



Experiencing  
Marine Reserves

Te Kura Moana



# Experiencing Marine Reserves Auckland Report 2021 - 2022

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

All photography by Sophie Journée, Lorna Doogan and Shaun Lee unless otherwise stated.





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## Executive Summary

This year EMR has continued to expand our opportunities for communities to experience their local marine areas through snorkel, kayak and stand-up paddleboarding days throughout the Auckland Region. We were able to run these events with the continued support and funding from the Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation, Auckland Unlimited, Waiheke Marine Project, Auckland Council, and numerous local boards. We ran our second freshwater lake event in partnership with Auckland Biosecurity, Aotearoa Lakes, Whitebait Connection and Auckland Sea Kayaks, taking 138 people kayaking and snorkeling throughout the day. We were also able to run two snorkels at the Noises Islands and one on Rakino Island taking 37 participants from both the mainland, Waiheke and Rakino Island to explore the waters of the inner Hauraki Gulf. During our 'talk and snorkel' event on Rakino Island we had 50 people in the Rakino Community Hall listening to Tim Haggitt speak on the results of the ecological benthic survey and 13 participants who shared their local spot with us on our snorkel.

Across the 2021/22 season, EMR's Auckland crew took 2132 participants and 231 volunteers out to explore Tikapa Moana - Te Moananui-ā-Toi, the Hauraki Gulf and the Manukau harbour. Through stand up paddleboarding, kayaking and snorkeling, participants were treated to some excellent ocean conditions and marine life encounters, from whales cruising by the viaduct to tiny nudibranchs hidden amongst the seaweed. Despite covid delays and omicron outbreaks, we were able to run a total of 29 events across the Auckland Region, including one spotlighting event, two volunteer training days, four stand-up paddleboarding days, 11 kayak days, and 13 snorkel days.

Since 2002, EMR has expanded to eight regions, with a team of 27 coordinators. Our Auckland EMR team has taken 86,363 people into NZ's marine reserves and over 224,698 people have been engaged in EMR organised marine conservation events.



## Our team in Auckland

Our team has grown to 3 full time and 5 casual contractors for MTSCCT.



Samara Nicholas  
Founder  
Poutokoumanawa



Sophie Journ e  
National Deputy Coordinator  
Auckland Regional Manager



Lorna Doogan  
National Coordinator  
Auckland Regional Manager



Ella Walmsley  
Auckland Coordinator



Wednesday Davis  
Auckland Coordinator



Koha Kahui-McConnell  
Auckland Coordinator



Brendan Doogan  
Assistant Coordinator



Teschna Christie  
Casual Coordinator



Mumuteawha Couch-Stevens  
Rangatahi Cadet

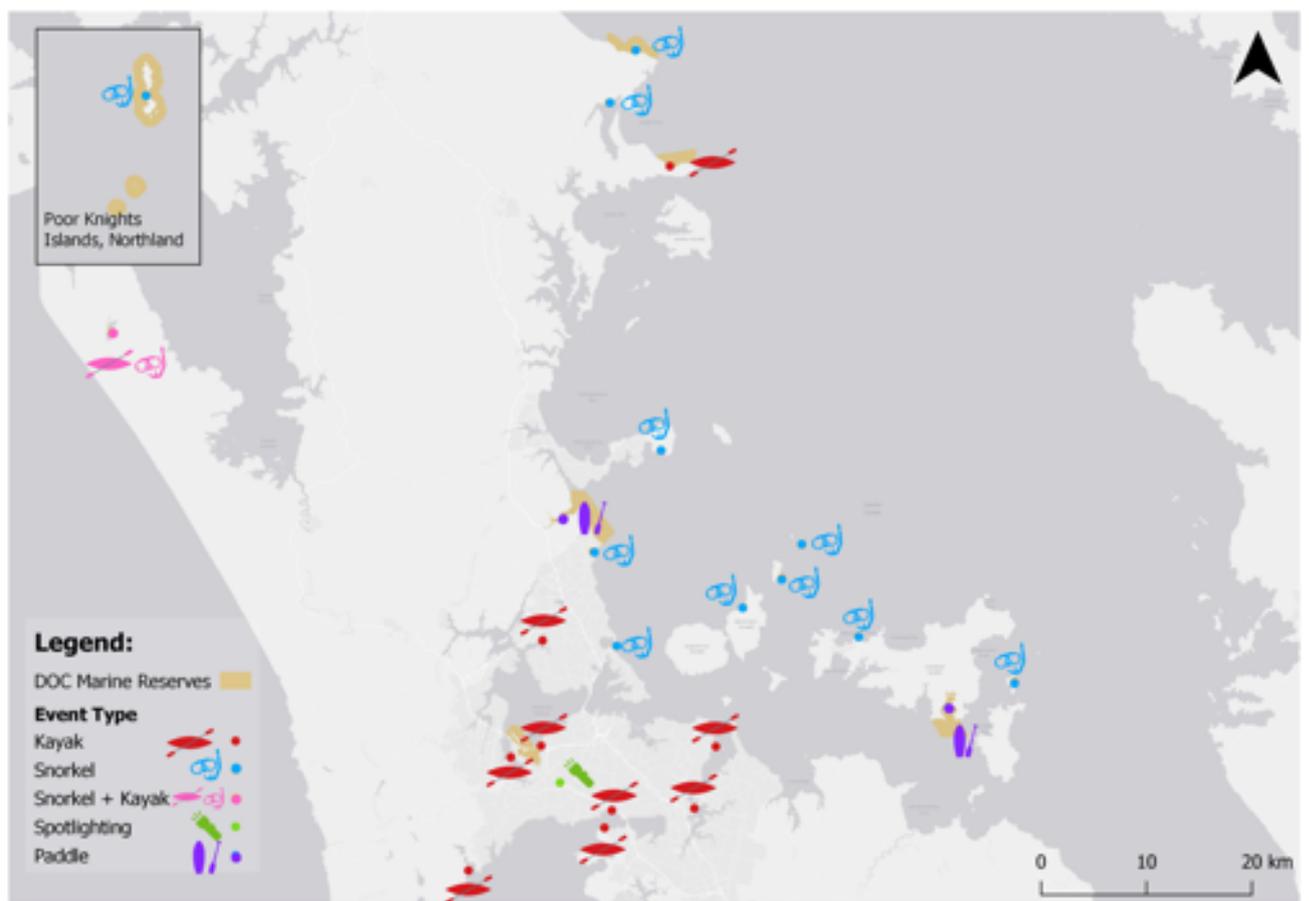
## Auckland's Snorkel, Kayak and Paddle Days

We have continued to provide snorkel, kayak and paddle days as fun, safe and free or cheap summer events for community members of all ages. These events are an opportunity for communities to get out and experience their local environment as well as learn about issues facing our marine and freshwater ecosystems. We have continued to receive great feedback from participants, with many joining for multiple events throughout the season, or returning as volunteers. We continue to implement suggestions from both volunteers and participants, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of our events, and allowing us to engage with more people within the community.

Location	Date	Participants	Volunteers
Okura Guided Paddle	11 Dec 2021	30	5
Mana Whenua Te Matuku Paddle	12 Dec 2021	18	-
Lake Pupuke Training Day	18 Dec 2021	-	20
Waiheke Snorkel Day	8 Jan 2022	138	20
Te Matuku Guided Paddle	9 Jan 2022	18	4
Rakino Snorkel Day	15 Jan 2022	13	3
Rototoa Snorkel/Kayak Day	22 Jan 2022	123	15
Torbay Snorkel Day	23 Jan 2022	158	26
Otata Adventure Snorkel (Rakino)	19 Feb 2022	13	-
Sandy Beach Kayak Day	20 Feb 2022	48	5
Takapuna Snorkel Day	26 Feb 2022	131	14
Volunteer Freediving Training	3 March 2022	-	12
Māngere Kayak Day	5 March 2022	93	6
Goat Island Snorkel Day	12 March 2022	127	18
Whangateau Snorkel Day	13 March 2022	55	10
Papakura Guided Paddle	19 March 2022	48	2
Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel	27 March 2022	11	1
Shakespear Snorkel Day	27 March 2022	93	17
Rotoroa Snorkel Day	2 April 2022	55	7
Motutapu Snorkel Day	3 April 2022	105	10
Motu Manawa Kayak Day	9 April 2022	96	4
Poor Knights Snorkel Day	14 May 2022	35	10
Tahuna Torea Kayak Day	21 May 2022	48	6
Tāmaki River Kayak Day	28 May 2022	40	-
Kaipatiki Kayak Day	4 June 2022	96	3
Onehunga Kayak Day	18 June 2022	74	-
Whau Paddle	19 June 2022	68	3
Te Auaunga Spolighting	30 June 2022	25	-
Tāwaharanui Kayak Day	2 July 2022	30	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>1789</b>	<b>227</b>
	<b>Total participants</b>		<b>2016</b>



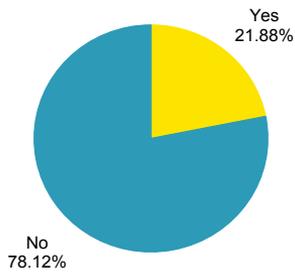
## Map of events within Tīkapa Moana - Te Moananui-ā-Toi - Hauraki Gulf and the Manuaku Harbour



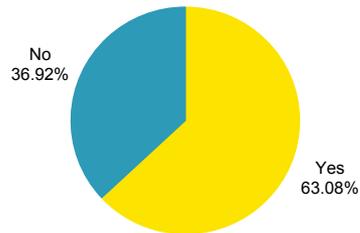
## Overview of all events

From our evaluations, we had 960 responses from 26 events. Our uptake of evaluations continues to be strong with dedicated tent based volunteers ensuring we capture as many people as possible during our events. For many it was their first time snorkeling!

Have you snorkelled here before today?



