



Experiencing Marine Reserves - Te Kura Moana

2021/22 Season Report - National

Overview

Mountains To Sea Conservation Trust (MTSCT) was established in 2002 - CC #23406 and is the national body for the Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) programme. EMR has expanded to eight regions in New Zealand. The programme itself, however, was actually started in 2001, which means 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the programme! We continued to celebrate this milestone into our 2021/22 season, with the usage of the slogan 'EMR will take you down under!' Titiro Ki Te Moana!



The EMR brand is unique; we have an active focus on community engagement and marine conservation. We are committed to delivering safe snorkel excursions. We are adventure activity safety audit certified (AAO 534). The national expansion of EMR is based on a non-profit franchise concept. Our EMR endorsed providers are organisations throughout the regions that have been given permission to use our brand. All EMR regional coordinators are fully trained by MTSCT and meet our endorsement criteria.

What is EMR?

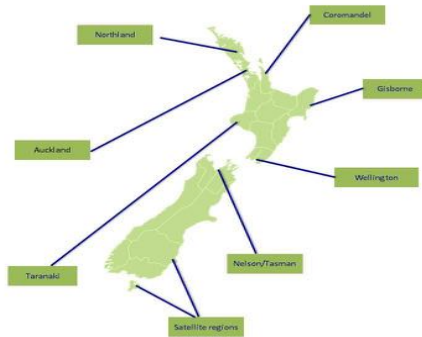
EMR empowers schools and communities by providing hands-on experiences in the ocean. Our goal is to raise awareness, understanding and support for marine conservation throughout Aotearoa (New Zealand) through the provision of dynamic experiential marine education opportunities.

The full EMR programme concept:

- Introduction to marine biodiversity
- Investigation of local/unprotected marine areas
- 1:2 adult/student ratio aim = many whānau (family) share the experience
- Look and learn – no hurting tangaroa's children (marine creatures)
- Experience/research a marine reserve
- Be engaged and inspired
- Make comparisons

- Take ACTION for marine conservation through a kaitiaki action project

EMR has a team of 27 coordinators based in eight regions (with Otago/Rakiura being a satellite region) with our regional provider organisations.



Wellington



Nelson/Tasman



Taranaki



Tairāwhiti Gisborne

**He Awa Ora, He Tai Ora,
Healthy Rivers, Living Sea
Education Trust**

Auckland/Northland



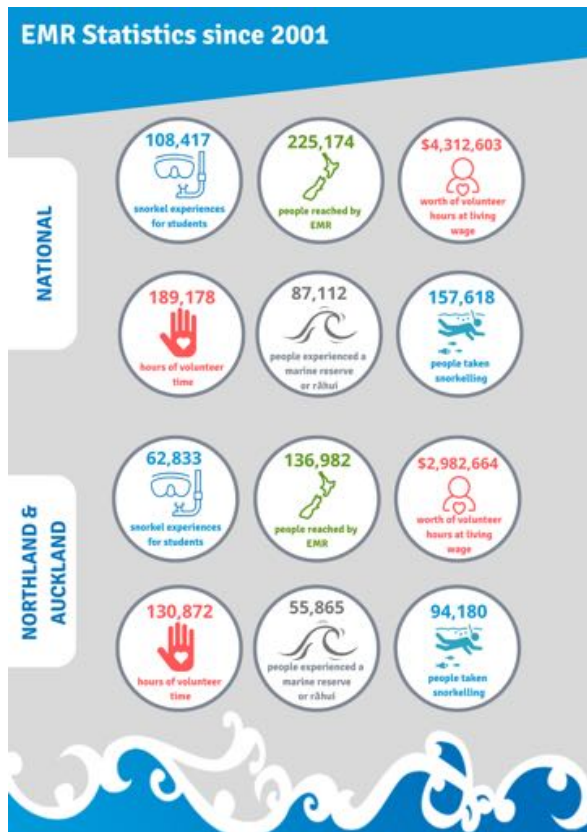
Coromandel

**The Friends of Te
Whanganui-A-Hei Marine
Reserve Trust**

Since 2001, EMR has provided snorkel experiences to **157,618** people. Of these, **87,112** experienced a NZ marine reserve or rāhui. We have delivered **354** community guided snorkel and kayak events to date, engaging **30,790** people in our EMR organised engagement events. We have also delivered **108,038** snorkel experiences for students and inspired **2997** kaitiaki action projects that have reached the wider community and school whānau.

