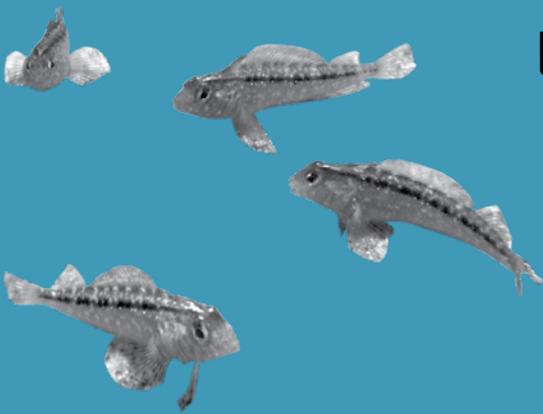




Experiencing
Marine Reserves

Te Kura Moana



Experiencing Marine Reserves Auckland Report 2020 - 2021



Report prepared by Sophie Journée and Teschna Christie on behalf of
the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust - Te Kura Moana

All photography by Sophie Journée unless otherwise stated.



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Executive Summary

This year EMR has continued to expand the opportunities for Community Guided Snorkel and Kayak Day events in the Auckland region. This has been achieved through the leverage of Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation funding to get Auckland Council grants. Due to COVID-19 we had to postpone a couple of events, but we were lucky to not have to cancel any of our events due to COVID. We did notice a slight decrease in participant numbers for some events. However, we expected this due to COVID upheaval and hesitancy around large scale events. We did have to cancel one of our planned adventure snorkels to the Hen and Chicks, as Dive! Tutukaka's boat, Perfect Day, is no longer in suitable condition to make longer trips. We also had the bonus of being able to run our first ever freshwater lake event in partnership with Auckland Council's biosecurity team, which garnered great feedback and enthusiasm from the local community.

Alongside Community Events, we had a record breaking number of schools and students participate in our programme this season.

Next season we have 27 events planned for Auckland and a number of Northland events, which the Auckland crew will be assisting on. Due to popularity we will be continuing to run kayak days in the Manukau and we are hoping to run more kayak days in West Auckland as well. The Mokohinau trip will now be run by Yukon, departing from Marsden Cove.

Since 2002, EMR has expanded to eight regions, with a team of 27 coordinators. EMR has taken 73,180 people into NZ's marine reserves and over 27,291 people have been engaged in EMR organised marine conservation events. The total number of Kiwis engaged in EMR has now reached 207,494 . During the 2020/21 summer, EMR hosted 47 Community Guided Snorkel and Kayak Days involving 3911 people around Aotearoa.



Our team in Auckland

Our team has grown to 3 full time and 2 casual contractors for MTSCCT.



Samara Nicholas
National Coordinator | Founder



Lorna Doogan



Sophie Journée



Teschna Christie



Ella Walmsley



Koha Kahui-McConnell



Elle Gibson

Auckland's Snorkel and Paddle Days

Our snorkel and paddle days provide fun, safe and free or cheap summer events. They are a great way for community members of all ages to experience and enjoy their local environment while raising awareness about marine conservation. We continue to receive great feedback from participants praising our incredible volunteers and our event organisation.

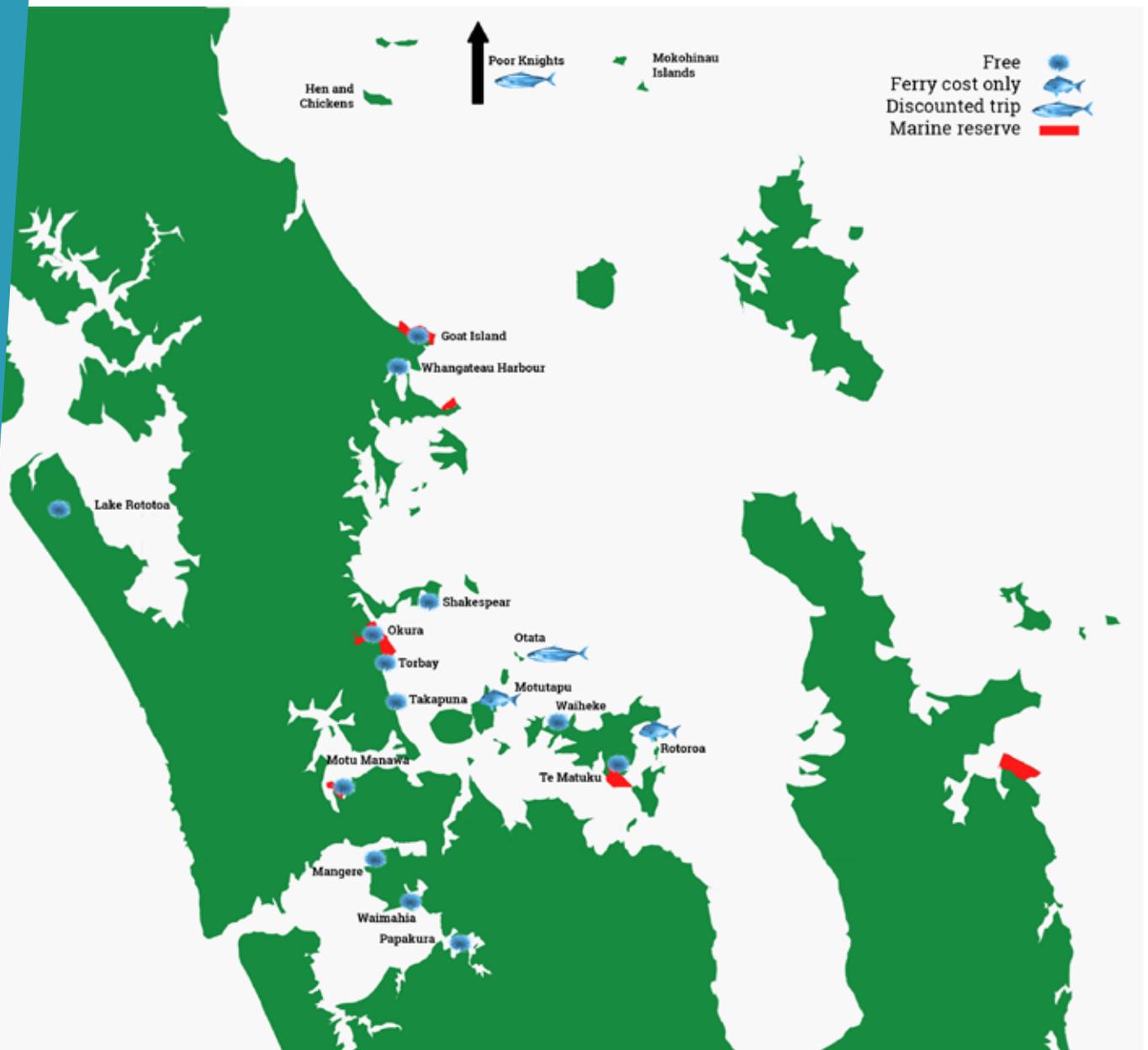
After every event we have debriefs with staff and volunteers to discuss how we can keep improving participants' experiences. We continue to implement volunteer and participant suggestions into our new event procedures. This has allowed us to become incredibly efficient in how we run events and also allows us to engage more people. A highlight of last season being the Rototoa Lake Snorkel/Kayak Day and our South Auckland Kayak days.

