



Muriwai

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



This issue ...

- Busy start for MEACT
- Project Update
- Weed Busters
- Shark Finning
- Useful Holiday Season Numbers



Inside this issue...

Busy first few months for Trust	1
Prize Winners	1
Project Updates	2
Event Calendar	2
MEACT Evenings	2
Gannet Monitoring	3
Shark Finning	3
Weedbusters	4
Useful Emergency numbers for the holidays	5

Muriwai Environmental Action Community Trust

December 2011

Busy first few months for MEACT Trust

It's barely eight months ago a few of us sat down to talk about starting some kind of environmental group that could bring together people in Muriwai to create a better place for everyone in our community.

Within six months we have a community trust set up, and growing group of members and supporters, a diverse range of projects and some solid results... and all this achieved through the hard work of a dedicated bunch of people from our community.

In a era when everyone is so 'time poor' and all community groups struggle for volunteers it's heartening to see the response from the community. Without people

giving up their precious time for the benefit of our environment we would all be worse off—these things simply can't all be done by local or national government.

One of our goals was to work with agencies to enhance projects and add a level community input to them, it is so important that we as a community take ownership of the environment around us, and we are grateful for the cooperation and openness that Council Park staff have shown to our group.

Next year is going to be a busy one for the Trust, we have a list of projects that are dictated by season and planting projects have

small windows that we have to plan around.

We are looking for volunteers to help with project management and organization—especially around Pest Control and the Okiritoto Stream project.

Your help and support is vital for long term enhancement and protection of this fantastic gem of a park we live in.

The trustees wish you all a happy Christmas and safe holidays!



Prize Draw Winners

Our Ecostore prize draw winners have been drawn;

First Prize went to the Sergeant / Easton Family.

Second Prize, Rose Family.

Runners up were the Bannock, Hilson, Cray, Kensington, Rangihuna and Edington Families.

Congratulations to all the winners!

We will be having another prize draw next year, keep an eye on our web-site and Facebook page.

To become a member of MEACT or donate, please visit the 'Join Us' page on our website.



Welcome Joshua James West – our first new born MEAC member.

Congratulations Claire Smith and James West!





Gannet Monitoring Group meeting at colony.



From our Project Manager - Sonya Veldhuizen

It has been a busy 6 months and I'm wondering what I've done! A lot of miles mostly!

My role in DOC based at North Head and the taxi service I provide for my very active 14 year old has left me with little spare time and feeling rather frazzled, however I have thoroughly enjoyed doing the Gannet monitoring this week, seeing the new chicks, talking to people who seem grateful for the insight, finding ways to improve the programme and just for the pure therapy of being there. Quite a grand spot! I see

there are also red billed gull chicks, a declining and protected species, near the terns, and allot of moulting going down!

I have tentatively booked a pest control workshop for the end of January, aimed at Goldies bush, but also applicable to anyone wanting to do control on their property. We will go over setting traps, baiting and lures etc. This will be run on expression of interest so we will ask people to RSVP.

There may also be an opportunity to run a marine mammal workshop, how to identify a

stressed animal e.g. seals, and general procedures at marine mammal stranding's. Something I'd like to see happen this summer. We will be working with DOC on this.

Many projects, lots of scope, plenty of work for years to come! The more people we have involved the more we can achieve.

Have a safe and happy holiday and see you next year

Sonya
sonya@muriwai-environment.org



Action Days

January

Where: TBC

When: 10am Sunday 29th January

What: Pest Control

Wear: good footwear and clothing

February

Where: TBC

When: 10am Sunday 26th February

What: Weed Busters

Wear: good footwear

March

Where: TBC

When: 10am 25th March

What: Planting Day

Wear: work clothes and suitable footwear

If you want more information on our Action Days please email Gerry on; gerry@muriwai-environment.org to get onto our mailing list or visit our website to join up as a member or supporter.

Gannet Monitoring Project Update - Gerry Henley

17 consecutive weeks of monitoring the Southern Gannet colony completed. A big thank you to all who have given time and effort to be involved particularly in bad weather. Once you get down there and start watching the colony you can get really

hooked in. At present there are lots of chicks, some of them up to 7 weeks old, it's fascinating to watch them grow. We are observing their breeding success. The roster is wide open for January; so let me know when you are available

to help out. Training available if you are new.

