



G.I.F.T Gulf Innovation
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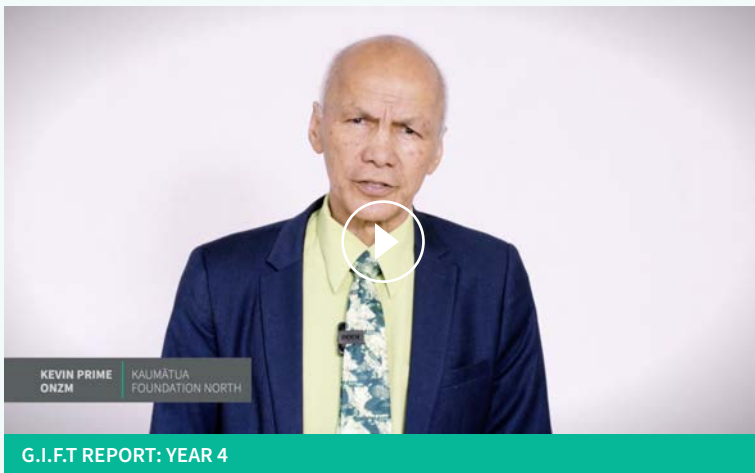
GIFT YEAR 4

TĪKAPA MOANA – TE MOANANUI-Ā-TOI – HAURAKI GULF

GIFT YEAR 4

Tikapa Moana – Te Moananui-ā-toi – Hauraki Gulf

In this 10-minute clip, Kevin Prime – Foundation North’s Kaumātua, Dr Dan Hikuroa – GIFT’s Mātauranga Māori Advisor and Chris Severne – Foundation North’s Deputy Chair, share the intent of GIFT, its relevance to the rest of Foundation North’s work and what GIFT is revealing about Te Ao Māori, mauri and bringing together mātauranga Māori and western science.



THE INCREDIBLE HAURAKI GULF”,
PRODUCED WITH G.I.F.T SUPPORT BY YOUNG OCEAN EXPLORERS.
[WATCH THE FULL VIDEO HERE](#)

HAERE MAI

Welcome to this year's GIFT report.

MAURI	4
SYSTEMS CHANGE LEARNING	7
GIFT FUNDING	9
IMPACT STORIES	16
RESOURCES	24

MAURI

“It [Mauri] is the force that interpenetrates all things to bind and knit them together and as the various element’s diversity, mauri acts as the bonding element creating unity in diversity.”

– ROYAL, TE A. C. (ED.). THE WOVEN UNIVERSE: SELECTED WRITINGS OF REV. MĀORI MARSDEN. OTAKI: ESTATE OF REV. MĀORI MARSDEN, 2003.

GIFT was initiated by Foundation North in 2016 to ignite innovation and solutions that would improve the mauri of Tīkapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi. Foundation North had limited knowledge of the value and tikanga that a focus on mauri would bring. Having mauri at the centre of the GIFT kaupapa is increasing unity and bringing a diversity of thought and approach, to regenerating and upholding the wellness of Tikapa Moana Te Moananui-a-Toi, the surrounding whenua and its people.

Sheridan Waitai

“The beautiful thing about inviting people that share the same principles as you is that you end up with a whole suite of mātauranga and research and evidence-based knowledge from a Science perspective, that you can use to drive different conversations with different groups and also enable us as kaitiaki to be the best that we can be.”

Since the inception of GIFT we have been on a learning journey to better understand the concept of Mauri.

GIFT

Teina Boasa-Dean (TŪHOE)

“Western Scientists can embrace the concept of mauri when they have strong Te Ao Māori mentors beside them.”

Despite COVID-19, GIFT has continued to create a space of offerings around mauri. In 2020 a Mauri Wānanga series was presented virtually by Te Kaa. As part of the Mauri Wānanga series, a session was held with four esteemed mauri practitioners. The panellist quotes below give a flavour of each of their kōrero.



PRECIOUS CLARK

“Whakapapa is the iho of mauri. Without whakapapa we are unable to enjoy the pre-eminence of mauri.”

Matua Kevin Prime (NGĀTI HINE, NGĀTI WHĀTUA, TAINUI AND WELSH DESCENT)

“Everything has a mauri. A rock has a mauri and science has already discovered that when you get right down to the atoms and molecules that everything is alive and moving and even though we talk about inanimate objects, all those things are living.”

Kelly Kahukiwa (NGĀTI IO, NGĀTI WHAKAUE, NGĀI TŪHOE, TE AITANGA-A-MĀHAKI)

“When I speak what I know, that comes from our tūpuna, these are tāonga brought down. When we start speaking this way people really engage because it is in the hearts of everybody”.

