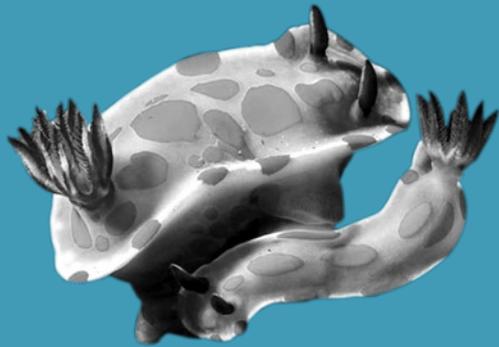




Experiencing  
Marine Reserves

Te Kura Moana



**Experiencing Marine Reserves**  
**Bobby Stafford-Bush**  
**Foundation Report**  
**2019 - 20**

Report prepared by Lorna Doogan on behalf of the  
Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust - *Te Kura Moana*

*All photography by Lorna Doogan unless otherwise stated.*



## Executive Summary – what we achieved with your support

Your support has expanded the opportunities for Community Guided Snorkel and Kayak Day events in the Auckland region. This has been achieved through the leverage of BSB funding to get Auckland Council grants. Due to COVID-19 we ran events later in the season than ever before. Only having to push two events into the 2020-21 season, Goat Island and Rotoroa.

Next season we have 18 events planned for Auckland and a number of Northland & Coromandel events, which the Auckland crew will be assisting on. This includes running 4 kayak events in the Manukau Harbour. These will be our first events in Auckland outside the Hauraki Gulf. Our Mokohinau trips will now be run by Dive! Tutukaka departing from Northland. The Annual Poor Knights Trip has been postponed until December 2020 and next season's will run as planned in May 2021.

Since 2002, EMR has expanded to eight regions, with a team of 27 coordinators. EMR has taken 66,744 people into NZ's marine reserves and over 23,380 people have been engaged in EMR organised marine conservation events. The total number of Kiwis engaged in EMR has now reached **182,471**. During the 2019/20 summer, EMR hosted 43 Community Guided Snorkel and Kayak Days involving **20,516** people around Aotearoa.



## Auckland's Snorkel and Paddle Days

These events have continued to be very popular with the public and the media. The 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 have used the Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation funding to act as a baseline to grow our Auckland events. This has allowed us to have the security to expand and offer new events within the Auckland Region— a highlight of last season being the Inner Gulf Snorkel Day.

Over the years we have refined our procedures and have great resources and equipment that contribute to the smooth operation and success of these events.

Location	Date	Number
Hauturu Snorkel Day	2019-09-21	13
Hauturu Snorkel Day	2019-09-22	13
Motu Manawa Kayak Days	2019-10-06	102
<i>Motuihe Snorkel Day</i>	<i>Wharf out of action</i>	
Shakespear Snorkel Day	2019-11-30	173
Whangateau Snorkel Day	2019-12-01	110
Torbay Snorkel Day	2019-12-07	193
Okura Kaitiaki Kayak Day	2019-12-08	84
Motutapu Snorkel Day	2020-01-11	143
Waiheke Snorkel Day	2020-01-18	190
Te Matuku Guided Paddle	2020-01-19	28
Torbay Snorkel Day 2020	2020-02-01	272
Takapuna Snorkel Day	2020-02-02	242
Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel	2020-02-22	23
<i>Goat Island Snorkel Day</i>	<i>COVID-19</i>	
<i>Rotoroa Snorkel Day</i>	<i>COVID-19</i>	
Tāwharanui/Goat Island	2020-06-06	10
Goat Island Rangatahi	2020-06-07	5
Mokohinau Adventure	2020-06-10	10
Motu Manawa Kayak Days	2020-06-13	100
<i>Aotea Adventure Snorkel</i>	<i>Poor weather</i>	
		<b>1711</b>

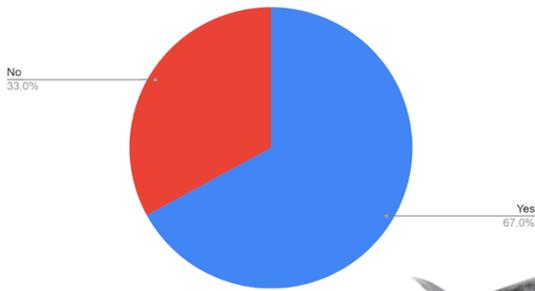


Lorna Doogan

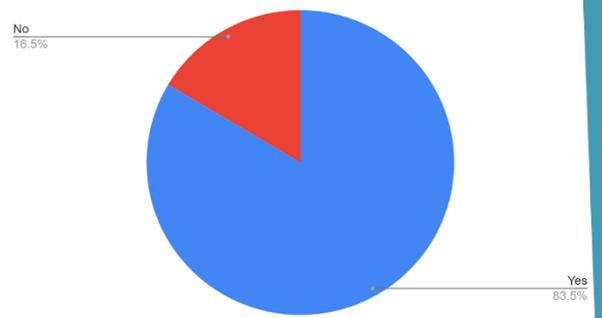
# Map of events within Tīkapa Moana – The Hauraki Gulf



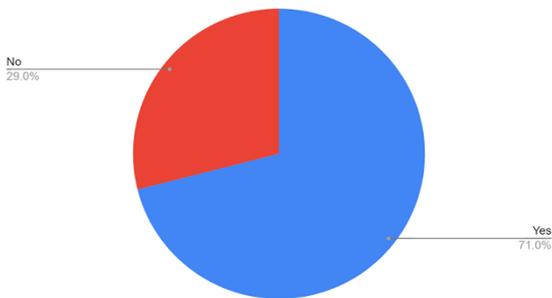
Is this your first EMR event?



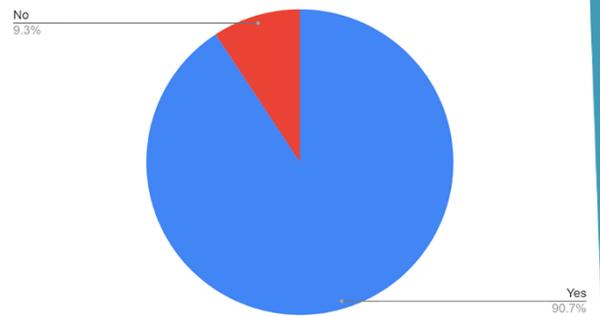
Has your marine conservation knowledge increased?



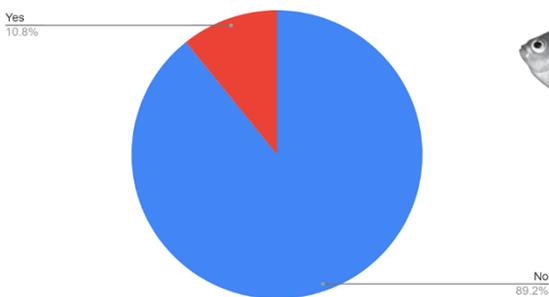
Have you snorkelled before today?



