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EVENTS CALENDAR



All events can be found online at www.greatbarrier.co.nz/events

MPI TONE DEAF AND OUT OF TOUCH

The issuing of permits by Biosecurity New Zealand to allow commercial fishing boats to set crayfish pots in the western harbours plankton more and that's because there are subject to a Controlled Area Notice (CAN) felt like slap in the face to those hoping for a silver lining from nearly three years of fishing restriction.

Primary Industries (MPI), was quick to seek are getting in the way of the Gulf thriving. the support of the community after exotic Caulerpa was first identified. A rāhui was established alongside the CAN by mana whenua to support understanding and efforts to stop the spread of invasive weed.

MPI, which also manages Fisheries, backed the Ahu Moana process alongside the Department of Conservation, as a pilot for local involvement in fisheries management and marine protection, following the SeaChange process and successive State of the Environment reports which document long term decline in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

Two recent interviews on Aotea FM's Monday Morning show a better way to look after our place.

Ahu Moana coordinator Glenn Edney said after three years of closure because of COVID and Caulerpa there was a 30 percent increase in crayfish "but they are gone," through one relatively quiet summer of recreational take. Teams of local divers are in the process of considering how to restore Now is to time to back mana whenua and the mauri or life force of Schooner Bay and the community to determine what happens Motairehe. Caulerpa infestation and kina next. barrens are common. Large fish and crays, critical for reef health, are not.

Ahu Moana is based on the premise that mana whenua and the community have the mātauranga or knowledge, and the ability to biosecurity laws. Reputation and goodwill make well informed and effective decisions once squandered are hard to win back. about managing their own place.

system is based on the premise that every stock can be allocated for maximum utilisation, specialised technical and management knowledge is needed to make decisions, and ownership of the stock is best privatised (an approach from when New Zealand was in the grip of free market recover. Many operate by those codes now. fervour in the 1980s).

Auckland University Professor Rochelle Constantine said her 'Pulse of the Gulf' research, based on extensive aerial surveys, showed 'work ups', aggregations of small fish, birds, dolphins and whales, were Further details inside about the commercial cray becoming smaller and smaller.

"Everyone over 50 that spends time on the water knows that."

"Whales are shifting their diet to feed on too few of these 'fish balls'.

"Fisheries management is an example of bad behaviour and sitting in your corners throwing insults at each other. It frustrates The agency, a department of the Ministry for me immensely because we are the ones that



Glenn Edney & Rochelle Constantine

Constantine Professor advocates different model of utilising information and working collectively, where marine health is in the centre of the conversation.

She told the success story of the shipping industry voluntarily slowing vessel speed after 2013 to safeguard the gulf's resident Bryde's whale population.

There are models and processes that could better manage areas that have been under a CAN and rahui for the past three years, and the wider coastal waters around Aotea.

MPI's recent second thoughts and internal review into the issuing of the permits is timely and it would be wise to consider more than the narrow letters of the fisheries and

There's a raft of locally generated ideas In contrast, the fisheries management reduced daily bag limits for crayfish, boat limits, setting of commercial pots only deeper than 20 metres, gear selection to prevent juvenile mortality and bycatch, release of big breeding fish, rāhui during fish breeding seasons, temporary closures to allow depleted paua and scallops to

> We know enough to look after our place and we deserve the listening ear of MPI to do so.

Interviews available at www.tinyurl.com/ islandstories . Editorial by Tim Higham.

pot discovered in the CAN area.

DIESEL DELIVERIES "One Call Fills It All" CONTACT A.B. FUELS AT 027 4290 411



AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com

SIX60 GRASS ROOTS

Last weekend Aotea hosted the last stop of the Six60 Grass Roots Tour at the Barrier Social Club. The band arrived on island on Friday, welcomed with a powhiri by tamariki from all three kura. The kids, some of them a little star struck, got to meet the band and even snag some autographs. Six60 and their whānau then traveled around the island.



On Saturday, Barrier Social Club opened their doors at 2pm to kick off the big event. The atmosphere was buzzing. Their opening act, Makayla, serenaded the crowd with a beautiful set to begin. Then, Six60 played an incredible acoustic set for two hours and the crowd sang along, loudly and lovingly to every hit. Each stop on the tour in Aotearoa was taped and the band will be making a compilation video - keep your eyes out for the release. A massive 'Thank You' to the Barrier Social Club and crew for putting on an once in a lifetime event for the island.

LOCAL TAEDYN EDMONDS-GRIFFITHS PARADES MAORI BATTALION BANNER

Parading the 28 (Maori) Battalion Banner at commemorations marking 80 years since the Battles of Cassino holds a lot of mana for New Zealand Army soldier Private Taedyn Edmonds-Griffiths.

The 21-year-old, from Great Barrier Island, is part of a New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) contingent holding commemorative events in Italy next week, to remember those who fought and died in these gruelling Second World War battles.

In carrying out the duties of Banner Orderly, Private Edmonds-Griffiths (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, and Te Āti Haunuia-Pāpārangi) will honour more than 100 members of his family.