Sheridan Waitai (NGĀTI KURI)

“We own our own metanarratives and our own creation story. Being mana i te whenua is about owning all parts of the creation story and our origins. Rangī had a few wives and we come off the first wife Pokohārua I te Po and from there comes our whole natural make up of our land and the endemic species that you will not find anywhere else in Aotearoa and every single thing has a whakapapa”.

The Mauri Wānanga sessions continue to inspire and generate an openness from people to listen and learn and work together in different ways to regenerate the mauri of Tīkapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:

“My way of being has been impacted from the understanding and insight I gained”.

“Te Ao Maori concepts and perspectives are fundamentally important in the restoration and regeneration of Tīkapa Moana”.

“With this knowledge, I will work to ensure that mātauranga Māori is prevalent in our mahi, and that we are viewing our mahi with the intent of mauri being honoured and valued”.

“From this session, I will keep trying to build lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with Māori. I will constantly listen and learn and consider things in a different way and stop looking for a quick fix or quick understanding”.

This tide of change is building momentum. Through GIFT, more people are discussing the effect that Te Ao Māori has had on their learning, in their relationships, project design, organisational practice, attitudes and language as they work to regenerate and sustain the mauri of Tīkapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

SYSTEMS CHANGE LEARNING

In 2020, GIFT shared learning and insights around system change, see [Mōhiotanga/Insights: Systems Change in the Hauraki Gulf](#). GIFT grantees report running into systemic barriers harming the mauri of moana, whenua and people, that include:

- Outdated and inadequate legislation (for example, marine protection legislation is over 50 years old)
- People working in silos, with split accountabilities for land and water health
- Investment in destruction over regeneration
- Colonial, commercial, entitlement mindsets and practices
- Disconnection from nature.



SYSTEMS CHANGE LEARNING - MŌHIOTANGA

Mana Whenua are hampered in fulfilling their kaitiaki obligations by over consultation, poor engagement processes, pre-Treaty settlement requirements and capacity issues. This requires all parties to find ways through, including holding space for effective engagement, resourcing capacity, understanding where Mana Whenua are at and working flexibly with them in this context.

There is a growing desire to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi through Mana Whenua representation, engagement and co-governance, which is a significant system change. Through GIFT supported projects, there are examples of holding space for Mana Whenua engagement (see [link to Noises and Ngāti Pāoa stories](#)), blending [mātauranga Māori and Western science](#), and enabling regeneration activities to move forward in ways that give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, without necessarily requiring formal participation of Mana Whenua.

Wider examples of system changes to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi include the [Resource Management Act](#) review recommendations to include a more strategic role for Māori and resourcing for Mana Whenua engagement. The Environmental Protection Authority has recently released a mātauranga framework to help their decision-makers understand, test and probe mātauranga when it is presented in evidence. The [Hauraki Gulf Forum](#) adopted a [co-governance model](#) with Mana Whenua in 2020.

GIFT continues to influence Foundation North as a system by continuing to build and strengthen Mana Whenua and cross sectoral relationships around shared interests, seeking mātauranga advice and pursuing more [bicultural ways of working](#). GIFT has also informed Foundation North's Regenerative Environment focus, [see link](#).

GIFT is building a more connected community of change makers. In May 2020, GIFT hosted two online systems change conversations with grantees to consider potential, needs and strengths for system change in the Hauraki Gulf. In July 2020, all grantees were invited to a kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) session to share learning and ideas around system change. [See here for the July hui presentation](#) on system change concepts, tools and frameworks. GIFT also initiated a communications stakeholder group to explore more collaborative ways of amplifying the voice of Tikapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

Grantees at the July hui identified these focus areas for their system change work:

- Raising voices of the Gulf to catalyse mindset change, for example perspectives from [whales](#), dolphins and [seabirds](#) (see also Young Ocean Explorers and the [GIFT blog](#))
- Marine protection, restoration and co-management with Mana Whenua
- Increasing regenerative investment in the Hauraki Gulf, for example through the Challenge Fund for shellfish restoration and electrification of ferries
- Supporting changes in policy, and land-based action such as native tree planting and reducing pollutants entering waterways.

