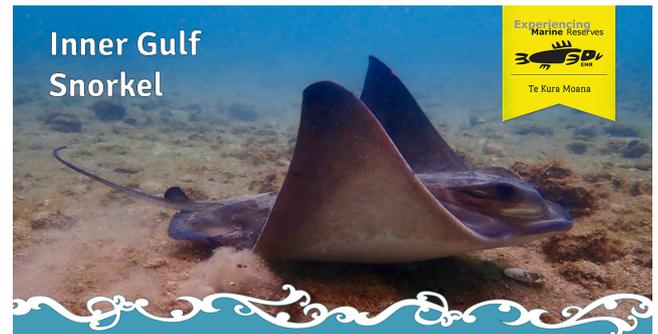




## Inner Gulf Adventure Snorkel 2021 Information Pack

Come join Experiencing Marine Reserve and explore Otata – The Noises Island in the Inner Hauraki Gulf. Working alongside Auckland Sea Shuttles and the Neureuter Family we are taking up to 14 people snorkelling around Otata on Saturday the 20th of February 2021.



Ever wondered what lives under the water around Otata in the Hauraki Gulf? Join Experiencing Marine Reserves for a snorkel with our experienced guides and get FREE mask, snorkel, fins & wetsuit hire. Sea shuttle from Okahu Bay is \$75pp + booking fee for 2 snorkels. Safe fun for the whole whanau!

See pipefish, spotties, snapper, eagle rays, triplefins and more!

When: Saturday 20th of February

Shuttle leaves from Okahu Bay wharf at 11am, arrives back at Okahu Bay by 8.00pm

Back up Day: 21st February (you must be available for both days)

You need to arrive at the wharf 30mins before your departure time.

What: Snorkelling around Otata Island at The Noises. Guided walking around the pest free island.

Where: Otata, The Noises, Hauraki Gulf

Parking: Some free parking at Okahu Bay wharf.

What to bring: Togs, towel, sunhat, warm clothes, raincoat, water bottles, walking shoes, a picnic lunch.

**\*\*Please note you will need a medium to high level of fitness and agility for this event, and are comfortable getting on and off a moving boat. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Registrations are essential.\*\***

This event is sponsored by The Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation. It is run in conjunction with the help of Auckland Sea Shuttles.

Please note that the shuttle ticket is non-refundable – if the weather is not suitable we will postpone to our back up day. If you are late and miss the boat unfortunately there are no refunds.



### COVID-19 Information

This event will be able to run in Level 1 only. At Level 2 or above we will be postponing to a later date. If we needed to postpone again due to COVID-19 everyone will receive a refund.

Please note the following information. If you have any concerns – please contact us.

- Your registration information will be held for contact tracing. We will also have a contact tracing QR code to scan.
- All shared equipment will be sanitised between uses.
- There will be hand sanitiser on the island for participants and crew to use.
- Please also note that masks are now mandatory on all public transport, including ferries. Please make sure to bring a face mask with you (we will also have spares if needed).
- If the event is cancelled due to COVID, full refunds will be given.

### Event organisers and sponsors:

Experiencing Marine Reserves, Bobby  
Stafford Bush Foundation

### Event partners:

Auckland Sea Shuttles, Neureuter Family

### Event Leadership:

**EMR – Sophie Journee** - Snorkel instructor, BSc in Biological Sciences and Marine Science, Rescue Diver

### Contact:

0210645125  
sophie@emr.org.nz

### Timeline (Auckland based participants):

1015: Arrive at Okahu Bay – Park car and trailer and start moving extra gear ready to be loaded to the boat

1030: As participants start arriving gear them up at the trailer and get them to carry their gear to the boat – briefing volunteers

1045: Pre departure briefing by Sophie and Noises staff

1100: Boat departs Okahu to Otata – boat briefing

1200: Arrive at Otata and disembark boat/unload gear

1215 - 1245: Island welcome by Sue and lunch break

1245 – 1300: Sophie gives site specific snorkel briefing to all participants and assigns snorkel groups