During the summer of 2020/21, we had **55** Community Guided Snorkel and Kayak days throughout NZ, involving **3,456** participants. A summary of some of the key statistics can be found below.





Highlights

Auckland

Despite not being able to do any delivery in term 4 2021 the Auckland EMR team was still able to deliver 7 full Mountains to Sea Programmes, 11 casual snorkel experiences, one spotlighting event, two volunteer training days, four stand-up paddleboarding days, 11 kayak days, and 13 snorkel days throughout the season. The Auckland EMR team have also started to incorporate kayaking into their school programmes as many schools cannot snorkel in the local marine environments. This has proved very popular and is possible thanks to their ongoing partnership with Auckland Sea Kayaks. Auckland has also been building more community collaboration into their public events by partnering with local organisations to facilitate land based activities like raranga workshops, guided walks, beach clean ups and more. In order to prioritise local attendance on events Auckland has introduced access codes for locals on event registrations, which has proved very successful in boosting local participation and follow through in local conservation initiatives.

A couple of particular event highlights in Auckland were being able to run the first Rakino snorkel day in partnership with Auckland University, which helped showcase the benthic surveying being undertaken

around the island. As well as partnering with Waiheke Marine Project to host a mana whenua paddle day through Te Matuku marine reserve.

Some lucky Hobsonville Point Primary students had a once in a lifetime experience with bottlenose dolphins during their Goat Island snorkel, it was also a massive highlight for our Auckland team with brand new team member Wednesday Davis capturing some great footage of the encounter.

Hobsonville Point Primary bottlenose dolphin encounter:

<https://www.facebook.com/emr.mtsct/videos/273805304950210>



Hobsonville Point Primary's special bottlenose dolphin encounter

Northland (Te Tai Tokerau)

Northland had another successful year of their Reotahi Summer Series, with 4 snorkel days engaging 331 people. Reotahi snorkel days attract a multitude of locals and visitors with many participants returning every year to explore their local marine reserve and observe changes over time. Reotahi snorkel days also provide a safe and enjoyable experience for novice snorkelers of all ages and are often their first contact point with the Whangarei Harbour marine reserve. Visitor numbers for all events were slightly less than expected compared to 2020/21 due to COVID 19 impacting families (including government vaccine mandates, sickness etc), however overall satisfaction for the event was well received.

12 event in total engaging 722 people were delivered in Northland. The success of the snorkel days and the feedback gained through participants suggests that the days are very worthwhile and are encouraging people to experience and enjoy the reserve, whilst raising awareness around why it is there



and where the boundaries are. These snorkel days have become part of the Whangarei City culture with families coming back year after year.

This year, the Northland Regional Council marine biosecurity team joined EMR at the majority of the events with a focus on marine pests. EMR also continued the engagement of taitamariki/rangatahi as snorkel guides. EMR provided hands-on training for these guides during pool sessions in the Whangarei Pools and practical training in the field. Since then, taitamariki have helped at many events over summer.

Through Northlands continuing partnership with Fish Forever they completed their third annual community guided snorkel day at Maunganui Bay (Deep Water Cove). A key element of this event is enabling locals and students from low decile schools to experience the rāhui, which is in their own backyard, but is challenging to access due to its location in the outer Bay of Islands.

“It was a privilege to work with Te Aho Tū Roa supporting the snorkelling experience for the 2022 Noho taiao o Te Rarawa held at Kotahitanga marae in Whangapē on the 12th of January. What a magical place!” Ray Downing, Northland Coordinator



Taitamariki i enjoy snorkelling the rock pools on the Westcoast of Whangapē

Taranaki



A highlight for the Taranaki team was taking Highlands intermediate for a 3 day Marine Camp in December. They had wonderful weather for the snorkels and it was their first time snorkelling inside the breakwater. The kids saw seahorses and schools of kahawai. The visibility was great, especially on the second day. Inspired from their experience with EMR, Highlands Intermediate has set up a study site in the New Plymouth Breakwater, which they intend on monitoring on a yearly basis in term 4.

Taranaki also ran two Nga Motu beach community snorkel days. There was great weather and plenty of volunteers which helped the days run smoothly. The visibility was also great with participants coming back having seen paua, kōura, schools of fish and stingrays!



Nga Motu Beach Snorkel Day participants ready to go snorkelling with their volunteer guide

Wellington

It has been another wildly busy EMR season for the Mountains to Sea Wellington team – the regional providers of the Experiencing Marine Reserves programme across Greater Wellington. They had over 1036 students and 161 adults from 29 different schools and community groups take part in marine experiences and community events throughout their summer education programmes across the region.