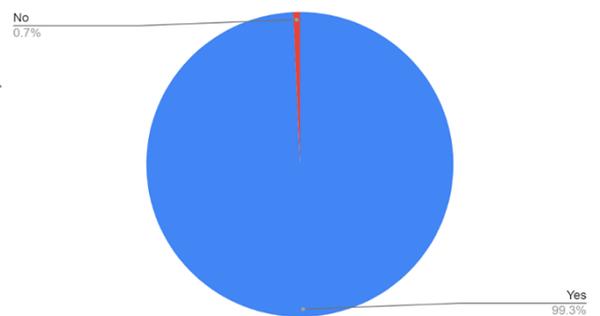
Did you learn anything new today?



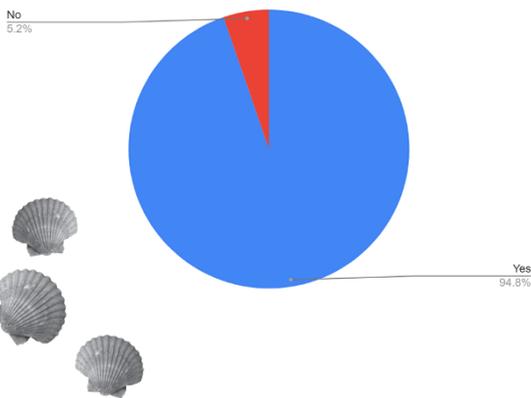
Have you snorkelled here before today?



Did you feel safe today?



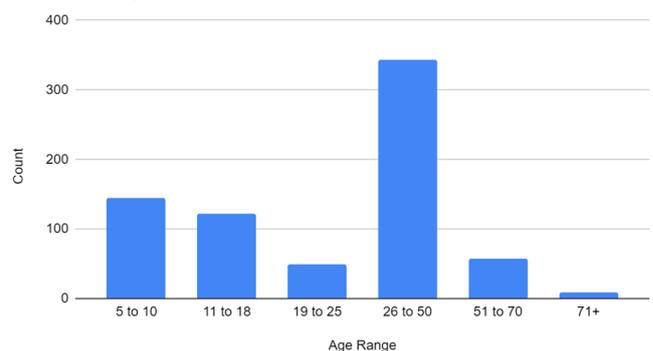
Would you snorkel in this area again?



We had over 40 different ethnicities attend our snorkel days. With Pākehā being most common at 40%, Chinese at 10%, Indian at 8% and European 5%. Next season we would like to continue to target Pasifika and Māori whānau.

Facebook has been the biggest source of advertising for our participants. However this season we have ensured that all our events are live on Eventbrite and EventFinda for those who are not active on social media. More effort for next season needs to be made to advertise within marae, churches and schools.

Count vs. Age Range



## Our team in Auckland

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



**Samara Nicholas**  
National Coordinator | Founder



**Lorna Doogan**  
Deputy National &  
Auckland Regional Coordinator  
*2013 - present*



**Sophie Journée**  
EMR Coordinator  
WBC Coordinator  
*2017 - present*



**Koha Kahui-McConnell**  
Rangatahi Cadet  
*2019 - present*



**Courtney Shaw**  
Assistant Coordinator  
*2018 - 2020*



**Ella Walmsley**  
WBC/EMR Coordinator  
*2019 - present*

We were exceptionally lucky to have had 104 active volunteers in the Auckland region last season. Between them, 1847 hours of time has been volunteered to help make EMR what it is today.



## Hauturu Adventure Snorkels

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
21/22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019	24	2	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée Courtney Shaw

We ran these two snorkel days in conjunction with Gulf Eco Adventures with the best visibility and weather in the past 3 seasons. Both events were funded by BSB. None of the participants or volunteers had ever been to Hauturu before and 35% were new to EMR.

They will be the last trips to Hauturu for the foreseeable future until we find another local operator to get us out there. As Kurt from Gulf Eco Adventures has moved to Northland.

**Deb Bennett** | I brought my 11 year old daughter - we had an absolutley amazing, awesome time. Love this group - we never would have been able to do this with her if not for this trip! Really appreciate the opportunity. Just want to also say how fantastic it is to have such great role models for young girls to look up and aspire to. Lorna & Sophie were so fantastic, my daughter was so impressed with them both and is talking about volunteering! Many thanks.

**Tori Christie** | The lack of species compared to the Poor Knights Islands, clearly shows why there is a great need for marine reserves.



## Trip Reports

Last weekend I had the privilege to participate as a volunteer guide on one of the EMR Adventures, for a day of snorkelling and exploring around Hauturu Island.

The day started with wonderful weather, the best we had in months! The excitement couldn't be higher when we arrived at the snorkelling site and we suddenly see orcas!

Once the orca had continued their journey, we were excited to be able to jump into the water and start exploring around Little Barrier Island. The group of participants were amazing and everybody had some snorkelling (or diving) experience. For this I am grateful, as it eased my first experience of being a volunteer snorkel guide.

We were lucky to see a sting ray, hiwihiwi, and really big red moki (nanua) and diving between the kelp forest in the shallows was amazing, like nothing I have ever seen before.

It was my first time snorkelling in New Zealand's waters, and I feel really lucky that I had the opportunity do it as a volunteer for EMR. I look forward to participating in more adventures and community guided snorkel days!

*- EMR Volunteer / Senior Guide / Marta Ribo*



Sunday 22nd September I joined the EMR team accompanying Lorna, Sophie and 12 snorkelers to Te Hauturu o Toi, Little Barrier Island. Meeting in the Sandspit Wharf car park from 9:30am as our snorkelers registered their arrival and we allocated their kit, double-suited to protect against the cool 16oC waters and freeing our inner penguin.

Kurt, our skipper for the day from Gulf Eco Adventures had the boat ready down by the wharf around 10 and everyone helped with loading at the dock. Very important safety briefings from Lorna and Kurt before launching. Our voyage time was a little over an hour across the Jellicoe Channel passing by Kawau Island, unfortunately spotting no orca or dolphins, but this did provide an opportunity to learn about our new friends as we zipped along the water towards our destination. The Eco Warrior anchored in Waimaomao Bay on the North Eastern side of Little Barrier and out of the southerly wind blowing through.

AND-The-water-was-lush! Visibility was up to 12 meters in places and rich with 'salps'. "Barrel-shaped, planktic tunicates", if you look up on Wikipedia. But it reminded me of clear jelly lollies, on their own or in long chains, floating weightless this invertebrate was everywhere and fun to swim through. Exploring the bay to ourselves, we discovered it was home to eagle rays, red moki, blue mao mao, John Dory, leather jackets, and a few snapper. However while surveying there was a noticeable lack of a lush kelp forest found in our marine reserves, and an abundance of kina.

It surprised me to learn Little Barrier was New Zealand's first nature reserve, established in 1896, but nearly 125 years later the waters surrounding aren't a sanctuary for marine life as the island is for wildlife.

The work EMR does and many other programs like it will hopefully change this one day and it was my pleasure to volunteer a little of my time to this larger cause.

I would like to thank everyone who came along, without our participants EMR can't run the events, without Lorna and Sophie there would be no one to organise it and without Gulf Eco Adventures it would have been a long swim to Little Barrier. (Yes Lorna, I did just steal your joke).

Hope to see you all during the season.

