



Prospectus



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Simply staring out to sea can change our brain wave frequency, luring us into a mild meditative state. The colour blue is associated with feelings of calm and peace and listening to the ebb and flow of waves and the swell of the sea naturally soothes and relaxes the brain



Our Trustees



Brenda Saul

Tutukaka

Brenda Saul, a devoted trustee on the Youth Ocean Trust Board, stands as a guiding light in inspiring young minds through marine adventures. With a robust legacy of leadership at the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers' Club, Brenda brings unparalleled expertise to her role. Beyond her marine engagement initiatives, Brenda has devoted the last 18 years to community development with Kainga Ora - Homes and Communities, actively working with youth and families.

In her capacity as a trustee, Brenda's legendary powers of persuasion bring together resources, mentors, and support, fostering a nurturing environment for the next generation of ocean enthusiasts. Her annual dedication to "mother duck" the junior team during youth events exemplifies her hands-on approach, ensuring their safety, comfort, and nourishment.

Brenda's commitment to youth marine engagement, coupled with her extensive experience in community development, positions her as an invaluable asset to the Youth Ocean Trust Board. Her work with Kainga Ora showcases a dedication to youth and families, significantly contributing to the cultivation of a new wave of ocean stewards. Brenda's multifaceted experience and tireless commitment underscore her pivotal role in shaping the Trust's initiatives and nurturing a love for the marine world among the youth.

Our Trustees



Warren Maher

Coromandel

With a profound dedication spanning over four decades in the ocean, Warren's journey commenced as a child, casting lines on a wharf and delving into the world of floundering. His early experiences ignited an enduring passion for the marine environment. From those formative days, Warren played a pivotal role in introducing migrants to the marvels of the surfcasting club. Recognizing the mental well-being benefits of connecting with the sea, he emphasised the joy of putting fresh fish on the family table. Through this initiative, Warren not only shared his love for fishing but also facilitated the introduction to the Kiwi way of life.

As a father, Warren extended his commitment by introducing his two daughters to the wonders of the sea, both above and below the waterline. Through his extensive experience and genuine love for the marine world, Warren plays a crucial role in shaping the Youth Ocean Trust's initiatives. His dedication ensures that future generations not only appreciate the beauty of the oceans but also actively engage in their conservation.

Warren Maher stands as a beacon, inspiring youth to connect with and preserve our precious marine environments while fostering community integration through the joy of fishing. Beyond his role in the Trust, Warren currently serves as a Waikato Regional Councillor, bringing valuable skills in community engagement and leadership. His dual roles underscore his commitment to the well-being of the marine environment and the communities it touches.

Our Trustees



Ian Steele

Taranaki

A devoted father of two enthusiastic ocean lovers, is a key pillar of support for the Youth Ocean Trust in his role as a trustee. With a lifetime associated with the ocean and an extensive background spanning over a decade as a volunteer to many marine groups, Ian showcases unwavering dedication to community service and youth development.

In his capacity as a trustee, Ian's commitment to quality assurance became a cornerstone for the Youth Ocean Trust, ensuring a methodical and well-prepared approach to its projects. His leadership and experience in engineering and business management underscores the significance of team training and preparedness, guaranteeing the efficient and effective application of the right expertise.

An outstanding attribute of Ian lies in his collaborative and solution-oriented mindset. Ever-ready for discussions on optimising project success, Ian fosters an environment of lateral thinking and innovative approaches. His commitment to the Youth Ocean Trust transcends formal meetings, as he actively engages in conversations aimed at realising the organisation's goals and nurturing a sense of community.

Ian's unique blend of professional acumen, dedication to youth development, and immersive experience in ocean-related activities positions him as an invaluable asset to the Youth Ocean Trust. His passion for ensuring project success and collaborative ethos mirrors the essence of the Trust's mission. As a father, seasoned civil engineer, and committed community volunteer, Ian brings a holistic perspective that significantly contributes to the ongoing growth and impact of the organisation.



Our Name

Ngā tai tamariki ki tē moana

Joe Davis kaumatua Ngati Hei

*"I have gifted the Youth Ocean Trust the te reo Maori
"Ngā tai tamariki ki tē moana"*

(children of the ocean) to represent kaitiakitanga of the moana.

*It is the teaching of our tamariki a way of managing the marine
environment based on the Maori world view.*

Passing on the mana of learning to all the tamariki of Aotearoa."



At Youth Ocean Trust, our mission is guided by Te Ao Māori principles, advocating for universal recreational access and understanding to New Zealand's marine environment. We passionately embrace mahinga kai, intertwining this concept with Matariki to deepen our connection to the environment. It goes beyond resource gathering; it's about recognising our role as custodians, understanding the intricate relationship between people, land, and sea. We believe in the responsibility to protect and restore abundance, as reflected in Matariki's celebration of sustainable harvesting and the wisdom of tōhunga.



