tell people how stunning it was to float in the sea amongst big schools of maomao, trevally, big snapper swimming by unconcerned.* ~ Tanya Popp (parent from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Harataunga, Coromandel)

*"This program is inspiring kids like me to clean the water, I care about freshwater more than I used to."*  
~ (Year 5 student, St Brigid's School, Wellington)

*[The WBC programme] "It is an opportunity that many children would otherwise not have. It also covers topics children would not learn about until they were much older and often it would not be from such in depth and comprehensive sources."* ~ (Year 6 student, St Bernard's School, Wellington)

*"Wow, this programme is fantastic and I will encourage other groups in the near future to look at this programme. I was quite amazed that my students have not encountered this programme in their junior years as the programme has been around for a while, but my students have definitely learnt a lot about water pollution, native plants and ways to sustain our environment for a better future"* ~ (Gisborne Teacher)

*"During the Warkworth Town Hall talk, I was nervous that we would get lots of questions and hostility over the proposal to remove the weir in Warkworth to improve fish passage. However, we actually got four separate landowners in the catchment approach us to give us permission to survey their streams, and give them advice on protecting and restoring them for whitebait"* ~ (WBC Auckland regional coordinator).

*We [WBC Auckland] took representatives from a land development company down to the Nukumea Stream to look for stream life and test the water quality. The developers have been in the local press a lot in the last 18 months, due to sediment discharge from their site causing extensive damage to the stream and estuarine environment. As well as punitive action by Council, the Local Board suggested that WBC take the developers down to the stream to show them how important it is. I was sceptical and a little worried that it was simply a bit of positive publicity for the company however, they were really engaged during the mornings activities and would now like to bring the company director, and the new earthwork contractors, to do similar training with us. They are also going to put together an information pack for new homeowners to encourage them to keep the stream clean.* ~ (WBC Auckland regional coordinator).

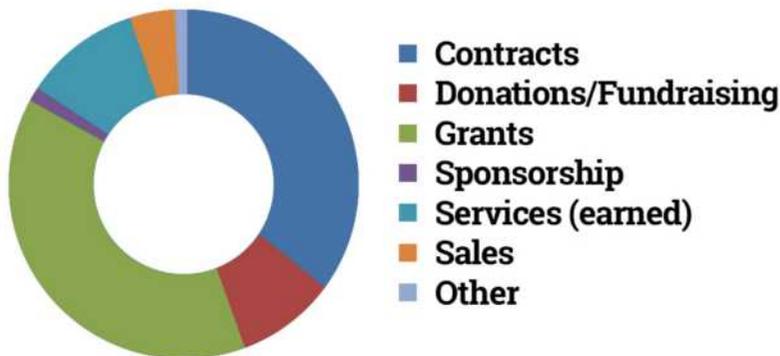


## Financials

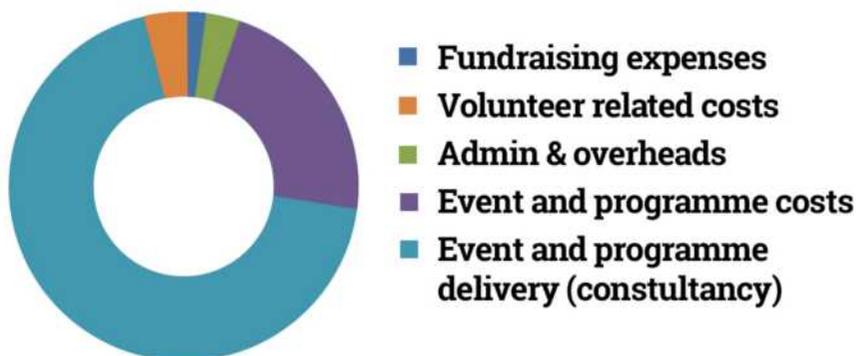
The Trust has performed extremely well in securing revenue from a range of sources by being responsive to opportunities that present themselves and by strategically maneuvering themselves to be preferred providers of programmes. The risk created is being managed through a capacity building programme implemented in 2019. This capacity building work has ensured our staffing structure is fit for purpose, strengthened our governance, designed a volunteering strategy, and prepared a fundraising strategy exploring opportunities for creating sustainable fundraising approaches.