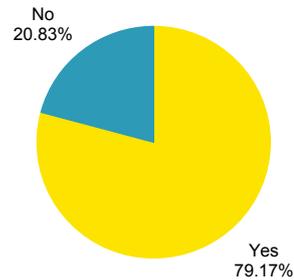
Is this your first EMR event?



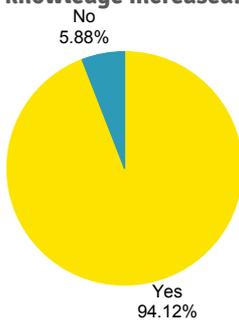
Did you learn anything new today?



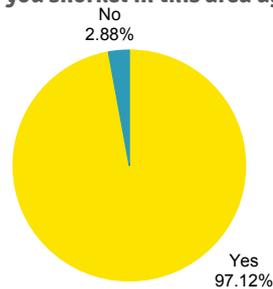
Have you snorkelled before today?



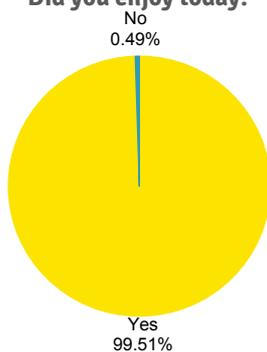
Has your marine conservation knowledge increased?



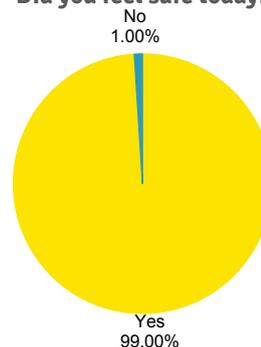
Would you snorkel in this area again?



Did you enjoy today?

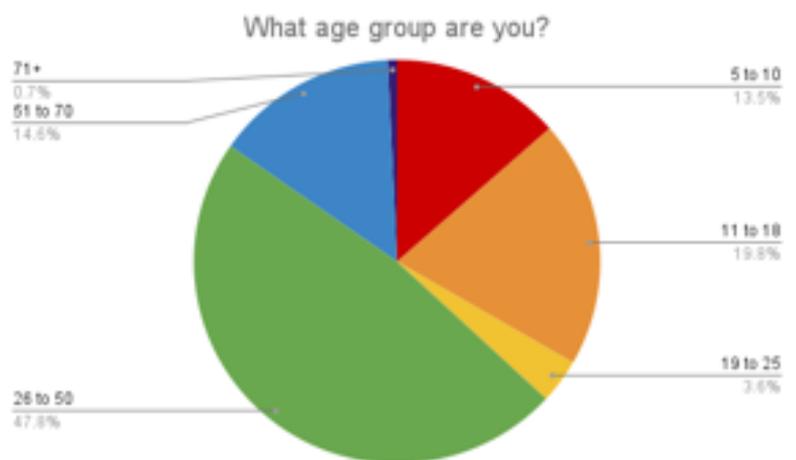
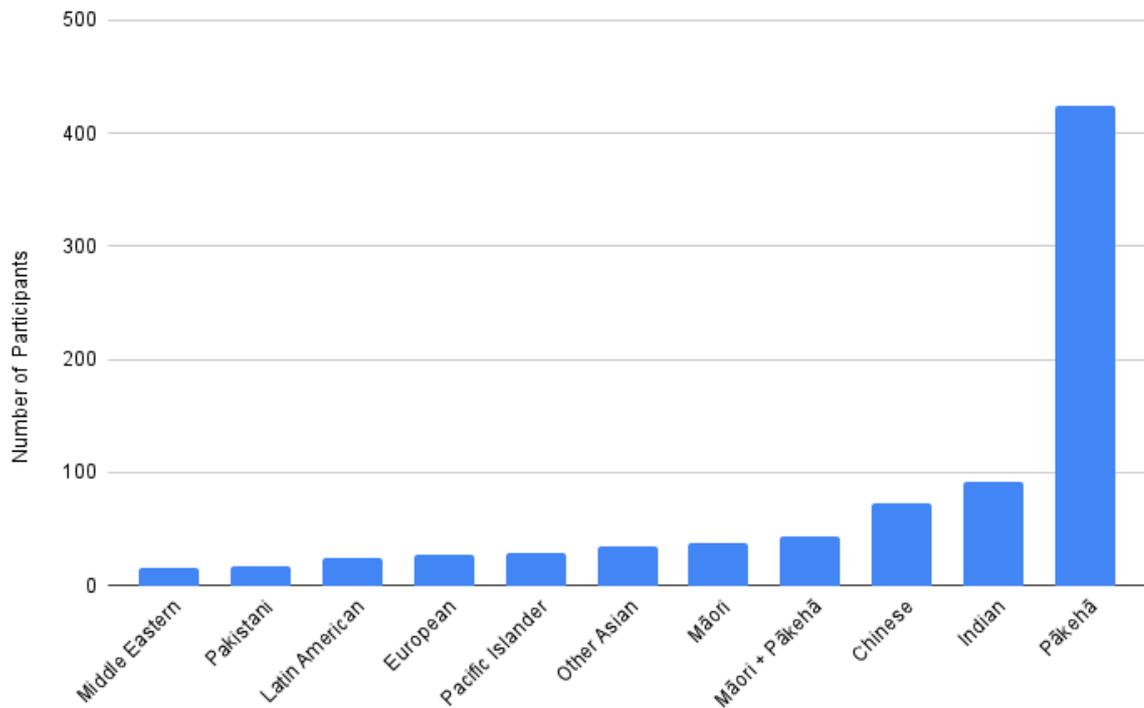


Did you feel safe today?



## Demographics of participants

Our 2021/22 events were attended by a diverse group of participants. We had a total of 49 different ethnicities attend our events. This is a breakdown of the 11 most common. We would like to continue to increase Māori and Pacifica engagement in our events in the 2022/23 season.



For the 2021/22 season we were underrepresented in the 19-25 and 71+ age ranges. We would like to increase participation in these age ranges for our next events season, in order to reach a wider Auckland audience.



## Okura Guided Paddle

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
11 Dec 2021	30	5	Lorna Doogan Sophie Journée

Our first event of the EMR season was our Okura guided paddle! This event was possible with the help of Mission Bay Watersports who provided the standup paddle boards and on water tuition. We started small for this event - dipping our toes into the season - having 30 participants and 5 volunteers join us for this on water adventure.

The MyVaccine Pass and QR codes went without a hitch and we were able to showcase the Long Bay-Okura marine reserve to our participants - which for many of them was their backyard. The rain held off and the wind made the paddling challenging up wind and very easy on the way back. We saw matuku moana (whitefaced heron), juvenile mullet, whai repo (eagle rays) and a snapper!

Lexi Tuenter | “Nick was a fantastic instructor and all the information before the event was super helpful”

Mark Turner Padgett | “Great instruction, very clear. Made it easy for a first timer. Awesome experience.”





## Mana Whenua Te Matuku Paddle

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
12 Dec 2021	18	-	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui-McConnell

This season we partnered with the Waiheke Marine Project and Ngā Uri o Ngāti Pāoa ki Waiheke to help 20 Ngāti Pāoa whānau explore Te Matuku Marine Reserve by paddle. We managed to dodge the worst of the rain and were treated to a tranquil tour through the mangrove mazes that make up the inner portion of Te Matuku Bay. Before getting out on the water the history of the bay was shared by Ngāti Pāoa kāumatua and participants were given a quick paddle boarding tutorial by SUP Waiheke.

We had to brace the mangrove mud in order to launch the paddle boards and kayaks into tidal channels, but it was worth it once we were able to take in the scenery around us and listen for the peaceful calls of native manu. During our paddle we were greeted by the local wildlife including matuku moana (white faced heron), kotare (kingfisher), tuna (eels) and makawhiti (yellow eye mullet).

Lucy Tukua | “The SUP excursion gave whānau the opportunity to be in nature and in particular the wetlands to experience the tranquility, beauty and splendor as mana moana, whānau who have an indelible connection to Te Matuku, both the bay and the manu. Learning about the habitat and ecosystem, smelling and sensing her mauri and coming away with a more vivid and connected appreciation of our interconnectedness. He tuku mihi tēnei ki te whānui e hapai ana tēnei kaupapa, ngā ringawera koutou katoa. No mātou ngā uri Ngāti Paoa, o ngā hapū o Waiheke kē te waimarie.”

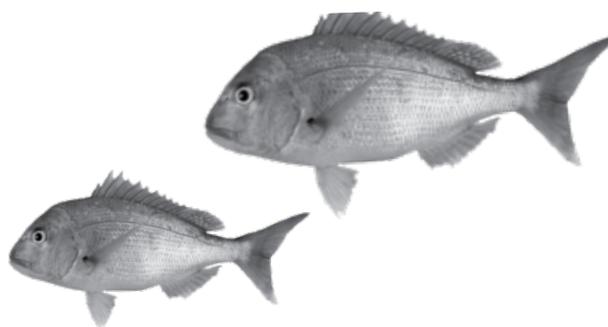


## Lake Pupuke Volunteer Training Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
18 Dec 2021	-	20	Sophie Journée

To prepare for the 2021/22 season we ran our annual volunteer training day in mid December. We had 20 volunteers join us at Lake Pupuke to learn all about volunteering for EMR and gain new snorkeling and guiding skills.

Volunteers learnt the ins and outs of our events trailer, being kayak support and of course being an awesome guide! We are incredibly grateful for our volunteers and their support throughout the EMR programme - supporting us at both school and community based events.



## Volunteer Freediving Training

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
3 March 2022	-	20	Wednesday Davis

In March we were able to run our second EMR volunteer training session of the season - this time we had Brad James from The Freedive Project support us by running a freediving workshop for our volunteers.

We had 20 volunteers join us at Glenfield Pool and Leisure centre for an evening of learning fundamentals of freediving, breathwork and health and safety. Our volunteers learnt essential safety skills and rescue techniques to help us keep our participants safe during our snorkel days this season.