The free community snorkel days have once again seen record attendance this year with 406 participants joining for guided in-water tours and free gear hire in the waters of Taputeranga Marine Reserve. The paid event out at Kāpiti Island attracted 70 participants. Marine conservation action and awareness-raising events have engaged a further 97 people who have helped with coastal clean-up's, citizen science or been part of celebrations and advocacy.





Taputeranga Snorkel Day participants exploring the beautiful rimurimu forests present in the reserve

This year Mountains to Sea Wellington dove into the third year of the Love Rimurimu education programme for schools with funding support from WWF. The programme has also been a focus across Community Snorkel Days, gaining wide community support and interest. Education resources have been updated and published via the [Science Learning Hub](#) platform and the Wellington’s team partnership with Te Aho Tū Roa has seen content created for kura kaupapa Māori including presentations, games and activities and even kupu naming Wellington’s most common seaweed species.

Nelson/Tasman

Nelson has begun to develop a new funding partnership with Sport Tasman, meaning that this season EMR coordinators were able to work with Victory School and snorkelled at Cable Bay, the closest beach to Nelson township. This will hopefully be the start of a new era of working with schools in the Nelson area vs Tasman only focus.

The Nelson team was able to run two Tonga Island Snorkel Days this season which the team hasn’t been able to do since 2018. The continued support from DOC, who provided staff for both community snorkel days and organised much of the whānau snorkel day, has been greatly appreciated. A new snorkel sight at the North end of Kaiteriteri beach was also established this season that is nice and sheltered with lots to see.

“It’s great to have Thalassa fully endorsed and running programmes so competently and being organised, creative and knowledgeable. It was also cool to have Stew and Megan step in for the iwi snorkel day when I was sick. An extra bonus from the season was seeing my first seahorse in the wild at Kaiteriteri!”

Freya McCall, Nelson Coordinator



“This season was my first time having winners from a school that I delivered to (Riwaka School), so seeing the process of EMR all the way through was a fulfilling experience.” Thalassa, Nelson Coordinator



Tonga Island Snorkel Day identifying wildlife as they explore the rocky reefs

Tairāwhiti (Gisborne)

Tairāwhiti coordinators got the chance to work with Cobham School, which is the most disadvantaged school in the region. They have a high proportion of special needs students so they hardly ever attend field trips due to the safety aspect of having kids out of school, however, the teacher was extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the EMR programme this year as it is their one field trip where the kids are safe, behaviour is it it's best, their learning and memory is exceptional and every kid participates (something they never achieve).

“This group of kids were amazing to work with and absolutely loved their experience, we built some special relationships :)” Amy Hardy, Tairāwhiti coordinator

Another highlight for the Tairāwhiti team was going up the coast to Hicks Bay (3hours up the coast from Gisborne) to deliver the EMR program at the schools own local site so it had more meaning to them. This group of senior students completed the snorkel training in their local river followed by a snorkel at the Hicks Bay wharf.

“It was a highlight to work with a different kura, snorkel at a different site and investigate their local area for their own specific purpose of monitoring specific species.” Joe Palmer, Tairāwhiti coordinator





Te Wharau school students ready to snorkel at Te Tapuwae Rongokako marine reserve

Coromandel/Haruaki

This year due to difficult weather conditions there were no school programmes or community events run in Coromandel/Hauraki. However two students, Zander Curnow (Parawai School) and Daniel Vaughn (Mercury Bay Area School) were picked to represent their region at the Annual Poor Knights Competition Trip, based on their art submissions, which centred around promoting local issues and their local marine reserve.



Zander Curnow and Daniel Vaughn posing with their art projects at Schnappa Rock Restaurant after their Poor Knights snorkelling experience



Otago Satellite

This year, due to a lack of funding there were no school programmes or community events run in Otago, however two students were picked based on their video submissions to represent their region at the Annual Poor Knights Competition Trip. Jade Gutsell, from Caitlins School, was one of the representatives chosen. Her video submission was describing her catchment sedimentation project she is undertaking with support from the Department of Conservation.

Otago representatives Sophia Niblock and Jade Gutsell's video submission for Poor Knights Competition Trip: <https://www.facebook.com/emr.mtsct/videos/874514807274506>



Jade Gutsell snorkelling at during the Poor Knights Competition Trip with her Dad Riki Gutsell

Inspiring action

EMR action projects foster kaitiakitanga - guardianship and facilitate action to address marine issues. Some schools go above and beyond with their action projects and creativity to help look after their marine environment.