*- EMR Volunteer / Senior Guide / Stephen Murphy*



## Motu Manawa Kayak Days

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
6th October 2019	96	6	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée Courtney Shaw Ella Walmsley Koha Kahui-McConnell
13th June 2020	48	0	
14th June 2020	48	4	

We were able to run 4 events within the Motu Manawa marine reserve this summer which were co-funded by BSB and the Albert-Eden Local Board. Run with the help of Auckland Sea Kayaks. Two of which ended up running simultaneously on the same day due to the weather forecast. Luckily with our new crew capacity we were able to manage 96 people over one day. Our June events were originally planned for April but due to COVID-19 they were pushed late into the season. 80% had never kayaked at Motu Manawa and 97% would like to kayak here again.

**Tim Lok** | It's been a lovely day with the family kayaking at the reserve and learnt some new things about birds and the environment. Let's do this again!

**Many Zhu** | I loved it! Lorna and the team made us feel welcome and taught us so much about the natural environment near our home. It was such a unique experience, thank you!

**Glenn Smyth** | Professionally run, informative, educational and fun. Getting a fresh perspective on a part of Auckland you would normally zoom by in your car.



## Trip Reports

When I arrived at 11am, everything was almost setup and good to go. We had 7 volunteers (Denis, Max, Jack, Caroline, Ella & me). Lorna & Sophie leading the group with Courtney as 2IC. The Saturday event was cancelled due to bad weather and all the participants had to be accommodated in the Sunday event. Auckland Sea Kayaks (ASK) stepped up and organized two sets of crew and equipment. Lorna predicted a wild day, with so many people & trips happening simultaneously.

On the water, the main part, we had people of all ages and sizes on the kayaks having a good time. It was a first EMR event for many of them. We saw a dotterel and few oyster catchers which was pretty cool. I had the opportunity to accompany Lorna (slot 1) & Sophie (slot 3) and their knowledge about marine ecology was astounding. Both kept the crowd engaged, answered questions and intrigued the children to learn more about the environment. Each group had the chance to kayak for about 45mins. The ASK team ensured everyone were safe and having fun.

Meanwhile, on land, Caroline setup an impromptu weaving session with harakeke (flax). It was a runaway hit. Random people who were visiting the park came up to take weaving classes. Personally, I haven't done craft in a very long time and this was very satisfying. At 5pm, we finished loading all the kayaks back to their trailer and packing the EMR equipment. During the de-brief, we discussed things that could be improved and the feedback by today's attendees (92).

EMR is doing a great job for the community. Helping families explore their environment in a fun way. It wouldn't be possible without the support of the sponsors and volunteers. As volunteers, EMR provides an awesome opportunity to work together with other people and make an impact for the community. I'd like to thank team EMR for another successful event and looking forward to the other events throughout the year.

*- EMR Volunteer / Senior Guide / Vincent Selvakumar*



The kayak event was a spectacular meandering paddle through the mangroves of Motu Manawa marine reserve. The EMR crew, Sophie and Lorna, welcomed me back as a volunteer; thank you level one! Soon the Auckland Sea Kayaks crew arrived, and we settled into preparing for the day. We greeted the participants with karakia and kayak team ran through a safety and paddle skills briefing. The late morning sun found us; we were ready. I was thrilled when Sophie and Lorna offered me the chance to paddle as support.

Working as a team, we launched and kayaked out into the blue of the bay, heading for the bridge by the motorway. As we came into the calm of the mangrove estuary, we rafted up, and Sophie shared her knowledge of the reserve ecosystem.

The Motu Manawa marine reserve, established in 1995 protects approximately 500 hectares on the inner Waitemata harbour. The reserve holds a diversity of habitats, including intertidal mudflats, tidal channels, mangrove (manawa) swamp, saltmarsh and shell banks. The vast spread of the muddy benthic (bottom) houses critters. These creatures provide the food for wading birds, who's tidal commute from land to sea cycles vital nutrients. Then there is the mātatā (fern bird) who nests in the scrub of Pollen Island, a stretch of land lying to our left and the only remaining mainland habitat in which the fern bird persisted. Land clearance and predation has exiled the bird from the expanse of mainland coastline which it would have called home.... And I mustn't forget the manawa! Often overlooked, these brilliant trees are the nurseries for our native fish, the resting place of birds, the filterers of water and air and the protectors of our foreshore from coastal erosion.

With the sun on our backs, we paddle back, guided by Sophie and the Auckland Sea Kayak team and the brilliant blue of a flying kotare (kingfisher). Beneath the bridge, we meet the barnacles, busy filtering. Into the sun, the shags dip the heads in greeting and reaching the shoreline; the oyster catches prod the exposed mud for a morning much on crunchy crustaceans. Looking back to pollen Island, the mātatā nests - just out of sight and native fish attend their muddy manawa school.

*- EMR Volunteer / Senior Guide / Ngaio Balfour*

## Shakespear Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
30th November 2019	150	23	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée Courtney Shaw Koha Kahui-McConnell

With stunning weather at Te Haruhi Bay on the southern side of Shakespear Regional Park we ran our most successful Shakespear Snorkel Day yet. The event was funded through the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and BSB. We had 3m visibility which allowed us to see schools of yellow eyed mullet and sweep at the outer reef. 48% of the participants had never snorkeled before and only 5% had snorkelled there before. The event was very successful in educating participants about unprotected inner gulf environments. We also had a huge number of volunteers and dedicated shore person roles which made the event run smoothly.

**Sarah Bretin** | Thank you so so much for offering this opportunity. We had a ball. My oldest son achieved his goal thanks to you (we tried once before but was too afraid and was panicked) and this time he did it as he was feeling safe with the board and the environment! It meant a lot to him and the youngest did not want to go but with the flow and team spirit and great supervisor he went too and that was a success story, thanks a million."

**Alexandra Smutz** | Great programme introduction to snorkeling. Also to see how little fish are out Shakespear



## Trip Report

**9am:** beautiful day, slight breeze, lots of volunteers – some slightly nervous at their first EMR event for real, lots of cooperation to get things set up for participants.

**10am:** keenest participants begin to trickle in and we're all go! Time flies by. Excellent, seamless teamwork from land and sea crew. Sunscreen, wetsuit fittings, mask fittings, fin fittings. Change of plan: you're in the kayak, not the water. Okay, more sunscreen, take off a layer, put on hat and sunglasses. Break from the kayak, lunch, back on the kayak. Off the kayak. First session in the water with real people who have no idea what's coming up. Teschna is a very gentle and sympathetic senior guide to my inexperienced assistant. Non-swimmers who have never snorkeled before, so very gentle swimming in circles getting used to being in the water and wearing and using a mask and snorkel. Very satisfying to help someone become independent of the boogie board and breathing with confidence using a snorkel!

Second session in the water... No, change of plan, you're back in the kayak. Marco needs help. He's about 7 and very cold. Pile him on the boogie board, tell him to kick, and paddle a REALLY long way back to shore. Marco's dad swims valiantly behind. All arrive puffed at the beach at the same time. Back to camp to sign Marco and dad out of the water. The camp's gone. Almost everything has been put away; it's 3 o'clock already.

**3.30pm:** debrief, feedback from participants' evaluation forms, feedback from volunteers. Pack up and go home. Still a beautiful day with a lovely breeze.