"I know that I whakapapa to more than 100 soldiers and other servicemen and women who served with the 28 (Maori) Battalion," he said.

"I don't know all of their stories because I didn't grow up hearing them, as people didn't talk about war when they got home. But because of their experiences I am free to pursue my own. I am here because my four-year-old self said this is what they saw in my future."

Situated at the head of the Liri Valley, Cassino was a key point in the Gustav Line - a chain of German defences in the Italian mountains south of Rome. The battles to capture the town would ultimately open the pathway to the liberation of Rome and success in the Italian campaign.

Read the full article online. Words by NZDF Public affairs

TOURISM LEADERSHIP CHAIR STEPS UP

The Aotea Destination Management group met on Friday 3 May in person and online. This was the first session to bring the new group together. We are fortunate to have a variety of skills and experience on board.

We are pleased to announce that Jason Elliott has stepped up to be the Chairperson (Independent) and Chris Ollivier will stay on as local board representative. To read more about Jason, check out our full online article.

The next steps for the group are to define our goals, using the Destination Management Plan as our guiding document. We can then look at the requirements of an Aotea Destination Management office to bring those goals to life over the next 12 months.

The Terms of Reference and mission statement of the group will be shared with the community in due course. We require a part time admin person to assist us - we are seeking expressions of interest for this role.

For more information, contact Chris Ollivier on 0272254302, chris.ollivier@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

MANAGING FOOD WASTE

On Aotea we are encouraged to come up with ways to manage our food waste. Below are some options on Aotea to reduce food waste.

Only Buy What We Need

Makes sense, but not always easy to plan. Having ways to store food for a long time is really useful too e.g. bottling, freezing, dehydrating.

Sharing with Others

Chitchat, pātaka kai (food pantries), the St Johns Church food bank and market days are all great options for sharing surplus. Pātaka kai are at Mulberry Grove School, Medlands Community Gardens, Anamata and Okiwi kura.

Feed Animals

Sharing suitable leftover food with animals is a great option. Anamata accepts old grains to feed to mealworms which are offered to Karen Walker, our bird rescuer, to feed rescued birds.

Composting

If you don't compost or garden yourself, giving to a neighbour or friend is an option for some, Medlands Community Gardens and Mulberry Grove School accept some food scraps for composting (check their requirements before dropping off) and Anamata accepts all food scraps for composting. Bokashi bins are another option.

Greencones

A Greencone in ground biodigester can be a great option if you do not compost, or if you are concerned about compost bins attracting rodents or pigs, etc, or smelling. It can take food scraps you may not wish to put into your compost bin eg meat, dairy products. It is important to put it in a sunny, easily accessible spot, with reasonable drainage. You wont get compost but you may get enriched soil adjacent to your Greencone to grow plants in. Anamata has received WMIF funding to subsidise the cost of these. If you are interested, pop in to Anamata or go to www. Anamata.nz for more info.

Lost to Landfill

If food scraps are put out with the rubbish, they are sent to landfill on the Sealink boat, mixed with other waste, start to rot and release methane gas. namata

Words by Anamata

Looking to make a submission or advertise? Email: AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com. Next issue deadline: Monday 3 June 10am

COMMERCIAL FISHERS CAUGHT IN CAULERPA CAN AREA

Residents on Aotea/ Great Barrier are furious after commercial cray fishers were spotted in waters covered by a fishing ban under Caulerpa rules.

"That commercial operators are dropping cray pots in an area where this activity is otherwise banned is deeply offensive to locals, who've been carefully adhering to the ban for nearly three years now," said co-chair Aotea Caulerpa Response Team Chris Ollivier

"It is also hugely worrying in terms of where those cray pots returned to after being at the Barrier, quite possibly with Caulerpa attached to them, and that is Leigh, the site of New Zealand's poster child for marine reserves."

Extensive measures have been put in place around parts of New Zealand to stop its spread, including a CAN (controlled area notice) covering much of the west coast of the island, which restricts all anchoring and bottom fishing activities.

In February the Government announced a \$5 million boost to accelerate the development of removal techniques for the seaweed.

"Despite all these efforts, it now seems the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) has granted permits for commercial fishers to lay pots in a CAN zone, significantly disrupting an ocean floor that's blanketed in Caulerpa. The boat was then returning to Leigh," said Ollivier.

As well as the CAN, local iwi placed a rāhui on crayfishing right around Aotea in 2022, to allow depleted stocks to replenish. MPI is aware of the rāhui and is currently working through Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea's application under the Fisheries Act to attach official enforcement measures to it.

Timeline of events below:

> Sat 4 May - FV Crusader observed potting in Schooner Bay and again north of Whangaparapara inside the CAN area. The next day, an incursion was reported to Biosecurity NZ, requesting a response as to whether the boat had a permit to carry out this activity and if so, why?

Five days later, on Fri 10 May the following response was received from John Walsh at MPI/Biosecurity:

> FV Crusader has a permit to anchor and undertake cray potting within the CAN off Aotea. This followed discussions with the industry and MPI officials on this history of the vessels operator in the area, and a call was made to issue a conditional permit.