## Waiheke Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
8 Jan 2022	138	20	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Lorna Doogan

In early January we ran a jam-packed weekend of events on Waiheke Island! We were able to run our 11th annual Waiheke Island Snorkel Day at Enclosure Bay on Saturday 8th January taking 138 participants and 20 volunteers out to explore the bay. Participants were able to see short tailed stingrays, parore, spotties and schools of piper! Our participants were also treated to a putiputi weaving workshop held on the beach by Jeanine Clarkin.



Lanuole Moe-Penn | “Thanks to the team, especially to Olivia for being very welcoming and friendly and using her Go Pro”

Stefanie Borkowski | “Excellent guides made me feel at ease in the water and I touched a starfish!”

Barb | “Stephen was very patient guide. Observing fish, especially starfish. Happy to see living scallops. Hope to see regeneration of shellfish with the rahui.”



Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
9 Jan 2022	18	4	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Lorna Doogan



To finish off our weekend of Waiheke events we ran our Te Matuku Paddle. We trekked with 22 locals onto the eastern side of the island to the Orapiu Stockyards. After some expert paddleboarding tutorials from SUP Waiheke we made the scramble down a bank and navigated thick mud to access the top of the Te Matuku marine reserve. The tidal creek winds its way through the mature mangroves and broadleaf forest to open into a bay which is part of the Te Matuku marine reserve. Some participants were straight up onto their feet - shortly discovering that the low hanging branches make navigating the twists and turns a real challenge. We were greeted by a short tailed stingray and plenty of parore in the shallows.

Participants rafted up into the mangroves to hear event organiser Sophie Journée talk about the ecology of mangroves, salt marshes and the importance of wetlands for the highly endangered matuku - Australasian bittern. Conversations were had about the state of the Hauraki gulf while bobbing back up stream with the incoming tide.

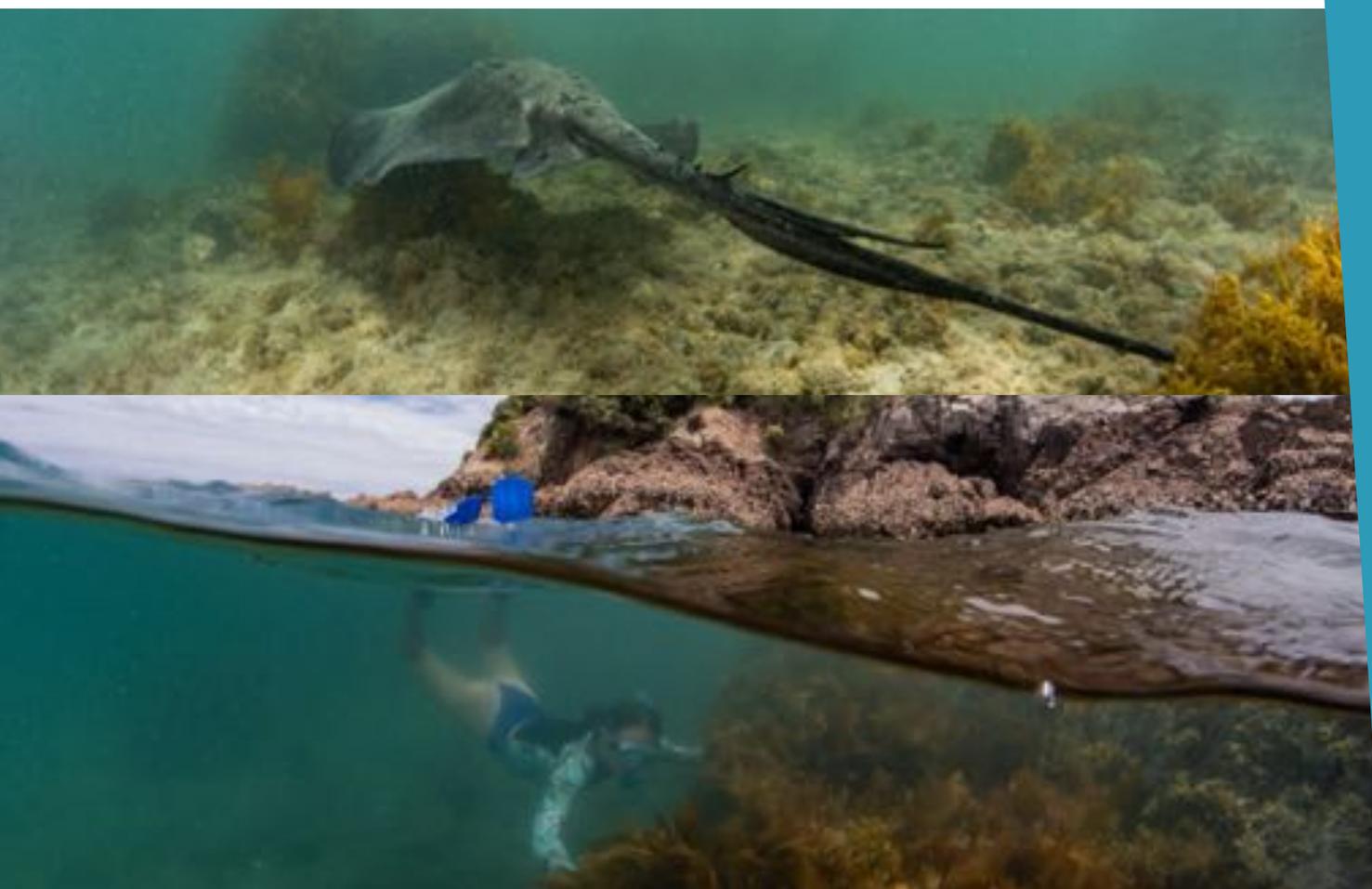
Alejandra Morziles | “Thank you all team, you are doing an amazing job. Beautiful experience to paddle today in the marine reserve”

Christina Livingstone | “Great experience for my first time SUPing. Great instruction and knowledgeable wildlife guide”

Jane Foster | “Great experience, knowledgeable conservation team and SUP instructors. Would recommend”

## Rakino Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
15 Jan 2022	13	3	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Lorna Doogan



John Beasley | “Wonderful informative education on marine life. Wonderful exciting day full of delightful information and guidance. Safety first, perfect day. Thanks.”

John MacKenzie | “Amazing. Learnt some things about the ocean and the island that I never knew about. Again, amazing.”

Federico O’Connor | “It was really fun. I have been coming to this island since I was a baby, and I never had the opportunity to go snorkelling. It was a great experience, thank you for this opportunity”

We were exceptionally lucky to sneak in our Rakino Snorkel Day in front of cyclone Cody and the Tonga eruption. EMR was invited by Rakino locals Elisabeth and Tim Haggitt from The University of Auckland to run the snorkel components of their 'Talk n Snork' event.

The Talk was held in the Rakino Community hall with 50 people listening to Tim talk about the findings of the ecological surveys taken out around Rakino Island. The Snork was relocated to Woody Bay due to the swells and we were taken by 13 locals for a tour of their back yard by snorkel. We spent an hour in the water and saw a short tailed ray, huge schools of parore, anemone beds and extensive kina barrens.

A huge thank you to all the Rakino locals for being amazing hosts.



## Rototoa Snorkel/Kayak Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
22 Jan 2022	123	15	Sophie Journée Lorna Doogan Teschna Christie Kimberley D'Souza

We had a stunning day out at Lake Rototoa with the perfect weather to explore this hidden gem bordering the Kaipara Harbour. This event was run in partnership with Auckland Biosecurity, Aotearoa Lakes, Whitebait Connection and Auckland Sea Kayaks.

Sophie Journée led a team of fantastic volunteers to take 123 people kayaking and snorkelling throughout the day. Whilst being guided around the lake participants learnt about some of the unique native wildlife that call this lake home, including kākahi (freshwater mussels), bullies and dwarf inanga. Matt Bloxham from Auckland Council biodiversity team was also on hand to share some of the challenges facing this lake including invasive pests such as perch, gambusia and hornwort. In order to slow the spread of these invasive species participants learnt how to Check, Clean, Dry their gear in order to responsibly enjoy our freshwater ways this summer.

David Halewood | “Great organisation, staff/volunteers very knowledgable. Lovely way to spend our Saturday. Learnt so much, thanks.”

Aiay Agraheui | “Thank you for organising this. Events like this bring us closer to mother nature.”

Tiger Clements-Smith | “Learnt how to duck dive, lots of fun, got better at snorkelling.”



Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
23 Jan 2022	158	26	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Ella Walmsley Koha Kahui McConnell Lorna Doogan



On Sunday 23rd January we ran our 7th event at Little Waiake, Torbay. Over the course of the day we took 182 people snorkeling around ‘The Tor’. For many it was their first experience beneath the surface and while we didn’t have the best visibility, we saw plenty of nudibranchs, sweep, parore and spotties.

We partnered up with Para Kore Ki Tāmaki and Whitebait Connection to provide information stalls and workshops alongside the snorkeling. Waiata & Riria from Para Kore Ki Tāmaki ran a kono ranga workshop - how to weave a 4 cornered basket from harakeke - flax. These can be used to make drink bottle holders to increase zero waste consciousness.

The freshwater education stall from Whitebait Connection had information about our urban streams and macroinvertebrates from the Awaruku catchment to help highlight the connection between the land and sea.

Heidi Dragicevich | “Olivia was great, learned a lot of fabulous fish information and whales etc. I am now interested in marine life and have gained more confidence in the water!”

Severeine Lenting | “It was my first time snorkelling with EMR and I learned a lot of new things about my local beach and marine conservation. Awesome!”

## Otata Adventure Snorkel (Rakino)

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
19 Feb 2022	13	0	Sophie Journée Lorna Doogan Wednesday Davis

On Saturday we were very lucky to be invited by the Neureuter whānau to Otata - a part of The Noises island chain in the Hauraki Gulf. It was a very early morning, departing Ōkahu boat ramp in a downpour - we took 4 people from the mainland and picked up 9 Rakino locals on the way.

