

Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust
Chairperson's Report prepared by Hilton Leith for MTSCT AGM
6pm Friday 29th September 2017
Waipu Pizza Barn

For me the single most important quality of MTSCT is its inspirational ability to evolve. It began in Northland as WBC and EMR in 2001 as a means to get students to experience their local environments and something new to New Zealand and still very rare Marine Reserves!! From there it morphed into a national organization (international if we include Australia) representing marine and fresh water ecology and conservation throughout 8 regions of New Zealand. We have been from the Kermadecs to the Catlins, recognised on chocolate fish and 2plus, received awards from the Peter Blake Foundation and the Tindall Foundation, been televised, set up a new website with a new "How to Kit", gained adventure activity certification, run an annual National Marine and Freshwater wananga, appear weekly in local papers and can all be extremely proud!

It has been a very full year for me and I find myself in the position of needing to free up some time for family and business. I have resigned from various organizations, am in the process of simplifying my business affairs and am handing on the mantle of chairperson. I have loved my time as chair, it has brought me closer to the heart of the organization, I have got to see how Samara and Kim tirelessly work behind the scenes and I am always humbled by the efforts of all trustees for the benefit of the Trust.

I want to make special recognition of the work that Vince Kerr put into the "How to Kit" for Marine Reserves. This valuable document ensures that the thrust by communities for new Marine Reserves continues through this time of political upheaval and law change.

Roger has not been in the best of health over the last year, but given his life of work for the benefit of marine conservation, we are all honoured the effort he makes to attend MTSCT meetings.

As with last year I am very aware that the wonderful success of our programs would not be possible without the support shown by the Tindall Foundation and the Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation. I also acknowledge MBIE Unlocking Curious Minds, DOC, Foundation North (ASB), WDC, NRC, Rata Foundation, Southern Trust, Pub Charity, Pacific Development and Conservation Trust, 2plus, The Chocolate Fish Company and the many wonderful volunteers that support us.



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