In 2021, GIFT will continue to:

- Support whānau/hapū/lwi to fulfil their role as kaitiaki
- Support bicultural ways of working to restore mauri
- Advocate for ecosystem approaches that give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



SYSTEMS CHANGE HUI IN JULY 2020

The GIFT journey with mauri has been transformational. GIFT has held the space for the conversations and learnings around mauri to emerge both within Foundation North and with grantees. The opportunity to hear mātauranga has added so much value to our work. Our organisation now appreciates mātauranga and tikanga is sitting in the room with mana whenua.

GIFT GRANTEE: DAMON BIRCHFIELD,
CEO, ECOMATTERS ENVIRONMENT TRUST

GIFT FUNDING

GIFT DASHBOARD

GIFT began in 2016 as a \$5m fund, with additional funding of \$2m (2019) and \$2m (2020) approved by the Foundation North Board. An additional \$3m was approved to The Nature Conservancy by the Foundation North Board in 2019 to establish a Challenge Fund ([see here for more information](#)).

GIFT funds at three levels. Experimentation and risk taking is supported, with some failure expected.

LEVEL	FUNDING	
SEED	Looking for potential – Under \$50k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test good ideas • Rapid learning and prototyping
SCALE	Growing potential – \$50k and over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test at larger scale, grow proven ideas
SYSTEM	Finding potential in the system – No funding parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative innovation for system change • Shift conditions holding a problem in place

	TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE 2016	SEED	SCALE	SYSTEM	FUNDING AWARDED
GIFT YEAR 4	107	31 (\$893,713)	17 (\$2,350,981)	8 (\$3,963,325)	\$7,208,019

GIFT projects have leveraged further funding of \$3,722,232 to date.

Three Seed projects went on to receive Scale funding:

- [Hauraki Gulf Watershed](#)
- [Ecomatters/Crave Global](#)
- [The Nature Conservancy](#)

Two Seed projects went on to receive System funding:

- [Noises protection and restoration project](#)
- [Sustainable Business Network](#)

A GIFT Impact Summary is being produced in the first quarter of 2021.

** The Centre for Social Impact evaluates GIFT and advises on innovation and strategy. It also provides evaluation and capacity support to GIFT grantees.



GIFT GRANTEES

[CLICK HERE](#) TO DOWNLOAD ARTWORK (PDF).
OR VISIT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3QNHAUT](https://bit.ly/3QNHAUT)

Glossary:

- **HGCT** - Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust
- **UofAk** - University of Auckland
- **YOE** - Young Ocean Explorers
- **NIWA** - National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research

Ngāti Pāoa engagement -
with **Waiheke Marine Project**

Rangatahi kaitiaki programme
- **Te Toki Voyaging Trust**

Fisheries and shellfish

- Impact investment seafood sector - **Envirostrat**
- Shellfish restoration coordination - **TNC**
- Fishing trap - **Dave Kellian**
- Detecting illegal fishing through sound - **U of Ak Craig Radford**
- Lobster research to address kina barrens - **U of Ak Craig Radford**
- Shellfish restoration techniques - **U of Ak Jenny Hillman**
- Kina barren project - **U of Ak Nick Shears**
- Online platform to sell all commercial fish - **Not Your Average Fish**

Database of mātauranga for
collective Iwi action - **Kelly Klink**

Hearts and minds

- Online platforms to engage businesses/ community - **Ecomatters/Crave Global**
- Business kaitiakitanga - **SBN**
- VR Game - **Sustainable Coastlines/Michael Jessup**
- Young Ocean Explorers website - **YOE**
- Hauraki Gulf Watershed creative activation - **U of Ak Elisabeth Vaneveld**
- 360 marine VR for schools - **Sir Peter Blake trust**
- Mauri connection and ideas activation - **Oceans lab**
- Water quality monitoring technology - **WAINZ**

BY FOCUS AREA

Marine protection and restoration

Marine protection Noises
Neureuter Family
Community engagement in
restoration - **Mark Russell**
Priority conservation and
restoration areas - **NIWA**
Electric ferries - **U of Ak Rochelle Constantine**
Water drone - **McMullen and Wing**
Monitoring device - **WAINZ**

GIFT koha grantees

- **Mauri wānanga**
- **System Change workshop**

Ngā uri o Papatūānuku me Ranginui
programme - **Moana Tamaariki-Pohe**
and **Louise Marra**

Projects to the mauri Moana ā-Toi August 2020

Seabirds

Assurance programme for commercial
longline seabird smart fishing
- **Southern Seabird Solutions**
Engaging charter fishers to reduce
seabird mortality
- **Southern Seabird Solutions**
Assessing seabird response to
environmental threats
- **Northern Seabird Solutions**

Holistic plan for Ngāi Tai taiao streams
- **Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Wairoa Ltd**