Two classes of Year 7-8 from Moutere School in Nelson organised a marine conservation themed fun day for the rest of the school at Kaiteriteri Beach. Groups of children rotated around the activity stations which included an obstacle course ("dodge the marine threats", a funny puppet show about marine reserves, 'protect the eggs' fitness game and sand sculptures. Some students from another Nelson school in Riwaka did a variety of actions in small groups including creating a video game, paper mache dolphin, writing letters to MFE, creating a board game, dioramas, story books and 3d art.



The highlight was talking to the children about their projects and observing how much work, effort and research went into each project. It was very obvious that this mahi had begun/fostered a genuine interest and curiosity in this topic for the children.

As part of the love Rimurimu programme in Wellington Te Ara Whanui & Ngā Mokopuna students took action in the form of a presentation to local iwi, government and Love Rimurimu scientists on their preferred restoration sites. Through the end of 2021, the students researched and mapped a variety of chemical, physical and biological factors affecting seaweed ecosystems. Together with some snorkels to have visual information on the current state of Wellington's Harbour, they selected their preferred sites where they would like to see seaweed forests restored. The data gathered and analysed was highly accurate thanks to the help of LR scientists guiding the students through the process. In the end, three of the students' sites were included in the final list of sites where WUCEL will conduct monitoring surveys to gauge the possibility of restoration in those sites.

In Taranaki, Highlands Intermediate have set up a study site in the New Plymouth Breakwater, which they intend on monitoring on a yearly basis, starting in term 4. Two students from the marine studies class summarised what they achieved during the pilot in a Powerpoint presentation, which they presented to the Nga Motu Marine Reserve Society.

Makauri School from Tairāwhiti Gisborne created a video of their snorkelling experience at Te Tapuwae o Rongokako marine reserve and their beach clean up at Makorori Beach. Students completed an audit of the rubbish collected along the beach, which was sent to the waste management team at council. The students have recommended that the council install rubbish/recycling compartment bins at Makorori Beach (15mins from town up the coast) as they currently don't have any, and the majority of the rubbish they have identified can be recycled.

In Auckland there were many students that completed individual as well as group actions to help enhance, protect and restore their local taiaoa. Some examples of student actions included weeding native plants around local waterways, wetland plantings, marine education websites, digital games, community posters, litter trap designs, stormwater art, letters to council, wai care monitoring, MM2 surveys, fundraisers, enviro clubs, pest monitoring, beach clean ups, and more. The main environmental threats areas that were covered by students were plastic pollution, stormwater pollution, overfishing, lack of marine protected areas, lack of local biodiversity, loss of habitat and environmental pests.

Meadowbank School, in Auckland, put on an exhibition to celebrate World Oceans Day and to share their awesome action projects with the wider community. Meadowbank students also created a website which recorded all their actions:

<https://sites.google.com/meadowbank.school.nz/mountains-to-sea/home>



Community Led action

Litter Intelligence Surveys

Mountains to Sea Wellington conducts a Litter Intelligence survey at Island Bay every 3 months. These events had an average of 12 volunteers removing 329 items of rubbish. Our site used a Sustainable Coastlines Litter Intelligence Project transect methodology. Community groups such as the Society for Conservation Biology or the Tramping Club from Victoria University of Wellington have joined Island Bay locals for these clean and audit events, totalling 229 volunteer hours. Results can be found [here](#).



Subtidal Monitoring

Whangarei Girls High School continued their timed-swim fish survey programme to determine the abundance of marine life underwater. They have incorporated the marine monitoring programme into their curriculum and assessments and have participated in the programme for five consecutive years, sourcing their own funding to be able to continue the surveys. This year we had an increased focus on marine pests during their survey.



Whangarei Girls High School students after completing their Reotahi survey

iNaturalist Database

EMR actively encourages schools and communities to contribute to existing databases like iNaturalist. EMR has over 166 recorded observations on iNaturalist with schools being able to upload their own observations after their snorkel experiences. One of the latest observations was of a mediterranean fanworm in the Whangarei Harbour. We have been engaging rangatahi in actively monitoring the presence of mediterranean fanworm in the Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve.