Lessons learned:

- It's not always about showing participants the wildlife. Sometimes, it's just getting them more confident in the water so that next time they can see beyond their fear of the water.
- Being an assistant guide is not as scary in real life as it seemed in the car on the way to the venue.
- Scored an excellent shortie wetsuit from the day – thanks, Lorna.
- Listen to the lovely ladies when they tell you that the sun's vicious on the kayak. Cover up and regularly apply sunscreen. Otherwise, you end up with really weird, random stripes of sunburn on your ankles and hands. Not speaking from experience or anything. Just saying.

*- EMR Volunteer | Senior Guide | Caroline Walmsley*



## Whangateau Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
1st November 2019	93	17	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée Koha Kahui-McConnell

This year was our first snorkel at Whangateau in memory of Dr Roger Grace, our patron and outstanding marine scientist who passed in 2019. The snorkel trail around Horseshoe Island was pioneered by Roger who had done his own PhD in the estuary in the 70s. The event was funded fully by BSB and accommodation for our volunteers was sponsored by the Whangateau Holiday Park. 90% of the participants had never snorkelled at Whangateau before and most were keen to come back the next year!

**Grace Presland-White** | Thanks for such an amazing opportunity, we had such a great day! My daughter was very apprehensive but the guides were so patient and she loved it so much that she didn't want to get out of the water in the end!

**Murray Hutton** | Loved the mangroves and the life around them.

**Rebecca Suman** | A surprising amount of fish, very cool.

**Richard Parker** | Excellent initiative to introduce kids and adults to snorkelling.



## Trip Reports

I love volunteering for EMR as we get to go to lots of interesting places, many of which are new to me, like Whangateau harbour. It was a bright sunny (but windy) day and I was excited to see familiar faces from last season and meet a bunch of new volunteers. The harbour provided quite a contrast from the normal beach setting and I enjoyed swimming among the mangroves and seeing the sea snails, crabs and triplefin. It was my first time as a trainee guide (last year I was land-based) and I was eager to go out with a group. Derek was a great senior guide and as the manager of the Whangateau Holiday Park provided the participants with lots of local knowledge. He also did a fantastic job of making sure all the participants were safe, keeping up and got to see the marine life that there was. It was awesome being part of it and seeing the little kids faces light-up when they saw the marine creatures. I love the passion and enthusiasm that all the volunteers bring, it is a great environment to learn from others and in turn pass that knowledge on.

*- EMR Volunteer / Trainee Guide / Lauren Dowling (12)*



Last weekend I had the opportunity of volunteering with an amazing team of people who were dedicating their time to preserving New Zealand's marine environment in the name of Dr. Roger Grace. Dr. Grace was one of the cornerstones of marine science and conservation in New Zealand, and also someone who left a very strong mark on me personally. It is wonderful to see that his work is still being carried on by such an engaged and passionate group of people.

I spent my first summer in New Zealand shortly after my uncle past away. Ian Scott was a marine biologist from Leigh who had been a huge inspiration to me growing up. Thanks in part to him, I moved to Australia when I was 20 to complete my studies on coral reef conservation at James Cook University. Unfortunately, he passed in 2011, right as I was starting my journey in marine conservation. In that first summer after he passed, I came to Leigh to spend time with family. In doing so I was introduced to Roger, who took me under his wing in a way I hadn't experienced before or since.

Roger had a deep impact on my life as a marine scientist and conservationist. As a 21 year old undergraduate student spending a summer diving and learning about photography and conservation he was a legend. To be introduced to him at the start of that summer, at that time in my life, was a very special event. But what was amazing was that that introduction began a whole summer of collaboration and adventures. Suddenly, here was this legend in his field, who had been on both the Rainbow Warrior and Calypso, spending everyday with myself, who had just finished his first year of university.

That summer we spent close to two months diving all around the Leigh area and up to the Poor Knights. He taught me about key marine conservation issues in the area as well as the importance of marine reserves. I helped him conduct surveys both within and outside of protected areas along the coast, which clearly showed differences in the abundances of different creatures. We also had plenty of time spent eating blueberry ice cream, which because of his condition I was meant to keep a secret! Now I've nearly completed my PhD on marine protected areas and so much of this is thanks to Roger's inspiration.

*Dr Roger Grace*



The biggest gift Roger gave me was time. Time to ask questions, time to slowly build an understanding of the complexity of marine conservation issues. There are few moments in your life, if ever, when someone will patiently give you their undivided attention day after day and ask for nothing in return. Even at that point he wasn't well, he'd had two heart attacks under water and wasn't allowed to get tanks filled anymore. But we still managed to go out on his little row boat and get in the water. At the end of the summer when I printed him off some photos of him diving his parting words were a laugh and "I've still got it!". He is sorely missed.

*- EMR Volunteer / Senior Guide / Patrick Smallhorn-West*

## Torbay Snorkel Days

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
7th December 2019	173	20	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée Ella Walmsley Nina Pivac (Northland)
1st Feb 2020	250	22	

This year we ran two snorkel days around The Tor, Waiake Bay for the first time. The December event was funded by The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and BSB. The February event was sponsored and run in partnership with the Long Bay Okura Great Park Society. Only 30% of the participants had been on an EMR event before—so we were able to reach a large number of new people through these events. Whitebait Connection ran a stall alongside EMR which worked well to entertain participants during their wait for a snorkel.

**Reena Matheus** | As a single mother with 3 kids the best day for my kids. The guide was very patient and kids felt confident. Thank you so much.

**Emma Ala'alatoa-Dale** | I just want to say THANK YOU for opening up a whole new world for my daughter and her friend yesterday!!!! What a wonderful group of people you are!!!! She came home a sketched the ray she saw and the cushion stars - sooo happy!

**Cooper Ashley** | I had a great time snorkelling and seeing marine life.



Geoff Reid



## Trip Reports



Geoff Reid

I was really looking forward to my first EMR event of the season, at Torbay. I wasn't disappointed, it was great fun and not anywhere near as chaotic as last year, with everything running very smoothly. I got the opportunity to go snorkelling with Lorna and really enjoyed it. We got to see two lemon nudibranch, plus lots of spotties and triplefin. Despite the forecast the weather was really nice and the boat traffic was a lot less than last year. I also enjoyed looking through the whitebait connection discovery trays and it was cool to see so many small kids involved. The volunteer guides are awesome with young kids and we got lots of positive feedback from their parents. On land Rutu did an amazing job of organising the wetsuits with the help of Guy and Angela. Lorna put on a fantastic lunch as always and there were lots of yummy snacks.

*- EMR Volunteer / Trainee Guide / Lexi Dowling (11)*

The first time I had ever experienced EMR was at the Poor Knights Island Snorkel Day in October that gave me an understanding, admiration and with no lie, a humble and satisfying inferiority. It led me to be a volunteer for EMR at a public snorkelling day event on the 7th of December at Waiake Beach in Torbay.

This is an overview of how my first volunteering experience rolled out to be:

- Our day started off almost too well - all the snorkeling equipment, base tent and interaction spaces were set up and ready to go, but for a few minutes we had to settle participants who were already keen to get started until our official event time kicked off!
- There was a moment where we all gathered together to open the day with karakia and whakawhanaungatanga (Introductions! "Who I am and what my role is today") so that we could meet our team and be briefed on Health and Safety, as well as, Self and Public care.
- My role for the first half of the morning was to be one of two kayakers who would look across the water for Senior Guides if they needed assistance with their groups, and to also keep up a perimeter between exploring snorkelers and the racing jet skis/boats that were around.