During our Otata Island snorkel event, participants were treated to eagle rays, shoals of squid, plenty of parore and other inner gulf critters. Participants were also taken on a guided tour of the Island by Sue Neureuter and learnt about the fantastic pest eradication and restoration work that has been happening on the island. As a predator free island, birds find a safe haven, with numerous shags spotted roosting in the trees near our snorkel spot.

A huge thank you to Auckland Sea Shuttles for getting us out there and the Noises Trust for hosting. We are very excited to see the conservation journey that Rakino Island is on, taking inspiration from the Neureuter whānau.



Paula Ungler | “The love and passion Sue has for that island an nature certainly shone through when she popped up swimming amongst the rocks to show us the archways! As well as when she was taking us for our hikoi and talking about the unfortunate ancient Pohutakawa trees’ demise.”

Natalie Couch | “The friendly happy manakitanga of hosts made me feel welcome, comfortable and safe. I learnt so much and feel inspired to learn more about the beautiful moana world.”

## Sandy Beach (Armour Bay) Kayak Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
20 Feb 2022	48	5	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Lorna Doogan



We had a stunning day with the perfect weather to explore up Williams Stream to the base of the Nihotupu Dam. We weaved our way through mangrove forests spotting a school of mullet, matuku moana (white faced herons) flying overhead and kawau (pied shags). A highlight was watching a kawau try to swallow an entire eel it had caught - with a tail sticking out of its mouth.

Waiata from Para Kore Ki Tāmaki ran the raranga - weaving workshop. Teaching participants the tikanga around gathering harakeke as well as techniques for weaving. Sophie from Whitebait Connection was able to share the local stories of inanga (whitebait) spawning zones and teach participants about our galaxiid life cycle.

A special thank you to volunteer Stephen for capturing some great photos of participants on the water.

Ajay | “It was so nice to experience and to learn about New Zealand marine life.”

Sam McGuire | “Lovely to explore a part of Manukau Harbour that I wasn’t aware of. Super friendly and knowledgeable team.”

Lisa Lewandowski | “Fabulous afternoon, loved the relaxed friendly team. Very knowledgeable about the local ecology. The best fun I’ve had this summer, great to get kids outdoors and exercising in a fun affordable way.”

## Takapuna Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
26 Feb 2022	131	14	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Wednesday Davis Aileen Sweeny

We had an awesome day exploring Takapuna Reef on the 26th February. Throughout the day we were able to guide 145 people around this unique inner city reef. Plenty of spotties, parore, nudibranchs, sea stars, and sweep were spotted. For many this was their first experience snorkelling and it was a pleasure to see so many smiling faces in the water.

Whilst not in the water participants were also able to learn about our freshwater environments from Whitebait Connection and learn how to make poi from Poi Yeah.

Simon Barhtorpe | “Great experience and a great idea. I hadn’t thought to snorkel in Takapuna before. My son loved it. Thanks so much.”

Sam Chan-Jury | “Wonderful guides Olivia and Stephen! They were great with my kids, we felt safe, saw alot of fish and learnt something new! Will definitely try snorkelling again!”



Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
5 March 2022	93	4	Sophie Journée Lorna Doogan Aileen Sweeney

We celebrated the first day of Seaweek with our Māngere Kayak Day. We had an awesome turn out of 97 people that we took exploring the Manukau Harbour via kayak. Auckland Sea Kayaks was on hand to keep everyone safe and sound on the water, whilst giving some great kayaking instruction. With the help of our awesome local guides Zane and Layna from Friends of the Farm we were able to show off the harbour from a different perspective and learn about the history and ecology of the rohe (area). Kotare (kingfisher), matuku moana (white-faced heron) and tōrea (oystercatchers) were spotted on the water whilst exploring the mangroves, shelly beaches and tidal mudflats.

Whilst participants were waiting to go kayaking we had Whitebait Connection showing off some local freshwater biodiversity and Friends of the Farm promoting waste minimisation in the local community.

Para Kore Ki Tāmaki also ran a raranga workshop alongside the kayak rotations so that people could learn how to prepare harakeke and learn simple weaving techniques to help them make their own creations at home.



Rebecca Ju | “So impressive, I’m so happy my very disabled son is able to attend and he always has great fun.”

Melanie Hayden | “Awesome to see our local area by water and really enthusiastic guides.”

Sarah Woodfield | “Great to hear the te ao maori history and korero and also the environmental info.”

## Goat Island Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
12 March 2022	127	18	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Koha Kahui McConnell Lorna Doogan

We were able to showcase Te Hāwera-a-Maki (Goat Island) marine reserve to 145 excited participants on Saturday 12th March. We had beautiful conditions and amazing visibility, making it easy for everyone to spot the abundance of marine life on display including, whai repo (eagle rays), tāmure (snapper), red moki, āhuruhuru (goat fish) and much more! For many this was their first time experiencing a marine reserve, and they were blown away at the abundance and size of the fish compared to their local non-protected reefs.

Whilst on land participants could learn about freshwater environments and the wildlife that need our help thanks to our awesome sister organisation Whitebait Connection.

A massive thank you to the Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre for the use of their grassed area and water for wetsuit washing.



Christine Zubiri | “First time snorkelling in a long time and first time in NZ, such a great experience. The children really enjoyed it. Arjay and Sarah were awesome guides, made us feel safe and pointed out interesting facts, thank you!”

Priya Bhikha | “Amazing! Has built our confidence and connection with the sea and marine reserves. One of the best days (highlights) of our families year. Thank you so much to all involved.”

## Whangateau Snorkel Day - Roger Grace Memorial Snorkel

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
13 March 2022	55	10	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Wednesday Davis Ella Walmsley

To close out Seaweeek we ran our annual Whangateau Snorkel Day in memory of the late Dr Roger Grace. Roger was a founding trustee of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust and spent many hours in the estuary doing his PhD research in 1966, pioneering science by SCUBA diving. Several years ago the Roger Grace Memorial Fund was created to continue to make waves for marine conservation. We were able to show 62 people the wonders of this estuary, with snorkelers spotting mantis shrimps, pātiki (flounder), makawhiti (yellow eyed mullet), parore, and paketi (spotties).

This event provides an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of mangrove forests as fish nurseries and to prevent coastal erosion, while immersing them in the habitat. We also covered the cockle closure and what that marine protection means in relation to water clarity. Whitebait Connection was on hand to showcase the freshwater habitats that feed into the harbour and educate people on how to protect these habitats for threatened native fish.

Huge thank you to the Whangateau Holiday Park for providing accomodation for our volunteers and crew.



Vanessa Grace | “Really lovely guides :-) Was great to be a part of an event in memory of my dad.”

Matila Craig-West | “Very fun, and it was really well ran and organised. I plan on coming back.”

Vanessa Balmaceda | “Guy and Monica were amazing, they made this a great experience, thank you!”

## Papakura Guided Paddle

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
19 March 2022	48	2	Sophie Journée Teschna Christie Wednesday Davis

We got lucky with some beautiful weather to explore the Pahurehure Inlet in the Manukau Harbour. With the help of Auckland Sea Kayaks we took 50 people paddling around the mangroves, spotting matuku moana (whitefaced heron), kāruhiruhi (pied shag), kotare (kingfisher) and jumping makawhiti (yellow eyed mullet). Whilst not on the water participants could learn about the local creek and how to protect our freshwater habitats from Whitebait Connection, as well as participating in an awesome poi making workshop hosted by Poi Yeah.



Khyati Raja | “Today had amazing weather for paddling. Loved the organisation, safety and directions throughout. Special thanks to Nic, Sophie and Mitch for a lovely day. highly recommend EMR.”

Kylie Smith | “Wonderful event! Kids really enjoyed it and was a great day to explore our local area”

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
27 March 2022	11	1	Sophie Journée

Despite multiple delays and postponements due to poor weather we were finally able to run our Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel in late March. We tucked into the shelter of the north eastern side of Otata Island to explore the life beneath the waves. Our 12 lucky participants spotted short tailed stingrays, whai repo (eagle rays), parore, paketi (spotties), blue maomao, marble fish and more! We explored caves, kina barrens, kelp forests, and got visited by several diving kāruhiruhi (pied shag).

After some eventful exploring in the water there was time for a quick chat about the great marine conservation work being done around Otata and Waiheke and how locals can get involved, to become kaitiaki of their own big blue backyard.

Big shout out to the The Noises Trust who do such critical work for island and marine conservation, Auckland Sea Shuttles for taking us on this adventure and epic bird nerd volunteer Charlie for sharing their wealth of knowledge.



## Shakespear Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
27 March 2022	93	17	Lorna Doogan Teschna Christie Koha Kahui McConnell

We had 110 people join us for a snorkel around Army Bay on the northern side of Shakespear Regional Park as our last mainland snorkel event for the season. We had a last minute relocation due to a nasty southerly breeze and had to downsize the event due to volunteers/crew being unwell. Despite the challenges, we were excited to take 3 groups through the water with surprising visibility. There were many colours of cushion starfish, rhodoliths, cheeky goatfish and sweep. As well as a nudibranch party! Snorkellers saw gem, black and lemon nudibranchs hanging out in the coralline turf.

We partnered with Whitebait Connection to run a freshwater discovery stall and a guided walk up to the waterfall.



Vanessa Balmacede | "I love it, I saw lots of fish and star fish. Lovely experience."

Jay Badenhorst | "Awesome staff (volunteers), venue spectacular, great day, learnt a lot and would do it again. Awesome people."

## Rotoroa Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
2 April 2022	55	7	Sophie Journée Aileen Sweeny Wednesday Davis

We had a fabulous day on Saturday, exploring one of Tikapa Moana's pest free islands, Rotoroa. 62 people joined us for a snorkel at Ladies Bay, learning about the biodiversity found on the inner gulf rocky reefs and some of the challenges facing these habitats. Whilst not snorkelling participants learnt about freshwater life from Whitebait Connection and enjoyed the multitude of rare and endangered manu (birds) that call Rotoroa home.

