

Omakeiwi Bay, Te Rawhiti Caulerpa Response

5 May 2023 - 5 May 2024



*Kia ū te mana
kia kā te ahi o Patukeha
mo ake tonu atu*

**Te Rawhiti
Works Trust**



**JOHNSON
BROS LIMITED**



HE HONORE

He hōnore, he korōria
Maungārongo ki te whenua.

Whakaaro pai e
Kingā tangata katoa
Ake ake, ake ake.

Āmine

Te Atua, te piringa,
Toku oranga
Toku oranga

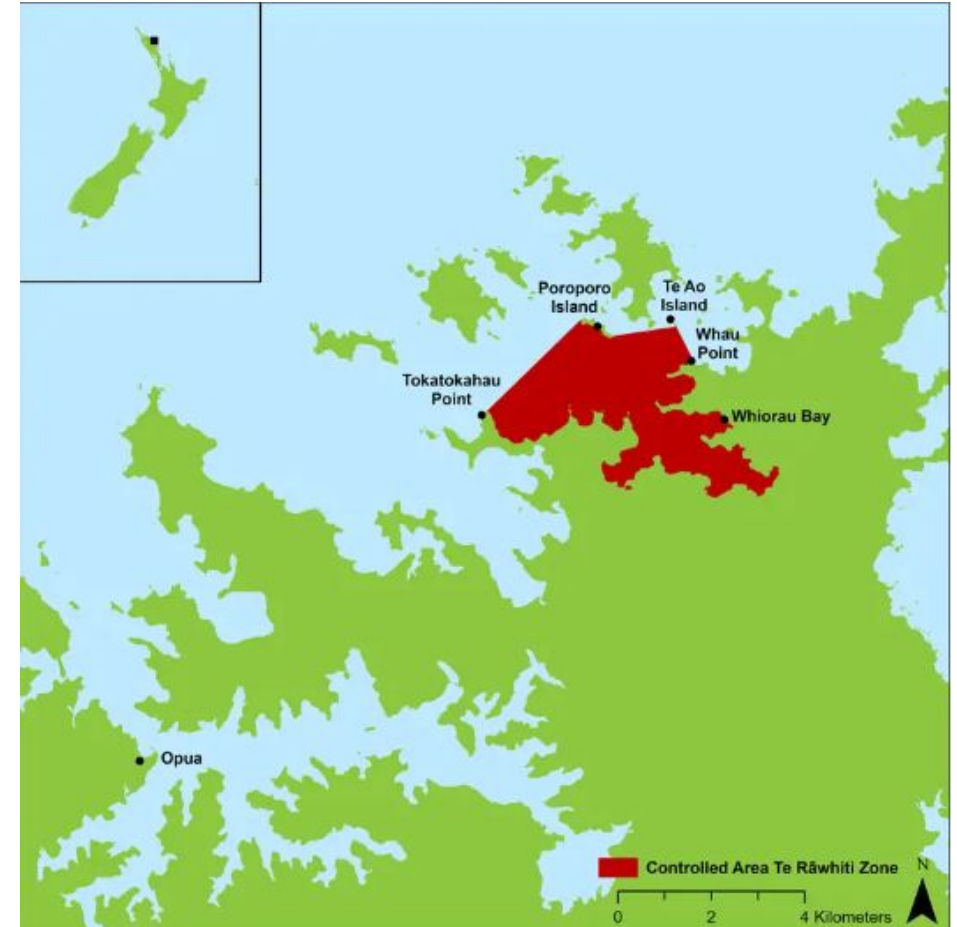
What is Exotic Caulerpa?

- o Caulerpa (*Caulerpa brachypus* and *Caulerpa parvifolia*) are exotic (*non-native*) seaweeds that compete with native species for space and smother shellfish beds
- o It is the kikuyu grass of the ocean, spreading rapidly to form dense beds or meadows
- o Exotic caulerpa upsets the balance of local ecosystems



Why is it important to respond early?

- New Zealand's recreational, cultural, and commercial marine activities are at risk
- Some people question whether Caulerpa can be eradicated or not, but one community in Florida has achieved eradication, so we believe we can too
- Rapidly spreading in our climate and clear waters means we must continually work to stay on top of it
- Long term community collaboration and continual action are required



Our response started 5 May 2023

- o Te Rawhiti Hapū proactively responded to Caulerpa and engaged support from the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Northland Regional Council

REPNZ



Johnson Bros



- o The team is here today to tell you what progress has been made in the first year



WAI KNOT



Te Rawhiti Ambassadors



Y1Q1 - 5 May to 31 July '23

- Exotic caulerpa discovered, tested and confirmed
 - Ngati Kuta, Patukeha, NRC and MPI form 'Bay of Islands Governance Group'
 - Rahui & Controlled Area Notice (CAN) implemented
 - Hapū delegation met Minister Damien O'Connor - Funding pledged
 - Project Plans established
 - Comms & Engagement
 - Technology Trials
-