Land-based action

Impact bonds for permanent
native forest - **Mōhio Research**
Reducing sediment, heavy metals and
plastics - **Sustainable Business Network**
Waiheke community engagement
in predator control - **HGCT**
Predator trap sensing technology
testing Waiheke - **Thinstra**

Each year we're now running marine education activity with over 20,000 school students, and we're reaching thousands more through public events; we're partnering with events and organisations such as NZ Ocean Racing to find new channels to raise awareness of the issues facing our ocean environment; and perhaps most exciting we're adapting the education programme to make it suitable for Māori medium settings. Plus NZ Geographic is reaching many thousands more people through its digital channels. And none of that would have happened without GIFT and their preparedness to invest boldly.

GIFT GRANTEE: JAMES GIBSON, CEO – BLAKE TRUST

A REGENERATIVE APPROACH

GIFT has moved its investment to a more holistic approach that integrates mātauranga Māori. This aligns with Foundation North's refreshed strategy and focus area of [Whakahou Taiao | Regenerative Environment](#).

This focus area has four outcomes:

- Tino Rangatiratanga – community led action for Te Taiao
- Mātauranga Māori leading regeneration and restoration
- Increased connection and equity of access to Te Taiao.
- Renewing, regenerating ecosystems and communities

Key ways that GIFT has been reflecting this strategy are indicated below.

Tino Rangatiratanga – mana whenua led action for Tīkapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi



Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Waiora Ltd:

A grant of \$50,000 to develop a holistic delivery plan for this iwi for multiple taiao (environment) workstreams.



Protect Aotea/Great Barrier (umbrella for Kelly Klink):

Support of \$25,000 to build a resource hub of all relevant mātauranga Māori, including pūrākau, kōrero tawhito, waiata, whakatauki, and mōteatea, scientific research and data.



Te Toki Voyaging Trust:

A grant of \$50,000 to run a 'Rangatahi Kaitiaki' programme in conjunction with Umupuia Marae.

[Click here](#) for the case study for this project.

Mātauranga Māori leading regeneration and restoration



Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust (as an umbrella for Ngā Uri o Ngāti Pāoa ki Waiheke – [Waiheke Marine Project](#)):

Two grants totalling \$75,000 for a Ngāti Pāoa whānau, hapū and community-led exploration of what it means to have “Heart-centered kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of Waiheke Island’s marine environment – Waiheke ki uta, Waiheke ki tai, Waiheke ki tua” and a contribution towards the Future Search event.



[Envirostrat Ltd](#) in conjunction with Dave Kellian:

A grant of \$50,000 to trial a new fish trap to reduce bycatch for commercial fishers. [Click here](#) for the case study for this project.



Marine Protection & Restoration Project:

Support of \$124,333 to the Noises Family Trust and grants of \$75,000 to the Auckland Museum Trust Board to collaboratively advance protection and restoration of the marine environment surrounding [the Noises](#) group of Islands. [Click here](#) to read the project progress to date.



P3Ltd (umbrella for [Indigenous to Papatūānuku programme](#)):

Support of \$67,025 for Moana Tamaariki-Pohe and Louise Marra to run the Indigenous to Papatūānuku programme for leaders of influence within Tikapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi.



[Emerge Institute](#) under the umbrella of [Unity House Ltd](#):

Support of \$25,000 to run an innovation lab on Tikapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi / The Hauraki Gulf: Creating solutions to address social and environmental issues through weaving indigenous wisdom with leadership development and innovation.

Increased connection and equity of access to Te Taiao



Envirostrat Ltd:

A grant of \$50,000 to investigate the feasibility of using impact investment to support transition to a low impact, high value seafood sector in the Hauraki Gulf. [Click here](#) to read the case study.



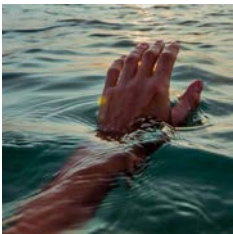
The [Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation](#), umbrella for the [Young Ocean Explorers](#):

Three grants totalling \$353,000 to enable the Young Ocean Explorers to produce content that focuses on addressing environmental issues facing the Hauraki Gulf. Funding also enabled community engagement, [Te Reo Māori translations](#) and the development of the [21 day challenge](#). [Click here](#) to read the learning and outcomes summary for the Young Ocean Explorers programme.



Blake Trust in conjunction with [NZ Geographic](#):

Two grants totalling \$363,000 for a series of 360 degree virtual reality marine experiences, to engage a wide and diverse audience with the Hauraki Gulf ([NZVR](#)), also for school outreach and to develop kaupapa Maori resources. [Click here](#) to read the learning and outcomes summary for this VR initiative.



