



Words from our Chair

There's a very good interview with Murray Hosking in this Newsletter. Murray was a foundation Trustee of the Friends and the chair for several years. He has just retired from the Board, much to our regret. In many respects, he was the glue that held the Friends together and he and his wife, Patsy, were always there when work needed to be done.

I don't think I'm overstating things when I say that Murray was a legend in the public service. He was a very senior manager in the Forest Service and a Deputy Director General of DOC. He had a very successful and chequered career and was instrumental in progressing many important conservation initiatives.

I first learnt of Murray when the Wellington South Coast Marine Reserve Coalition (all three of us) called on the then Minister of Conservation, Chris Carter, to complain about delays in progressing our application for the marine reserve. Chris said he would get his best man onto it –and he did. Just as well, too. From what Murray's told me subsequently, it was a close run thing and it would have never had happened but for the dogged efforts of Murray and his colleagues behind the scenes. Having to deal with a grumpy and impatient Colin Ryder couldn't have been easy, either!

Murray brought a lot of skills and experience to the Friends and has helped to make the Trust the well respected and successful Trust it is now. I would like to think, though, that his involvement with the Friends has been good for Murray. He has learned how to snorkel, which has opened up a whole new world for him to enjoy, and he has definitely made a difference, which can be satisfying in itself.

Two other Trustees retired this year.

Julian Hodge has had a career change and is now longer associated with the South Coast. Julian was a strong advocate for using the Marine Reserve as an educational resource and making the next generation familiar with, and involved in protecting the marine environment. His work was largely based at Island Bay and he was our “eyes and ears” along the South Coast. Julian and I can both be very forthright and we did have some robust discussions early on. I have to say that we both moved on from those, and I would like to think of him as a friend.

We lost Jen Howe during the year when her husband got a job in Bangkok. Jen made a big contribution to the Friends, particularly on the Painted Pavements Project and as co-editor of the Newsletter.

While it's always sad to lose good people from the Board (and fifteen have retired or resigned over the past nine years), it is a natural process. People move on but it gives us the opportunity to recruit new Trustees with different skill-sets, attributes and interests. It can provide a form of rejuvenation with new people bringing new enthusiasm and new ideas.

This could be your opportunity. Email me at rydercj@xtra.co.nz if you are interested in joining us in making a real difference to the Marine Reserve.

That's all for 2017, folks. Be careful out there and have a happy new Year.

Colin Ryder

Chair

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Meeting Murray Hosking - Original Friends trustee extraordinaire

What's your name and what do you do?

Ko Murray Hosking tenei. I am now happily retired from a career in the New Zealand Forest Service (26 years) and the Department of Conservation (20 years). I have also just retired from the Board of FOTMR.

What's your background?

I trained as a forester in New Zealand and Wales, and moved from production forestry to environmental forestry in 1985, which meant I was swept up into DOC when it commenced in 1987. I was a senior manager and early tasks included moving up our marine reserve numbers from one and a half (Leigh and Poor Knights). Immediately we pushed through Kapiti and the Kermadecs, then got rid of the fishing allowed in Poor Knights. I greatly enjoyed the broadening of my focus from trees to mountains and our seas, and indeed underwater.

What's your connection with the Reserve and the South Coast?

The Taputeranga application was a long saga during the 1990's and was one of about a dozen outstanding applications I was rehired in 2001 to work on personally and directly with Ministerial support. The bureaucratic hurdles proved slow to cross and I sensed a growing frustration on the part of the applicants, including Colin in his regular phone calls. Nevertheless, it all came more or less right for a gazettal of Taputeranga in 2008. (Ten years next year!)

What's your connection with the FoTMR?

Colin gave me a call after the establishment of the Reserve with the idea of a Trust to support DOC at Taputeranga. Hence the birth of FOTMR, after twisting a few arms to form a Trust Board in 2009.

What are you most proud of achieving with the Friends?

In the early years the Snorkel Trail. Tim Walshe of Island Bay Divers, another foundation

Trustee, looked after the site selection and buoying system while I pushed the bureaucracies to get the right permits, as well as the sign and brochure designs.

Later, the development of the Coastwatch seemed to me to be timely, to augment public understanding and tap into the growing support for the Reserve and to minimise poaching.

What is your favourite location or animal in the Reserve?