With the teamwork of everyone, the day ran so smoothly, and I can only speak from my experience out on the water, but I felt that the team coordination created a safe and fun atmosphere across both land and sea, for the participants of the public in between.

In the second half of the day I spent the time learning as an assistant guide in the water.

- Visibility got better and better as people became more confident to go further and further out and it was impressive to see the Senior Guides in action with every group of people that came to snorkel.
- Some tamariki were scared at first, but the Guides were amazingly patient to take the experience slowly and settle or ease any worries/doubts. They would also pick up small taonga (treasures) of starfish or look for schools of fish to enable a better experience.

It was like this over the whole day and at the end of the event, we debriefed our experiences as volunteers and celebrated all the positive feedback that came from the public across the day. Not only was the event well organised and well prepared, it was also fun, interactive, safe and beautiful both in and out of the water. Thank you EMR for the great experience and beautiful people!

*- EMR Volunteer / Senior Guide / Waiata Rameka-Tupe*



## Okura Kaitiaki Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
8th December 2019	79	5	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée Courtney Shaw Ella Walmsley

We were able to engage with the Long Bay—Okura Marine Reserve through a kayak and paddleboard day run from the Deborah Reserve, Okura. This event was funded through the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and BSB. We partnered with the Long Bay Okura Great Parks Society, Canoe and Kayak, Mission Bay Watersports and Whitebait Connection to run the event. We had perfect weather with 40% of participants new to EMR. 50% were also brand new to paddling a kayak or paddleboard and 86% had never paddled at Okura before.

**Victoria Hartley Pollard** | Exceeded my expectations. Was the best was to spend Sunday morning. Guides were AMAZING! Looking forward to the next event!

**Harrit Hartley Pollard** | I really enjoyed seeing the stingray and the shore birds

**Rachel Braham** | Amazing day's activity. Really informative and education regarding protecting NZ's bird and marine life. Awesome guides who know their stuff.



Sophie Journée



Sophie Journée



## Trip Report

I first became involved with EMR in 2014 when I met Samara Nicholas at the NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club's 60th Anniversary. The NZ Underwater Association presented Samara with the Leo Ducker Award for her outstanding contribution to the diving industry.

I have helped out as a volunteer as often as I can with events run by EMR, but as we travel a lot my attendance has been spasmodic.

The second Kaitiaki Day was held today on the Okura Estuary marine reserve. Being so close to home, I couldn't miss it this year.

We had a great turn out with 31 taking part in the paddle boarding. Some being their first time and good to see most picking it up quite quickly. Their training from Nic & Ben from Mission Bay Watersports was excellent.

There were also 48 taking part in the kayaking tours with Peter Townend from Canoe & Kayak.

I was lucky enough to borrow one of the EMR safety kayaks and enjoy the water for an hour or so myself.

It is great to see so many people out there enjoying themselves. Families making the most of what EMR has to offer.

Those not involved with the water sports became involved with the flax weaving and some even enjoying the water for a swim.

I am looking forward to their next adventure in the New Year.

*- EMR Volunteer / Senior Guide / Margaret Howard*

## Motutapu Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
11th January 2020	125	18	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée Courtney Shaw

This event marked our 4th snorkel day at Administration Bay, Motutapu. It was funded by BSB and an anonymous donor. A subsidised ferry charter was provided through Fullers. We ran the event with the help of the Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre who provided us with the venue and transported our equipment over the island.

**Samantha Bennett** | I loved snorkelling with EMR, it teaches me about the marine life and what we can do to protect it. Thank you.

**Deb Bennett** | Karen was super patient and very helpful with the first time snorkeller in our group. Thanks for a fun day.



## Trip Report



Island days are always an early start, but it is totally worth it! After unpacking the trailer, we got a visit from Detective Inspector Hector, the rat sniffing pup from the Department of Conservation. He sniffed all the bags to ensure we weren't taking any stowaways with us. It may seem like a weird thing to do, but pest free islands like Motutapu act as sanctuaries for many endangered and endemic species.

The importance of pest control was made even more clear during the ride from Home Bay to Administration Bay when we were lucky enough to spot a takahē. Takahē were once thought to be extinct, but it is thanks to pest free islands like Motutapu that they are making a comeback. With only around 300 takahē in New Zealand, it is a treat to be able to see one.

Arriving at Administration Bay, the water looked amazing and I was excited to get in. Obviously, many of our participants were excited too as they had high-tailed it across the island. After quickly setting everything up, it was time to start rolling into the snorkel rotations.

I took some fabulous people from all walks of life in my groups, including:

- Families who were out for a fun day together. Some who had been snorkeling many times before. And others who had only practiced in a swimming pool.
- One person who hadn't snorkeled in over 30 years. But it was just like riding a bike and quickly became comfortable in the water and was getting easily distracted swimming after the huge snapper (I mean, didn't we all).
- Another person who had never snorkeled or swum before. Slowly and steadily, he gained more confidence and soon was also getting distracted by snapper. By the end he was asking what other locations that are good for learning to swim and snorkel (another one to catch the snorkel bug).

This is one of the things that I love about volunteering for EMR – the variety of people that participate in the events. It is such a joy to be able to share those moments with people.

I must admit, for most of the day my groups were not close enough for the normal fin high fives, but with so many snapper, parore, spotties, banded wrasse and triple fins to see, who could blame people for getting distracted!?

Soon, it was time to get out of the water and start heading back to the city. Another successful day complete.

And with that, I want to give a shout out to:

- the kayak support team for keeping an eye on my dispersed groups who were all too busy frolicking
- The land-based crew that make group transitions run so smoothly and helping with all the gear sizing
- All the volunteers for getting stuck in to get things down, and sharing the amazing marine world with participants, and being a positive and supportive group to work with

And of course, the biggest shout out to the EMR crew who put in all the hard yards before, during and after the event to ensure (another) AMAZING day! You gals rock! Thanks for making it possible to share the marine world with the community. See you at the next event.

*- EMR Volunteer / Super Senior Guide / Teschna Christie*

## Waiheke Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
18th January 2020	173	17	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée Courtney Shaw

This snorkel day marked the 9th event at Enclosure Bay on the Northern coast of Waiheke Island. This event was funded by BSB and the Waiheke Local Board. We had support from Fullers Ferry to sponsor 12 volunteer return ferry tickets. Over 80% of participants had never snorkelled at Enclosure Bay, with over 90% wanting to snorkel there again. Over 80% learnt something new and almost 80% of participants furthered their marine conservation knowledge. Everyone felt safe and learned something new.