University of Auckland Foundation as the umbrella for the [Hauraki Gulf Watershed Project](#):

Three grants totalling \$95,000 to bring tangata whenua and tauwiwi together, to co-create initiatives to influence the hearts and minds of Aucklanders to treasure the Hauraki Gulf.



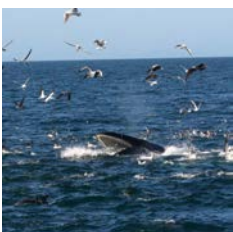
NIWA:

A grant of \$107,635 to undertake habitat mapping in the Hauraki Gulf to establish priority areas for conservation and restoration in conjunction with mana whenua and stakeholders. [Click here](#) to read project progress to date.



University of Auckland Foundation ([Nick Shears](#) – [Improving the Rocky Reef](#)):

A grant of \$188,000 for a collaborative project aimed at restoring the mauri of rocky reefs in the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi by weaving mātauranga Māori and Western science. [Click here](#) to read more about this project.



University of Auckland Foundation ([Rochelle Constantine](#) – [Pulse of the Gulf](#)):

A grant of \$211,250, to determine the environmental drivers and interactions that influence marine megafauna (whales and dolphins), through innovative technologies and mātauranga. [Click here](#) for more information on this project.

IMPACT STORIES

THE NOISES ISLAND TRUST

The Noises lie in the outer bounds of the inner Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi, approximately 24km north-east of Auckland and 2.2km from Rakino, their closest neighbour. The group of islands and rock stacks have outstanding conservation values, containing some of the best indigenous vegetation of the inner Hauraki Gulf islands. They are also home to a range of invertebrates and reptiles, including gecko and wētāpunga. The Noises provide safe breeding grounds for the highest number of seabird species in the inner Hauraki Gulf.

In 1995, the Noises Trust was formed by the Neureuter family (whose relatives bought the islands in 1933) and the islands were gifted to the Trust, which was created to help ensure the long-term protection of the island group. The Neureuter family's vision is to protect, conserve and enhance the islands' unique character, natural beauty and high ecological value. In addition, they aspire to initiate, with Mana Whenua protective measures for the surrounding marine environment.

The Neureuter family have sought to engage with Māori and Iwi at all stages of this project and in an open and authentic way. At the outset (July 2017), engagement with Mana Whenua was a priority for the family. They now understand that achieving protection and restoration of the marine environment, in a fully collaborative manner with Mana Whenua, will take time, as Sue Neureuter explains.

"We have come to better understand the challenges Mana Whenua face – whether in terms of time, resources and/or systems that do not recognise or support Mana Whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga. We are committed to continue to recognise and value Mana Whenua whakapapa, and the additional value mātauranga Māori brings."

Weaving together mātauranga Māori (traditional Māori knowledge) and science on this journey for marine protection and revitalisation of mauri has been key. Making space for both of these approaches has proved beneficial particularly on the issue of kina barren management and the archaeological excavation of middens on the shores of Ōtata, the largest of the island group. Sue notes that:

“Enabling the sharing of this knowledge has strengthened relationships and enabled deeper understanding for all around the cultural, historical and scientific relevance of the Noises.”

Now partnering with Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland Museum and the University of Auckland, the Noises Islands Trust is entering a deeper and more significant phase of its journey. The project partners have a shared vision to revitalise the mauri of the marine environment surrounding the Noises. Working with Mana Whenua, the partners are focused on identifying solutions to and overcoming barriers to marine protection, using The Noises as an example.

Excavations carried out collaboratively between Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland Museum and the Neureuter family in March 2020 confirm Ōtata as only the second known site in the Hauraki Gulf with archaeological evidence showing habitation to pre-date the Rangitoto eruption which occurred between 1398–1446. This means that the midden contains evidence of habitation pre-1398.

The first GIFT project to tackle ahu moana / marine protection, The Noises Islands Trust’s project is also an example of how the sequential stages of an endeavour can transition through GIFT’s seed/scale/system framework of granting.

Links

- [The Noises website](#)
- [The Noises case study](#)



UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND FOUNDATION: NICK SHEARS, RESTORING THE MAURI OF ROCKY REEFS



Dr Nick Shears, Associate Professor in Marine Science at the University of Auckland, is weaving mātauranga Māori with Western science in this collaborative project work to improve the mauri or life essence, of the shallow rocky reefs in Tikapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi/ the Hauraki Gulf.