Location	Date	Number
Volunteer Training Days	08/08/2020 10/10/2020	50
Mangere Kayak Day	9/19/2020	55
Poor Knights Adventure Snorkels	18/10/2020 15/05/2021	85
Waimahia Kayak Day	31/10/2020	52
Shakespear Snorkel Day	7/11/2020	168
Whangateau Snorkel Day	8/11/2020	79
Rotoroa Snorkel Day	28/11/2020	74
Torbay Snorkel Day	6/12/2020	151
Waiheke Snorkel Day	9/01/2021	161
Te Matuku Guided Paddle	10/01/2021	22
Motutapu Snorkel Day	16/01/2021	162
Okura Kaitiaki Kayak Day	14/02/2021	70
Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel	21/03/2021	14
Papakura Guided Paddle	27/03/2021	36
Takapuna Snorkel Day	14/03/2021	100
Goat Island Snorkel Day	13/03/2021	217
Rototoa Snorkel/Kayak Day	28/03/2021	89
Motu Manawa Kayak Days	18/04/2021 02.05.2021	98
Total		1,683





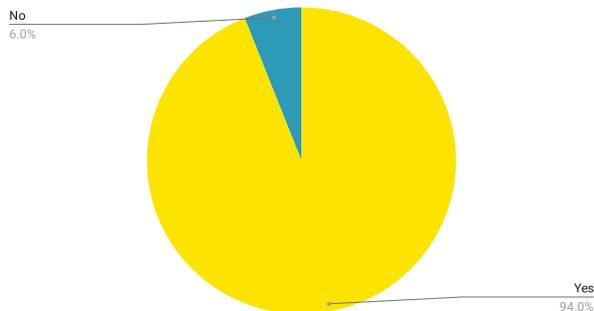
Map of events within Tipaka Moana - The Hauraki Gulf



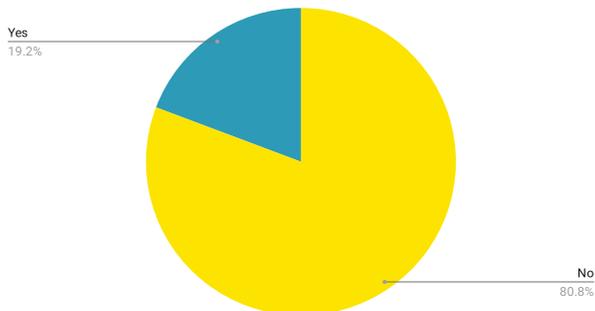
Overview of all events

From our evaluations, we had 635 responses from the 19 events. Our uptake of evaluations continues to be strong due to having dedicated tent based volunteers with clipboards ensuring we capture as many people as possible. 100% of participants enjoyed their experience!

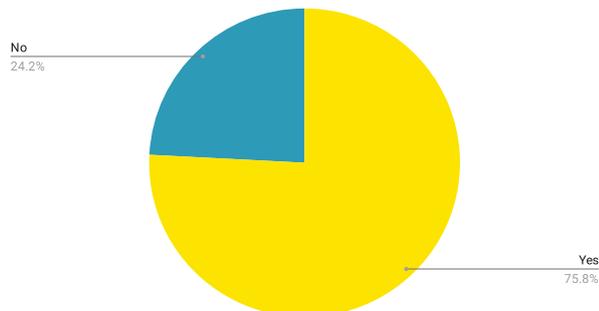
Has your marine conservation knowledge increased?



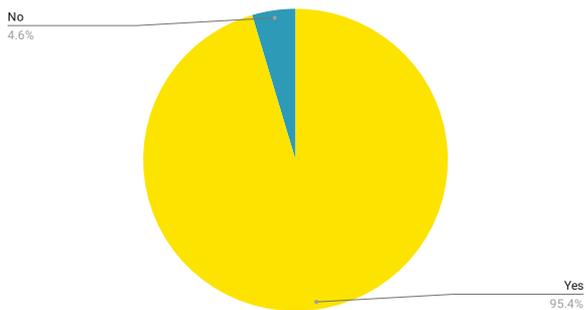
Have you snorkelled/kayaked here before today?



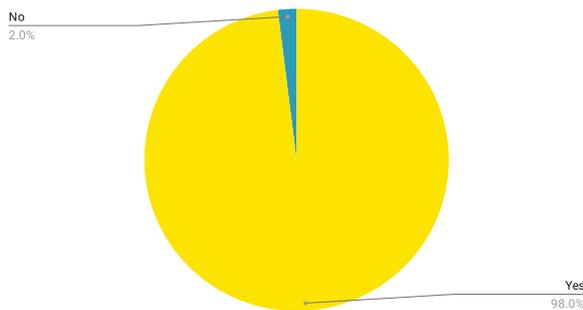
Have you snorkelled/kayaked before today?



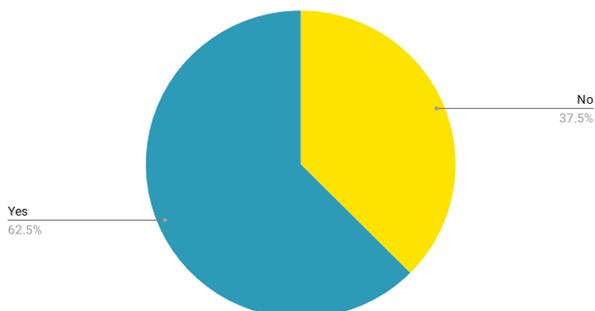
Did you learn anything new today?



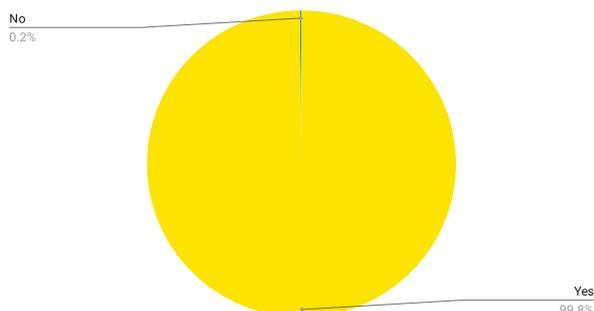
Would you snorkel/kayak in this area again?



Is this your first EMR event?