A big thank you to our epic hosts Rotoroa Island NZ for transporting all our snorkel gear from the wharf to Ladies Bay and to Fullers 360 Discovery for getting us safely to the island and back!



Christine First | “Goatfish and Nudies! Spencer and Sam were awesome guides, they showed the group lots of cool things! Well done to all the staff and volunteers, very well run and fabulous day!”

## Motutapu Snorkel Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
3 April 2022	105	10	Sophie Journée Wednesday Davis Lorna Doogan Koha Kahui McConnell

We wrapped up our Auckland based snorkel days for the 2021/22 season by exploring the pest free Motutapu Island on Sunday the 3rd of April. With bluebird skies, tranquil waters, pest proof bags and a whale of a welcome we were off on our island adventure. We took 105 people snorkelling around Administration Bay, which has been a voluntary no take area for 17 years thanks to Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp, giving tāmure and other reef fish a safe haven. Some lucky snorkelers even managed to spot a huge school of bait fish, which many described as an underwater disco ball.

Whilst not in the water participants learnt how to create ika mobiles and putiputi from expert kairaranga Shelley, using harakeke harvested from the island. We also had a freshwater stall run by Whitebait Connection, showing off the island's freshwater biodiversity.

A big thank you to our event supporters Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp, for hosting us, Para Kore Ki Tāmaki for organising our sponsored rangatahi and whānau spots, as well as the tireless efforts of our incredible team of volunteers, who provide our participants with unforgettable memories of our beautiful moana.



Larissa, Ash, Milla and Tiamo | “Awesome, awesome, awesome, Koha, Sophie, Guy and Wednesday were awesome guides, kaitiaki and people.”

Jazzy | “I had loads of fun, so many cool shells. I loved looking at the fish while snorkelling and even saw a stingray!! :-)”

## Motu Manawa Kayak Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
9 April 2022	96	4	Sophie Journée Lorna Doogan Wednesday Davis Brendan Doogan

With 100 people kayaking on Saturday 9th April, EMR has now helped 703 Auckland locals engage with Auckland's most visited - and least known - marine reserve. Motu Manawa earns this crown courtesy of the North-Western motorway which bisects the reserve.

We had a stunning day with the perfect weather to explore up towards Traherne Island and Te Auaunga. With the help of the awesome Auckland Sea Kayaks team we weaved our way through mangrove forests spotting a school of mullet, matuku moana (white faced herons) flying overhead and kawau (pied shags).

A highlight was finding a huge spotted jellyfish in a shallow channel in the mangroves. Hugo and Arahi ran the raranga - weaving workshop, teaching participants the tikanga around gathering harakeke as well as techniques for weaving. Brendan from Whitebait Connection was able to share the local stories of inanga (whitebait) spawning zones and teach participants about our galaxiid life cycle.



Michelle Weinberg | "Something new to try is always awesome and the whole experience was AMAZING. The water is peaceful."

Tina Ivory | "Amazing event. I have lived in Auckland my whole life & never knew this wetland area existed."



## Poor Knights Adventure Fundraiser

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
14 May 2022	35	10	Sophie Journée Lorna Doogan Koha Kahui McConnell

In mid-May we had 45 people join us on Perfect Day for our annual Poor Knights Fundraiser Trip, journeying out to explore Tawhiti Rahi Aorangi with the help of the awesome Dive! Tutukaka crew. Tucking into the shelter of Maroro Bay snorkelers were able to experience over 40 years of marine protection first hand! Huge schools of blue maomao and two spotted demoiselles were on display, along with giant tāmure/snapper, inquisitive wrasses, vibrant pigfish and much more!

We also had our top 10 volunteers from our 2021/22 event season joining us as a way to celebrate a very busy and successful season in Tāmaki Makaurau. Their passion, enthusiasm and dedication always blows us away and we would not be able to run our events without them. This annual trip also helps us raise funds to go into next season's volunteer development.

Thanks to the generous support of Uru Whakaaro, Hauraki Gulf Forum Tikapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi, Friends of the Farm, Waiheke Marine Project and a private donor who sponsored spots for rangatahi and their guardians to join us and witness this stunning marine reserve in all its glory. Another special thanks to Sustainable Coastlines for loaning Van Morrison to help us transport rangatahi.





Rangipo Ngairo Takura-Mita | “Seeing life in the sea, the boat, whanau talking about korero tukuoho of the sea of Aorangi, Tawhitirangi.”

Sophie Lewis | “Super enthusiastic, passionate and friendly staff and volunteers. Koha was very knowledgeable underwater.”

Zoe, Kaitiaki and Ngatai Hawke | “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.”

Lynn Copplestone | “The stunning marine life, the amazing people - informative and stimulating commentary - ka pai - thank you!”

Helen Linssen | “Great Visibility. Snorkelling lovely, the relaxed feeling amongst volunteers and dive staff. Great to see all the sea life thriving.”

## Tahuna Torea Kayak Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
21 May 2022	48	6	Sophie Journée Wednesday Davis Brendan Doogan

We held our first Tahuna Torea Kayak Day in celebration of World Fish Migration Day on Saturday 21st May. We had 50 people join us in exploring the Tāmaki Estuary by kayak with Auckland Sea Kayaks. On the water Whitebait Connection shared stories of the amazing migrations some of our native fish need to undertake in order to complete their lifecycle and the many challenges they face on these perilous journeys, including in stream barriers, invasive pests, loss of spawning habitat, climate change and much more. Participants also learnt about the local restoration work being carried out in their community and how to get involved in order to become kaitiaki of their own backyard.

In addition to kayaking participants were treated to an informative guided walk by local conservationist Shaun Lee, witnessing the multitude of shore and sea birds that feed around the estuary and learning how to harvest and weave harakeke by talented kairaranga Shelley and Jodi-Ann.



Rosie Martin | “Fantastic educational and enjoyable day out - great to learn more about our backyard. Thank you!”

Anonymous | “The walk highlighted global warming, the foreshore and spit has decreased the number of birds. Also learning the harbour used to be cleaned in a day by fliter feeding mussels - now it takes a year. Very sobering and motivating to do better with our environment.”

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
28 May 2022	40	-	Sophie Journée Wednesday Davis Brendan Doogan

On Saturday 28th May we held our first kayak day from Panama into the Tāmaki Estuary. We had the perfect weather to explore the river by kayak, make poi and hear from local experts about local wildlife and the history of the portage. Departing from the Auckland Rowing Club, 40 participants over the course of the day were treated to a guided kayak led by Auckland Sea Kayaks with talks on water from Sophie & Wednesday from EMR and Brendan Doogan from Whitebait Connection.

Delysia from Hiwa Ltd was able to join the event at the last minute to run a poi making workshop. A big thank you to Shaun Lee for his local knowledge and photography and to Steve who shared stories about the history of the Tāmaki River. We were grateful for the support of Te Koru Trust and the Ōtāhuhu Māori Wardens on the day.



David Chong | “Had an awesome, educational experience. The organisers are super helpful, caring, and inspiring. Ka pai! Passionate for wildlife and the planet.”

Sheryl Campbell | “Being out on the water - beautiful area. Great to hear the estuary is improving. Fantastic opportunity for my students to experience another adventure with EMR.”

## Kaipātiki Kayak Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
4 June 2022	96	3	Sophie Journée Wednesday Davis Brendan Doogan Lorna Doogan Koha Kahui McConnell

We were excited to run our first Kaipātiki Kayak Day on Saturday 4th June. We were treated to some stunning weather to explore this beautiful estuary with Auckland Sea Kayaks, launching from Mānuka Reserve and venturing out towards the Waitematā Harbour.

96 people joined us on this fun adventure, learning about the estuaries ecology, biodiversity and some of the critical conservation work being done by local organisations.

On the water Neil and Jamie from the Kaipātiki Project shared their knowledge of the local flora and fauna as well as sharing their efforts to create a green corridor for native wildlife. On land, Angela from Pest Free Kaipātiki, along with her 3 volunteers, led a guided walk through Mānuka Reserve, showing participants the importance of pest control in the recovery of our native manu. Whitebait Connection had a stall set up to show people what lives in their local streams and how to help keep our waterways healthy and we also had Delysia from Hiwa leading an awesome poi workshop, teaching people the history of poi, how to make their own and the basics of performing with poi.



Aashritha Santhan | “My father is a biodiversity scientist. Being his son, I enjoyed and loved this day. If he comes to NZ, I will definitely take him back here.”

Simon Barthorpe | “This was a really great chance to explore a local park and find out more information about conservation in the area. We really enjoyed it”

Catherine Bish | “Loved getting out on the estuary and learning more about conservation efforts in the area”

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
18 June 2022	74	-	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui McConnell Brendan Doogan Mumuteatawha Couch-Stevens

Despite the wet weather we had 74 keen paddlers exploring the Manukau Harbour from Taumanu Reserve on Saturday 18th June. Whilst kayaking along the Onehunga foreshore our crew shared their knowledge of the harbour’s wildlife and ecology, with eagle eyes spotting kāruhiruhi (pied shags), australasian gannets, kōtare (kingfishers), caspian terns and royal spoonbills roosting and feeding around the tidal movements of the harbour. With expert instruction from Auckland Sea kayaks, all participants were kept safe and sound on the water, with many learning how to kayak for the first time.

Whilst on land we had the talented Waiata and Riria from Para Kore Ki Tāmaki leading a raranga (weaving) workshop, showing participants how to sustainably harvest and weave harakeke into useful and reusable items. In addition to weaving, participants were also led on a guided walk by local conservationist Shaun Lee, who shared his extensive knowledge of local birdlife and conservation issues as well as how to become kaitiaki of our local environment. Whitebait Connection was on hand in between activities to share the importance of our local waterways and the connection our water based ecosystems have from the mountains to the sea.