A shift from thriving kelp and seaweed forests to ‘kina barrens’ in shallow reefs is a key indicator of loss of mauri in the Hauraki Gulf. With a decline in kina’s natural predators (snapper and crayfish), kina populations soar – their large numbers graze on the underwater forests in Tikapa Moana causing increasing expanses of bare rock known as kina barrens.

Dr Shears has mapped the extent of kina barrens, in hotspots like Hauturu/Little Barrier Island and The Noises, and has documented that barrens have substantially increased in some areas (Mokohinau Islands). Within marine-protected areas in the Hauraki Gulf, mauri is being restored as the natural balance is being allowed to shift to a decline in kina populations (and therefore barrens) due to the recovery of their predators.

To help accelerate this regeneration, the next steps in Dr Shears’ work will be to develop co-management strategies, in partnership with mana whenua, to actively restore the mauri of shallow reefs as well as address longer-term protection and management.

In an approach that is centred around solutions that incorporate mātauranga Māori, several hui have been held with mana whenua, Iwi and community groups and marine scientists to discuss collaboration and share traditional ways of protection and management.

According to Nick, engaging rangatahi in the project is also a key part of ensuring long-term protection once kelp forests have been restored. He believes that through enabling mana whenua rangatahi to experience both pristine and damaged underwater habitats, and by supporting them with Western scientific and mātauranga Māori knowledge, they will become ambassadors to bring about wider mana whenua connection to the project and transfer their knowledge about the moana in meaningful ways. In partnership with Experiencing Marine Reserves and supported by the Bobby Stafford Bush Foundation, in October 2019, rangatahi representing Para Kore ki Tāmaki were invited to attend the Experiencing Marine Reserves Poor Knights Island Snorkel Day, an important step in developing their understanding of kina barrens and how the mauri of the Hauraki Gulf can be restored through marine protection.

“The Poor Knights marine reserve is the most perfect example of an eco-system that I had ever seen. Kina have to hide because the prehistoric looking snapper prowl the forests of kelp and seaweed, eagle rays lay peacefully under foot and the Sandager wrasses have no problem greeting you with a big buck-toothed kiss.”

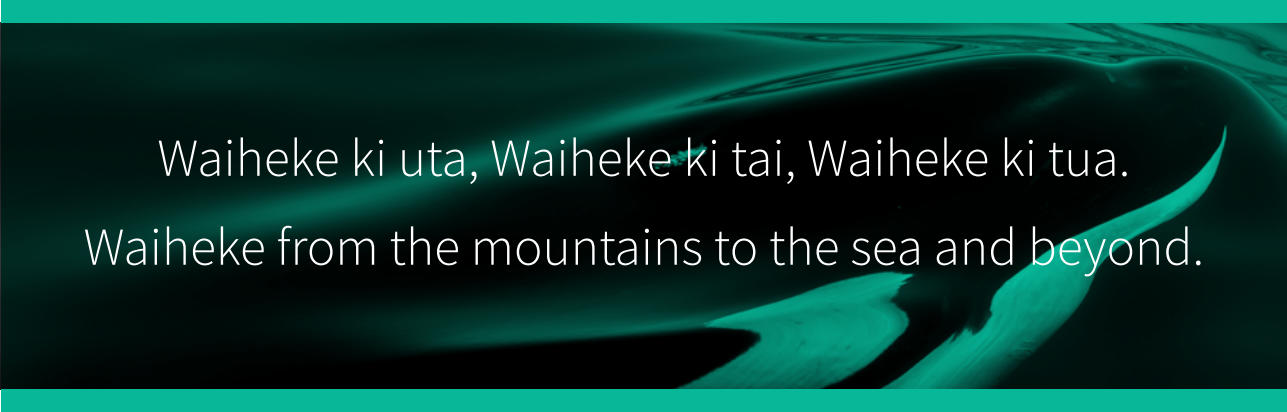
– KOHA KAHUI-MCCONNELL, VOLUNTEER SNORKEL GUIDE,
EXPERIENCING MARINE RESERVES SNORKEL TRIP

“The project is allowing us to build stronger relationships with iwi partners and opportunities to weave and share knowledge bases between science and mātauranga Māori. This is essential in co-developing solutions and management plans that aim to restore the mauri of our coastal ecosystems.”

– DR NICK SHEARS, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

[View video here.](#)

WAIHEKE MARINE PROJECT – NGĀTI PĀOA KI WAIHEKE



Waiheke ki uta, Waiheke ki tai, Waiheke ki tua.
Waiheke from the mountains to the sea and beyond.