**Anoushka Rajpal** | I loved the environment and love how they guided me

**Tyler Julian Lemi** | It was super fun! The guides were so nice and friendly. I'd definitely do it again!

**Shane Keeson** | Able to help clean some rubbish out keeping NZ green. Great Experience! thanks!

**Lorenz X. Wilger** | Awesome day, very informative & great



## Trip Report



Our day started with an amazing news i.e. a great weather with a clear day and a shining sun, giving us all heads up to relax in the cold water. We all headed up to catch an 8 o'clock ferry with a bumbling excitement. We can't go ahead without thanking Fullers Ferry for arranging a free ferry ride for all the volunteers. Forty minutes ride was rewarded with a great scenic view of Rangitoto and Motutapu on one side and Auckland's coolest beach Mission Bay on the other.

We reached our destination around 9am-ish. Two cars were eagerly waiting for us to hop in them, one is driven by super volunteer Teschna and another driven by Courtney. We reached to our destination Enclosure Bay, and greet two lovely people of EMR – Lorna and Sophie. Well now, we knew - it's time to move your lazy bodies and get to work. Everybody started organizing the site before participants arrive, followed by pre-briefing and our crazy team photograph.

Before participants arrived, we enjoyed the view, mixed with boat traffic and calm waves of low tide. The water was a bit murky looking but our guides were hoping to fulfill the wish of our participants by providing them a best experience of our marine life.

We kicked off our day with a really good number of participants turning up. As a land based volunteer, it's always a task for me and Samantha to find a perfect size wetsuits for individuals, but I think - now we become a bit of an expert for finding a best wetsuit for an individuals without a hassle.

A boat anchored in the bay made things a bit more difficult. The safety kayaks were amazing out there in a water, protecting snorkeling teams. For me, it is always exciting to ask returning group about their experience of seeing marine life. Some of the lucky participants were able to spot some beautiful marine life such as starfish, kina, ecklonia, eagle ray (whai repo), and juvenile snapper (tāmure). That was like a cherry on top of a cap.

The day went really fast with a group of participants followed by snorkel guides were going in and coming out. It was nearly a time to pack up and de-briefing about the day, and read all the comments left by our participants (amazing part of the day). There were some really good comments left by mixture of new (non-swimmer) and experienced participants. Summer and Daniel were two shining senior guide volunteers of the day.

It is always a great opportunity to volunteer with such a proactive organization, and help them reaching their goal of marine conservation.

*- EMR Volunteer / Landbased Support / Rutu Jani*



## Takapuna Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
2nd February 2020	219	23	Sophie Journée Courtney Shaw Nina Pivac (Northland)

We were treated to the best conditions we have ever seen on Takapuna reef with great visibility and beautiful blue skies. This event was funded in entirety by BSB. For many this was their first time snorkelling and some their first time in the ocean! Spotties, parore, sweep, snapper, juvenile trevally and triplefins were spotted whilst exploring the unique larva formed reef.

**Devnesh Gounder** | Amazing, the team was great. I had a great time and will be back.

**Meeta Somaiya** | Katie our guide was superb. We had lots of fun. Totally safe for first timers and non swimmers. Starfish was a highlight.

**Sofia Grace Glucina (7)** | It was my first time and I enjoyed it.



# Trip Report



Sunday the 2nd of February started out the same as most EMR snorkel days do. Wake up. Splash some water on my face. COFFEE. Then toddle off to another beautiful location in the Hauraki Gulf to get some people in the water!

Today we were showcasing Takapuna beach and boy did the weather turn it out! We were treated to the best conditions we have ever seen on the reef, with great visibility and beautiful blue skies. A lot of people aren't aware of the unique lava formed reef systems and amazing array of life just metres from the busy urban beach. This is the second time I had the pleasure of showing people around this underwater metropolis, so I had a good idea of the hot spots to highlight.

Being one of the most easily accessible snorkel days in Auckland, we expected it to be a busy one and it did not dissappoint, with the first willing participants showing up half an hour before start time. I love the enthusiasm to get in the water!

After Courtney's safety briefing to start the day (safety first), it was straight in the water. My first group were very excited to get in, with some having never been snorkelling in the ocean. We were treated to speedy spotties, plump parore, sneaky snapper, tremendous trevally and tiny triplefins. The group were absolutely enthralled, as were the 3 other groups I took out. That is by far the best thing about being a part of these snorkel days. The absolute happiness that emersion in the marine environment provides for people from all different walks of life, with all different experiences of the ocean. Today we had put 242 smiles on 242 faces. 242 record breaking smiles. Can't top that.

But wait, you can. During the day one of our senior snorkel guides dropped her brand new underwater camera, purchased that week, into the weed on the reef. So after the last rotation and all of the gear was cleaned and packed down for the day, her and I jumped back into the water to put our search and navigation skills to the test. Turns out we are pretty good with retrieval of lost items ☺

A massive thank you to the amazing Auckland co-ordinators Lorna and Sophie, and all the wonderful volunteers.

*- EMR Volunteer / Senior Guide / Katie McLaren*

## Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
22nd February 2020	20	3	Sophie Journée

We ran our first ever Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel out at Otata Island, which is part of the Noises Islands. This event was funded through BSB. Despite the afternoon deluge of rain participants were treated to a multitude of wildlife, spotting snapper, red moki, parore, broad squid, eagle rays and more whilst exploring the reef off Otata. Once participants had explored the water Sue and Zoe Neureuter shared some of the land based treasures of the island, as well as whipping up some hot drinks to warm us up. A massive thank you to the Neureuter whānau for hosting us on Otata Island and for Auckland Sea Shuttles for getting us there and back!

**Erin Landhuis** | This was fantastic, such a privilege. Thanks for the opportunity to bring our kids to this amazing location. Shame about the kina, I'm concerned if we get to go again, there won't be any kelp or young fish and squid. We are grown ups, why aren't we protecting these environments and special places?

**Michelle Chen** | Another great event EMR! Soph, you've been amazing and thank you for letting us have an epic day. Sue and Zoe were just fab - so happy they got their rain!

**Dorothy Fitzgerald** | Enlightening - Marine info - Off Shore island protection essential.



All taken by Sophie Journée



## Trip Report

We started the day excitedly waiting for the water taxi to pick us up. While we waited Sophie gave us the safety briefing for the day. When the water taxi arrived, we formed a train to load up the water taxi. Before we knew it, we were on an adventure.

The trip to Otata Island was like being on a roller-coaster, a bit wavy to say the least. The first thing I noticed about the island was all the shells on the beach that were still intact and not destroyed by overcrowded foot traffic. Once we all arrived at Otata Island we were greeted by the Neureuter sisters, that had been spending the summer living on the island. Once we had another safety briefing, it was finally time to suit up and hit the water. When we entered the water, we found so many different varieties of fish and marine organisms. On my first snorkel I found a massive eagle ray, spotties, snapper, parore and leather-jackets. After spending an hour in the water, we stopped for lunch.

After lunch, we went for a walk around the island. During the walk it started to bucket down with rain and the group I was with decided to hunker under a massive Pohutukawa tree. I ended up doing a rain dance because the island was so dry, and it was a relief to the trees that it was raining. The Neureuter sisters were so lovely and let us find shelter at their family bach. They bought around milos and hot chocolates to keep the hypothermia at bay. Once the rain eased off, we were back in the water at the beach on the other side of the island. This time around we were on a mission to find an octopus, we were looking in all the nooks and crannies. Unfortunately, the octopus were too camouflaged and hidden for us to find on that day. After our last and final snorkel, it was time to un-suit and pack up for the day.