**Sasha Aksiuk** | “That was a very rewarding experience and I’ve learned lots of new things today. Thanks, it was fun.”

**Mark Belcher** | “Well attended, well organised, knowledgeable leaders, loved the flax work.”

## Whau Paddle

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
19 June 2022	68	3	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui McConnell Brendan Doogan Lorna Doogan

Our Auckland team ran our first ever Whau River Paddle Day on Sunday 19th June. We had a stunning day with the perfect weather to explore the Whau by water. We weaved our way through mangrove channels spotting schools of mullet, flocks of kāruhiruhi (pied shags), and watched matuku moana (white faced heron) soar overhead.

Whilst not on the water participants got to enjoy some land-based activities. We had the talented Hugo and Arahi lead a raranga (weaving workshop), teaching people how to create their own decorative star to use for Matariki celebrations. Participants were also treated to a guided walk along the Kurt Brehmer walkway by his granddaughter Freya Brehmer-Hine, with support from other local experts, Sandra McClean, Paris Phillips and Stephen Thorpe from the Whau River Catchment Trust (WRCT).

A big thank you to all our event partners, Auckland Sea Kayaks, Te Whau Pathway Environment Trust, Whau River Catchment Trust, Para Kore Ki Tāmaki, Whitebait Connection and Westend Rowing Club.



Wikitoria Maihi | “Incredibly nourishing for the soul! Loved the knowledgeable helpers and the beautiful Te Atatu Māori focus. Beautiful!”

Crystal Toluaki | “Excellent timing of activities. Just the right amount of mahi at each. Excellent staff on the water. Rārānga, tent and very knowledgeable bush walk, Loved it all, brought my mother, sister and kids.”

Karen Petrus | “The range of events was really great, and knowledge of all the guides was amazing.”

## Te Auaunga Spotlighting

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
30 June 2022	25	-	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui McConnell Brendan Doogan

In partnership with our sister programme Whitebait Connection we held our first ever spotlighting event at Te Auaunga Creek. Luckily the rain held off, allowing us to explore this very special urban stream in the heart of Tāmaki Makaurau. Our first stop as we made our way through the native regenerating bush was the spectacular waterfall, Auckland’s highest urban waterfall at an impressive 6 metres high. After marvelling at this natural wonder Wendy John from Friends of Oakley Creek introduced us to our spotlighting site and shared some of the creek’s history and the restoration work that the Friends of Oakley Creek have undertaken over the years.

As we meandered along the pathway, Whitebait Connection shared some tips for spotting freshwater critters and had even set a couple of fish traps that we were able to check during our walk. From the fish traps we were able to get an up close look at a beautiful native inanga, which is one of five whitebait species found in Aotearoa. Whitebait Connection shared fun inanga facts like their migration from freshwater to saltwater to complete their life cycle and some of the challenges they face on their treacherous journey to and from the ocean.

Further downstream we came across the Wairaka stream, a spring feed tributary connected to the main creek, where an eagle eyed participant spotted a tuna (eel) hiding under a carex bush. Brendan from Whitebait Connection demonstrated how to sample freshwater critters using a kick net and helped participants identify what we found, including damselfly nymphs, freshwater snails, oligochaete worms and amphipods. As we returned back upstream, Wendy shared a few more stories from her many years being a kaitiaki of the awa.



Freya Whitfield | “This was amazing. I loved the fish we saw in the traps and getting to identify different freshwater bugs.”

Sophia Cai | “First time I have visited the stream at night, it was fascinating.”

## Tāwharanui Kayak Day

Date	Participants	Volunteers	EMR Crew
2 July 2022	30	6	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui McConnell Lorna Doogan

We ran our last event of the 2021/22 season on Saturday at Tāwharanui Regional Park. We were treated to some stunning weather to explore the beautiful Tāwharanui coastline with the Auckland Sea Kayaks crew, launching from Jones Bay and venturing out towards Takatu Point. On the water our crew members Lorna and Sophie shared their knowledge of the local flora and fauna as well as sharing the benefits of marine protection in restoring the health of Tikapa Moana. Whilst paddling we spotted pakahā (fluttering shearwaters), tākapu (Australasian gannets), kāruhiruhi (pied shags), and a couple of lucky kayakers even spotted a small pod of dolphins!

On land Marguerite from Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary Society took participants on a guided walk around the predator proof fence and lagoon/marshland habitat of the regional park, highlighting the important conservation values of the park and the critical connection between our terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Whitebait Connection also had a stall set up to show people what lives in the nearby stream and how to help keep our waterways healthy.



Robyn Kingston | “Thank you so much! Absoluteyl loved it, I’ve been hoping you would do an event here again - and today is my birthday, it couldn’t have been better!”

Marion Emeny | “Everyone very friendly, helpful and informative. Brilliant event. Thank you.”

Paloma | “I loved everything! Learning about conservation, planting, pest, walk, kayak & dolphins.”

## Weaving, Poi and Guided Walks

Event	Events	Hosts
Raranga - Weaving	9	Para Kore Ki Tāmaki Shelley, Waiata, Riria, Hugo, Arahi, Jeanine and Jodi-Ann
Poi Making	3	Poi Yeah, HIWA Limited
Guided Walks	5	Shaun Lee, Te Koru Trust, Pest Free Kaipātiki , Friends of Kurt Brehmer Walkway, Whau River Catchment Trust, Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary Society Incorporated

This season we were super excited to host raranga (weaving) and poi making workshops as well as guided walks alongside our events. Many of our events were designed to have a rotating tasters of activities - with participants being able to participate in a variety of experiences both on and off the water. These events aimed to encourage holistic engagement with te taiao.

Local kairaranga (weavers) led participants in short lessons around the practices and tikanga of harakeke harvesting, preparation and weaving. Participants learnt to make a variety of woven creations including kono (bags), putiputi (flowers), tipare (headband), Matariki stars and ika (fish). In addition to the weaving workshops we also had Poi Yeah and HIWA Ltd guide participants in creating a set of poi to take home. In order to highlight more of the landbased ecology on our events we partnered with a number of local experts to provide participants with guided walks, through native bush, wetlands, reserves and foreshores. We were grateful for the knowledge and photography provided by local conservationist Shaun Lee who joined us on a number of our kayaking events.



## Mountains to Sea School Programme

We have delivered our Mountains to Sea school programme to 7 schools this season, reaching a total of 659 students and 141 adults. This is a fully funded programme that is targeted to schools that would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience this type of hands-on learning. Coordinators from EMR, WBC and Para Kore Ki Tāmaki came together to introduce the students to marine/freshwater biodiversity as well as the potential impacts humans are having on these environments. Through their theory sessions in the classroom and their local investigations to beaches, mangroves and streams these students slowly started to gain a greater understanding of some of the challenges facing their local environment. Finlayson Park and Te Papapa Schools were also able to include kayaking into their local investigation, gaining a different perspective of their local taiao, with some students learning to kayak for the first time. We partnered with Auckland Sea Kayaks to able to provide this additional activity.



To compare their local environments to a protected site these students travelled to Goat Island Marine Reserve to discover some of the benefits of protection and to witness the ocean in its more natural state. Many of these students will have never been to a marine reserve before and many students had never even swam in the ocean before. This was highlighted by their beaming smiles as they saw the underwater world for the first time. Utilizing these local and marine reserve experiences the students then started to workshop and come up with action projects that would help protect, restore and enhance their local marine and freshwater ecosystems. Many students found that waste was a key issue for them and their community and set about creating initiatives and raising awareness for reducing waste in the environment. Other students focused on restoring native fish spawning habitats and monitoring water quality in their local waterways. We were really impressed with how driven and passionate these students were and how they harnessed their skills in other areas like art, music and technology to create some outstanding actions.





Finlayson Park student | “It was cool learning how to be a freshwater scientist and using the clarity tube and testing stream pH. I also got to touch the eel, I was surprised at how slimey it was!”

## Finlayson Park School

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2022	150	8	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui McConnell Wednesday Davis Aileen Sweeney

### Action Highlights:

The main environmental issues that Finlayson Park students were able to identify in their local area were plastic waste, stormwater pollution, weeds smothering natives, freshwater and marine pests, unfenced waterways and lack of shade for waterways. To help solve some of these issues Finlayson Park students organised weeding bees in their local reserve, community beach clean ups, participated in a riparian planting day at Puhinui Reserve, designed litter traps for drains, created posters and murals highlighting the impacts of plastic pollution, wrote letters to local farmers and council encourage the fencing of more waterways and used their art skills to create new objects out of found plastic.

Finlayson Park student | “After doing the Mountains to Sea programme I now know lots of different ways I can help my local environment, like planting trees, picking up litter, removing pests and weeds, and educating my community. Thank you for this fun and exciting opportunity.”

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2022	95	20	Sophie Journée Wednesday Davis Ella Walmsley Aileen Sweeney Koha Kahui McConnell

Action project Highlights:

Some of the key local issues Bailey Road students identified from participating in the Mountains to Sea programme were overfishing, fishing waste, rubbish dumping, marine habitat loss and lack of local marine protected areas. Students came up with a variety of action projects to help address these issues including writing a letter to council to installing a threeway bin system at their local reserve and increase community security so that the reserve is more family friendly and promotes more eco conscious behaviour. Students also put a call out to parents to have a weekly rotation of families visiting their local reserve to do rubbish collections, with gear provided by the school. They named their group guardians of Van Damme Lagoon. Other students focused on creating sustainable fish recipes that help people make more sustainable choices when picking their fish from the supermarket or when they go out fishing, as well as promoting recipes that encourage people to use the whole animal so that less goes to waste. In order to help improve the issue of overfishing of the local marine environment one of the Bailey Road classes focused their action projects on promoting more sustainable fishing rules and practices that they prompted in local shops and community areas via posters and flyers. Students also incorporated their skills in poetry and persuasive writing to create some compelling artwork.

