

Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust – 2015 – Annual Report



The Northland-based Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust was established in 2002, as a charitable umbrella and support organisation for the Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) marine education and Whitebait Connection (WBC) freshwater education programmes. These are both leading models in education for sustainability in New Zealand and available nationally.

Trust vision

Empower and support communities to help achieve the goals of the NZ Biodiversity Strategy and develop existing and new programmes that align with that goal.

The Tindall Foundation recently celebrated their 20th anniversary of giving, as part of this celebration they recognised Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust with a special award presented to us by Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae The Governor-General of New Zealand, for making an outstanding contribution to New Zealand.



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Experiencing Marine Reserves – EMR www.emr.org.nz

Since 2002, EMR has expanded to 8 regions, with a team of 16 coordinators, EMR has guided snorkel experiences for **25312** (30860 including accompanying adults) students in NZ marine reserves (2929 more than last year). The wider community is reached via 326 printed media articles and over 8698 people have been engaged in EMR organised marine conservation events, taking our total number of participants to **41601** Kiwis.

Summary of achievements

- We passed our Adventure Activity Audit!
- Expansion and continuation of the EMR programme in 8 different regions including: Gisborne, Northland, Wellington, Coromandel, Nelson, Auckland, Taranaki and Otago.
- Facebook 'likes' now at 1040
- Over the summer of 2015 we held 25 Community Guided Snorkel and Kayak days throughout NZ, involving 1605 participants.
- 54 people attend our annual national Marine & Freshwater Education Wananga Conference, the only dedicated forum for marine & freshwater educators to network
- Continued exposure in the media nationwide, including the august edition of the 'Kia ora' magazine
- The annual Poor Knights Competition trip involved all 8 regions of EMR this year, thanks to the Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation and on-going support from Dive Tutukaka. Since 2002, a total of 198 schools and 315 students have participated in this trip. We also introduced the Bobby Stafford-Bush – EMR Ocean Art prize.

Special thanks to our funders and partners:

The Tindall Foundation, Department of Conservation, Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation, Foundation North, The Lion Foundation, Pub Charity, The Southern Trust, Pelorus Trust, Pacific Development and Conservation Trust, Papa Taiao Earthcare, Whangarei District Council and Tau Iho I Te Po Trust

Thanks to the support of: Wettle, Dive Tutukaka, Bennett and Associates, Orbit Audits, Henderson Reeves Lawyers, Fast signz and Midas Whangarei

Whitebait Connection - WBC

www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz

Since 2002, WBC has expanded to be sustainable and active in 5 regions, with a team of 11 coordinators, WBC has guided **59787 New Zealanders** on journeys of discovery and conservation action in their local freshwater environments and catchments, (2089 more than last year), helped to plant **49244 native plants** next to waterways and restore over 20 kilometres of riparian habitat. 8 whitebait spawning habitats have been identified and adopted. The wider community has been reached via 78 printed media articles and over **60,006 volunteer hours** have been contributed!

Summary of achievements

- Continuation of the WBC programme in five different regions including: Northland, Auckland, Gisborne, Wellington and the West Coast.
- Inspires action for the environment - many diverse action projects have been reported from regional coordinators this year including pest fish signage, riparian planting, whitebait spawning habitat restoration, stream clean ups, presentations to local politicians, artwork on display in schools and letters to the editors of local newspapers about local freshwater conservation issues.
- 54 people attended our annual national Marine & Freshwater Education Wananga Conference in Northland, the only forum for marine & freshwater educators to network
- Over 1000 people have participated in our local free events including whitebait spawning site monitoring, community planting days, native fish spotlighting nights and community group freshwater biodiversity workshops.
- The successful extension of the Inanga spawning site identification and restoration site work which has continued and expanded in Northland and Auckland.
- Continued presence in media including numerous newspaper articles and [radio interviews!](#)
- Successful implementation of WBC mare based school holiday programme on the West Coast and extension of model in Northland.

Special thanks to our funders:

Department of Conservation, The ASB Community Trust (now Foundation North), Northland Regional Council, MPI, Pub Charity, Whangarei District Council, Landcare Trust, Enviroschools, Papa Taiao Earthcare, Auckland Council

Thanks to the support of:

Bennett and Associates, Orbit Audits, Henderson Reeves Lawyers, Fast signz



EMR focus – To get as many kiwis as possible to learn from and experience marine reserves!



WBC focus – To get as many New Zealanders as possible understanding the links between land and water and taking action to help restore and protect those areas.

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