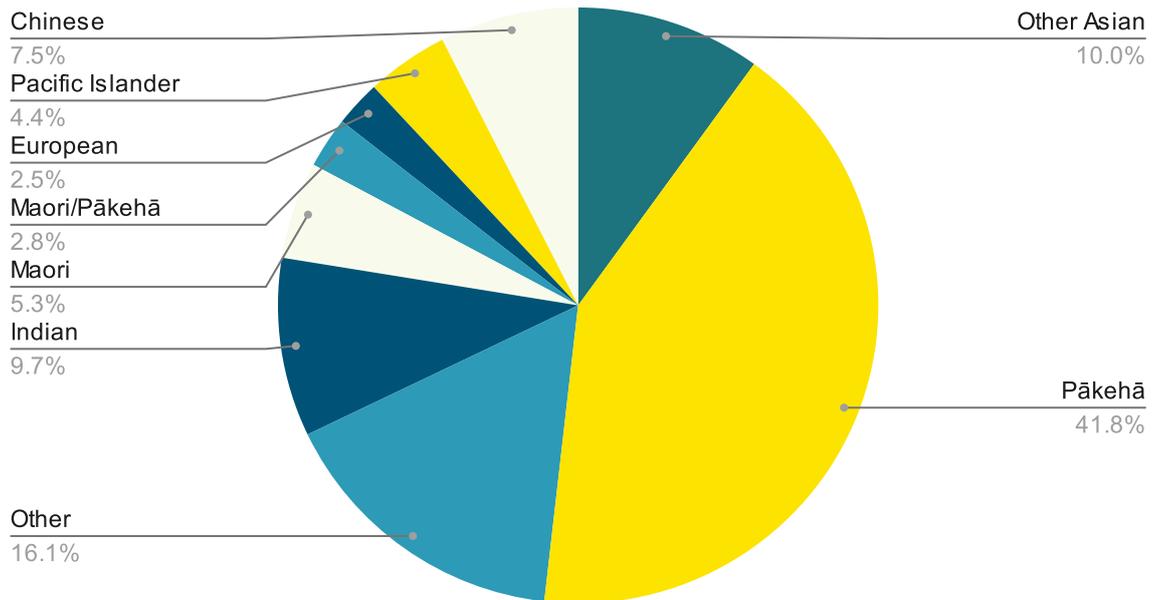


Did you feel safe today?

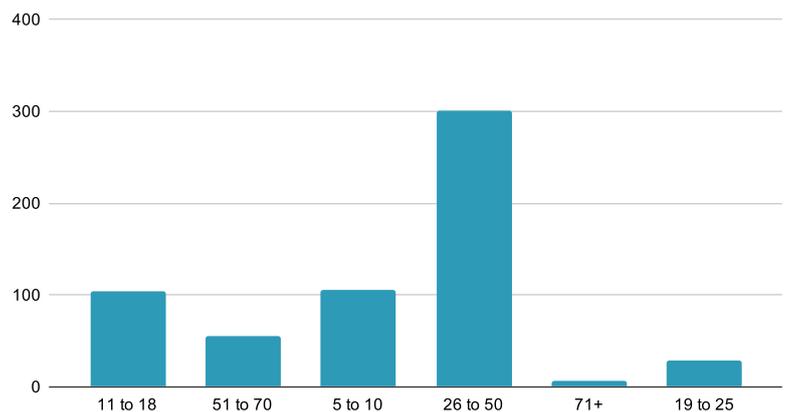


We had a total of 49 different ethnicities attend our events. This is a breakdown of the 9 most common. We would like to continue to increase Māori and Pacifica engagement in our events in the 2021/22 season.

What ethnicity do you identify as?



Age demographics



For the 2020/21 season we were underrepresented in the 19-25 and 51-70 age ranges. We would like to increase participation in these age ranges for our next events season, in order to reach a wider Auckland audience.



Mangere Kayak Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
04.10.2020	48	7	Lorna Doogan Ella Walmsley Teschna Christie

We had a stunning day out in the water for our first kayak day on the Manukau Harbour. Thanks to our partnership with Friends of the Farm we were able to really focus on local engagement and have extra land based activities set up for participants to interact with. With the help of Auckland Sea Kayaks, locals were able to explore Māngere Bridge from a different perspective. Participants enjoyed observing the local Māngere wildlife and learning about the freshwater environment through Whitebait Connection.

Emma Ala'alatoa-Dale | Amazing! Thank you! It was amazing seeing our harbour from a different view.

- After participating in this event Emma and her two daughters were inspired to start volunteering with us for the rest of the season.

Corrine Cameron | Loved getting on our local water and learning about the mangroves and precious shore birds. Thank you!!



Photo credit: Lorna Doogan

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
08.08.2020 and 10.10.2020	-	50	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée



Photo credit: Stephen Murphy

We had a great turn for both volunteer training days for the 2020/21 season. We continue to attract a diverse range of volunteers from varying demographics, which is awesome to see. We also had many senior guides from our previous season assist in the water, which helped both sessions run very smoothly. A big thank you to the Dolphin Underwater Club for the use of their awesome clubroom.

Quote from Nakita Daniels trip report | “It was a chilly, overcast morning on October the 10th. Still, as we entered the upstairs meeting room of the Dolphin Underwater Club, overlooking a choppy Lake Pupuke, we were met with bright faces and warm smiles. As everyone settled in, introductions and favourite marine animals filled the air. We hummed and awwed in agreement- octopus and nudibranch among the fan favourites. The ice was broken, and we were ready to take on the day ahead. Sophie started with a presentation on Experiencing Marine Reserves. We listened and learned, wide-eyed, about the history and mission behind the programme and the Mountain to Sea - Nga Maunga ki te Moana - umbrella trust. The trust that supports and sustains EMR, allowing over a hundred thousand kiwis, from a range of schools and communities to engage with and experience the big blue. The big blue. The ocean. Te Moana. The body that connects lands and people alike. It’s what brought us together that day, sharing in a common passion of conservation, education and action.”

Poor Knights Adventure Snorkels

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
18.10.2020 and 15.05.2021	68	17	Sophie Journée Oliver Bone

Marama Hune | “Guides knowledge amazing, skippers knowledge and stories awesome. Ollie is the man! Learnt heaps off him”

Victoria Hartley Pollard | “Blooming heck, I’ve never seen so many fish! And I’ve never seen snapper that big!”

Harriet Hartley Pollard | “There are no words that can quite describe how absolutely amazing it was to get to see all the different fish. The seal, whale and variety of seabirds were all special to see.”



We could not have asked for a better way to kick off our snorkel days for the 2020/21 season than with a breathtaking exploration of Tawhiti Rahi, Poor Knights Islands. With our original intention being to get out to the Mokohinau Islands the sea had different plans, sending us instead to explore a little closer to shore, but no less spectacular of a location. On our journey out to Tawhiti Rahi, we were greeted by a playful pod of dolphins riding the wake of the boat. With a shorter distance to travel we found ourselves with extra time to explore multiple sites around the islands. A big highlight of the day was the spotting of a majestic mola mola (sunfish) basking in the sunlight, huge schools of demoiselles, blue mao mao, trevally and much more!



We also finished our EMR events season with an adventure filled exploration of Tawhiti Rahi, Poor Knights Islands. We had some incredibly clear waters to explore the world famous blue mao mao arch in all it's glory! Participants were blown away by the colours and abundance of wildlife on display. As an extra special treat we were also visited by a bryde's whale and a couple of kekeno (fur seals).

We also had our top 10 EMR volunteers from this season along to help guide people through the water. Together these volunteers have dedicated over 600 hours to helping show people the wonders of our moana. Ka pai team you are epic!