Room 16 (Bailey Road School) | “We have learned a lot from EMR, like how we need to keep a balance of fish life in the ocean. We have been challenged to keep our oceans and water clean from rubbish. It was especially fun to learn how to snorkel.”





## Royal Oak Intermediate

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
4 - 2021 1 & 2 - 2022	100	18	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui McConnell Ella Walmsley

### Action project Highlights:

Royal Oak action projects included marine and freshwater education websites that share local conservation initiatives, ways to donate/volunteer, fun facts and educational games. Another student focused on the impacts of weeds and the lack of biodiversity at their local stream. To help solve this issue they organised weekly weeding bees with their family and friends as well as monitoring stream biodiversity. Some students used their video making skills to help promote the creation of a marine reserve in the Manukau Harbour. They also wrote to DOC and local iwi/hapu to help get support for their marine reserve proposal. Another student project focused on promoting the work of local marine organisations like project jonah and sustainable coast-lines by placing painted pebbles around local beaches with information on how to follow those organisations, they also did beach cleans as they were placing their decorated pebbles. Lastly one of the students created a weekly enviro group, focused on encouraging plastic free lunches, installing litter traps in their school drains and auditing their school's rubbish.

Anna Lightbody (Royal Oak student) | “This was my first trip to Goat Island. Initially I was unsure of getting in the water but Sophie helped me heaps, and got me a good wetsuit and made me feel safe. I saw lots of fish!”

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2022	60	10	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui McConnel Ella Walmsley Wednesday Davis

### Action project Highlights:

During Te Papapa’s local investigation at Taumanu Reserve students completed a beach clean up and audited the rubbish they collected. Students found that food packaging, cans and alcohol bottles were the most common form of rubbish ending up along their local beach. Students worked on creating posters and flyers to engage the community and highlight the impacts these types of commonly found rubbish are having on the local marine and freshwater wildlife.



Koston (Te Papapa student) | “I enjoyed going to Goat Island. I liked going snorkelling with the wet-suits and boogie board. Going out to sea was fun because we got to look deep at the bottom of the ocean. When we were snorkelling I found an eagle ray lying on the ground. I found lots of crabs crawling around and there were even sea urchins.”





Xinlai Zhang | “Now I have seen this role model ecosystem that we can look up to and help develop, other ocean ecosystems can rise up to the same level and help our water wildlife thrive.”

## Meadowbank School

Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2022	136	37	Sophie Journée Koha Kahui McConnell Ella Walmsley

### Action project Highlights:

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. 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 addition to the whitebait warrior group there were many other action projects carried out by Meadowbank students including, making eco friendly hand sanitizer to reduce plastic waste, making and selling beeswax wraps to promote plastic free lunches and fundraise for local community groups, monitoring stream water quality to help eels return to their school stream, mentoring younger students to plant trees around the school stream, designing online games to teach people about the ocean, creating an enviro club to regularly participate in clean ups, and much more! The students were able to share all their hard work with the community through their World Oceans Day exhibition, where parents, students, teachers and community members could see and interact with all the amazing projects the students had undertaken.

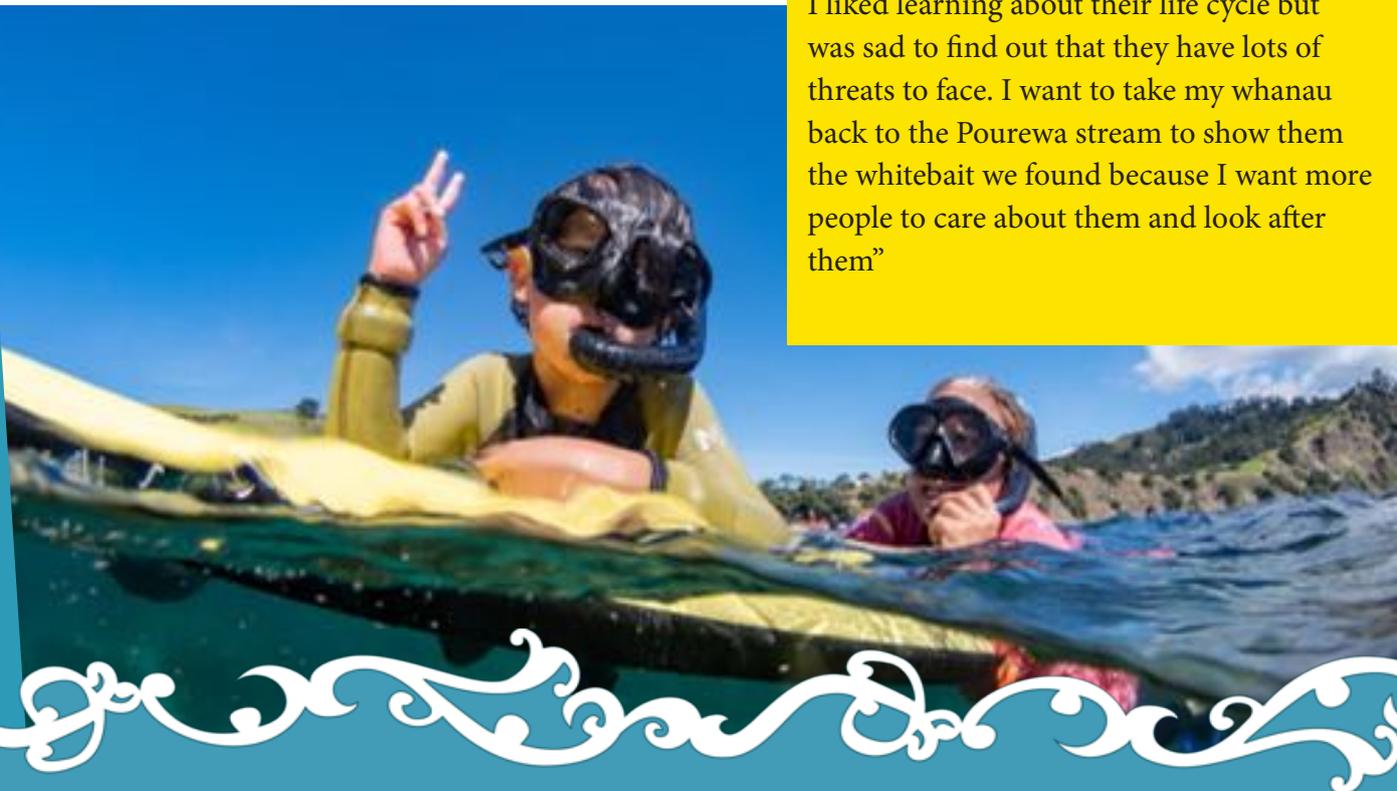
Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2022	118	37	Sophie Journée Briar Board

Action project Highlights:

During their Okahu Bay field trip and Pourewa Valley field trip Ōrākei students were able to collect Marine Meter Squared and Wai Care data that was then uploaded to the respective databases, helping to contribute to citizen science initiatives that over time will help community groups monitoring changes in their environments and assess the impact of environmental action projects. Ōrākei students also collected 60kg of rubbish from Okahu Bay beach, focusing mainly on micro plastics, which have a big impact on the health of local fish and seabirds. In addition to collecting Wai Care data on their Pourewa valley field trip, Ōrākei students also assisted in identifying and counting adult inanga (whitebait) numbers schooling around the spawning. This information will help community groups to better understand the scope of the inanga population within Pourewa Valley and thus get a greater understanding of how to protect and restore their critical spawning habitat.

Additional projects that have been planned by students include designing new school bins to make it easier for students to separate their rubbish and thus divert waste from landfill, creating drain art to raise awareness of stormwater pollution around local business, organising weeding bees to release native trees from climbing asparagus around the inanga spawning zone in the Pourewa Valley, and continuing to collect water quality data for the Pourewa Valley spawning zone.

Nga Tai Hawke | “It was so cool to see that we have whitebait living in our local stream. I liked learning about their life cycle but was sad to find out that they have lots of threats to face. I want to take my whanau back to the Pourewa stream to show them the whitebait we found because I want more people to care about them and look after them”





## Waikowhai Primary

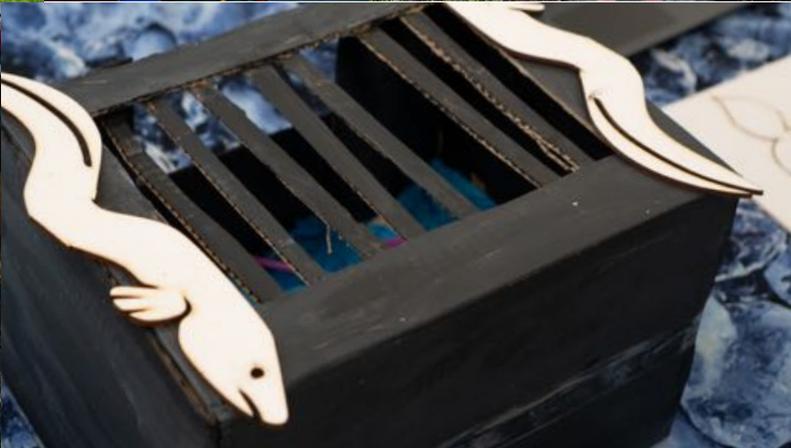
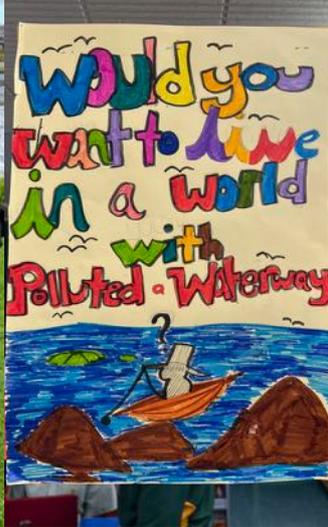
Term/Year	Students	Teachers and parent helpers	EMR/WBC Crew
1 & 2 2022	40	11	Sophie Journée Wednesday Davis

### Action project Highlights:

Waikowhai students decided to contact the student volunteer army so they could team up with them for a beach clean up in Mangawhai during their school camp. Students also came up with the idea of promoting cycle/walk to school days to reduce the schools carbon footprint and help combat the effects climate change is having on our oceans, including sea level rise, ocean acidification, food source shifts and more.