Waiheke Marine Project is a collaborative Te Tiriti-based partnership between Mana Whenua (led by Ngā Uri ō Ngāti Pāoa ki Waiheke) and the Waiheke community coming together with a shared interest in protecting and regenerating Waiheke’s marine environment.

GIFT funding of \$75,000 was granted to support the overall project and specifically to enable a mana whenua co-led work stream that strengthened project relationships and engagement. The Ngā Uri ō Ngāti Pāoa ki Waiheke group was formed to reaffirm Ngāti Pāoa descendants’ whakapapa and hapū ties to Waiheke Island, to be empowered to engage meaningful and to uphold their kaitiakitanga roles and responsibilities as mana whenua, mana moana.

Building relationships, holding space and a driving commitment to develop a Ngāti Pāoa Ahu Moana Strategy for Waiheke has garnered strong foundations, visibility and leadership. To date, many hui have been held with the wider project working group which has produced an effective co-managed practice where Ngāti Pāoa presence and value add has been transformative and pivotal. A strong theme that has emerged has been the opening of a pathway for their rangatahi to learning more deeply their Ngāti Pāoa kawa and tikanga, and the roles and responsibilities of kaitiakitanga to prosper as future marine leaders. Rangatahi are becoming more and more empowered.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the mana whenua and Waiheke community team adapted their ways of working in order to achieve the project goals. With many planned hui unable to take place, the project team shifted to connecting through digital pathways in order to maintain momentum. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the group has seen increasing dedication and participation from Ngāti Pāoa, with whānau taking up leadership roles in project planning groups and decision making. Ngāti Pāoa visibility has also increased, through presence on the Waiheke local radio; in Waiheke Marine Collective promotional videos; presenting at the launch of Tāmaki Makaurau Conservation Week at the request of Hon Eugenie Sage, then Minister for Conservation; presenting to the Hauraki Gulf Forum; and a feature in the State of the Gulf Report 2020 on the importance of the project and the partnership.

Underpinned by the knowledge that success comes from deep relationships with a large diversity of voices and beliefs, the goal of the Waiheke Marine Project is to explore what it means to have “action-based kaitiakitanga of Waiheke Island’s marine environment”. The success of this partnership between mana whenua, taurahere and tauwiwi, i.e. Waiheke whānui could pave the way for future similar marine protection initiatives, demonstrating how genuine community collaboration can enable marine protection and regeneration. This project could be a world-leading model of an urban island co-managing its land and sea in unison, led by and partnered with indigenous peoples of place.



One of the outcomes of this work was the 3-day Future Search event which brought together 76 stakeholders with diverse interests to brainstorm ways to protect and regenerate Waiheke’s marine environment. The event, which was held at the end of October, was attended by mana whenua, scientists, youth, locals, conservationists, agencies, fishers and boaties, land interests, marine businesses – the intention was to include a wide range of perspectives and knowledge. Over the course of the 3 days, the group discussed finding areas of common ground for marine protection and regeneration and decided on nine focus areas – education, clean water, circular economy, Ahu Moana, co-design of a management framework, giving effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, local decision making and collaboration. Action plans will be built around each of these areas, and the participants are encouraging the involvement of the wider community in the project.



PROTECT AOTEA/GREAT BARRIER

Kia Tūpato!

Ka tangi a Tūkaiāia kei te moana,
 Ko Ngātiwai kei te moana e haere ana

Ka tangi a Tūkaiāia
 Kei tuawhenua, ko Ngātiwai kei tuawhenua e haere ana

Beware!

When Tūkaiāia calls at sea,
 Ngātiwai are at sea;

When Tūkaiāia calls inland,
 Ngātiwai are inland

THE TĪKAPA MOANA / TE MOANA-NUI-Ā-TOI / HAURAKI GULF CHALLENGE FUND

Protect Aotea was granted \$25,000 and intends to build a resource hub of all relevant mātauranga Māori, including pūrākau, kōrero tawhito, waiata, whakataukī, and mōteatea, scientific research and data. This information will be available to support the work of the group and in collaboration with others.

“The repository will be digital, however, because some of the mātauranga is tapu it cannot go up on a website for everyone to see. What we are hoping is that it will be a place where information can be utilised in the protection of the moana and or whenua,” said Kelly Klink, of Protect Aotea.