A big thank you to Dive! Tutukaka for hosting us on Perfect Day and to the Bobby Stafford Bush Foundation for their continual support of our snorkel days. We were also able to offer four sponsored spots for well deserving rangatahi thanks to a private donor.



Waimahia Kayak Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
31.10.2020	48	4	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie

We had a great turn out for our first ever Waimahia Kayak Day! We were super excited to get back out exploring the Manukau Harbour, this time in the Pahurehure inlet. Participants got treated to a multitude of wildlife including, kotare (kingfisher), kāruhiruhi (pied shag), matuku moana (white faced heron), tara (white fronted tern), tākapu (gannet) and even a petrel, which are rare to see so close to shore. Whilst taking a break in one of the sheltered bays EMR shared a few fun mangrove facts and talked about some of the challenges facing this environment and how we are able to help restore and protect these extremely important habitats. Thank you again to our partners at Auckland Sea Kayaks who did an amazing job at keeping our participants safe on the water and teaching many of them a new skill.

Omar Taniwa | "I really liked hearing about the environment and the life of mangroves. Great kayak instruction too. Very enjoyable, please keep coming out into South/Manukau area!"

Imogen Ezard | "It was a very fun experience! Really enjoyed something we've never done before. Thank you."

Quote from Victoria Hartley Pollard's trip report | "After a week of glorious sunshine and blue skies Halloween dawned overcast with a bit of a chilly breeze. The first group of participants arrived on time and were soon out on the Pahurehure Inlet being guided by Sophie and assisted by Nick, Mitch and Tom from Auckland Sea Kayaks. Whilst they were on the water, Caroline taught Teschna and Harriet how to weave flax fish, and then Harriet taught them how to weave flowers. Also during this time Hunter and his Mum collected 2 bags of rubbish whilst they waited for Dad and Big Sister to return to shore. Sophie gave such an inspiring talk about the mangroves on this trip that several participants just had to go and take a closer look at them. Back on dry land several of the participants then tried their hands at weaving flax."



Photo credit: Teschna Christie

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
07.11.2020	150	18	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Ella Walmsley



We had a beautiful day for our annual Shakespear Snorkel Day. We were able to take 168 people through the water at Te Haruhi Bay. Triple fins, starfish, nudibranchs and more were spotted throughout the day! Our amazing volunteer guides and safety kayakers did a spectacular job of teaching many participants to snorkel for the first time! Whilst people were exploring the bay we also had Whitebait Connection sharing their freshwater knowledge on land.

Sudhir Rawat | “Had a brilliant experience. Coaches Margaret and Justyna were awesome. They shared their knowledge with us. My kids loved it”

Corrine Cameron | “Very supportive. I am senior and afraid but the team made me so comfortable and safe. Thank you! Excellent job/event”

Cooper Smith (7) | “Seeing all the sealife was amazing!!”

Whangateau Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
08.11.2020	58	21	Sophie Journée Ella Walmsley



Te Arawa Matua | "Cool to see all the schools of fish on the reef, our guide was awesome and showed us the best spots!"

Harvey Powell | "Olivia was a fantastic (and very patient!) instructor for our whole whanau. We love EMR days!"

Sophie Rodgers | "Was really special seeing my 5 year old snorkel for the first time, he loved it!!"

We got lucky this weekend with the perfect window of weather for our Whangateau Snorkel Day on Sunday, held in memory of the late Dr Roger Grace. Roger was a founding trustee of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust and spent many hours in the estuary doing his PhD research in 1966, pioneering science by SCUBA diving. Last year the Roger Grace Memorial Fund was created to continue to make waves for marine conservation.

58 participants joined us on Sunday to explore the mangrove forests and sandstone reefs of Whangateau harbour. Whilst making our way out to the reef, snorkellers spotted hairy crabs, curious mantis shrimps, filtering anemones and weaving snail highways. After crossing the sandy flats of the harbour the reef started to reveal itself, with draping Neptune's necklace and schools of parore and spotties. On our way back to shore we stopped by the mangroves so we could get up close and personal with these important ocean loving trees. We saw barnacles waving their fronds in mesmerising patterns and marvelled at the cave-like structures formed by the trunks and roots of the mangroves.



The event provides an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of mangrove forests as fish nurseries and to prevent coastal erosion, while immersing them in the habitat. We also covered the cockle closure and what that marine protection means in relation to water clarity.

Huge thank you to the Whangateau Holiday Park for providing accommodation for the volunteers and crew and of course to our amazing volunteers for guiding many new participants through the wonders of the Whangateau Harbour.



Torbay Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
06.12.2020	134	17	Sophie Journée Ella Walmsley Teschna Christie

The sun was out in full force for our annual Torbay Snorkel Day. We took 151 people snorkelling around the tor spotting triplefins, nudibranchs, sweep, spotties, pipefish and one of the biggest stingray we have ever seen!!! Whilst participants were waiting for a guide we also had a freshwater education stall set up by Whitebait Connection, teaching people about how to protect their local waterways and the precious life that lives in them.

Taryn and Charlie | “We saw so many fish we didn’t know about before; spotties, triplefins, jellies and starfish. We are keen rockpoolers but this was a whole other level.”

Zoe Jones | “Great, amazing, friendly. Kids felt so good and they want to come back again and again”

Mathew Cramond | “Very cool event for people who can’t go out by themselves. Keiran was super amazing!”



Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
28.11.2020	64	10	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie



We had a stellar day exploring the beautiful Rotoroa Island. 74 participants enjoyed a sunshine-filled day discovering what lives above and below the water in this special part of Tikapa Moana. Spotties, parore, kina, eagle rays, pipefish and more were spotted throughout the day. Rotoroa Island Trust did an amazing job of hosting us on the island, and was able to offer guided walks for participants in between snorkelling sessions. Participants were blown away by the amount of restoration that has been achieved on the island. However this left many of them pondering why the same restoration and protection hasn't been extended to the surrounding coastline. A big thank you to Fullers 360 for sponsoring our volunteer's ferry tickets and subsidising participant tickets.

Setu Raman Agarwal | "The volunteers were awesome, helpful and friendly. Especially Margaret - she shared her experience and knowledge and made us aware."

Tom Ferguson | "Great excuse to come to Rotoroa Island. Always enjoy finding new, safe places to snorkel."

Kelly Antao | "Friendly guides + organised event + amazing weather = great trip!"

Waiheke Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
09.01.2021	146	15	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Koha Kahui McConnell

This year marked our 10th annual snorkel day at Enclosure Bay, Waiheke. We were able to take 161 people through the water in this iconic part of Waiheke's coastline. With over half of the participants having not snorkelled at Enclosure Bay before, everyone said they would like to snorkel there again. This was clearly evident with some participants signing up for a second session! Starting off inside the calm bay, groups ventured out past the reef wall where they were treated to a kelp forest full of life. Highlights included seeing a squad of squid, short tail stingray, schools of piper, friendly sweep, spotties, snapper, parore starfish and kina living amongst the kelp forest.

Aimee Gifford | "This was one of the best experiences our kids have had in the ocean! It was well organised and the dive instructors were awesome. Big thanks to Lucia and Emma who did a fantastic job giving the kids confidence and a truly awesome experience!! We are off to buy our own snorkelling gear so we can continue exploring."