We are looking for more monitors, if you're interested in this fascinating project, please contact Gerry on either 411 9951 or

gerry@muriwai-environment.org



MEACT Evening - Shark Finning

Our last MEACT Evening for the year was a presentation by local activists Tracey and Mike. They talked about a new group set up to push for a ban

on shark finning in New Zealand waters and stopping the shark fin trade in Auckland. Despite being banned in Australia, USA, EU, Canada and some

South American countries this appalling, cruel and wasteful industry is still legal in NZ. For more information visit ... www.sffa.org.nz



MEACT Evenings

This year we have had a range of interesting evening gathering with speakers on a range of topics.

We've had great feedback from residents attending these evenings as being genuinely interesting and educational. This year we have had; Dr Malcolm Patterson on local history, Brian Moor-

head on Marine Biology, Gaberiel Machovsky Capuska on Gannets, Greg Hoskings & Malcolm Harrison on Pest Plants, Mike Lawry & Tracey Brown on 'Shark Fin Free Auckland'

We've got more interesting speakers lined up for next year starting with Amanda Peart on Kauri Dieback—a problem that

is hitting our precious Kauri forests.

If you would like to come and share your area of expertise with us, contact Gerry - gerry@muriwai-environment.org

What: MEACT Evenings

Where: Fire Station

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



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

Muriwai Weedbuster Group

Got off to a slow start due to rain and, and...

To date there have been two working bees on one property targeting ginger and Chilean rhubarb; support and advice offered on four properties, includes assistance in identifying pest species, supply of chemicals and deploying composting weed bags.

These tough big black weed bags can be filled with most weed species and in a couple of years you'll have great compost for your soil.

To use these bags open them out and roll like a stocking, chop, smash or crush the weeds as much as possible before stuffing into the bag as it speeds up the composting process.

Fill until there is just enough space to bring the edges together and pull up the drawstrings or fold over. It's important the bag is closed so no light gets in.

Eventually the contents will break down into rich dark compost—this can take up to two years.

Given the lack of good topsoil in most of Muriwai this is a great way of getting rid of weeds and getting some good compost back in return.

To join us and get these bags see details below.

We are be looking for recruits for our team in the New Year. And let us know if you have a weed problem. Target weed 2012– agapanthus.

What: Muriwai Weedbusters Group

Where: At your section or a section near you

When: During our Action Days

Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear we have all the gear.

Fisheries Poaching

Fishing is one of New Zealand's most popular recreational activities.

Every year a large number of finfish, rock lobster and shellfish are taken by recreational fishers. This can seriously affect local fisheries. This means it is important for all fishers to act responsibly and help conserve the resource. The restrictions on recreational fishers are relatively simple. The three main things to remember are:

- **Don't take more than the daily limit.**

- **Don't take undersized fish**
- **Don't sell or trade your catch**

Only those people physically involved in taking finfish, rock lobster, or shellfish are entitled to claim a catch within the daily limit. You should also be aware of the restrictions on the fishing gear and methods you can use.

Often confusion about the rules means people do the

'wrong' thing, make sure you know the rules...

www.fish.govt.nz

If you are concerned about activity in you area contact MAF on...

**0800 4 Poacher
0800 4 76224**

Make sure you get as much information as possible such as; time, place, number of people, species involved etc to assist Fishers Officers;

Useful Contact for the Holiday Season...

Phoning the right organisation first time saves time, plus you're more likely to get action, quickly!

For issues in the park—rubbish, damage to park property etc call...

Auckland Council (09) 301 0101

For urgent issues in park call and injured sea birds...

Duty Ranger (Auckland Council) 027 290 1287

For Dogs / Animal Control...

Auckland Council (09) 301 0101

For issues with injured / beached marine mammals—seals , dolphins, whales etc...

DOC . For emergencies phone: 0800 DOC HOT line (0800 362 468)

For Bird Rescue...

SPCA 7 days 10am - 4pm [outside these hours try the Ranger] (09) 256 7300

For fire - see smoke? Any fire on the beach or dunes? Call it in...

FIRE Dial 111

For vehicles on the beach south of Okiritoto Stream, or nuisance behaviour ...

POLICE Dial 111

Fisheries Poaching...

MAF phone: 0800 4 Poacher or 0800 4 76224

Contacts for MEACT

Project Management

Sonya Veldhuizen, Trustee

021 403 663. sonya@muriwai-environment.org

Fundraising

Quinta Wilson, Trustee

027 696 6384. quinta@muriwai-environment.org

Treasurer & Membership Admin

Gerry Henley, Trustee

027 496 0753. 411 9951. gerry@muriwai-environment.org

Website IT & Trust Chair

Phelan Pirrie, Trustee

021 844 124. 411 8847. phelan@muriwai-environment.org

Suggestions, Ideas, want to put something in our 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 February

Please contact:

Phelan Pirrie, phone: 09 411 8847 email: 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