Bella (Waikowhai student) | “I liked walking around our local beach picking up rubbish. It made me feel like I was looking after the environment. Thank you for all the learning you taught us. I know so much more about sea creatures, freshwater and saltwater now, I wish we could go on more adventures with you!”





Action Project highlights

## Casual snorkel experiences and user paid programmes

In addition to our fully funded programmes, we also run casual snorkel experiences and user paid programmes. This helps to supplement our fully funded programmes and allows us to reach more students. These user paid experiences include full EMR programmes, camps, youth programmes and NCEA snorkelling standards. We reached a total of 744 people through these experiences.

School/group	Students/ participants	Teachers and parent helpers
Green School	14	4
Hobsonville Point Primary School	100	22
Kristin School	40	4
Belmont Intermediate	150	30
ICONZ	15	8
Te Koru Trust	12	2
Ocean Youth	5	3
Warkworth Primary	180	47
Camp Connells	5	-
Waiheke Primary	56	16
Fossil Bay School	5	4
Westlake Girls	20	2
Total reach = 744		



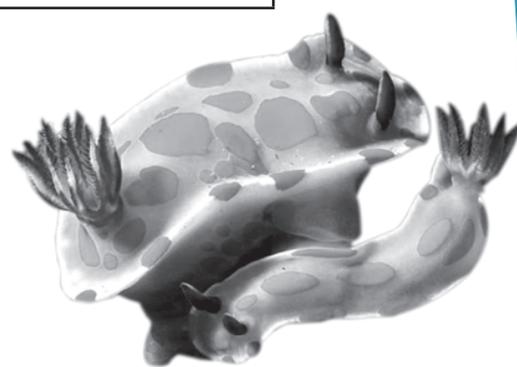


## EMR Volunteering

We are exceptionally lucky to have 76 volunteers contribute to this season, totalling 1533 hours of time! All their hard work and passion is so valuable to our organisation and we greatly appreciate their contribution to creating future kaitiaki for 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 ratio on school delivery days and helped us with trailer maintenance.

Our top 11 volunteers have contributed 697 hours. We are incredibly grateful for their support with many acting as senior guides, supporting and teaching our newest volunteers how to guide participants!

Ranking	Name	Hours
1	Harriet Hartley Pollard	87
	Victoria Hartley Pollard	87
3	Olivia Avery	73
4	Guy Pryor	67
5	Natasha Pareraukawa	65
6	Stephen Murphy	64
7	Silke Hartung	63
8	Roshantha Polhena	54
9	Becky Carton	47
10	Deb Bennett	45
	Samantha Bennett	45





## 21 years of Experiencing Marine Reserves at the Poor Knights Islands

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 online 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!

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.





Daniel Feng (Belmont Intermediate) | “I loved the snorkelling! Especially seeing all the different kinds of fish. Goat island is snapper, snapper, snapper, but this was another level! I’m amazed there is so much out there. It’s like being in a real life nature documentary!”

Agnus Gibson (Warkworth Primary) | “My favourite thing was seeing all the fish, especially the big blue ones! We snorkelled a couple of times and the second time we went out we used to the ID guides to work out what the fish were.”

Charlise Neilson (Ōrākei School) | “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”



## A huge thank you to our partners from the 2022/23 season!

Aotearoa Lakes  
Auckland Council Biodiversity  
Auckland Council Biosecurity  
Auckland Council Sustainable Schools  
Auckland freediving club  
Auckland Sea kayaks  
Auckland Sea shuttles  
Auckland University Dive Club  
Auckland Zoo  
Charlie's Birds  
Department of Conservation  
Dive! Tutukaka  
Dolphin Underwater Club  
Friends of Kurt Brehmer Walkway  
Friends of Te Auaunga (Oakley) Creek  
Friends of the Farm  
Fullers 360  
Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre  
HIWA Ltd  
Kaipātiki Project  
Kelly Tarltons Marine Wildlife Trust  
Leigh Marine Lab  
Long Bay Okura Great Parks Society  
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  
Rotoroa Trust  
SUP Waiheke  
Sustainable Coastlines  
Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary -Society Incorporated  
Te Koru Trust  
Te Whau Pathway Trust  
Urban Ark  
Uru Whakaaro  
Waiheke Dive  
Waiheke Marine Project  
Waiheke Resources Trust  
Whangateau Holiday Park  
Whau River Catchment Trust  
Whitebait Connection  
Wildlife Shaun



## Thank you to the funders of our events

Auckland Council Biosecurity  
Auckland Council Local Boards  
Auckland Unlimited  
Bobby Stafford Bush Foundation  
Dive! Tutukaka  
Fortuna Foundation  
Foundation North

Friends of the Farm  
Fullers 360  
Hauraki Gulf Forum  
Takapuna Business Association  
Tu Manawa Active  
Waiheke Marine Project  
Wettie



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

Thank you so much for supporting us to keep growing and developing our programmes and events over the past eight years. Thanks to you, over 9,500 children and their whānau from all around Aotearoa have been able to experience our marine environment through our community events, school programmes and annual Poor Knights Trips.

Your on going support has been greatly appreciated and has allowed EMR to continue to reach kiwi's from all backgrounds, even through COVID challenges. We wouldn't be where we are today without your generous contributions and we look forward to continuing to inspire kiwi's to become kaitiaki of te moana with your support.



### Auckland team 2021/22 highlights

Sophie Journee (Auckland Manager) | "I am really proud of what our Auckland team was able to achieve this season. With multiple challenges thrown our way we rose to the occasion and even managed to break our previous events record! A couple of stand out moments of the season for me was having an amazing encounter with bottlenose dolphins during Hobsinville Point's Goat Island Snorkel and sharing stories with mana whenua whilst paddling through Te Matuku Marine Reserve."



## Plans for the 2022-23 season

Next season we have 30 events planned for Auckland as well as the continuation of our Mountains to Sea school programmes and causal snorkel experiences, with an aim to reach 30 schools throughout the 2022/23 season. We would also like to continue to develop rangatahi mentorship in the Auckland region by partnering with local marae and Uru Whakaaro to organise rangatahi specific training opportunities, wānanga, and sponsored event spots.

For our community events we have a couple of new locations that we will be adding for the 2022/23 season, including Moturoa Island, Lake Pupuke and Puhinui Creek. We had great success incorporating more collaboration into our community events during the 2021/22 season, with local organisations providing land based activities like guided walks and workshops as well as on-water local knowledge. We would like to build on this momentum into the 2022/23 season and continue to increase our community event partnerships.

Volunteer recruitment will be a big focus for our 2022/23 season as we are planning many events and would like to increase our community reach. Two pool based and one lake based training days are planned in the lead up to our summer events. Wednesday, our new volunteer coordinator, will be reaching out to local clubs, community groups, and universities to promote EMR volunteering. Wednesday is also working on updating our volunteer training resources with new modules being developed as well as accompanying training videos.

Another goal for the 2022/23 season is to start training community groups and volunteers to collect timed swim fish surveys, in order to promote the use of citizen science data collecting to inform conservation efforts, as well as increasing our teams use of iNaturalist to record marine species sightings.



# AUCKLAND SNORKEL & PADDLE SERIES 2022-23

Experiencing  
Marine Reserves



Te Kura Moana



## DRAFT

Experience the wonders of your local marine environment! The EMR programme has planned Community Guided Snorkel & Paddle Days around Auckland & Northland.

We provide free hire of all snorkel/paddle equipment and provide experienced guides to lead your discovery.

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

## Snorkel Days\*

Rakino Snorkel - Sat 22nd Oct	●
Tāwharanui Snorkel - Sat 26th Nov	●
Torbay Snorkel - Sat 17th Dec	●
Waiheke Snorkel - Sat 14th Jan	●
Shakespear Snorkel - Sat 11th Feb	●
Lake Rototoa Snorkel - Sat 18th Feb	●
Motutapu Island Snorkel - Sat 25th Feb	●
Takapuna Snorkel - Sat 4th Mar	●
Lake Pupuke Snorkel - Sun 5th Mar	●
Goat Island Snorkel - Sat 11th Mar	●
Whangateau Snorkel - Sun 12th Mar	●
Rotoroa Island Snorkel - Sat 15th Apr	●
Poor Knights Snorkel - Sat 13th May	●
Motuora Island Snorkel - TBC	●

## Kayak/Paddle Days\*

Kaipātiki Kayak - Sun 16th Oct	●
Manurewa Kayak - Sat 29th Oct	●
Papakura Paddle - Sat 12th Oct	●
Motu Manawa Kayak - Sun 13th Nov	●
Te Matuku Paddle - Sun 15th Jan	●
Armour Bay Kayak - Sun 22nd Jan	●
Lake Rototoa Kayak - Sat 18th Feb	●
Lake Pupuke Kayak - Sun 5th Mar	●
Māngere Kayak - Sat 25th Mar	●
Okura Paddle - Sat 15th Apr	●
Tahuna Torea Kayak - Sat 27th Apr	●
Whau Paddle - TBC	●
Tamaki River Kayak - TBC	●
Onehunga Kayak - TBC	●

The Bobby Stafford-Bush  
FOUNDATION

Free  
Ferry cost only  
Discounted trip

\* All events are subject to funding approval, stakeholder consultation and date changes

For COVID event updates, registrations, weather calls and backup dates visit [www.facebook.com/emr.mtsct](http://www.facebook.com/emr.mtsct) or [www.emr.org.nz](http://www.emr.org.nz) or contact [info@emr.org.nz](mailto:info@emr.org.nz)

Version 2 - Updated September  
See [www.emr.org.nz](http://www.emr.org.nz) for up to date information

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events  
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