1300-1400: Snorkel at Site 1

1400 – 1415: Participant, crew and volunteer break

1415-1515: Guided walk over to snorkel site b by Sue

1515-1520: Site specific snorkel briefing by Sophie

1520- 1600: Optional snorkel at Site 2 (depending on conditions)

1600-1645: Walk back to main beach

1645-1700: Pack up and get back on vessel

1700-1800: Travel back to Okahu Bay and event debrief by Sophie and Noises staff

### **What to bring:**

- Packed lunch (please try to limit the amount of plastic waste in your lunches), all rubbish must be taken off the island with you.
- Togs and towel
- Drinking water and water bottles (please bring plenty of drinking water with you as there is none on the island, we will be bringing a water container as well for top ups)
- Snorkel gear if you have your own (There will be EMR gear available to hire for free)
- We require everyone to wear long 3mm wetsuit (at least) as we want to spend as much time in the water exploring as possible.
- Good walking shoes (there will be a chance for a guided walk)
- Charged cell phone

### **Travel information:**

Please meet at Okahu Bay boat ramp (map below) at 10.30am. We will have the EMR trailer with us to hand out snorkelling gear to participants. There is not a lot of space on the boat so please pack only the essentials. We encourage using public transport to get to the boat ramp if possible, otherwise there is also free parking available, or if that is full there is paid parking or on street parking. It will be an hour journey out to Otata Island. Before we leave shore crew from EMR and Noises will give an overall event briefing and Auckland Sea Shuttles will give a boat briefing. If you are prone to seasickness we recommend you take sea sickness tablets before



arriving.



### Island information:

Otata is a beautiful pest free island, a part of the Noises. There will be an opportunity between snorkels to have a guided walk across the island. Some of the wildlife include, wetapunga (giant weta), common gecko, korimako (bellbird), tui, pied shags, oyster catchers and more. Please do not go exploring without a guide as the island is very steep with a lot of sheer cliffs and there is also a lot of sensitive wildlife that we want to avoid disturbing. The Neutreuter Family have a private bach on the Island so please make sure you respect their space and do not enter the house or their tent sites. There is a long drop toilet on the island that will be marked on a map for use. There is very limited freshwater on the island due to a dry summer so it is very important you bring your own drinking water so we do not have to use the water supply on the island. We will also bring an extra water container for top ups if needed.



### **Gear information:**

EMR gear will be provided for those taking the boat from Okahu Bay. Please meet at the EMR trailer before boarding to get sized for your gear. We will provide you a 3mm wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins.

### **Snorkelling information:**

Marine life that you will see whilst snorkelling around Otata Island included, snapper, kina, red moki, spotties, pipefish, eagle rays and much more!

Once you arrive on the island we will be briefing you about how the day will run as well as an introduction to Otata Island. We will then give you a snorkel briefing going over how to use the gear, snorkelling technique/procedure and health and safety for the site. You will then be put into groups based on your ability level. Below is a breakdown of the snorkel groups and ability levels. Outside of the dedicated snorkel times, we do ask that you do not use any of our EMR gear in the water without us present, as we will be responsible for your overall safety whilst in the water.

### **Adventure Snorkel Day Policy - 2020**

#### **Background**

Experiencing Marine Reserve has branched into running “Adventure Snorkel Days”. These events are where we explore offshore islands with the help of an external operator where we snorkel directly off the vessel or from the shore. As participants are often very confident in the water we needed a new way of categorising participants to suit ability levels.

#### **Categorization Levels**

*Whai | Haku | Mako*

**Whai – Stingray** – Standard experience level to novice.

This is our default category. ALL EMR participants come under this category unless grading undertaken and standard EMR SOP and snorkel day procedure apply.