Our Kaupapa

Mission - Vision - Purpose

The kaupapa of the Youth Ocean Trust embodies our enduring commitment to cultivating a generation of ocean stewards. Rooted in our values, we are guided by these fundamental principles:

- **Whakapapa:** Acknowledging our deep ancestral connection to the ocean, instilling a profound respect for our heritage and the responsibilities bestowed upon us as kaitiaki (guardians).
- **Kaitiakitanga:** Embracing active stewardship, we honor our role in preserving the health, biodiversity, and cultural significance of the ocean. Sustainability is at the heart of all our actions, ensuring a thriving ocean ecosystem for generations to come.
- **Empowerment and Mentoring:** Empowering young minds by providing mentorship, guidance, and opportunities for active participation in marine initiatives. Through mentorship, we nurture leadership skills and a sense of purpose among the youth.
- **Youth Mental Wellbeing:** Recognizing the intrinsic link between the ocean and mental wellbeing, we strive to create environments that promote mental health, resilience, and well-being among youth engaged in ocean-related activities.
- **Life Skills Development:** Equipping young leaders with essential life skills — such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication — fostering their holistic development as empowered individuals and future leaders.
- **Sustainability and Water Safety:** Advocating for sustainable practices and imparting knowledge about water safety, ensuring that our actions and activities in and around the ocean promote safety and responsible behavior.
- **Community Investment and Collaboration:** Investing in communities by fostering collaboration, supporting local initiatives, and encouraging community involvement in ocean related endeavors. Our strength lies in the unity and collective efforts of diverse communities.

This kaupapa serves as our guiding light, directing our efforts to embrace diversity, uphold cultural values, and work tirelessly toward a future where our oceans thrive and our youth flourish, united as stewards of our precious marine environments and in honoring Māori traditions, we acknowledge the whānau and hapū-centric.



Youth Mentoring

At the heart of the Youth Ocean Trust lies a transformative initiative: rangatahi mentoring that not only shapes individual lives but also nurtures a generation committed to preserving our oceans. Our mentoring program is a dynamic platform that connects passionate young individuals with seasoned professionals and experts in marine environment.

Imagine a young mind, ignited with curiosity and enthusiasm for our oceans, guided by experienced mentors deeply invested in their growth. Through our structured mentoring program, we pair aspiring youth — eager to champion ocean endeavors — with mentors renowned in their fields. These mentors don't just impart knowledge; they forge lasting relationships, providing invaluable insights, guidance, and opportunities that transcend traditional education.

Our mentors, drawn from diverse backgrounds and expertise, engage mentees in hands-on experiences, immersive learning, and practical projects. They empower these young individuals to develop critical skills in problem-solving, leadership, and innovative thinking — all while instilling a profound sense of responsibility towards ocean sustainability.

The impact of this mentorship extends far beyond the individual. As these young leaders grow and evolve, they become catalysts for change within their communities. They inspire peers, initiate local projects, and drive collective action for enhanced ocean stewardship. By investing in our mentoring program, you're not only shaping promising futures but also sowing the seeds for a global movement of passionate, educated, and empowered youth committed to safeguarding our oceans.

We can cultivate a legacy of ocean stewards — youth armed not just with knowledge, but also the drive and skills to effect meaningful change in our world.



Youth Wellness

At the core of the Youth Ocean Trust is a commitment not only to the health of our oceans, but also to the well-being of young minds. Our approach intertwines youth engagement with ocean-related activities and a strong focus on mental wellness — a crucial yet often overlooked aspect of our work. Our rangatahi wellness initiative goes beyond the surface, recognizing that mental health is intrinsically linked to our relationship with the ocean.

Through tailored programs and activities, we provide a safe and supportive environment for young individuals to explore, learn, and find solace in the beauty and tranquility of the ocean.

Our approach involves integrating mental wellness practices into every facet of our rangatahi engagement programs. We prioritize mindfulness sessions, mental health workshops, and offer resources for coping with stress and anxiety. We believe that fostering a sense of connection to nature — particularly to the ocean — plays a pivotal role in nurturing resilience and promoting mental wellness among our youth participants.

We hope to create an environment where the youth not only advocate for ocean environment but also prioritise their mental well-being, equipped with the tools to navigate life's challenges. Partnerships will help us build a community where every individual feels empowered, supported, and resilient — a community that understands the integral connection between a healthy mind and a thriving ocean.

