

## KI UTA KI TAI

## HEALTHY CATCHMENT HEALTHY HARBOUR



### TĒNĀ KOUTOU!

**Ki uta ki tai – mountains to the sea** is our new catchphrase as we continue to work with your community on your harbour and catchment plan and look to develop new plans across the peninsula.

Harbour and catchment plans enhance the collaborative work being done to support Tai Timu Tai Pari – Sea Change/Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan, which was developed to improve the health of the Hauraki Gulf.

With summer on our doorstep, and holidays fast approaching, it's timely to do a stock take of our backyard and check the health of the environment. Is it as we would like it? What more can we all do to help protect and preserve it?

In this newsletter you will find information about activities in the catchment, planting options that won't threaten our native flora, tips on water safety, and a reminder about catch limits and fish sizes.

If you have any questions or comments, get in touch with one of the team. Our contact details are on the back page.

### Ngā mihi,

**The Coromandel (WRC) Integrated Catchment Management team**



### WENTWORTH RIVER EROSION PROTECTION

Erosion protection works in the lower reach of the Wentworth River is currently being planned. This will include importing large rocks, live tree tying and gravel management. An application for funding will be made mid-November. This will prioritise and fast-track this work which is identified in the Whangamatā Harbour and Catchment Management Plan. Part of the project is the restoration of a wetland, including stock-proof fencing, willow clearance and planting natives.

### WHANGAMATA HARBOUR AND CATCHMENT PLAN

#### Own it!

Harbour and catchment plans have been recognised by Fonterra and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan, Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari, as a way to effect change. But, remember, in order to do that, they require your commitment and involvement, the goodwill of landowners and managers within the catchment, and support from key agencies.

#### To find out more, visit:

[waikatoregion.govt.nz/whangamata-hcmp](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/whangamata-hcmp)

### SEA CHANGE – TAI TIMU TAI PARI

The country's first marine spatial plan, approved in November 2016, is a ground-breaking initiative, designed to secure a healthy, productive and sustainable future for the Hauraki Gulf. It's a non-statutory plan, but provides a framework to guide in the management of the Hauraki Gulf.

Waikato Regional Council worked with mana whenua and local and central government to develop this plan, and there was extensive community and iwi engagement.

Do you know that the Hauraki Gulf area and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park extends around the Coromandel Peninsula and goes as far south as Whiritoa?

If you use this water or are interested in its wellbeing, please make sure you have a voice or take part in events.

#### To find out more or to read the Sea Change plan, visit:

[seachange.org.nz](http://seachange.org.nz).



# MARITIME SAFETY NEWS

## IF YOU CAN'T BE HEARD, YOU CAN'T BE HELPED ...

Wearing a lifejacket will help prevent drowning, but if you can't call for help then no one can rescue you. Waterproof communication tools are one of the most essential things to take boating to increase your chances of survival when faced with an on-water incident. If you can attach your communication tools to your lifejacket, so they're worn at all times, that's even better! Make sure you are carrying at least two suitable forms while boating this summer.

## YOUR COMMUNICATION TOOLS

### Marine VHF radio

A waterproof VHF radio is the most reliable way to call for help when out in coastal waters, but may not always be suitable for inland rivers and lakes because of limited radio coverage. Everyone tuned to channel 16 can hear your call for help.

Any person operating a maritime VHF radio must hold a Maritime VHF Radio Operator Certificate (unless transmitting in an emergency or a distress situation on channel 16). See [boatingeducation.org.nz](http://boatingeducation.org.nz) or call 0800 40 80 90 for more information.

For VHF channels, check the MarineMate app or visit: [waikatoregion.govt.nz/maritime-services](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/maritime-services).



### Distress beacons

EPIRBs (emergency position-indicating radiobeacons) and PLBs (personal locator beacons) are the most effective way of letting people know that you need urgent help in any location. You are required to register your beacon with Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) and ensure your details are up to date. It's also important to regularly check its battery life.

### Cellphone in a dry bag

Keep yours in a sealed waterproof bag when you are on the water. Not all locations have cellphone coverage, particularly remote lakes and rivers.

### Flares

Always carry torches or flares. They are essential if you want rescuers to locate you quickly, particularly at night or in poor visibility.



## YOUR LOCAL HARBOURMASTER

The harbourmaster for Whangamata is Stephen Wise.

Harbourmasters work with communities to help manage navigation safety on inland and coastal waterways in our region.

They promote safety by:

- carrying out regular patrols to ensure all water users know the local rules and ensure compliance with the Navigation Safety Bylaw
- removing navigation hazards, i.e. logs
- maintaining signage at boat ramps
- maintaining navigation buoys and beacons
- disposing of wrecks or derelict vessels
- working with communities to promote safety on our waterways
- managing mooring zones.

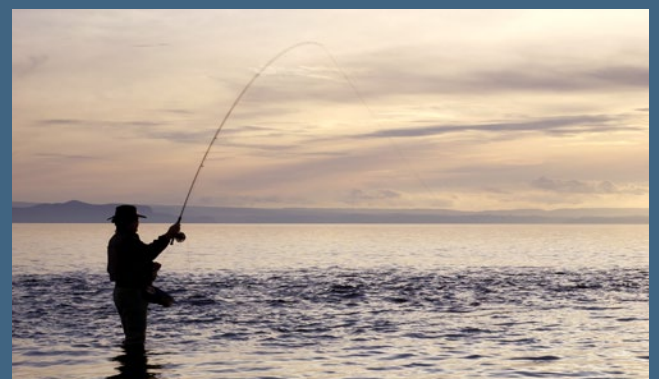
An advertisement for the MarineMate app. The background is a teal gradient. At the top left is the MarineMate logo, a stylized swirl. To its right is the text 'MarineMate'. Below this is the slogan 'OCEANS, RIVERS &amp; LAKES ALWAYS BRING YOUR MATE!' in large, bold, white letters. On the right side, there is a circular inset showing a map of Whangamata with a red arrow pointing to the 'Whangamata Boat Ramp'. At the bottom, there is a dark blue banner with the text 'DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE APP TODAY' in white. Below this text are two app store logos: 'Download on the App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play'. To the right of these logos are the MarineMate logo and the Waikato Regional Council logo, which includes the text 'Waikato REGIONAL COUNCIL Te Kaunihera o Te Rohe o Waikato'.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING

Fishing is one of New Zealand's most popular recreational activities. It's important for all fishers to act responsibly and help conserve the resource. All recreational fishing – including potting, netting and all other fishing methods – is covered by rules.

Download a rule brochure from [mpi.govt.nz](http://mpi.govt.nz) or download the free NZ Fishing Rules app.

Also use MPI's free text service: send a free text to 9889 with the name of a species, e.g. blue cod or pāua, and you'll be sent the legal bag and size limits for that species by return text.



# BIOSECURITY NEWS

## PLANT ME INSTEAD

Environmentally friendly does not need to be colourless and boring.

Why not plant *Hemerocallis* (daylily) instead of *Iris pseudacorus*.



Or replace pampas with toetoe.



For colour, we love ngutukākā (kākābeak) ...



... and kōwhai!



Check out Weedbusters' *Plant Me Instead* booklets, available in PDF on [weedbusters.org.nz](http://weedbusters.org.nz), before heading off to your favourite plant nursery!

## ENSURE OUR PŌHUTUKAWA CONTINUE FLOWERING FOR CHRISTMAS



Myrtle rust has been found on the Coromandel Peninsula, and the Ministry for Primary Industries needs your help to keep an eye out for this disease.

Myrtle rust spores are microscopic and can easily spread across large distances by wind. The fungal disease affects plants in the myrtle family, including iconic native plants pōhutukawa, mānuka, rātā, kānuka, swamp maire and ramarama, as well as commercially-grown species such as feijoa, eucalyptus and guava.

Myrtle rust generally attacks soft new growth, so is easier to spot in spring and summer.

### Symptoms to look out for on myrtle plants are:

- bright yellow powdery eruptions appearing on the underside of the leaf (young infection)
- bright yellow powdery eruptions on both sides of the leaf (mature infection)
- brown/grey rust pustules (older spores) on older lesions.

**Think you've seen the symptoms of myrtle rust? Don't touch it! Call the MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline immediately on 0800 80 99 66.**



## KAURI DIEBACK

As we head into summer, and into our forests, it is timely to remind everyone to be vigilant of kauri dieback. We don't want to spread this disease among our forest giants. Don't be scared to call out people on their behaviour – locals or otherwise – to help preserve this taonga.

Kauri dieback is a soil-borne organism. The disease was first found in the Waikato region in 2014, and has since been confirmed in five locations in the Coromandel Peninsula, in Tairua, Hukarahi and Whangapoua.

A comprehensive aerial survey has been completed to map the location of kauri trees in the region and identify those that show signs of the disease for further investigation.

### We all have a part to play

#### Some simple things you can do to help protect kauri when bush walking area:

- Make sure you clean your gear before and after going on a track.
- Keep to the tracks.
- Resist the urge to hug a kauri – that puts them at further risk.
- Check with landowners if you're wanting to work on private property.

#### Protecting kauri on your property:

- Fence stock out of bush areas.
- Minimise soil disturbance.
- Ensure contractors clean their gear before coming onto and leaving your property.
- Undertake pest and pig control.
- Keep people out of your bush or off ground near your kauri.

The less soil you move on and off your property the better.

[kauridieback.co.nz](http://kauridieback.co.nz)

0800 800 401



## THORN IN OUR SIDE

Biosecurity officers have recently discovered three mature evergreen buckthorn in Whangamatā.

A wider survey of the area is now being done as evergreen buckthorn is an eradication species in the Regional Pest Management Plan, therefore the council's responsibility to control.

Evergreen buckthorn has been historically found in Whangamatā and is a high threat to the coastal environment. This pest plant can quickly take over stream and forest margins and disturbed forests, changing the structure of native ecosystems.

It is a serious threat to coastal areas as it can form thick stands and interfere with native plant regeneration.

Evergreen buckthorn is common in Auckland and on islands in the Hauraki Gulf, but is limited in the Waikato region.

It's a shrub or small tree which grows about 5-10 metres in height, and is distinguished from native buckthorn by two small holes at its leaf base and the buckthorns (matching bumps) on the top of its leaves.

Visit our website for more identifying features and report sightings to 0800 BIOSEC (0800 246 732).

[waikatoregion.govt.nz/evergreen-buckthorn](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/evergreen-buckthorn)

## OUR LOCAL TEAM, AND WAYS WE CAN HELP

Call 07 866 0172 and ask for:

<b>Navigation safety</b>	Moorings, safety on the water, jet ski registrations, concerns about others behaviour on the water.	<b>Stephen Wise</b> Harbourmaster
<b>Catchment management</b>	Restoring a wetland, stream or forest area? Want to reduce erosion, run off and improve water quality? Do you know there is financial assistance and we can draw up a programme of works specifically for you?	<b>Rob Corkill</b> Catchment management officer
<b>Rivers or flooding</b>	Eroding stream, in-stream blockages? Issues with vegetation choking a waterway? Our river staff can help.	<b>James Ferrier-Kerr</b> River management officer
<b>Pest plants</b>	Issues with pest plants? Not sure how to control a pesky weed? Just need some advice?	<b>Benson Lockhart</b> Biosecurity officer (pest plants)