Joel Williams (6) | "I saw baby squid! I enjoyed watching and swimming through the seaweed, and feeling the seaweed on my face as I dived down!"

Nicola Manning | "Great staff! The event was awesome -the annual highlight on Waiheke."



Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
10.01.2021	20	2	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie



For the fourth year, we ventured to the less inhabited eastern end of Waiheke Island to run a guided paddle in the Te Matuku marine reserve. Starting the tour on an indiscriminate grassy field, the entry point for this adventure doesn't look like much. However, with a little wading through the mud, participants found themselves at the top end of Te Matuku estuary. With the help of SUP Waiheke, two groups got the opportunity to meander their paddle boards through the winding channel of mangroves. Participants spotted kotare and piwakawaka flying overhead and mullet, snapper and eels splashing below the water. As the channel widened, participants rafted up their boards to learn more about the marine reserve and the importance of mangrove ecosystems for shore birds and juvenile fish. Even though over half of the participants live on Waiheke, most had never explored the Te Matuku marine reserve before!

Lydia Bernard | "Cannot thank the team enough for taking the time to show us the joy of paddle boarding! An amazing experience - felt super safe and loved enjoying something new."

Karen Denyer | "Such a privilege to be able to enjoy our beautiful island. Thanks!!"

Lola Hadzikanc | "I loved everything. And enjoyed hearing information about the area."

Motutapu Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
16.01.2021	144	18	Sophie Journée Ella Walmsley Koha Kahui McConnell

What a spectacular day we had for our fifth annual Motutapu Snorkel Day! 144 participants were treated to perfect snorkelling conditions, allowing them to explore what lies beneath the surface at Administration Bay. Snorkellers witnessed an abundance of marine life including tāmure (snapper), whai repo (eagle rays), parore, spotties, nudibranchs, squid and more! With the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp as our amazing hosts, there was also plenty for participants to do on land, including flying fox rides, bush walks and even delicious hot food put on by their awesome volunteers! The Motutapu Restoration Trust was also on hand to open up Reid Homestead to our visitors so they could learn more about the history of the island, as well as providing conservation fun facts. A big thank you to Fullers for subsidising our ferry and getting us safely to the island and back.

Tina Feringa | “Highly organised day. Good communication/information throughout the day. It was interesting learning about the ecosystem of kelp-kina-snapper-human.”

Trevor Avery | “So many highlights, the boat trip to Motutapu, exploring Administration Bay, hearing the children’s excited voices of fish sightings! A wonderful way to introduce people to snorkelling and marine conservation. Loved the food and flying fox and museum offerings also.”



Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
14.02.2021	65	5	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Koha Kahui McConnell

We got super lucky and were able to run our annual Okura Kaitiaki Day before the bad weather and lockdown set in. 70 people were treated to a stunning day exploring the Okura marine reserve by kayak and SUP. Sharp eyed participants spotted fish jumping, shore birds nesting and matuku hunting, whilst being treated to guided talks about the conservation value of this marine reserve.

A big thank you to our event partners Mission Bay Water Sports and Canoe and Kayak for keeping us safe on the water and sharing some great local knowledge with our participants.



Hayden Schnelling | "It was really fun. The guide had wonderful knowledge of such a beautiful place."

Lisa Brenner | "I really enjoyed the kayak tour and little lesson about our surroundings and the origins of the reserve."

Rahana Mohammed | "Thank you, it was awesome. Will definitely try this out on our own again. Thank you for creating this platform."

Goat Island Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
13.03.2021	202	15	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Koha Kahui McConnell

To celebrate the end of Seaweeek we took 217 people exploring New Zealand's oldest marine reserve, Goat Island. Huge snapper, red moki, sting rays, leather jackets, kahawai, piper and much more were spotted throughout the day. Our incredible volunteer team had become absolute pros at getting people kitted up and guided through the water, which meant we could get a record number of participants exploring this iconic marine reserve. For most participants this was their first time experiencing a protected reef, and many were blown away by the diversity of life under the water. The event was also able to run smoothly thanks to the support of the Marine Discovery Center and the use of their water and grassed area.

Maelee Sotome | "I didn't know the fish and stingrays could get so big!"

Lani Dodds | "Amazing event. Great opportunity to try something we wouldn't usually do. Loved everything about it"

Priya Bhikha | "So many fish! Beginner and little kid friendly. Amazing that guides could take non-swimming adults and kids to experience the incredible underwater world"



Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
14.03.2021	90	10	Sophie Journée Elle Gibson Kimberley D'Souza

Despite COVID postponements we were finally able to have our annual Takapuna Snorkel Day. We took 100 people exploring this unique volcanic reef right in the heart of Auckland. With calm seas and clear waters it was the perfect day to discover what lies beneath the waves. Many people enjoyed exploring the ocean with a snorkel for the first time, which is always rewarding to see! Our awesome volunteer guides pointed out goatfish, triplefins, spotties, parore, cushion stars and even an eagle ray!



Luzaan Goussaard | "Our guide Stephen was very supportive and kind and friendly. Highly recommended this experience. It was my 10 year old daughter's first snorkel. Amazing and great experience. Thank you!"

Rahma Yasser | "It was wonderful and I felt very safe. I really enjoyed snorkelling for the first time"

Sherin Shamia | "My daughter and I had an amazing experience with our tour guide - both fun and educational."

Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
21.03.2021	13	1	Sophie Journée

14 lucky ocean lovers joined us for our second ever Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel. Thanks to Auckland Sea Shuttles we were able to journey to the stunning Otata Island. Hosted by the Neureuter family we explored both the land and the sea surrounding this small island in the Hauraki Gulf. We were treated to a myriad of different ocean critters including snapper, parore, comb jellies, eagle rays and more! Whilst taking a break from our watery adventures we were shown the great conservation efforts being undertaken on the island to restore biodiversity.

A big thank you to the Neureuter whānau for sharing a wealth of knowledge and inspiring our participants to help look after and restore Tīkapa Moana (Hauraki Gulf). We were also able to offer 3 sponsored spots for rangatahi, thanks to a private donor.

Shruti Suvarna | "We saw heaps of cool stuff (jellyfish, spotty, prore, triplefin, snapper, starfish). Sophie and Olivia were awesome. Beautiful undisturbed island. Thank you EMR for the opportunity!"

Josie McNelly | "It's amazing to get the chance to come to Otata! Thanks so much to Sophie, Olivia, Sue, Zoe, Rod and Gordon for the excellent guiding and hospitality"

Stacey Corburn | "What an amazing experience on our doorstep, and to have the island family show us their island was very special"



Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
27.03.2021	34	2	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie

Our first ever Papakura Paddle Day was a great success with 36 people joining us for a guided kayak of Slippery Creek in the Manukau Harbour. The highlights of the day were seeing the elegant royal spoonbills in flight and a colony of pied shags sunning themselves. Whilst kayaking next to the mangroves participants learnt about the wildlife that calls the Manukau its home and some of the challenges facing this critical habitat. Auckland Sea Kayaks were on hand to impart their kayaking expertise and to keep everyone safe on the water and as an added bonus the Coastguard were also running a family day, so our participants could get some extra water safety knowledge.