*Maori believe that water is an energy with many moods.
It can be calm and life giving or dangerous and destructive.
This energy is called Tangaroa.*

*Learning about the spiritual importance, safety and traditions of the sea help
the people with improving mental health and spiritual wellbeing.*



Ministry of Education

The Youth Ocean Trust is excited to embark on a transformative journey toward fostering ocean literacy among New Zealand's youth. We envision a collaborative partnership with the Ministry of Education and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) to have our programs officially accredited under the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA).

Our goal is to integrate our innovative educational programs seamlessly into the formal educational framework, ensuring that students engaging in our initiatives receive recognized qualifications that contribute to their academic journey. By aligning our efforts with NCEA standards, we aim to provide students with a unique opportunity to earn credits while actively participating in projects that address critical ocean challenges.

Through this collaboration, we aspire to:

1. **Enhance Ocean Literacy:** Develop curriculum-aligned modules that contribute to students' understanding of marine ecosystems, marine practices, and the impact of human activities on oceans.
2. **Nurture Practical Skills:** Integrate hands-on, youth-led projects into our programs, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios and develop skills crucial for both academic and personal growth.
3. **Promote Environmental Stewardship:** Encourage students to become active contributors to environmental sustainability by participating in projects that directly address issues such as plastic pollution, climate change, and marine biodiversity loss.
4. **Facilitate Recognition and Accreditation:** Work closely with the Ministry of Education and NZQA to ensure that our programs meet the rigorous standards set by NCEA, leading to official accreditation and recognition within the New Zealand educational system.

Together with the Ministry of Education and NZQA, we believe that this collaborative effort will not only empower the youth with essential knowledge and skills but also instill a sense of responsibility and passion for the preservation of our oceans. Join us on this exciting journey towards a more sustainable and educated future.



Empowering Migrant Youth

Central to the mission of the Youth Ocean Trust's mission is a commitment to inclusivity and empowerment, especially for migrant youth in New Zealand. Disturbingly, statistics reveal a significant gap in water safety knowledge and swimming skills among migrant communities, contributing to a higher rate of drowning incidents. Our initiative seeks to address this issue head-on, creating a ripple effect of positive change within these communities.

Key Focus Areas:

1. **Water Safety Education:** Our programs prioritize comprehensive water safety education to equip migrant youth with essential swimming skills and knowledge. By closing the gap in aquatic understanding, we aim to reduce the incidence of drowning within this demographic.
2. **Cultural Awareness:** Recognizing the importance of cultural sensitivity, our initiatives are tailored to resonate with the diverse backgrounds of migrant communities. We strive to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment that respects and celebrates cultural differences.
3. **Fishing Laws and Sustainable Practices:** Beyond water safety, we recognize the importance of imparting knowledge about New Zealand's fishing laws and sustainable practices. By educating migrant youth, we hope to extend this awareness to their families, creating a community-wide understanding of responsible fishing.

Impact on Families:

Our vision extends beyond the individual, as we believe that by educating the youth, we are creating community champions who will, in turn, educate and influence their families. By imparting water safety skills and fishing knowledge, we aim to save lives and instill a sense of responsibility for the marine environment.



Youth Led Projects

Prospects within the Youth Ocean Trust herald a new wave of rangatahi-led projects — dynamic initiatives spanning a multitude of ocean-focused endeavors. Envision passionate young minds steering projects that encapsulate the depth of ocean-related exploration, stewardship, and education.

1. **Beach Clean-Ups and Marine enhancement:** Empowered by the trust, youth-led beach clean-ups become a common sight along coastlines. These initiatives not only remove debris but also serve as educational platforms, raising awareness about the impact of pollution on marine ecosystems.
2. **Diving and Marine Exploration:** Young divers, equipped with knowledge from specialized courses, embark on underwater adventures, documenting marine life, and contributing to biodiversity surveys. They share their discoveries, fostering appreciation and understanding of ocean ecosystems.
3. **Learn to fish wananga:** These camps will encourage and develop the youth-led projects educate peers about sustainable fishing techniques, promoting responsible practices that preserve marine life. Knot-tying workshops equip young fishermen with essential skills for safer and more sustainable fishing.
4. **Ocean-to-Plate Initiatives:** Youth-driven campaigns raise awareness about the journey of seafood from the ocean to the plate. They advocate for responsible consumption, educating communities about sustainable seafood choices and their impact on ocean health.
5. **Recycling and Plastic Upcycling Programs:** Enthusiastic youth spearhead recycling initiatives, creatively transforming ocean-bound plastics into art installations or useful items, spreading the message of reducing plastic pollution.
6. **Educational Programs and Workshops:** Young educators organise workshops in schools and communities, teaching peers about the marine environment, ocean sciences, and the importance of preserving our oceans for future generations.
7. **Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns:** Driven by passion and creativity, youth leaders develop multimedia campaigns, leveraging social media and community events to advocate for policy changes and raise public awareness about pressing ocean issues.