Love Rimurimu project

As of 2022 the Love Rimurimu – Restoration project has now entered the planting phase. The project aims to transplant the first lab-grown seaweeds into the marine farm by mid-July. This brings the objectives of pursuing active restoration within the harbour of Te Whanganui-a-Tara a bit closer. With an objective of restoring rimurimu across different sites surrounding the capital, this fund provides an exciting opportunity to develop methodologies and restoration techniques in the seaweed growth and restoration space. The Love Rimurimu kura students were part of the decision making for the selection of restoration sites.



Pourewa Valley catchment restoration

As part of Meadowbank schools action projects a group of students formed the whitebait warriors who helped Whitebait Connection and Nga Kaitiaki Hapori o Pourewa search for inanga eggs, test water quality and record adult inanga populations in the Pourewa Valley. From these initial monitoring sessions it became clear to the students that the site was in desperate need of more spawning habitat for inanga to successfully lay their eggs. To help improve this spawning habitat students researched the best native plants that inanga spawn in and were supported by Whitebait Connection and Nga Kaitiaki Hapori o Pourewa in planting the area with carex. The students also helped to educate their friends, families and the rest of the school about whitebait by creating storybooks, posters and games. In partnership with Whitebait Connection, Auckland Sustainable Schools and Nga Kaitiaki Hapori o Pourewa whitebait monitoring and catchment restoration initiatives will continue into next year, with the addition of a couple of public engagement events.



Meadowbank students searching for inanga eggs



Celebrating student success and leadership

We were pleased to be able to run our 21st annual Poor Knights competition trip on Friday 13th May. Student's were selected on the basis of their action projects carried out following the delivery of the EMR programme and came from as far north as Kerikeri and as south at the Catlins, Otago. For this year's trip we had 31 students and 29 guardians from 22 schools from 8 regions of Aotearoa including Northland, Auckland, Taranaki, Gisborne, Wellington, Nelson, Hauraki and Otago.

This year action projects included growing seaweed with the Love Rimirimu project in Wellington, marine biodiversity monitoring, using technology to increase awareness with on-line games, riparian planting and weed control, inanga spawning monitoring, organising community beach clean ups, mentoring younger students to become ocean kaitiaki and conducting research to address catchment wide sedimentation

Since 2002, we have taken representatives from 373 schools, totalling 531 students on this annual trip! Special guests on the day included our friends from Live Ocean and Vanessa Grace with her step son. The Grace's represent the amazing legacy and life long work for marine conservation by the late Dr Roger Grace. This is the fourth year we have offered the Darren Shields - Wettee freediving representative prize, for a Northland high school student that shows talent for freediving. This year's winner was Kiani Christie from Whangarei Girls High School.

Travelling on the vessel 'Perfect Day' our snorkel site this year, were the Gardens at Maroro Bay. This part of the Poor Knights Islands has been protected by a no-take status since 1981. Participants were delighted to see thousands of two spot demoiselles, black angel fish, snapper galore and the friendly sandagers wrasse. Conditions were like an aquarium on the day!



Group photo from the Poor Knights Competition trip in May 2022



90% of the Northland students on board had never been to the Poor Knights before and it was a 100% new experience for those students from all other regions.

Poor Knights Competition Trip 2022 video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pzGiLyQqrc>

Video from Kelia May Buckland (Riwaka School, Nelson): <https://youtu.be/tbtvWT9XaKE>

Feedback from participants

"I really enjoyed seeing the snapper and getting into the cave. Before hopping in I was excited and curious. I'm a little bit sad now that today is nearly over. Going to places like this makes me want to take care of our beach at home. It's really murky there, and there's no fish, but here you can see heaps! We need more filter feeders and to plant more trees at home to make it better." - Charlise Neilson, Ōrākei School student (Auckland)

"We loved seeing all the fish, the diversity was crazy! And they just came straight up to you. They were very docile and friendly. Seeing places like this makes me think about how this should be implemented elsewhere. We should see this more. It makes me think about what the oceans used to be like. It made me really happy to see all the fish just living their best life." - Summer and Elliot, Whangarei Girls High School (Northland)

"I feel awesome! It was super cool being in the water with all the fish. We went out to the pinnacles and saw all the big snapper. There were all sorts of fish and kina. I was really proud to get to come here. When I got picked, the whole town heard about it and everyone was talking about it. Thanks for all the support and the trips we've been on." - Zander Curnow, Parawai School (Hauraki)

"It's been such an incredible experience to get out, be in the environment, and see all the fish, and meet lots of wonderful, different and interesting people along the way. The highlight for me was definitely seeing all the fish and being in a different environment from what I'm used to and being around people with a wealth of marine knowledge. Thank you to EMR for all that you do, and for allowing us to come out and get these opportunities that we haven't had before. I feel very privileged." - Sophia Niblock, Otago University (Otago)



Rob and Bronson from I Have a Dream exploring the rocky reefs at Maroro Bay



Community Guided Snorkel & Paddle Days

During the summer of 2021/22 we had 55 Community Guided Snorkel, Kayak & SUP days throughout NZ, involving 3,456 participants. Community events continue to play an important role for EMR and engage the wider community.