I guess the Snorkel Trail. I decided to give snorkeling a go there and was glad I had done so. It opened up a new world which was ecologically not too dissimilar to the structure and function of high forests on land. Always a thrill to see new species (to me) and to see the obvious recovery of previously targeted fish and invertebrates. I love the nudibranchs and my best 'find' was brachiopods on storm cast kelp holdfasts at Owhiro Bay. I have also been able to dive at Leigh and on the Great Barrier Reef.

What are you looking forward to in the next year?

I will be looking after the website for a while longer and will enjoy doing what I can as a member of the Trust. That will include touching up the paint on the Esplanade 'critter' signs, keeping an eye out for poaching miscreants and applauding from the shoreline the excellent work of the Experiencing Marine Reserves and Mountains to the Sea Trust folk. I also look forward to the first award for graduate student support from the Kevin Smith Scholarship Award fund.

Kia ora tatou.



Want to be our Friend?

The Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve Board is looking for a new Trustee.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend and making a difference for the

Taputeranga Marine Reserve, email our Chair Colin at rydercj@xtra.co.nz

Next year Taputeranga Marine Reserve celebrates our 10th anniversary!

With support from the community Taputeranga Marine Reserve was created in August 2008.

Ten years on, 2018 will be our year to celebrate and thank our Trust, our champions, our advocates, our divers, snorkelers, rock-poolers, our subject matter experts, authors, volunteers and stakeholders at DOC, Fisheries and the local Councils; who have all helped shape what Taputeranga Marine Reserve is today. Thank you all for your contributions. Without these outstanding efforts we wouldn't be here celebrating.

Let's take a look at the last 10 years, since the 2008 gazettal. Trust members share their experiences and personal stories, and the key accomplishments in and around the reserve:

- August 2008 Taputeranga Marine Reserve is officially opened.
- 2009 – The Friends of Trust Taputeranga Marine Reserve and a Trust Board is established to protect, maintain and enhance the reserve and to ensure that it benefits the community and future generations and support DOC's marine reserve work.

"10 years ago, Mike was snorkelling or diving the south coast, enjoying the diving but increasingly, seldom bringing something home to eat (cray or paua), only seeing the occasional undersized cray. Last week he snorkelled the same areas, sometimes in only waist deep water and was able to take photographs of multiple good sized crayfish, interact with octopus, butterflyfish, and moki. Many rocks and cervices are now covered in paua."

In 2010, we introduced the Friends membership programme, including this newsletter

- The much loved and spectacular Snorkel Trail was created in 2011
- Snorkel Trail Webcam installed 2011 with images renewed every 5 mins.
- In 2012, dive slates with colourful pictures of the critters that can be found in the marine reserve were introduced.

"A highlight would be the excellent work of the Experiencing Marine Reserves (now Mountains to the Sea Trust), in educating in, around and about the marine reserve, its benefits and the custodianship we have to the ocean."

- The obvious recovery of previously targeted fish and invertebrates.
- The pavement 'critter' signs the length of the reserve appeared in 2014.
- 2016 - Coastwatchers established to help educate the community about the reserve and report illegal activity.

"Meeting a whole load of like-minded people who wanted to achieve something that makes a difference."

- Secondary school students in a pilot marine monitoring programme 2016.
- Numerous submissions and ongoing advocacy on behalf of the marine reserve in national and regional forums.
- Asian language brochure and advertising to help DOC with compliance efforts.
- Setting up of Kevin Smith Memorial Award to help Victoria University postgraduate students undertake research into the Marine Reserve.

“The development of the CoastWatch seemed to me to be timely, to augment public understanding and tap into the growing support for the Reserve and to minimise poaching.”

- Maintaining dialogue with DOC on monitoring and compliance issues.
- And alas multiple clean up events – out of, on and under the water!

With a quick look to the future, these are some things we want to see;

- People are increasingly aware of environmental issues and participating in environmental conservation activities.
- Continued protection, conservation, and restoration of living and non-living marine resources and the ecosystem processes of marine and coastal areas.
- The Blue Belt concept is realised! “Blue Belt” is about conserving and restoring marine life, highlighting the value and significance of our local marine environment and the possibility of an increased marine protected area.
- Increased political will and commitment, including policies, strategies and programmes, in support of marine reserves offers a more conducive environment for better management of Taputeranga Marine Reserve.
- Greater involvement of local authorities in marine conservation initiatives and we have partnerships with multiple public and private stakeholders
- The ever-evolving advancement in information technology facilitates easier communication and wider enjoyment of Taputeranga.
- Research and monitoring of Taputeranga, and connected systems, is adequately funded and resourced, and undertaken collaboratively.
- And of course, Taputeranga Marine Reserve continues to be a pride and joy to all!