**Haku – Kingfish** – Experienced snorkellers

#### **Criteria**

Experience can be verified by EMR coordinator

To have shown strong confidence in the water

Attended an EMR snorkel day experience or snorkel day before



Both participants and supervisor experienced snorkelers

### **Policy**

- Participants must have their grade noted against their name on the Check In/Out Form in the medical and grade info section
- Participants do not need to take a board

**Mako – Shark** – Experienced to advanced snorkelers/freedivers

### **Criteria**

Be over the age of 15

Attended an EMR snorkel day experience or snorkel day before

Can provide evidence of experience to EMR coordinator

To have shown strong confidence in the water

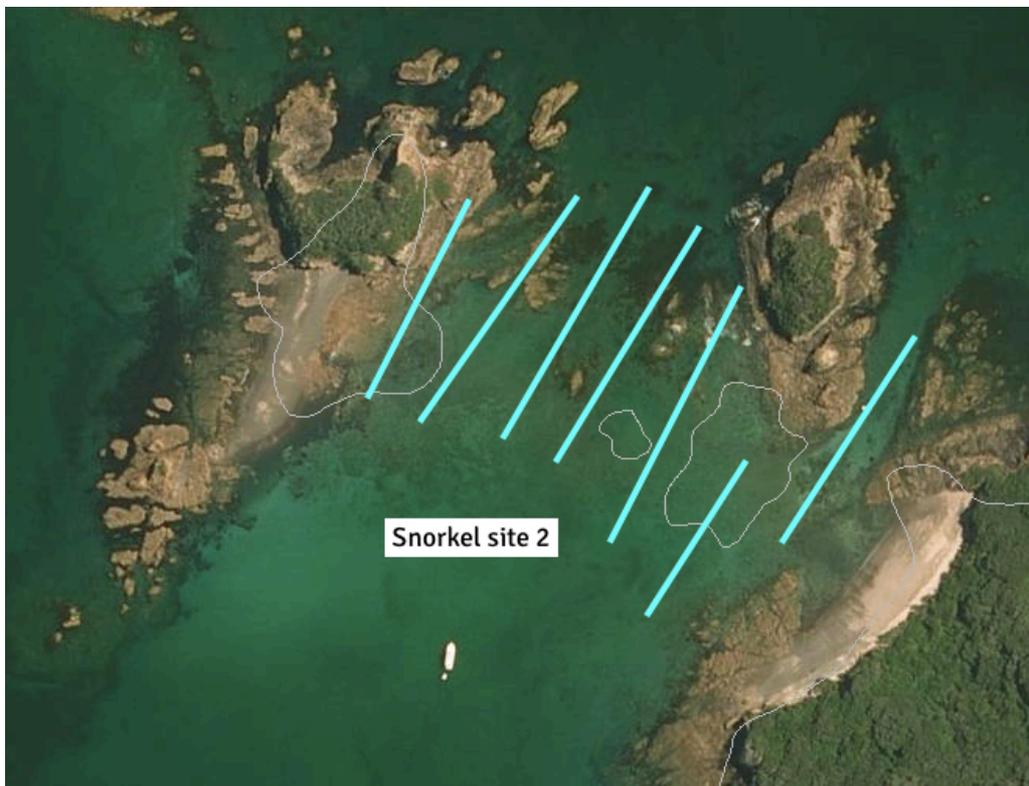
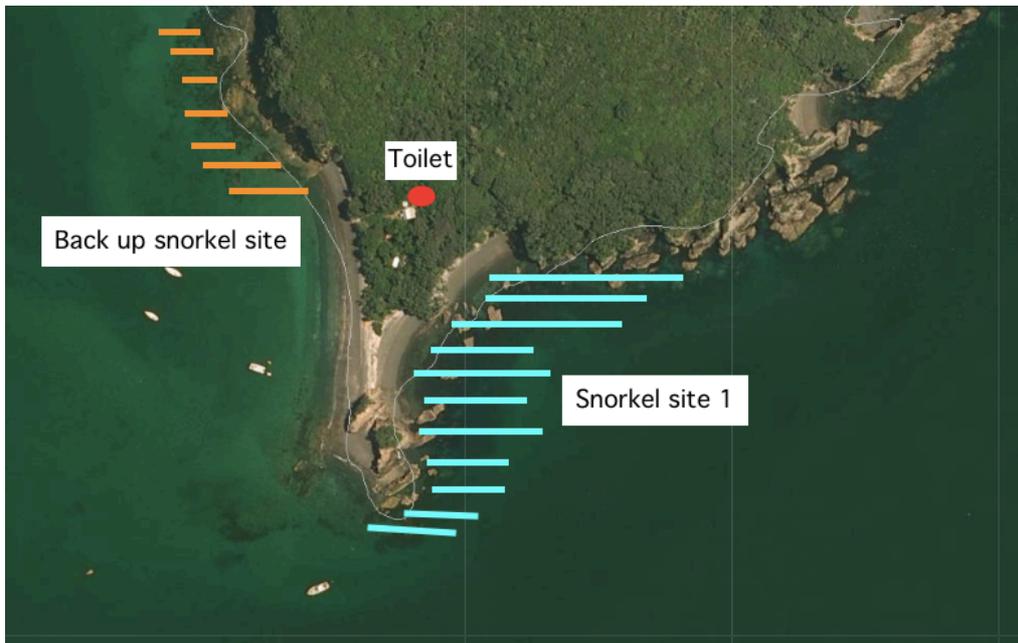
### **Policy**