EMR has continued to expand the range of experiences and locations and is able to cater for a wide range of snorkelers/paddlers - from complete novices to experienced freedivers. Especially the 'Adventure snorkel days' to some of the islands in the Hauraki Gulf run by EMR Auckland attract some passionate ocean-lovers and provide a unique opportunity to explore some of the less accessible snorkel sites. They are also a great way to highlight and collaborate with local organisations so that more community members can engage with local conservation initiatives.

Feedback from participants

"How lucky are we to have such a taonga to visit. The trip has inspired our whanau to want to look after the moana more." Kaitiaki Hawke, Poor Knights Fundraiser Trip

"Alex, our guide, ensured everyone was safe and enriched by the experience. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity today for many participants. Thank you to all the magnificent volunteers. Very well organised." Annette, Taputeranga Snorkel Day



Assistant guide Carla ready to take her group out exploring Takapuna Reef



Volunteer Update

A large team of volunteers continue to support the EMR snorkel days all over the country. Many of them were participants prior to volunteering and they are amazing ambassadors of the EMR programme. Auckland continues to hold volunteer training sessions at the start of the season and have streamlined their volunteer process to build an army of dedicated gold-star volunteers. Northland, Taranaki and Wellington volunteer bases are also growing with the addition of training days and a focus on creating more volunteer development resources and easy to use community portals.

Our volunteer's hard work and passion is incredibly valuable to our organisation and we greatly appreciate their contribution to creating the future kaitiaki of te moana. They assisted as guides on snorkel days, wrangled boogie boards on the safety kayaks, washed and organised snorkel gear, buddied with participants on kayak days, helped us make ratios on school delivery days and helped us with trailer maintenance. Many of our senior guides also acted as great mentors, supporting and teaching our newest volunteers how to guide participants.

In total, volunteers have volunteered 7,034 hours of their time, with one of the Auckland top volunteers accumulating 87 hours alone this season.



Senior guide Olivia, representing Auckland's top volunteer at our annual Poor Knights Fundraiser Trip



Mountains To Sea Conservation Trust Wānanga 2022

Our 2022 Wānanga has been postponed to October due to COVID lockdowns.

Theme: Kotahitanga

Purpose:

An inspirational professional development and networking opportunity for all those involved or interested in marine and freshwater science, education and conservation.



In the theme of Kotahitanga we will also be integrating the NZAEE's Hā + Houora + Tangata Conference with our wānanga.

Objectives

- ◆ provide a forum for marine and freshwater educators to network about education for sustainability initiatives and projects around science communication
- ◆ provide professional development opportunities
- ◆ provide a forum to discuss the effectiveness of existing and potential partnerships that foster action for marine and freshwater conservation
- ◆ ensure strong delivery of the Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) and Whitebait Connection (WBC) concepts around New Zealand
- ◆ explore the idea of Kotahitanga in the context of marine and freshwater conservation and education

Continuing projects and conservation initiatives

Celebrating Seaweek - Te Ika o te Tau (Fish of the Year)

Seaweek - Kaupapa Moana took place in the second week of March with many events nationwide celebrating our ocean. Like every year, EMR has contributed significantly to the success of Seaweek.

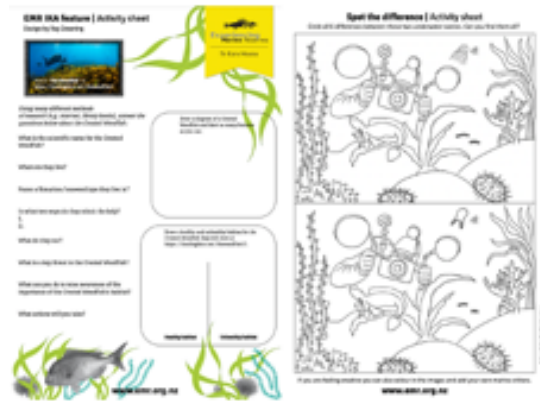
This summer we offered the second 'Fish of the Year' competition. Whai repo won two years in a



row! We included an introduced fish to create awareness of the difference between endemic, native and introduced.

