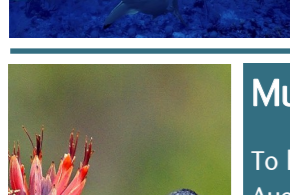




NZ Shark Alliance

With 73-100 million sharks disappearing from the oceans each year, marine conservationists are concerned at the alarming rates of shark species nearing extinction.



Some shark species are currently at 10% of 1970's population numbers, and the reason for such a decline is the demand for shark fin. New Zealand is one of the top 20 exporters of shark fin in the world and it is legal to fin the shark while still at sea, dump the carcass and retain the fin for sale. 98 countries have banned shark finning, including Australia with many cities declaring a shark fin free status where no products of shark are for sale.

There is global concern that one of these apex predators, in existence since the time of the dinosaurs will no longer be able to fulfil its role to regulate and balance marine ecosystems. Sharks have the ability to switch between prey populations which ensure species abundance, diversity and prevent a single species from monopolising limited resources. When shark populations off USA's east coast diminished by 50%, an overabundance of cownose rays consumed local bivalves at such a rate



that the scallop fishery in North Carolina collapsed. The role of bivalves is to filtrate marine environments so with diminishing bivalve populations, water quality is affected and often result in algal blooms.

Several South Pacific nations are taking a lead role in shark conservation and New Zealand should legislate to offer better protection for sharks and ensure the health of the oceans. The New Zealand Shark Alliance has been formed specifically to encourage the government to change legislation and ban shark finning in New Zealand waters. From November, New Zealand's National Plan of Action – Sharks is due for review and public consultation. We ask that all people committed to conserving the oceans learn more about the concerns of shark populations, take the time to write a submission and sign petitions to ban shark finning. You can find us at www.nzsharkalliance.org.nz and also on Facebook.

Tracy Brown NZSA

Muriwai Community Unitary Plan Submission

To help the communities voice be heard by Council in the upcoming public consultation on the Auckland Unitary Plan MeACT & the MBPA are facilitating a process to allow everyone in the community to come together to put in a submission on the plan.

This process is open to anyone in Muriwai, however, individuals can make their own submissions to the plan. The more feedback Council gets from the community the more the plan will represent what the community wants.

MeACT will be facilitating this process in the community, we will provide an independent person to run meetings, online polls and publicity, and at the end of this process participants' feedback will be collated into a plan that will be published and then be submitted to Council on behalf of the community.

The Unitary Plan meetings will not be about any other issue regarding Council, they are purely to gain a community consensus around the Unitary Plan and so will only focus on this.

The first public meeting will be at the new Surf Club on the 6th February 2013 at 7:30pm. For more information go to our website under 'Community'



MeACT Community Plant Nursery

MeACT had been fortunate enough to have had a hard working volunteer, Vicki, who has got our plant nursery up and running. This has involved a lot of work and started with a successful funding application to the Lion Foundation for a 'PGU' (Plant Growing Unit) that is now installed at the ranger station.

Over the winter seeds were collected with the help of the KidsEcoClub who scouted through the reserve.

These were germinated and pricked out and we now have about 3000 locally eco sourced and grown native plants.

The work is not over because these plants have to be nurtured through to autumn before they are planted.

Unfortunately Vicki is unable to manage this project next year.

Our plant nursery is an integral part of our 2013 planting plans, and we

have some BIG projects planned for next year!

We're looking for a volunteer with a keen interest in plant propagation who could help put together and manage a team of horticultural enthusiasts.

Want to help? please contact either
Gerry; 09 411 9951
gerry@muriwai-environment.org
Phelan; 09 411 8847
phelan@muriwai-environment.org



Village Green Restoration Project

One of our exciting new projects for 2013 is a re-vegetation scheme and restoration project on parts of the village green currently swamped by weeds.

Some years ago local resident Julie Boys put together a vision to enhance the Village Green, improving access for residents and linking re-vegetated enclaves and recreational areas with paths, until now this plan never got any further than a sketch and a dream.

After months of work with Council, the Surf Club and members of the community MeACT Trustee Erin Griffin is heading up this project...

"I have lived out here for many years and have seen many changes in our wonderful coastal community, pretty much all good too, and believe people should be involved in the development of their community. I have a background in landscaping but work related injuries have caught up with

me and I am now restricted to trying to keep our own half acre under some sort of control."

"We started with a meeting on site with Parks and other Council staff to look at tackling stage 1 of the project. This involves clearing/spraying the large bank from Coast Road to the village green, and from just below the Fire Station down to the tennis courts"

Stage 1 is part of a 5 year project that will eventually see a lot of weed removal, re planting, wetland restoration, a community composting and garden project with a series of boardwalks and pathways through the reserve linking the different 'precincts' within the village green.

Our plant nursery has been busy over winter and we are hoping to have 3000 plants ready for planting in autumn, this will be supplemented by another 3000 plants from Auckland Council and over 60 cubic meters of

mulch donated by Treescape.