As a hub of critical knowledge, of both past and present, the information will be pertinent to Te Moananui o Toi Te Huatahi, a body of water which includes land areas (islands) within it and Tīkapa Moana Te Moananui ā Toi – Hauraki Gulf. It is hoped the repository will help to build relationships with people within Te Moananui o Toi with relevant knowledge, skills, experience and expertise who support the wider kaupapa.

A key component will be seeking guidance and wisdom from kuia and kaumātua to give advice on all aspects of the group’s activities. The repository will also include historical information of the rohe, as well as extending manaaki to all Māori individuals, groups that are involved in legal proceedings or any related activities.

As the project is still in its development stage, Protect Aotea will hold its first wānanga in December, at which individuals who hold mātauranga moana knowledge, will discuss plans to move forward collectively in the restoration of the moana.

“We have seen many of our people struggling to uphold this practice because of lack of knowledge, funding and backing. We as a Trust want to step into this space and assist those that want to protect Te Moananui o Toi Te Huatahi and to establish a process that other Māori entities can follow.”



IMAGE CREDIT: SHAUN LEE. TNC NZ, AUCKLAND, NOV 2018

Shellfish beds used to cover around 1,250 km² of the Hauraki Gulf seabed, providing enormous ecological benefits to the marine ecosystem. Unfortunately, most of these shellfish beds have been lost due to over-harvesting and habitat degradation.

In November 2017, global conservation organisation The Nature Conservancy (TNC) obtained joint funding from GIFT and The Tindall Foundation, to establish The Hauraki Gulf Shellfish Restoration Coordination Group – a coordination mechanism for collective effort towards shellfish restoration goals in the Gulf.

TNC is now joining forces with Foundation North to launch a Challenge Fund (the first of its kind in New Zealand) that has the potential to channel \$6 million into scaling-up shellfish restoration efforts to help restore the health of the Hauraki Gulf.

Foundation North has pledged \$3 million towards supporting this important work with TNC accepting the challenge of raising a further \$3 million from other international and NZ-based donors. Essentially, for every \$1 TNC raises from an individual, foundation or company, Foundation North will invest a further \$1, up to the \$3 million limit.

The focus of this Challenge Fund, (due to launch March 2021), is to support the delivery and implementation of the Coordination Group’s shared three-year Strategic Plan, including the goal to establish at least three new 100-tonne mussel beds by 2022.

“Shellfish restoration is in R and D mode at present, learning what works where – the ideal is to create a plan that has specific restoration goals for the Hauraki Gulf and to influence other efforts nationally and beyond.”

– JONATHAN PEACEY, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Donations secured through the Challenge Fund will be used to support a range of projects, for example, TNC is collaborating with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei to support efforts to restore the mauri of Ōkahu Bay, located close to Auckland city centre, through establishing a new 100-tonne mussel reef.

Establishing a new mussel reef will help restore the mauri of the Bay by improving water quality, stabilising the seafloor and creating a biodiversity hot spot in the hopes of returning mahinga kai to the bay. The project will also involve testing a new mussel restoration methodology of building reefs and is the first time a reef will have been restored/established in a more urban environment.

This project was initiated and is being driven by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei who will provide mātauranga to the project along with strategic thought and on the ground support. This work is a part a ki uta ki tai /mountains to sea restoration initiative which also includes native bush regeneration to the whenua accompanied by a multi-million-dollar storm and wastewater separation project which is currently underway.

“Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei are always looking at collaborative and innovative ways to right wrongs made in the past which has had a devastating effect on our Taiao in particular Okahu bay and the wider Waitematā. We are thankful and eager to see what positive effects this mussel reef may have in raising the mauri of our bay as a possible test case that could remedy similar issues throughout the wider harbour. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei pay homage to those key people and projects that have contributed to the kaupapa over time in particular Richelle Kāhui-McConnell, we are very proud of these efforts and continue to add to the legacy through this project as well as others also currently underway.”

– KINGI MAKOARE, NGĀTI WHĀTUA ORĀKEI

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RESOURCES

“Foundation North may have been the catalyst for the G.I.F.T concept, but you will see in this report the efforts and mahi of many, many people – tangata whenua, corporates, friends and whānau, universities, scientists, entrepreneurs – and of course, our own team who have weaved each piece together in order to bring about change in the Hauraki Gulf. It is a body of work we are very proud of, and our hope is the mauri of the Gulf will be the ultimate benefactor together with the generations to come.”

– PETER TYNAN, CEO FOUNDATION NORTH

For more information please visit the GIFT website: www.giftofthegulf.org.nz

G.I.F.T Gulf Innovation Fund Together > Find out more at giftofthegulf.org.nz



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