EMR Ika Feature

In support of the release of the Shortdoc “The Weedfish”, we decided to create a fun activity sheet to help people learn about this cryptic ika. We also highlighted many other ika during our Fish of the Year campaign and ran a colouring competition to help encourage tamariki to learn some fun facts about their favourite ika.



Rangatahi Mentorship Programme

Marine Mahi for Rangatahi utilises existing mentorship and environmental education frameworks to achieve leadership and education outcomes for participants and action for the marine environment.

Participants have the opportunity to undergo training, volunteer and progress to paid cadetship positions with EMR. On completing the programme participants have an increased knowledge of environmental issues and the actions we need to take to resolve them. They also have skills and practical experience in implementing the solutions. However, most importantly, they are inspired to protect and restore our shared life-sustaining ecosystems for future generations. The programme garnered strong support from both the participants and their whānau. With many rangatahi and taitamariki volunteering at EMR events throughout the season as well as attending training days.

The Auckland team also brought on a new rangatahi cadet, Mumuteatawah Couch-Stevens, who started as a volunteer and is now an assistant coordinator on community events and school programmes. Next season Mumu will be helping the Auckland team to incorporate more te reo māori into their delivery.



Taitamariki snorkel guide Tineka Waetford guide taking a group with new volunteer guide Carlos



Health and Safety

As the national umbrella organisation for all other regions, the trust's Health and Safety management for the team, volunteers, participants and everyone we associate with is our number one priority. The trust is accredited Adventure Activity provider (AAO 534) with Outdoors Mark and audited on a regular basis. New coordinators always receive full training prior to the start of the programmes and are provided hands-on support with their initial delivery to ensure all H&S procedures are understood and followed at all times. EMR has responded proactively to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout its course. We operate in line with the government directives regarding events and gatherings. All regional providers are operating under on-going and evolving national directives to ensure a consistent approach.

Teacher's feedback

"The staff running this program are great and I was especially impressed by their rapport with students on the day of delivery. Jorge was amazing with our more nervous students, getting them involved and into the water. Communication and documentation was also very thorough and timely, and the Covid plan was very well thought-out and executed. The girls had a great day and getting experience in these things is invaluable for them." Teacher from Queen Margaret College (Wellington)

"I was blown away with how engaged our ākonga were in this programme, they were so curious and asked lots of questions during and after every session. It was also great to see all their whānau come onboard and participate in the programme as well." - Roimata Manaia, Ōrākei School Rumaki Kaiako (Auckland)

"Thalassa co-ordinated the content superbly and the tamariki gained a lot from the experience, all the support resources were also super valuable." Teacher from Parklands School (Nelson)



Meadowbank students exploring Goat Island marine reserve



EMR in the Media around the country

National:

- [Nudibranch interview with Lorna Doogan, RE:](#)
- [NZUA Annual Report](#)
- [Viva Ocean Conservation leaders article featuring National Coordinator Lorna Doogan](#)

Northland:

- [Reotahi Snorkel Days segment on Newshub](#)
- [Northland representatives at Poor Knights Competition Trip, The Leader Whangarei Edition](#)

Auckland:

- [Enclosure Bay Snorkel Day, Waiheke Gulf News](#)
- [Mana Whenua Te Matuku Paddle, Waiheke Weekender](#)

Nelson/Tasman:

- [Tonga Island Snorkel Day, Stuff article](#)
- [Riwaka school students at Poor Knights Competition Trip, The Leader Tasman Edition](#)
- [RNZ interview with Tasman Bay Guardians](#)
- [Tonga Island Snorkel Days, Guardian article](#)

Wellington:

- [RNZ interview about upcoming community snorkel events](#)
- [RNZ podcast during Taputeranga Community Snorkel](#)
- [Kapiti Newspaper article about Kāpiti Island community snorkel](#)
- [RNZ interview promoting first Community Snorkel of 2022](#)
- [Stuff article highlighting the Love Rimurimu restoration programme](#)



National Funders and supporters

- Bobby-Stafford Bush Foundation
- Dive! Tutukaka
- NZUA - New Zealand Underwater Association
- NZAEE - Seaweek
- Sustainable Coastlines
- Tindall Foundation
- Wettie Wetsuits and Spearfishing