What would you like to see happen in the next 10 years? Let us know.

To celebrate our 10 year anniversary in 2018, we are planning to hold an event each month, for example snorkelling and get in the water days, a marine bioblitz and wider citizen science projects, research presentations and a pecha kucha session, photo and art competitions, and some secret, spectacular things still in the making! There will be more information coming out in

the next months on the events for the 10th anniversary celebrations. If you want to be involved in any of these events or have suggestion of other celebrations please send us an [email](#). Thank you for your support along the way and happy 10th anniversary!

Compliance update

Observant coastal neighbours reported a poaching incident within the boundaries of TMR during November (two separate incidents by the same group apparently). Three people were seen collecting crayfish, paua and kina. When spoken to, their attitude was uncooperative and unrepentant. The witnesses provided vehicle registration details and descriptions to DOC, who we understand will be taking the matter further.

For your safety, we do not encourage approaching a group of possible poachers, but recommend **observing** details, **record vehicle registration** and **obtain photographs**, if safe to do so. **Report to the DOC Hotline 0800 DOC HOT**. Our web site has a reporting form to help jog your memory of the incident. Please complete it, photograph it and forward to DOC when requested.

Well done to our very observant coastal neighbours and friends. Coast watch at its best!



Stormwater Pollution Monitoring: Wellingtons South Coast Schools

Students from schools across the South Coast of Wellington took part in the Experiencing Marine Reserves programme earlier this year with the Mountains to Sea Wellington team. Their focus was on stormwater pollution and investigating the impacts this may be having on the Taputeranga Marine Reserve.

After learning about marine reserves and stormwater pollution in the classroom they headed out to Taputeranga Marine Reserve. With fins on and plenty of willing adult helpers, students got to experience the huge array of sea life we are fortunate to have in our backyard. The sighting of paua, blue moki, eagle rays, crayfish and yellowed mullet had students squealing with excitement through their snorkels.

Back on dry land students were combing the beach searching for signs of stormwater pollution having an impact on the marine reserve. Plastic, plastic and more plastic was what they kept finding. We suspect this plastic is entering the marine reserve via stormwater drains, carrying pollution from roads, through pipes and directly into the ocean. This got students thinking about what they could do to stop this.

Students to the rescue:

Following on from these experiences students have been working on action projects as kaitiaki (guardians) to reduce stormwater pollution. Student from Island Bay School, St Anne's School and Lyall Bay School adopted a local stormwater drain and began monitoring the pollution. They did this using a LittaTrap designed by Auckland based company Stormwater360. A LittaTrap is a basket installed into a drain that is designed to capture rubbish and other solid pollutants before reaching our waterways.

Students monitored each week what pollutants were ending up in the drain. Their task was to sort the rubbish into different categories and record what they found. Between the three schools, over 500 pieces of rubbish were caught in just three drains over a 10 week period. It's scary to think how much rubbish could be heading down the rest of the stormwater drains leading to the marine reserve. The students are now using this data to inform their local community of the issues of stormwater pollution and working towards promoting positive behaviour change.

How can you help?

Spread the word about stormwater pollution and how it ends up in our waterways untreated. Be a stormwater hero and pick up litter when you see it. Wash your car on the grass to prevent soap and other chemicals getting down the drains. Visit

<http://wellington.govt.nz/services/environment-and-waste/stormwater/preventing-pollution-and-flooding> for more ideas on how you can make a difference.

How to get you students involved?

Contact Mountains to Sea Wellington at info@mtsw.org.nz or visit their website <http://mountainstoseawellington.org/> to more information on programmes and student projects.

Photo references

The two snorkelling photos are St Annes School.

Students with Litta Trap is Lyall Bay School

Rubbish was all collected from Island Bay beach by 10 students in just 6mins.

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Become a Friend and support our work

Our mailing address is:

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