These youth-led projects, nurtured by the Youth Ocean Trust, not only empower the next generation but also foster a culture of active participation, innovation, and responsibility toward our oceans. Each project serves as a testament to the potential of young individuals to effect tangible and positive change, ensuring the sustainability and well-being of our oceans.



Youth Camps

Beginner Camps:

The Beginner Camps curated by the Youth Ocean Trust programme to young rangatahi, within high equity index schools (previously low decile) offer a vibrant introduction to the ocean and fishing for young enthusiasts. These day camps serve as foundational platforms where participants delve into:

- **Knot-Tying Workshops:** Participants learn essential knots crucial for fishing and water-related activities, mastering basic tying techniques for safe and effective fishing.
- **Basic Fishing Skills:** From assembling fishing gear to baiting hooks and casting lines, beginners gain hands-on experience in fundamental fishing techniques under expert guidance.
- **Fish Identification:** Engaging sessions introduce participants to various fish species, their habitats, and behaviors, fostering an understanding of sustainable fishing practices.

Intermediate Camps:

Building upon the foundations laid in Beginner Camps, the Intermediate Camps elevate the learning experience, offering a comprehensive weekend program that includes:

- **Advanced Fishing Techniques:** Participants deepen their skills, exploring diverse fishing methods such as fly-fishing, baitcasting, and trolling, gaining proficiency in more intricate fishing techniques.
- **Boat Safety Training:** Intermediate-level camps introduce participants to essential boat safety practices, covering navigation, emergency procedures, and responsible boat handling, preparing them for safe and enjoyable offshore experiences.
- **Fish Care and Ocean-to-Plate Sessions:** Intermediate camps introduce the concept of fish care post-catch, emphasizing responsible handling, cleaning, and basic culinary techniques, allowing participants to understand the journey from ocean to plate.

Advanced Camps:

The pinnacle of the Youth Ocean Trust camp series, the Advanced Camps, are week-long immersive experiences designed for seasoned participants seeking in-depth knowledge and expertise. Here, participants explore:

- **Comprehensive Fishing Techniques:** In-depth workshops cover an extensive array of advanced fishing techniques, including deep-sea fishing, spearfishing, and specialized baiting methods, allowing participants to master a wide spectrum of fishing skills.
- **Advanced Boat Safety and Navigation:** Advanced camps focus on advanced boat safety, including night navigation, offshore emergency response, and advanced seamanship, ensuring participants are adept at handling diverse marine scenarios.
- **Fish Care and Ocean-to-Plate Culinary Experiences:** Participants learn advanced fish care techniques, sustainable fishing practices, and engage in ocean-to-plate culinary experiences, understanding the importance of responsible consumption and appreciating the value of ocean-sourced food.

Project Overview

Youth Ocean Trust - Empowering Ocean Stewards of Tomorrow



Empowering Ocean Stewards for Tomorrow

The Youth Ocean Trust stands at the forefront of empowering the next generation of ocean stewards. Our pioneering initiative is dedicated to immersive education, hands-on experiences, and impactful advocacy, recognising the pivotal role of youth engagement in enhancing ocean environments for future generations. Rooted in a Te Ao Māori perspective on kai gathering, our multifaceted programs embrace a holistic approach, fostering a profound connection with the oceans.

Holistic Development and Mental Wellbeing

Our commitment extends beyond ocean advocacy. The Youth Ocean Trust is dedicated to nurturing the holistic development and mental wellbeing of rangatahi. By empowering them with knowledge, skills, and mental resilience, we envision a future where both our oceans and our youth flourish. Our programs integrate a Te Ao Māori perspective on kai gathering, emphasizing the cultural and mental health benefits of connecting with the environment.

Investing in Youth Leadership:

We believe that investing in youth today cultivates the leaders, innovators, and advocates of tomorrow. By fostering a deep connection with the oceans and equipping youth with knowledge and skills, we pave the way for a sustainable future where our oceans thrive, and our youth lead the charge towards an enhanced and sustainable marine environment. The Youth Ocean Trust is not just an initiative; it's an investment in the future, where informed and empowered youth become the driving force behind positive environmental change.

Join us on this transformative journey, where passion meets purpose, and the Youth Ocean Trust becomes a beacon for the leaders of a sustainable, ocean-friendly tomorrow. Together, let's empower youth, safeguard oceans, and build a legacy of informed advocates for generations to come.



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