Regional funders and Supporters

Northland

Foundation North, Lotteries- COGS, Sport Northland - Tu Manawa Active Aotearoa, Water Safety NZ, , Northland Regional Council

Auckland

Friends of the Farm, Fullers 360, Hauraki Gulf Forum, Takapuna Business Association, Tu Manawa Active Aotearoa, Waiheke Marine Project, Auckland Council Biosecurity, Auckland Council Local Boards, Auckland Unlimited, Fortuna Foundation, Foundation North, Bobby Stafford Bush Foundation

Tairāwhiti Gisborne

Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education

Wellington

Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve Trust, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt Mana Charitable Trust, Kāpiti Island Eco Tours, New Zealand Community Trust, Pelorus Trust, Wellington City Council, Wellington Community Trust, WWF



Taputeranga Snorkel Day (Wellington)



Tahuna Torea Kayak Day (Auckland)



Maunganui Bay Snorkel Day (Northland)



Nelson/Tasman

Z Energy, Abel Tasman Eco Tours Abel Tasman Sea shuttles, Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve Board, Port Nelson, Motueka Top Ten Holiday Park, Guardians of the Sea, Cable Bay Kayaks

Partnerships

Northland

Fish Forever, Te Rarawa Anga Mua Trust, Northland Regional Council, Sea Shuttle Bay of Islands, Ngati Kuri, DOC Whangarei, Seaweed, Sport Northland, Whananaki CLD, Te Rangi i Taiawhiaotia Trust

Auckland

Aotearoa Lakes, Auckland Council Biodiversity, Auckland Council Sustainable Schools, Auckland Sea kayaks, Auckland Sea shuttles, Charlie's Birds, Friends of Kurt Brehmer Walkway, Friends of Te Auaunga (Oakley) Creek, Friends of the Farm, Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre, HIWA Ltd, Kaipātiki Project, Kelly Tarltons Marine Wildlife Trust, Leigh Marine Lab, Mission Bay Watersports, Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre, Nga Kaitiaki Hapori o Pourewa, Noises Trust, Ōtāhuhu Māori Wardens, Para Kore Ki Tāmaki, Pest Free Kaipātiki, Poi Yeah, Rakino Ratepayers Association, Rotorua Trust, SUP Waiheke, Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary -Society Incorporated, Te Koru Trust, Te Whau Pathway Trust, Urban Ark, Uru Whakaaro, Waiheke Marine Project, Waiheke Resources Trust, Whangateau Holiday Park, Whau River Catchment Trust, Whitebait Connection, Wildlife Shaun

Tairāwhiti Gisborne

Gisborne District Council, Friends of Te Tapuwae O Rongokako Marine Reserve Trust, DOC Gisborne



Lower Moutere School Snorkel Experience (Nelson)



Highlands Intermediate Action project Winners (Taranaki)



Coburn School snorkelling experience (Tairāwhiti)



Nelson

Abel Tasman Sea Shuttle, Wilson's Abel Tasman, DOC Nelson, Richard De Hamel, Kaiteriteri Beach Reserve, Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council.

Wellington

Conservation Volunteers NZ, Dive Wellington, Enviroschools, NIWA, Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve Trust, Guardians of Kāpiti Island Marine Reserve, Octacle, Make Ripples, Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, NIWA, Papa Taiao, Salvation Army, Sustainable Coastlines, Te Aho Tū Roa, Victoria University Coastal Ecology Lab, Wellington Underwater Club, Deep Blue Seafoods, Mahanga Bay Seaweeds

Other organisations that have supported and engaged or collaborated with us through schools, events and action projects

Auckland freediving club, Waiheke Dive, Auckland University Dive Club, Dolphin Underwater Club, Long Bay Okura Great Parks Society, Live Ocean, Auckland Zoo, EnviroSchools,, Ngati Kahu Social Services, NZAEE, TriOceans, Ferrier Family, Young Ocean Explorers & New Zealand Underwater (NZUA)

For more information

Samara Nicholas, MNZM - Poutokomanawa/Co-director - Marine Lead, info@emr.org.nz

Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) - Te Kura Moana

www.emr.org.nz

www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz

www.mountaintosea.org.nz



Rimurimu surveying in Taputeranga marine reserve (Wellington)



Finlayson Park student's beach clean up (Auckland)

National EMR programme areas and contact

emails:

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hauraki@emr.org.nz | Nelson –

nelson@emr.org.nz | Taranaki –

taranaki@emr.org.nz | Otago/Rakiura –

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