



MEACT

Muriwai Environmental Action Community Trust

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2011

This month...

- Monthly Action Days
- MEACT evenings
- Project updates
- Donate & Win!



Inside this issue:

Gannet Monitoring starts	1
Donate & Win	1
Monthly Action Days	2
Event Calendar	2
MEACT Evenings	2
Planting Day	3
Become a marine mammal medic	3
NZ Conservation Week	4

Gannet Monitoring Project kicks off

This year the gannets arrived earlier than usual, but before the main group arrived Sonya Veldhuizen, our Project Manager, kicked off the Gannet Monitoring project by braving the winter chill to abseil down Otakamiro Point onto the colony with the help of a climbing specialist.

Sonya was laying out grid lines, basically thin white plastic hose, so that we can effectively monitor the colony over the summer.

Sonya has put together this project working closely with Gabriel Machovsky Capuska, who is undertaking his PhD in Gannet study at Massey University and with support from

Auckland Council rangers.

This is a great opportunity for the community to work together with experts in this field. Monitoring the gannets will be a long term project to assess the breeding success of the colony.

Local MEACT volunteers assembled in July to start the monitoring and this will involve MEACT volunteers and zoology students from Auckland University. Training will be provided to volunteers.

We are looking for more volunteers for this project as monitoring needs to be done daily right up until the gannets depart to Australia.

We hope that the results of the project will, over time, give us a better understanding of these annual visitors to Muriwai.

If you are interested, please contact Sonya (021 403 663) or visit our website for more information.



Survey Grid Installation at Otakamiro Point Gannet

Donate and win Ecostore Products

Ecostore have kindly donated some products to us, so until the end of September anyone who makes a donation of \$5 or more, or joins as a full member will go into the draw to win Ecostore products.

First prize is a home starter kit valued at \$39.90, second prize of



Body Butter, Hand cream and Soap, plus six 'runner up' prizes of hand cream.

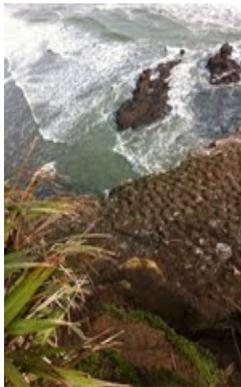
If you already joined us in

the last few months the good news is you automatically go into the draw as well!

Ecostore products are septic tank friendly making them ideal for Muriwai.

To donate and terms & conditions visit our website.





Working on the gannet monitoring project at Otakamiro Point

Monthly MEACT Action Days

We will be holding regular MEACT action days on the last Sunday of each month starting in August.

August will be a chance to participate in our Gannet Monitoring project, see details below.

September will be the chance to learn about native species and their role in traditional Maori medicine with a walk through Edwin Mitchelson

reserve with Donna Kerridge a teacher of Rongoa—traditional Maori herbal medicine.

October we will be taking a walk up Okiritoto Stream. This will give those interested in this major long term project an idea of the scale of what's involved and hopefully we can get some ideas on how to tackle this. We will be

concentrating on the lower stream in Council land for the first phase.

After our monthly Action days we will have a BBQ (weather permitting) and an open discussion on our projects —please come along and get involved in this exciting and transformative project!

Action Day Calendar

August

Where: Meet Maukatia (Maori Bay) car park

When: 1pm 28th August

What: Gannet Monitoring Project

Wear: warm clothes!

September

Where: Meet at Southern car park, Motutara Rd.

When: 1pm 25th September

What: 'Rongoa' Traditional Maori Medicine walk in Edwin Mitchelson Reserve

Wear: warm clothes and good footwear

October

Where: Horse float car park, end of Coast Rd.

When: 1pm 30th October

What: Okiritoto Stream restoration work.

Wear: work clothes and suitable footwear



Biosecurity presentation at our first Action

MEACT Evenings

Environmental Action isn't just about rolling up your sleeves and mucking in, it's also about learning.

Each month we invite everyone to join us down at the Fire Station for an evening to listen to a speaker about a subject related to the environment.

Last month Malcolm Patterson gave a fascinating talk about iwi history in and around Muriwai, which gave everyone a different take on our community's roots.

We are drawing up a list of future speakers. If you have an area of local interest or expertise or know someone who has,

and would like to be involved we would be happy to hear from you.