Photo credit: Teschna Christie

Yasser Moussa | "Thank you very much. I felt very safe and learnt a lot!"

Tori Walker | "Thoroughly enjoyable. Great to experience a new area of Auckland and learn about the environment here."

Jaymie Turner | "The EMR team is simply amazing, the event itself was awesome and you will be seeing us again for sure!"

Lake Rototoa Kayak and Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
28.03.2021	77	12	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Ella Walmsley



Mollie Bertucci | “So much knowledge and info regarding the lake. Really appreciate the staff for being passionate and sharing some of their knowledge”

Leo Lin | “Amazing experience and learnt a lot of new stuff. Enjoyed a lot. Thanks team”

Angie Bickerstaff | “I learned about mussels and their life cycle, plants and water health, it was really fascinating!”

Our first ever Auckland based lake event was a great success with 89 people exploring Rototoa Lake by kayak and snorkel. Freshwater experts from Aotearoa Lakes, Check Clean Dry and Whitebait Connection were on hand to share important conservation knowledge about this fragile dune lake. Many locals also added their own knowledge to the korero. Auckland Sea Kayaks did an awesome job of keeping everyone safe whilst on top of the water and our awesome volunteer snorkel guides showed participants what was going on under the surface.



Whilst waiting for a kayak or snorkel participants were able to explore our land based stalls set up by RIMU and South Kaipara Landcare, learning even more about the lake biodiversity and the local pest trapping efforts. Our hope with these lake events is to raise awareness for these extra special freshwater habitats as well as sharing ways we can help protect and restore these critical environments.

A big thanks to all organisations that contributed to this celebration of Lake Rototoa, including Check, Clean Dry, Aotearoa Lakes, Auckland Sea Kayaks, RIMU, Whitebait Connection, South Kaipara Landcare and Ngāti Whatua o Kaipara.



Motu Manawa Kayak Days

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
18.04.2021 and 02.05.2021	96	2	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie



Liz Taylor | "Loved learning how to ID all the birds and learning more about the history of the marine reserve."

Talanoa | "This event was awesome, the EMR team were super friendly and welcoming and I especially loved the acknowledgement of tangata whenua in the beginning."

Farren Chankau | "Such a fun experience and great knowledge about the marine reserve. Nice to finally explore what I see from the motorway."

We had a blast out on the water for our last two kayak days of the season at Motu Manawa Marine Reserve. 98 people were treated to a guided paddle through Auckland's most central marine reserve. Some groups got lucky with low winds and were able to make it all the way out to Pollen Island to explore this rare coastal habitat. The other groups took shelter from the building wind in the inner part of the marine reserve, meandering through the mangroves and observing the kāruhiruhi (pied shag) diving for their lunch. Other highlights included seeing a flock of poaka (pied stilts) gliding above us and matuku moana (white faced herons) hunting amongst the mangroves.



During their guided tour participants also learnt about the challenges facing this critical marine environment and ways we can help protect and restore these habitats. Despite being New Zealand's most visited marine reserve (with a major motorway running through it) most Aucklanders do not know it exists. This is one of the main reasons we run these kayaking events, so that we can help raise awareness of this protected part of our local coastline and to make sure people are respecting this very important protected status. Our ongoing partnership with Auckland Sea Kayaks has meant that we are able to explore sites that we can't take people snorkelling in!



Mountains to Sea School Programme

We have delivered our Mountains to Sea school programme to 11 schools this season, reaching a total of 1004 students and 238 adults. This is a fully funded programme that is targeted to schools that would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience this type of hands-on learning. From the moment we did our first theory session these schools were bursting with enthusiasm and willingness to soak up as much knowledge as they could. Coordinators from EMR, WBC and Para Kore Ki Tāmaki came together to introduce the students to marine and freshwater biodiversity as well as the potential impacts humans are having on these environments. Through their theory sessions in the classroom and their local investigations to beaches, mangroves and streams these students slowly started to gain a greater understanding of some of the challenges facing their local environment.



To compare their local environments to a protected site these students travelled to Goat Island Marine Reserve to discover some of the benefits of protection and to witness the ocean in its more natural state. Many of these students will have never been to a marine reserve before and in fact many students had never even swam in the ocean before. This was evident in their squeals of delight as they saw the underwater world for the first time. Utilizing these local and marine reserve experiences the students then started to workshop and come up with action projects that would help protect, restore and enhance their local marine and freshwater ecosystems. Many students found that waste was a key issue for them and their community and set about creating initiatives and raising awareness for reducing waste in the environment. Other students noticed a distinct lack of biodiversity and water quality in their local area and thus centred their action projects around environmental monitoring and community volunteering. We were really impressed with how driven and passionate these students were and how they wharnessed their skills in other areas like art, music and technology to create some woutstanding actions.





Papatoetoe West School

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
3 & 4 2020	240	20	Sophie Journée Lorna Doogan Teschna Christie Kimberley D'Souza

Action Highlights:

This being Papatoetoe West's third year doing the EMR programme, we are always blown away with how engaged the students are with their action projects. Two of the students started as early as August 2020, designing posters and placing them around school to help encourage support in students and parents for more marine reserves in their local rohe. These students then went on to create a website full of original resources and videos to educate people on ocean issues and how to help. Another student organised a school mufti-day to raise funds for EMR to give another school the opportunity to participate in the programme, raising \$600!

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2021	60	24	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Ella Walmsley Koha Kahui McConnell

Action project Highlights:

Student actions included the design and creation of litter traps to install on their school drains to prevent rubbish from entering the stormwater. These student designed traps were also supported with the installation of professional Litta Traps. Students will use these to audit rubbish entering the stormwater from their school, with the target area being the parent carpark, which they noticed was a hotspot for littering. Some students put their movie making skills to work to create a film about looking after the local environment, called Kaitiaki Kid. This was made to help inspire younger students to change their behaviours around littering and to get more students becoming future kaitiaki. Another student is fundraising to get a rain tank for their school so they can water their community garden and help divert water from overloaded stormwater pipes.

"I felt inspired to create new rubbish signs for our schools bins so that more students sort their rubbish properly and less goes to landfill" Stanhope Rd student





Orakei School

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2021	60	17	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Kimberley D'Souza

Action project Highlights:

Several students at Orakei school decided to focus their action projects on Tikapapa Moana's declining biodiversity. A pair of students created a petition to ban unsustainable fishing practices like dredging and trawling in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, managing to get over 800 signatures! The school is also wanting to continue to monitor Okahu Bay's biodiversity through MM2 surveys.