Plans for the project are available online on our website and we encourage anyone interested in helping the reveg team to contact **Erin Griffin** kinsale@clear.net.nz –there's a lot of weed 'management' to be done between now and Autumn!

Special thanks for assistance with this project goes to;

- Auckland Council Parks Staff
- Brenda Steele; Rodney Local Board
- Erin Giffin; MeACT
- Delwyn Shepherd; Concept plans
- Treescape
- Tim Jago; Muriwai Surf Club
- Peter Kensington; consulting
- Residents neighbouring stage 1 for their support!

Visit www.muriwai-environment.org for more information.

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



Muriwai Needs 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 your support is appreciated!

Please pass this on to your friends and family.



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

Make a Stand for Maui Dolphin

The Government has been consulting on permanent protection for Maui's dolphins. They want to know what you think about the threats to Maui's dolphins and what should be done about them. It's important you have your say.

Maui's dolphins are the World's smallest, rarest and loveliest marine dolphin. Even though there are only about 55 left, science shows us that Maui's dolphins can recover if the human threats are removed from their habitat. Their main threat is drowning in recreational and commercial set nets, but the large scale mining proposed for the West Coast, pollution, and other issues all need consideration.

Maui's dolphins share our harbours and West Coast out to about 100m depth, and Maui's & Hector's are also found in a dolphin corridor down to the South Island. All these areas need protection for the dolphins if they are to survive.

For more information on the fight to save the Maui Dolphin visit Greenpeace website

<http://www.greenpeace.org/>



Sign Sponsor Needed

Can you help? We are looking for someone to sponsor signs for our various projects, the sponsor would get publicity on a strip on the bottom of any signs.
Phone Phelan on 021 844 124

MeACT Contacts

Kids Club
Ruth Atkinson
09 4117455
ruth@muriwai-environment.org

Village Green Re-Vegetation

Erin Griffin
09 411 7287
021 411 568
kinsale@clear.net.nz

Pest Control

Marty Taylor
mardtaylor@gmail.com

Marine Mammals

Monthly Evening Seminar Organiser
Christine Rose, Trust Secretary
christine@muriwai-environment.org

Fundraising

Catherine Thompson
09 411 9515.
thompsoncj@xtra.co.nz

Community Waste Reduction Compost Project

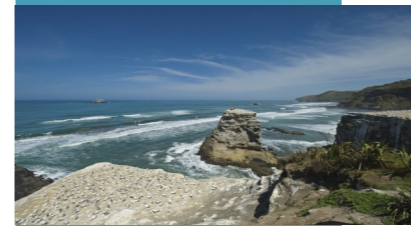
Sarah Murray
021 305 480
sarah@ecomatters.org.nz

Treasurer & Membership Admin Weedbusters Program

Gerry Henley, Treasurer
027 496 0753. 411 9951. gerry@muriwai-environment.org

Communications & Trust Board Chair

Phelan Pirrie, Trust Chair
021 844 124. 411 8847.
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Muriwai
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



This issue ...

- Busy start for MEACT
- Village Green Project
- Shark Finning
- Useful Holiday Season Numbers
- Maui Dolphins



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Successful second year for MeACT

MeACT hit the ground running in 2012 and has undertaken a range of projects for the community including...

- Completed a gannet monitoring project
- Held monthly Kids Ecoclub events
- Run monthly seminars on weeds, kauri die back, Maui dolphins, etc
- Planted hundreds of trees with MeACT Volunteers and the local Rangers
- Held a number Community Weed Busting events and helped residents with weed solutions
- Collected local native seeds and commenced plant propagation
- Received a Lion Foundation grant for a Plant Growing Unit which is now in action.
- Held a beach clean up day.
- Worked on a re vegetation plan for the village

green for 2013

All this has been achieved with the hard work of volunteers and the support of the Muriwai Community, Auckland Council and sponsors.

The trustees would like to thank everyone who got involved this year—it wouldn't have happened without your commitment!

2013 is going to be a big year for MeACT we already have some exciting projects in the pipeline and look forward to engaging with the community to improve the environment around us.

Have a happy & safe Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2013!



Useful Contact for the Holiday Season...

- For issues in the park, rubbish, damage to park property 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 DOC 0800 362 468
- For Bird Rescue: SPCA 7 days 10am - 4pm (09) 256 7300
- FIRE Dial 111
- For vehicles on the beach south of Okiritoto Stream, or nuisance behaviour POLICE Dial 111

Help us help the environment - join MeACT

MeACT has lot of costs that can't be met by sponsors and external funders.

The annual subscription enables supporters to help us by contributing an annual donation.



Stuck for an original Christmas gift? A family membership would be a great solution for friends or family.

This will help the native bird population in Muriwai by getting as many bait stations out into the community as possible to keep rat numbers down.

There are two options; **individual membership which is \$28.00** or **Family membership at \$40.**

For 2013 any family membership will get you a FREE rat bait station.

To help us and your local native birds, go to our website www.muriwai-environment.org or contact Gerry either at Gerry@muriwai-environment.org or phone 411 9951