> We were and are comfortable the permit conditions will manage risk and we have taken actions to reinforce the need to meet permit conditions.

> A permit stipulates requirements that the permit holder must undertake to prevent further spread of exotic Caulerpa, both within and beyond Aotea. This requires thorough decontamination of any potting equipment before exiting the CAN, including instructions should suspect Caulerpa be attached to equipment.

"I share the outrage of the community about this travesty and will be seeking a change to the policy of issuing permits such as these while the CAN is still in place," said Ollivier.

Chris has sent questions to MPI. He is yet to receive a reply but a review of the permits has been underway during the past week.

Follow this developing story online.

Words by Aotea Caulerpa Response Team

ORAMA MARINE CENTRE OPENS

Orama are excited to announce the Orama Marine Adventure Centre - OMAC for short. With the changing tides of activities here, OMAC has been developed in response to the amazing opportunity that remains right here for young people to flourish. OMAC will be an experiential learning opportunity for young people to explore the wonder of our geographical location and the marine environment right on our doorstep.

The aim of the OMAC experience is to provide the opportunity for young people to realise something new about themselves, and to enhance their personal growth through connection, participation and problemsolving.

Available to schools for week-long (or longer) camp experiences, OMAC has a collection of real-life learning themes and activities centred around our marine environment with opportunities such as sailing, kayaking, fishing, 'ocean to plate', marine stewardship and conservation. There will of course also be the additional quintessential camp extras such as spotlight and smores, and bellies full of the best camp food ever eaten thanks to our amazing chefs. Find more info at orama.nz *Words by Orama*

PĀTEKE AND MALLARDS

Mallard numbers appear to be increasing on the island, which is potentially bad for pāteke. The more mallards, the greater the risks of hybridisation, disease and competition for food and habitat.

Hybridisation threatens rare species. Mallards can hybridise with pāteke - mallard-pāteke hybrids have been recorded in mainland New Zealand.

Hunters will know that Aotea has been a closed game area since 1951 to protect pāteke from being accidently shot. This means that it is illegal to shoot any ducks, mallards included, on Aotea without special permission from the Fish and Game Council.

How can you help manage mallards? It's simple: do not feed them. Feeding mallard ducks drives population growth and in turn affects our unique pāteke.

Words by DOC.

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST PEST PLANTS

Are you passionate about preserving the pristine beauty of Aotea/Great Barrier Island? Do you want to play an active role in combating the spread of pest plants on your property?

Whether you're a seasoned weeder or just getting started, we understand the challenges of managing pest plants and the importance of protecting our island's unique ecosystem. That's why we're reaching out to offer our assistance and expertise.

If you need support to control pest plants on your property, we're here to help. Our dedicated team at Auckland Council is ready to provide guidance, resources, and practical solutions tailored to your needs.

Reach out to us at pestfree@aucklandcouncil. govt.nz to discuss how we can support your efforts. Whether you need assistance with identification, access to tools and resources, or advice on effective management strategies, we're committed to working with you every step of the way.

step of the way. Join us in protecting our island! See how to get involved to the right >>

Words by Niklas Erikson, Conservation Advisor

WINDY HILL SANCTUARY JOB OPENING

Join Our Fantastic Team



- Enthusiastic, reliable person who enjoys working outdoors in beautiful bush is needed to join our field team for 4 or 5 days per week undertaking pest management and species monitoring.
- For an information pack and to arrange a work experience day and interview:

Email Louise Mack at whsanctuary2024@gmail.com



Thurs 6 June 2024

Rabbit control: Aotea Great Barrier Island Kaitoke - Awana - Okiwi - Harataonga

Contractors will be undertaking rabbit control via night shoots and fumigation in the following areas:

Claris Recreation Reserve, Harataonga (Night shoots) Whangapoua, Okiwi Station, Whangapoua Dunes,

Awana (including campground and Stoney Bay Recreation)

For more information contact Jeremy.warden@aucklandcouncil. govt.nz or the contractor Duane Doughty doclivestock@gmail.com or call 027 568 1908

For more information about rabbit control call 09 301 0101 Find out more about controlling weeds and pests: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/pestfreeauckland





GET INVOLVED

Auckland Council is working towards eradicating and keeping out a number of high risk pest plant species from Aotea. We need your help to hunt these plants out



✓ Visit inaturalist.org

- Join project 'Aotea High Risk Weeds'
- Identify and record your weedy find!



Notice of Annual **General Meeting**

Aotea Family Support Group 10am Friday 5th July 2024 St John's Church Annex



After-School Programme Assistant

10 Hours a week for 2 months. with possible extension For application/job description contact:

OFFICE@AOTEAFAMILYSUPPORT.CO.NZ or Bev at 021 024 68696



BROADCASTING FROM 7AM EVERYDAY TUNE IN 94.6 | 104 | 107FM **STREAM ONLINE @ AOTEAFM.NZ** FIND WEEKLY SCHEDULE ONLINE



Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5pm Saturday 9am-4pm Sunday 9:30 am-4pm info@clarisstoreaotea.nz Extended hours in summer Closed Xmas & Boxing Day

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