"This is my second time with EMR. It was amazing the first time and outstanding the second. I enjoyed that there were multiple instructors and collaborators involved the second time round. The time table was full but all complimented each other. Thank you for all your hard work and effort." Jane Farrelly, Orakei teacher

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2021	60	15	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Kimberley D'Souza

Action project Highlights:

A group of students from Meadowbank school created a beautiful mural that will be displayed in their community garden. It is to encourage students and community members to be more mindful of our oceans. Another student used his skills in technology to create a replica pacific garbage patch with interactive facts about different types of ocean pollutants. A big initiative for the whole school as a result of the Mountains to Sea programme was to try and have plastic free lunches. This inspired one action project group to start making beeswax wraps to sell to parents and students as an alternative to plastic wrap. The funds they raised from selling these beeswax wraps was donated to shark research and advocacy groups.

“I loved organising a big beach clean up for my community to help protect our local marine life from plastic pollution”
Meadowbank student





Mangere Bridge School

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
3 & 4 2020	136	50	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Ella Walmsley

Action project Highlights:

One Māngere Bridge student centered their action project around an endangered native fish, the giant kokopu, that calls their local stream, Te Ararata, home. He organised community stream and beach cleanups and volunteered with Friends of Te Aratata to help monitor water quality and carry out fish surveys to monitor the Giant Kokopu population. Another group of creative students made a dolphin sculpture that was displayed in their school's reception, made out of rubbish collected around the school.

"The EMR programme has made me feel inspired to help marine animals so we can have a beautiful world with lots and lots of fishes." Māngere Bridge student

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
3 & 4 2020	100	30	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Ella Walmsley

Action project Highlights:

Wesley Primary students got the whole school involved in their action project exhibition day. They invited their local community to come along so they could share what they had been working hard on all throughout term 3 and 4. Some standout actions included a group of students that had built a litter picking robot that could travel up and down a stream removing waste from their waterways. Another student had learnt how to make useful household items out of recycled plastic milk bottles, through the help of his technology teacher and the use of their Intermediate School’s plastic pressing machine. Some students also created a video and letter to help convince Fonterra to change their milk packaging in schools to more sustainable alternatives.





Te Papapa School

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2021	100	30	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Koha Kahui McConnell

Action project Highlights:

Te Papapa students used their passion for music to create several songs and raps to educate their community on ocean pollution and how to become kaitiaki of their moana. One student also created a school enviro group, with their focus being to audit how much rubbish the school creates and where it ends up. They organise weekly school clean ups and help encourage students to bring plastic free lunches.

“I want to help people to stop polluting so we can have more fish in the ocean”
- Te Papapa student

“Could not speak any more highly of this programme. Highest form of learning - really hands on and provided experiences that the students have never had before.”
- Tiffany Driver, Te Papapa teacher

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2021	60	28	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Kimberley D'Souza

Action project Highlights:

Students from St Joseph's focused most of their actions around reducing the use of single use items in their community. One action project group created flyers that they distributed into people's mailboxes and handed out to local coffee shops.

The flyers were to encourage people to use keepcups when getting their morning coffee. The school is also continuing to plant around their local stream in the Pourewa Valley to help absorb runoff from the land before it enters the waterways.

"I now believe that it is important for the sealife as well as us to protect our oceans." Orakei St Joseph's student





Glen Innes School

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2021	60	6	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Ella Walmsley Koha Kahui McConnell

Action project Highlights:

During their local investigation, Glen Innes School noticed there was a lot of pollution and rubbish in their local stream. They saw the effect this was having on the life in their stream. So their action projects centred around raising awareness of the eels and fish that lived locally and the impacts rubbish and pollution had on their habitat. Some students wrote letters to local businesses to make more sustainable choices. Other students made posters to put up in the community with ideas of how people can limit their environmental impacts. Glen Innes was also working on a long term video project that will incorporate some of their learnings from the programme.

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2021	60	11	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Ella Walmsley Koha Kahui McConnell

Action project Highlights:

Panama Road School's focus was on reducing waste. They started with a rubbish clean up at their school and turned the waste into beautiful marine themed art. Their creativity did not stop there. The students wrote two raps about the ocean and reducing the amount of plastic waste we produce. These raps were shared with their school and their community. All the students made pledges of how they could reduce their single use plastic. They understood that no one can be perfect but if each person did a small action, that it would become the norm and then it would be easier to grow that action. To reduce waste even more at their school, they began composting food scraps. The compost is now used in their plant nursery. Finally, the students organised a fundraising event where they raised \$219 to support Sea Cleaners.





Point England School

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2021	68	7	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Ella Walmsley Koha Kahui McConnell

Action project Highlights:

Unfortunately because Point England's programme was delayed later into term 2 they ran out of time to complete their action projects. However the students expressed willingness to change some of their own behaviours to help their local environment. Like pledging to not litter and to help their families shop for less plastic items.



Casual snorkel experiences and user paid programmes

In addition to our fully funded programmes we also run casual snorkel experiences and user paid programmes. This helps to supplement our fully funded programmes and allows us to reach more students. These user paid experiences include full EMR programmes, camps, staff professional development, youth programmes and NCEA snorkelling standards. We reached a total of 1,143 people through these experiences.

School/group	Students/ participants	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR Crew
Mission Heights Junior College	50	4	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Koha Kahui McConnell
Westminster School	82	14	Sophie Journée
Waiheke High School	55	8	Sophie Journée
TKKM o Piripono	23	10	Sophie Journée
Royal Oak	28	10	Sophie Journée
Hobsonville Point Primary School	23	6	Teschna Christie
Kaipaki School	11	7	Sophie Journée
Warkworth Primary	180	40	Sophie Journée
Whangaparaoa College	232	62	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Koha Kahui McConnell
Westlake Girls High School	22	5	Sophie Journée
Albany Senior High School	25	4	Sophie Journée
ICONZ	45	25	Sophie Journée
St Chad Scouts	29	15	Elle Gibson
Orakei Sea Scouts	43	34	Teschna Christie
Ocean Youth	14	6	Teschna Christie
Woods Engineering	8	-	Teschna Christie
Sustainable Coastlines	23	-	Teschna Christie
Total reach = 1,143			

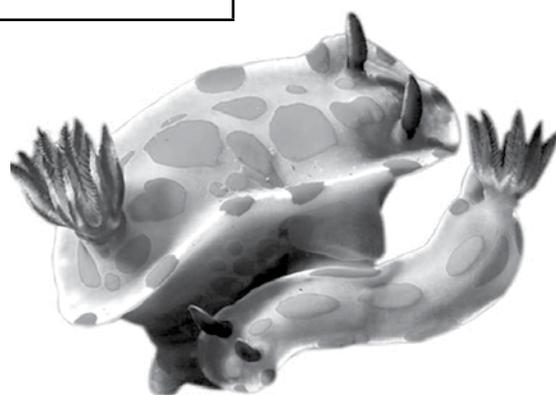


EMR Volunteering

We are exceptionally lucky to have 94 active volunteers contribute to this season, totalling 1789 hours of time! All their hard work and passion is so valuable to our organisation and we greatly appreciate their contribution to creating future kaitiaki for our moana. Over the past 6 years we have worked to develop our volunteer network and to create a culture of learning and fun.

Our top 11 volunteers have contributed 755 hours. They assisted as guides on snorkel days, wrangled boogie boards on the safety kayaks, washed and organised snorkel gear like it was a competitive sport, helped us make ratio on school delivery days, ran social media channels and helped us with trailer maintenance. A special shout out goes to Margaret who has broken the previous volunteer record with her 120 hours of volunteering!