Due to the choppy conditions of the sea it was a bit difficult getting onto the boat. Thanks to Sophie and the Neureuter sisters, we were able to get all of our gear and participants safely onto the boat.

A special thanks goes out to the crew at Experiencing Marine Reserves, Auckland Sea Shuttles for getting us there and back safely and the Neureuter sisters, without whom, opportunity for this amazing adventure would not have been possible.

*- EMR Volunteer / Senior Guide / Summer Johnston*

## Tāwharanui & Goat Island Adventure Snorkel

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
6th June 2020	10	0	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui-McConnell Lorna Doogan

For our first event post lockdown we made the most of a mechanical difficulty by diverting our Mokohinau snorkel day to Tāwharanui and Goat Island marine reserves. Despite this last minute change of plan we were treated to beautiful sunshine, huge kōura roaming across the sand, spooky caves and sassy seals. We also had the added bonus of exploring a part of Tāwharanui marine reserve we have never seen before! This event was run with funding from BSB and a partnership with Gulf Eco Adventures.

**Pia Kahui McConnell** | Thank you so much for allowing us to have this beautiful, blessed day. I wish you just as much love and light that I felt today, ngā mihi.

**Kaio Graham** | Thank you so much team for the amazing day today. I learnt a lot and had such an amazing time. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, much love.





## Trip Report

Hassle free fun - The 45 minute drive up to Sandspit Wharf was pretty much the only effort required to experience what is arguably one of the best days out you can have. Experiencing Marine Reserves takes care of almost everything you need. They provide gear, guides, safety, logistics and of course, making sure you have loads of fun.

Led by Sophie and Lorna from Experiencing Marine Reserves and Kurt from Gulf Eco Adventures we set out on the boat Eco Warrior for the Mokohinau Islands. As we approached the exit to Kawau Bay it was decided to adjust our trip destination and go to Tāwharanui and Goat Island instead. An electrical alarm had gone off and with our safety in mind, Lorna, Sophie and Kurt chose to stay closer to land. Despite what I can only assume was a big decision on their part, I was never in doubt that we were going to be treated to some prime snorkeling. The minor setback did nothing to hinder an idyllic day, blue skies, calm waters and best of all, snorkelling.

As we arrive at Tāwharanui we're given a safety briefing and told about what marine life we may see, what underwater features to look out for as well as handy tips about hand signals and snorkeling etiquette. After buddying up, we splash down and get our first glimpses of what underwater life New Zealand has to offer. As my eyes begin to adjust I soon see the regular spotties, snapper, blue maomao, red moki and a hiwihwi hanging out in the shallows. Sweeping around the bay I finally spot some crayfish hiding under the rocks in the shallows, a pleasant site given the dwindling numbers in the Hauraki Gulf. After what felt like no time at all, but turned out to be an hour, we all regrouped on the boat and had a bite to eat while Kurt took us to our next spot, Goat Island!

Still buzzing from our first dive, we gear up again, go through our site safety briefing and we're back in the water. Lorna's local diving knowledge comes in handy when she mentions there's a tree (now underwater) which had been knocked off the cliff during a recent storm. A reasonable depth down it's an opportunity to practice my freediving skills. Circling around the bay I spot the usual suspects underwater. Surprisingly it was a critter above water that stole the show on this dive. After popping my head up I happen to glimpse what appears to be a rock moving. Thinking I'm going crazy or my eyes are playing tricks on me I keep looking at it. After what I can only say was an embarrassingly long amount of time I finally figure out what I'm looking at, three New Zealand fur seals snoozing on the rocks. Being careful not to approach too close, we watch as they sun bathe on the rocks. A perfect way to cap off the day.

The boat ride back was filled with excitement as we recounted all the animals we saw and tried to identify those that we didn't know. I can't say enough how much fun I had and how valuable this trip was to me. The snorkelling was more educational than any classroom and a lot more exciting. Thank you again to Lorna, Sophie, Kurt and everyone else who made this trip possible and I'll see you on the next one.

– EMR Volunteer | Senior Guide | Kieran Jaunay



## Mokohinau Adventure Snorkel

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
10th June 2020	10	0	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui-McConnell Lorna Doogan

8 lucky participants got to come on a mid week mission out to the Mokohinau Islands. We had spectacular weather and beautifully clear water. It was a bit of a contrast to our snorkels in Tāwharanui and Goat Island earlier in the week, the visibility was a lot better but we didn't see a single crayfish or snapper. This lack of predators was evident in the extensive kina barrens in the popular bays around the island chain.



A group of divers is seen from above, swimming in a circle in clear blue water. The sun is shining brightly from the top left, creating a lens flare effect. The divers are silhouetted against the bright light.

## Trip Report

Sophie Journée

On Wednesday the 10th of June we set out on an early morning adventure!

We all met bright and early at the Sandspit Carpark, where we were greeted by the lovely EMR staff who offered us all sorts of snorkelling & diving equipment to borrow if needed. Once we were all ready and equipped with everything we set off on our way. The destination of exploration being: The Mokohinau islands.

Now prior to going on this EMR trip, I honestly had never heard of the Mokohinau Islands before. I soon learnt that The Mokohinau Islands are a small group of islands, a hundred kilometres north of Auckland City.

They sit smack bang in the middle of the entrance to the Hauraki Gulf making them a hot spot for snorkelling and an amazing sight to behold. Seeing this beautiful island set within my ancestral waters and knowing that my tipuna would have circumnavigated these very islands before me made me feel even more connected to life.

The boat ride is roughly 2 hours one way, and the islands have some of the most spectacular underwater views I have seen thus far. I felt privileged to be able to join all the amazing crew and blessed participants on this boat ride. We travelled to the outer islands and thoroughly enjoyed the ride. We all chatted, ate and laughed, it was a highlight of mine to enjoy learning about the Hauraki Gulf, the kina barrens, to see all the marine life whilst snorkelling and be privy to random facts about the particular area along the way. I found the staff and volunteers knowledgeable and helpful. An amazing aspect of this trip is the educational information unique to the area.

We snorkelled two different spots on this trip. Both spots showed us an array of different things, and I'm sure all participants had their own unique memories that they loved. For me, it was the very first spot we visited, I couldn't help but admire the beautiful colours and shades of blue. The ocean was glistening, and the sun was beaming brightly down onto us all. The cliff banks that blended slowly into the water, till eventually there was no more cliff left, and it was just deep clear waters, the site was so beautiful and I buzzed with excitement seeing the many varieties of fish.

My friend also pointed out how cool it was when we were moving with the tide and when we both looked at the cliff banks and rocks, we would notice ourselves drifting up and down, noticing the water levels changing and letting the tide rise and fall and beating in synchronicity with its rhythm. Much like when I swim my homelands at Tapapakanga. I also had never snorkelled in water this clear and could see what felt like 20 meters under water. Also, to make it more exciting we swam through two formation arch ways. When you looked down you couldn't help but admire the marine life. There were so many different types of fish and they were many multitude schools of fish. We also spotted plenty of kina, angel fish, a paua, jelly fish and everyone was able to swim very close to them and admire them.