What: MEACT Evenings

Where: Fire Station

When: 7:30pm 1st Wednesday of the Month

Successful planting & open day

On the third of July we had a turn out of about 40 volunteers for our first Action day run in conjunction with the park rangers.

We were planting native trees behind the dunes alongside Okiritoto Stream. With a willing team we made short work of the plants designated for the day.

After the planting, Hazel Meadows from Wai-care talked about stream water quality. She showed a variety of specimens collected from the stream with the help of the kids. She

showed the stream is in pretty good health.

We then went back to the rangers station for a BBQ and presentation.

Sonya had arranged speakers from Wai-care (Stream water quality), Biosecurity (pest control) and Gabriel Machovsky Capuska who is doing a PhD at Massey University on Gannets. Gabriel is involved in our gannet monitoring project and will be helping design the project and assess the data.

This was the first of our monthly action days, and we'd like to thank everyone who came along to do their bit for the environment. We also want to thank our speakers and the park rangers for their time & cooperation!

MEACT will be undertaking a Wai-care programme under the guidance of Council Wai-care coordinators, and we are also seeking input on our stream restoration project, please keep an eye on our website or contact the project coordinators for more information.



Perfect Sunday for tree planting at our first Action day in July.



Marine Mammal Medic training with Project Jonah



Become a 'Marine Mammal Medic'

We are keen to form a response team of trained whale rescue volunteers for Muriwai.

Project Jonah is holding it's popular 'Marine Mammal Medic' course in October and places fill quickly.

If you are interested in going along we urge you to go online and register quickly.

The course costs \$90 and is held over a day. You will learn how to assist in the rescue of a marine mammal and act as a role model to untrained rescuers at a stranding or incident.

At the end of the course you'll be issued with a marine mammal medic card and added to Project Jonah's national database.

What: Marine Mammal Medic Training with Project Jonah.

Where: Auckland, book online: <http://www.projectjonah.org.nz/shop/Training+Courses.html>

When: Sunday 23rd October .



Gabriel Machovsky Capuska talking to volunteers about his gannet studies

Muriwai Environmental Action Community Trust

NZ Conservation Week



New Zealand Conservation Week takes place from the 11th to 18th September, MEACT are going to do a bit of spring cleaning on the beach, so if you want to come and do your bit for Conservation Week, meet us in the southern car park (end of Motutara Rd) at 1pm on Sunday 18th September. For more information on Conservation Week visit: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation-week-home/>

What: Conservation Week beach spring clean

Where: Meet at southern car park, end of Motutara Road, Muriwai

When: 1pm 18th September

Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear and some rubbish sacks

**WE LOVE
NEW YOU
ZEALAND**

Where's my bumper sticker?

For those of you that joined us as members, we promised you a bumper sticker in August with this newsletter. We haven't forgotten.

We have been kindly donated the time of a graphic designer to create a logo for our organisation, unfortunately our designer is very busy and because it's free, we don't want to complain. We will have our bumper stickers ready as soon as the logo is completed which should happen within the next four weeks.

Thanks for your patience!



The Muriwai Environmental Action Community Trust (MEACT) has been established by a group of environmental and community conscious locals.

Our aim is to encourage anyone who is interested in environmental preservation to join us in developing and implementing a wide variety of exciting projects to enhance our community's environment for future generations to enjoy.

Membership and
Donations c/o-
Gerry Henley
235 Oaia Road
Muriwai
Auckland 0881

We Need You!

*We are always
looking for help.*

*Without volunteers
our projects won't
happen.*

*Whether it is
physical work at
action days, help
with planning and
organising
projects, or
donations of
products or
services.*

*Without people like
you in the
community nothing
will change!*

*Please pass this on
to your friends and
family.*

Contacts for MEACT

Project Management

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Website IT & Trust Chair

Phelan Pirrie, Trustee

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Suggestions, ideas, want to put something in this newsletter or our website we would welcome and contributions about Muriwai or the environment?

Our e-newsletter goes out every two months, the next issue is due out towards the end of October.

Please contact:

Phelan Pirrie, phelan@muriwai-environment.org

To stay up to date with what we are doing, keep an eye on our website, and join us on Facebook (Muriwai environment)

www.muriwai-environment.org