Ranking	Name	Hours
1	Margaret	120
2	Olivia	106
3	Stephen	98
4	Peter	79
5	Katie	57
6	Justyna	56
7	Guilherme	55
8	Victoria	48
9	Harriet	48
10	Jaeda	46
11	Summer	42





Salty 20 year celebration for Experiencing Marine Reserves at the Poor Knights Islands.

This year's twentieth anniversary competition trip Thanks to Dive! Tutukaka and the Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation took place on the 14th May and included students from as far north as Waiharara and as far south as Rakiura - Stewart Island. Students are selected based on their action projects undertaken and enthusiasm they show when studying and experiencing the marine environment.

In addition to the opportunity to represent their school or region for the EMR ACTION prize, we offer the EMR Ocean Art prize. The Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation supports this special prize for young kiwis that have experienced the marine environment with EMR and display that passion and experience through art.

"Action projects included removal of invasive seaweed, citizen science fish surveys, shellfish monitoring, wetland restoration, a mufti day and ocean disco fundraiser, presentations to parents, upcycling waste to furniture, murals and marine artwork on a double decker bus" says EMR founder Samara Nicholas.



We had 34 students and 29 guardians from 25 schools from 7 regions of Aotearoa including Northland, Auckland, Taranaki, Gisborne, Wellington, Nelson and Rakiura (Stewart Island). Special guests included EMR crew and students from the first competition trip twenty years ago. This time Cameron Pene experienced the Poor Knights with his daughter Dylan -Rose. Since 2002, we have taken representatives from 351 schools, totalling 500 students on this annual trip!

On board the vessel 'Perfect Day' our snorkel site this year was the stunning 'Garden's at Maroro Bay, part of the Poor Knights Islands that have been protected by no-take status since 1981. A commotion amongst the boat's crew alerted Ben and Bryce Wigley from Kaingaroa School who were first on the scene for a glimpse of a sunfish before it headed for deeper water. They were treated to a face to face encounter with the charismatic fish and observed its interactions with a group of king fish.

The cave snorkelling experiences were particularly memorable this year. The conditions allowed safe snorkelling through the dark passages of the caves where vast schools of blue maomao lingered. Thousands of two spot demoiselles were feeding on the surface. Participants were delighted to see scorpion fish, black angel fish, massive snapper and friendly sandagers wrasse. A pair of participants commented that their home looks out to the Poor Knights, but they had never before visited the islands. 98% of the Northlanders on board this trip had never been to the Poor Knights before and it was a 100% new experience for those from Auckland and the regions.

“The colours in the cave and how many fish there were, and just like how they swim. One of my highlights was “swimming out of the cave and seeing all the different schools of fish through the blue lights at the entrance.” Rosie Bilkey - Meadowbank School

“It inspired me to do more beach clean-ups’ because there was no rubbish here- and I want the beaches where I swim to look like that. The whole experience was amazing – the colours stood out the most for me. You don’t see that anywhere else. We all felt incredibly safe in the water. The EMR programme has had a lasting effect for many of my students - there were so many inspired kids in my class, and they all felt empowered to take actions.” Polly Stewart (teacher)



Plans for the 2021-22 season

Next season we have 27 events planned for Auckland and a number of Northland events, which the Auckland crew will be assisting on. Due to popularity we will be continuing to run kayak days in the Manukau and we are hoping to run more kayak days in West Auckland as well. The Mokohinau trip will now be run by Yukon, departing from Marsden Cove.

Our team in Auckland now consists of Lorna Doogan, Sophie Journée, Koha Kahui-McConnell, Ella Walmsley and Teschna Christie. We will also be looking to start a rangatahi mentorship programme similar to what has been started in Northland.

Our volunteer base is over 500 and we are looking towards ways to continue to upskill these volunteers to make our snorkel days as interesting and safe as possible. Some of our recent volunteer engagement and training events have been postponed due to COVID, however we are looking forward to getting our volunteer development up and running again soon.

We are continuing to develop partnerships with other marine conservation organisations within Auckland with the hope to run more collaborative events and programmes in the future. We are also working on enhancing our collaboration with mana whenua on marine conservation initiatives and event engagement.



Winter Kayak Series Locations
Cockle Bay Kayak Day
Green Bay Kayak Day
Parua Paddle (West Auckland)
Tahuna Torea Kayak Day
Westhaven Kayak Day
Cornwallis Kayak/Snorkel Day



SNORKEL SERIES 2021-22



Experiencing
Marine Reserves



Te Kura Moana

Experience the wonders of your local marine reserve or marine environment! The EMR programme has planned Community Guided Snorkel & Kayak Days around Auckland & Northland. We provide free hire of all snorkel equipment and provide experienced snorkel guides to lead your discovery.

Koha of cash, online or donations of time volunteering are appreciated for all events.

* Northland

* Auckland

- Poor Knights Snorkel - Fri 15th Oct 
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sun 12th Dec 
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sat 8th Jan 
- Tapotupotu Snorkel - Tue 11th Jan 
- Maitai Snorkel - Thurs 13th Jan 
- Long Beach Snorkel - Sat 22nd Jan 
- Whananaki Snorkel - Sun 23rd Jan 
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sat 12th Feb 
- Pataua Snorkel - Sun 6th Mar 
- Maunganui Snorkel - Sat 12th Mar 
- Waikaraka Kayak - Sun 20th Mar 
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sat 5th Mar 
- Kai Iwi Day Snorkel - Sat 19th Mar 
- Kai Iwi Night Snorkel - Sat 19th Mar 
- Whananaki Paddle - Sat 2nd Apr 
- Mokohinau Snorkel - Sat 30th Apr 
- Poor Knights Snorkel - Sat 14th May 

- Point England Kayak - Sun 24th Oct 
- Shakespear Snorkel - Sat 27th Nov 
- Whangateau Snorkel - Sun 28th Nov 
- Māngere Kayak - Sun 5th Dec 
- Torbay Snorkel - Sat 11th Dec 
- Waiheke Snorkel - Sat 8th Jan 
- Te Matuku Paddle - Sun 9th Jan 
- Rototoa Kayak/Snorkel - Sat 22nd Jan 
- Okura Paddle - Sat 5th Feb 
- Motutapu Snorkel - Sun 6th Feb 
- Inner Gulf Snorkel - Sun 20th Feb 
- Takapuna Snorkel - Sat 26th Feb 
- Torbay Snorkel - Sat 5th Mar 
- Goat Island Snorkel - Sat 12th Mar 
- Papakura Kayak - Sat 19th Mar 
- Rotoroa Snorkel Day - Sat 13th Nov 
- Motu Manawa Kayaks - 9/10th Apr 

Free
Ferry cost only
Discounted trip

* All events are subject to funding approval and date changes

The Bobby Stafford-Bush
FOUNDATION

Please note all events will only run at COVID alert 1 or lower. For COVID event updates, registrations, weather calls and backup dates visit www.facebook.com/emr.mtsct or www.emr.org.nz or contact info@emr.org.nz

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