Our second spot we snorkelled at also had beautiful pigments of blue, and an amazing cave type bowl, where we were able to snorkel and kayak in. A few participants got up close and personal with an eagle ray, which was a cool sight to behold. I buzzed out with excitement whilst watching them get just centimetres away. I felt extremely blessed to travel to such a remote part of New Zealand, where I normally wouldn't get the opportunity to go to. The whole day was packed full of beautiful memories, with awesome people. We also got to see a few dolphins and a gorgeous sunset to top the day off. In it all, I was left to ponder the awesome entranceway to my beloved Tikapa Moana.

Ngā mihi nu nui to everyone who helped make this experience possible and so so enjoyable.

– EMR Volunteer / Trainee Guide / Kaio Graham

## Plans for the 2020-21 season

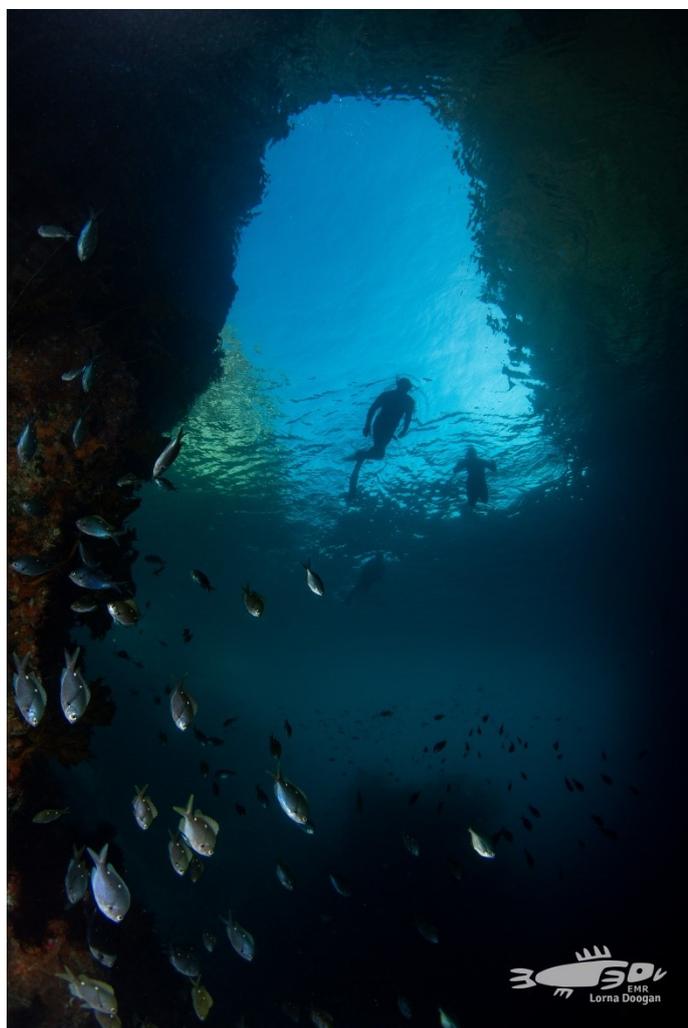
Next season we have 18 events planned for Auckland and a number of Northland & Coromandel events, which the Auckland crew will be assisting on. This includes running 4 kayak events in the Manukau Harbour. These will be our first events out of the Hauraki Gulf. Our Mokohinau trips will now be run by Dive! Tutukaka departing from Tutukaka.

Our team in Auckland now consists of Lorna Doogan, Sophie Journée, Koha Kahui-McConnell, Ella Walmsley and Teschna Christie. Lorna will be on maternity leave until April 2020, Sophie will be taking over the role of Regional Coordinator.

Our volunteer base is over 300 and we are looking towards ways to continue to upskill these volunteers to make our snorkel days as interesting and safe as possible. We have already run a training day in August at the Glenfield Pools to start the training process with another planned for October.

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 also have a GIFT application pending.

Location	Date
Mangere Kayak Day	2020-09-19
Waimahia Kayak Day	2020-10-17
Papakura Guided Paddle	2020-10-18
Rotoroa Snorkel Day	2020-10-31
Shakespear Snorkel Day	2020-11-07
Whangateau Snorkel Day	2020-11-08
Torbay Snorkel Day	2020-12-06
Waiheke Snorkel Day	2021-01-09
Te Matuku Guided Paddle	2021-01-10
Motutapu Snorkel Day	2021-01-16
Motu Manawa Kayak Day	2021-01-17
Okura Guided Paddle	2021-01-23
Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel	2021-01-31
Waimahia Kayak Day	2021-02-13
Takapuna Snorkel Day	2021-03-06
Goat Island Snorkel Day	2021-03-13
Motu Manawa Kayak Day	2021-04-17
Motu Manawa Kayak Day	2021-04-18
Rotoroa Snorkel Day	TBC if funding
Motuihe Snorkel Day	TBC if funding





## **To Paddy, Brian & The Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation**

Thank you so much for the chance for us to grow and develop our programmes over the past six years. Thanks to you, over 6000 children and their whānau from all around Aotearoa have been able to experience our marine environment through our snorkel days and annual Poor Knights Trips—even if they get postponed due to COVID-19!

We wouldn't be where we are today  
without your support.

Watch this space for the continuing growth of the Auckland Region thanks to your contributions.

# SNORKEL SERIES 2020-21

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

- Mokohinau Snorkel - Sun 4th Oct 
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sun 6th Dec 
- Poor Knights Snorkel - Sat 12th Dec 
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sun 10th Jan 
- Maitai Snorkel - Thurs 14th Jan 
- Tapeka Pt Snorkel - Sun 17th Jan 
- Whananaki Snorkel - Sat 23rd Jan 
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sun 24th Jan 
- Waikaraka Kayak - Sat 13th Feb 
- Pataua Snorkel - Sat 20th Feb 
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sun 21st Feb 
- \* Whananaki Paddle - Sat 27th Feb 
- \* Maunganui Snorkel - Sat 13th Mar 
- Kai Iwi Day Snorkel - Sat 20th Mar 
- Kai Iwi Night Snorkel - Sat 20th Mar 
- Hen/Chicks Snorkel - Sat 10th April 
- Poor Knights Snorkel - Sat 15th May 

## Auckland

- Mangere Kayak - Sat 19th Sept 
- \* Waimahia Kayak - Sat 17th Oct 
- \* Papakura Paddle - Sun 18th Oct 
- Rotoroa Snorkel - Sat 31st Oct 
- \* Shakespear Snorkel - Sat 7th Nov 
- Whangateau Snorkel - Sun 8th Nov 
- \* Torbay Snorkel - Sun 6th Dec 
- Waiheke Snorkel - Sat 9th Jan 
- \* Te Matuku Paddle - Sun 10th Jan 
- Motutapu Snorkel - Sat 16th Jan 
- \* Motu Manawa Kayak - Sun 17th Jan 
- \* Okura Paddle - Sat 23rd Jan 
- Inner Gulf Snorkel - Sun 31st Jan 
- \* Waimahia Kayak - Sat 13th Feb 
- Takapuna Snorkel - Sat 6th Mar 
- Goat Island Snorkel - Sat 13th Mar 
- \* Motu Manawa Kayaks - 17/18th Apr 

Free  
Ferry cost only  
Discounted trip

\* Still to be confirmed

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