Key fundraising opportunities for MTSCT are in building on what they already have in place through a deliberate and planned approach and increasing contributions from individuals.

### Income - year ended 31 March 2019



### Expenditure - year ended 31 March 2019



*Our full financial statements and auditors report can be downloaded from the charities website by searching Registration Number: CC23406 NZBN Number: 9429043001552*



## Funding

DOC Whangārei, Tindall Foundation, Foundation North, Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation, Whangārei District Council, Whangarei Lions, Lotteries National, Lotteries Community (Northland), Mazda Foundation, Whangarei Harbour Catchment Group, Golden Bay Cement, Kaipara District Council, Matariki Tu Rakau, Trees That Count, MBIE Unlocking Curious Minds

## Sponsors

Henderson Reeves Lawyers, MTF Finance Whangārei, Million Metres Donors, 2plus, The Choc Fish Co

## Partnerships

Dive! Tutukaka, DOC Whangārei, BLAKE, DOC, SSI, Auckland Zoo, SeaLife Trust, Auckland Whale and Dolphin Safari, Northland Community Foundation, Auckland Council and local boards, Forward, Wai Care, EOS Ecology, Ngā mahi Te Taiao, Schnappa Rock, Tasman Bay Guardians, Friends of Te-Whanganui-A Hei Marine Reserve Trust, Matapouri Holiday Units, Mountains to Sea Wellington, National Advisory, Group for Volunteer Freshwater Monitoring

## Collaborations:

Learning Journeys, EcoQuest, Te Aho Tū Roa, Enviroschools, NRC, Community Waitakere, Project Twin Streams, Patuharakeke Trust Board, IKHMG, NZ Landcare Trust, Reconnecting Northland, Papa Taiao Earthcare, Mahurangi Action Group, Fonterra, Forest Bridge Trust, NorthTec, Te Henga Connection (Bethells), Snells Beach Residents and Ratepayers Association, Sustainable Coastlines, Whangateau Harbourcare

*Thank you to Ange & Dave Ferrier for supporting our annual Christmas function!*



Our goal is to empower and support communities to achieve marine and freshwater conservation through science based experiential programmes, resources, projects and community engagement.



Whakamana te maunga Whakamana te wai  
He mauri o ngā tangata Ngā mea katoa he pai

If we look after the water from the mountains to sea,  
it will look after us. It is our life force.



### How you can support:

Subscribe to our newsletters, Volunteer with us - register on our websites

Adopt a school - fund a school programme, Donate \$ to the big picture through our websites:

**SINCE  
2001:**

Planted 105,028  
trees along waterways

Engaged 92,330  
people in river monitoring

Identified 87 inanga  
spawning sites

Taken 119,131  
people snorkelling

Information transfer to  
communities via  
713 media articles,  
of 65,518 through marine reserves

Annual wānanga  
attended by  
576 people

153,315 hours of  
volunteer time  
contributed

**The total reach for our engagement to date is 245,945 people.**

# Mountains To Sea

Conservation Trust  
*Nga Maunga ki te Moana*



Volunteer Fresh  
Water Monitoring



Landowner  
Engagement  
& Support



School  
Programmes



Freshwater  
Protected Areas



Whitebait Habitat  
Restoration



MTSCT Wananga



Community  
Engagement



Community Led & Kaitiaki Actions



Snorkelling  
Te Kura Moana



Community  
Snorkel Days



Marine  
Protected  
Areas

Clean  
Cool  
Clear  
Cover

Creatures  
Connections

Current  
Coastline



whitebait  
Connection

x-stream about freshwater life



Whitebait Connection



Experiencing  
Marine Reserves

Whakamana te maunga, Whakamana te wai,  
He mauri o ngā tangata, Ngā mea katoa he pai.  
*If we look after the water from the mountains to sea,  
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Experiencing  
Marine Reserves