- Participants must have their grade noted against their name on the Check In/Out Form in the medical and grade info
- Participants must check in and out with the designated check in/out person, stay within boundaries and return upon sounding of the whistle.
- Participants must have a snorkel buddy and if freediving deeper than 3m observing the one up/ one down rule
- Participants do not need to take a board or be directly supervised by a snorkel guide/supervisor

In all cases above a minimum of 1 EMR coordinator/instructor is roving in water with an accessible board and within audible distance from the boat/group.



Below are maps of the snorkel sites for Otata Island





### Terms and conditions:

Please note that the boat ticket is non-refundable (unless you can find a paying replacement) We have several snorkel sites on Otata Island to choose from depending on conditions (marked on the map above). If the weather is not suitable we will shift to our back up day. Please let me know ASAP if you are not available for the backup day on the 21st February. If you are late and miss the boat unfortunately there are no refunds.

Sophie is the trip organiser – if you have any questions or you think you may be running late – please call her on 021 0645125.

- In any adventure activity, there is an element of risk involved. Risks in undertaking this activity include drowning, emotional distress, strain injuries, sun-burn and dehydration, injuries from collisions with vessels, cuts from oysters and other sharp objects, injury on shore and damaging the environment.
- By signing you acknowledge that the activity you are about to embark on may present you a higher level of risk than day to day living. Because this is a dynamic activity, the actions of every participant will have direct and indirect effects on the safety and enjoyment of the whole group.
- In purchasing a ferry ticket through EMR you are signing up to participate in the snorkeling activities. If you do not participate in the snorkeling activity you will have to pay an additional \$20 per ticket price.
- The EMR staff take all practicable steps to identify and minimize potential dangers. However, you must follow our instructions (and use the safety equipment provided) at all times. Adults accompanying any person under the age of 18 must ensure that the underage person follows our instructions at all times. You must release or indemnify EMR and our staff against any liability we incur to anyone else, resulting from your failure to follow our instructions or the failure of any person accompanying you under the age of 18 to follow our instructions.
- We reserve the right to withdraw any person who in our opinion is likely to endanger them selves or others.
- We also reserve the right to cancel the snorkel tour if we become concerned for any reason for your safety or that of any other person.
- You accept that EMR will not be liable for any personal or property damage, regardless of how this might occur, and without exception, which could result from your participation in this activity. This exclusion is subject to any rights or remedies you may have under the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993.
- Due to the rugged and remote setting of this activity, access to hospital and medical facilities can be limited. By signing below you are giving consent for the administration of medical treatment by the instructor / guide and medical personnel in an emergency situation. It is important that you provide a complete account of your medical history on the panel above for these reasons.
- That EMR reserves the right to withdraw persons, cancel or modify the trip, as the situation may require, when in our opinion there is a safety issue;



- BY CLICKING I AGREE YOU HEREBY CERTIFY THAT YOU UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ALL OF THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY. PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR GUIDE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS.