

The Northland-based Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust was established in 2002, as a charitable umbrella and support organisation for the Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) marine education and Whitebait Connection (WBC) freshwater education programmes. These are both leading models in education for sustainability in New Zealand and now available nationally. In addition to EMR and WBC we have developed a range of supporting projects, resources and services such as community guided snorkel days, community events for Seaweed & Conservation week, DVD's, the MarineNZ website, and the Drains to Harbour and Mangrove Discovery programmes.



Annual Report 2009



Whitebait Connection Programme

The Whitebait Connection is a national programme of experiential learning and action that promotes community involvement in healthy freshwater ecosystems and catchment management

WBC 2009 Achievements

- Schools and communities throughout NZ have increased knowledge & understanding of and support for freshwater conservation/preservation and catchment restoration.

- Development of the Wet Feet inquiry-based resource & DVD and the LEARNZ virtual field trip – with the first ever Te Reo audio conference!!

- Launch of the new WBC website www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz.

The WBC programme is delivered in 5 different regions throughout NZ. Evaluation has shown that students have retained their interest sparked by WBC and continued to be actively involved in catchment restoration throughout their high school education. Check out an example of this at <http://www.theoutlookforsomeday.net/films/2007/035/> Students are inspired to become Kaitiaki (guardians) of their local waterways. Programme delivery builds support for catchment restoration and freshwater conservation.

National development and delivery supported by DOC, running costs supported by ASB Community Trust

2009 WBC Action - examples

- Over 600 students and community members attended the Enviro Matariki Planting Day that was a continued restoration project inspired by WBC back in 2002.
- Students wrote a book on their findings in Te Reo Maori and made it available to their community.
- Preparing a Kid's Witness News short clip on their local unique wetland.

Experiencing Marine Reserves Programme



EMR is a national programme of experiential learning about marine conservation. EMR's independence, professional delivery, marine reserves focus and provision of a range of learning styles make it unique within New Zealand.

The EMR programme is delivered to 9 different regions throughout NZ

- Over 1600 students are engaged through EMR delivery in Northland each year
- Evaluation has shown that students have retained their interest sparked by EMR and continued to be actively involved in marine conservation throughout their high school education
- Programme delivery builds support for new and existing Marine Reserves
- After participating in the programme students have returned to marine reserves to snorkel with their families
- Students are inspired to become marine biologists
- Featured on National TV 'Meet the Locals'

EMR Supporters

The National expansion of EMR is supported by the Tindall Foundation. The Department of Conservation (DOC) is a foundation partner and has supported the development of the EMR programme since 2002. The Lion Foundation support programme delivery in the Bay of Islands. The Southern Trust gave us a grant for new wetsuits, a camera and resources. ASB Community trust have provided support for running costs.

Mangrove Discovery Programme

Delivered to one school a year to create awareness of the Waikaraka mangrove site of the Whangarei harbour Marine Reserve - Local delivery is supported by DOC



EMR Inspiration for Action – examples

- 200 community members attend student presentation about marine & freshwater conservation
- Student presentation to local council helped approval for toilets at new marine reserve site
- Students design and erect murals for local bus stops near new marine reserve
- Students organize cleanup of local waterway and design and erect signs to raise awareness of marine life and to encourage others not to litter.
- Students have presence at local fishing competition raising awareness of fisheries regulations and the boundaries of the local marine reserve.
- Students deliver a road show of marine conservation stories to local primary schools and kindergartens.
- Students perform haka based on EMR experience at national championships.



EMR is provided with quality snorkel equipment from [Wettie www.spearfishing.co.nz](http://www.spearfishing.co.nz)

Webb Ross – legal advice Dive Tutukaka – annual competition trip

Hardcore Surf provide our 'boogie' boards

Zartaj sponsors our programme websites

www.emr.org.nz and www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz



He Kakano Community Nursery

He Kakano allows the community to gain propagation experience thus encouraging ownership and a common goal of riparian and Mauri (life-force) restoration of the Waitaua River. Students from the Whangarei area are able to participate in an ongoing He Kakano Programme as an extension of the WBC programme. In 2009, 3600 locally sourced, native plants have been donated to student led riparian restoration projects such as the Waitaua Enviro-Matariki planting day.



Drains to Harbour programme

Drains to Harbour (DTH) are a stormwater awareness campaign aimed at fostering community awareness of stormwater and related freshwater/marine issues whilst promoting long-term behaviour change. Worked with 12 schools this year. Assisted delivery of the Enviro Matariki Planting Day. Placed over 200 permanent plaques around the Whangarei CBD and high profile areas in the outer regions of the Whangarei District.

2009 Drains To Harbour Action Examples

- One school found rare native Banded Kokopu in their local stream alongside stormwater pollution so they organised and carried out a massive riparian cleanup and distributed their own flyers to residents whose drains lead into the stream and stencilled the drains with 'Drains to Harbour – Rainwater Only'.
- Students installed enviropods into the stormwater drains and monitored their contents. The contents were audited and the results were communicated to the wider community.

Drains to Harbour is supported by our local Whangarei District Council.

Transfield provide support by providing traffic management.



Annual Marine and Freshwater Education Conference – Wananga

Currently the only gathering of this size dedicated to marine and freshwater education. 50 participants from around the country 2009

MTSCT Community Engagement Events

Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve Human Chain

The world's first human chain around the world's first student driven marine reserve was achieved on the 16th September, 2009. 1005 Northland students, parents, teachers and community members formed the chain around the landward boundary of the Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve at Reotahi (Motukaroro). Featured on the front page of regional papers and televised on One News, Te Kaea, Maori Television and Channel North.

Compliance and community buy in has been a challenge for the new marine reserve site at Motukaroro, part of the Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve. The Experiencing Marine Reserves Programme supported by DOC Whangarei Area Office came up with a bold and innovative approach involving over 1000 students, community members and a helicopter. See for yourself in this video clip a world first and a new way to raise awareness of marine conservation. www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GAWmkpLw08



Brief Financial Details

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2009.

Revenue	198,902
Expenditure	176,699
Operating Surplus (deficit)	22,203

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

Current Assets	54,867
Investments	-
Non-current assets	17,364
Total assets	72,231
Current liabilities	20,009
Term liabilities	-
Trust funds	-
Total liabilities/trust funds	20,009

Community Guided Snorkel Days

Community support for marine reserves is encouraged through delivery of our Community guided snorkel days at the Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve, attracting 800 community members during the summer of 08/09.



Current summer snorkel series supported by DOC and the New Zealand Refining Company

Planting Days

Over 1000 community members have attended the many planting events that WBC has coordinated or supported throughout NZ over 2009.

Corporate Brunch

40 people attend corporate brunch fundraiser to celebrate Seaweeek with organisations & business people. Guest speaker Stephen Tindall presented on 'Good business & the environment'.



Marine NZ www.marinenz.org.nz

Contains 865 images, 29 video's, 155 documents – average of 1,326.13 hits per day