Y1Q2 - 1 August to 31 October '23

- o Work Plans consolidated via Te Rawhiti Works Trust
 - o Hapū engagement & comms programme initiated
 - o Technology tenders issued
 - o Technology assessment meetings
 - o Johnson Bros contracted to provide dredging technology
 - o Project Manager & team appointed
 - o Project Policies & H&S plans completed
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Y1Q3 - 1 November 23 to 31 January '24

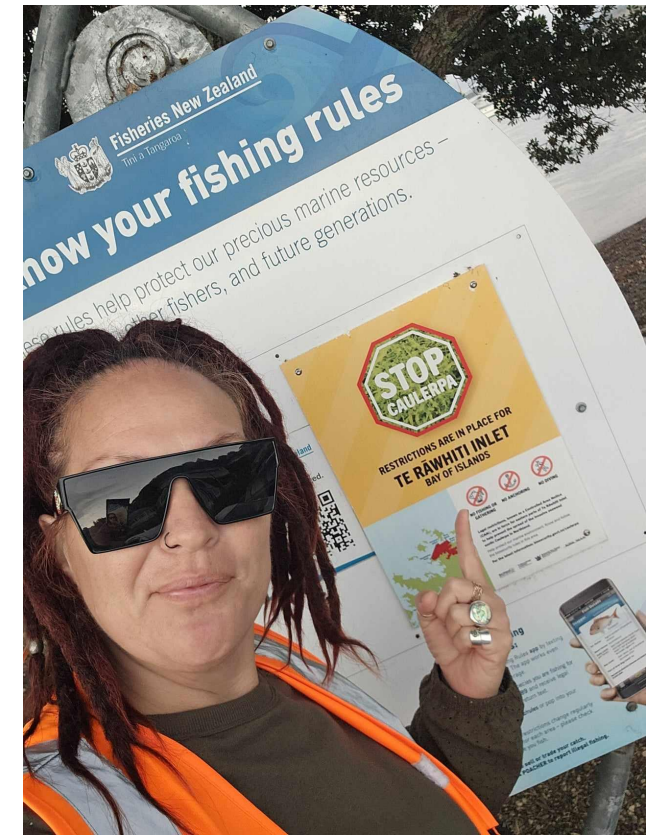
- o MPI messaging defined, handouts printed, signage erected
 - o Engagement and Comms programme expanded
 - o Wai-Knot on-water summer campaign
 - o R.E.P. NZ on-island and wider education campaign
 - o Ambassadors at boat ramps summer campaign
 - o Johnson Bros dredge commences trials
 - o Promotions plan created
-

Y1Q4 - 1 February to 30 April '24

- o On-water, On-island and boat ramp campaigns continued
 - o Blair Tuke visited Omakiwi - Sunday Programme aired
 - o New Charitable Trust registered - Conquer Caulerpa
 - o School education programmes commenced
 - o www.conquercaulerpa.nz website created
 - o Government pledged \$5m to exotic caulerpa sites throughout NZ
 - o R.E.P. NZ Arana Rewha & Viki Heta win Biosecurity NZ Supreme Award
-



Ambassadors educating the public on weekends from 8 January to 30 April



During this time total interactions were:

Kaimarama = 109

Te Uenga = 217

Kororareka (Russell) = 374

Ambassadors also presented at

Waitangi Day

Reel Women comps

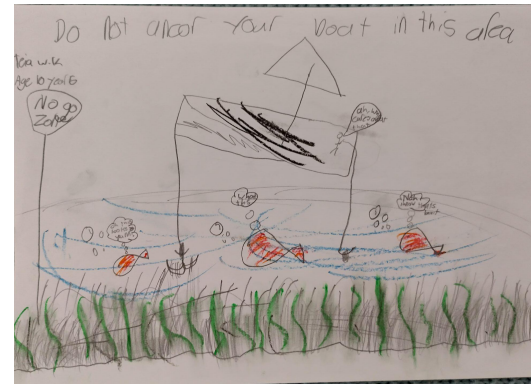
ITM fishing comps

Whangaruru Kura

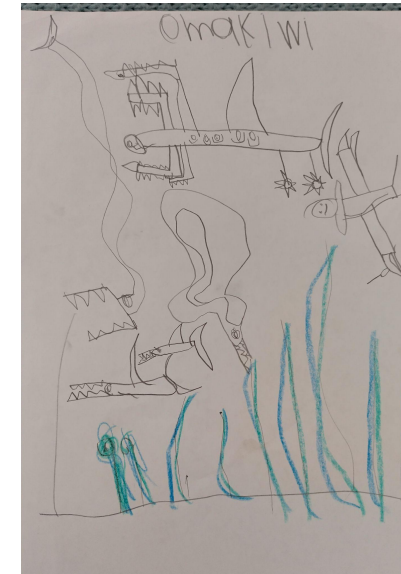
Russell School

Hauai Market Day

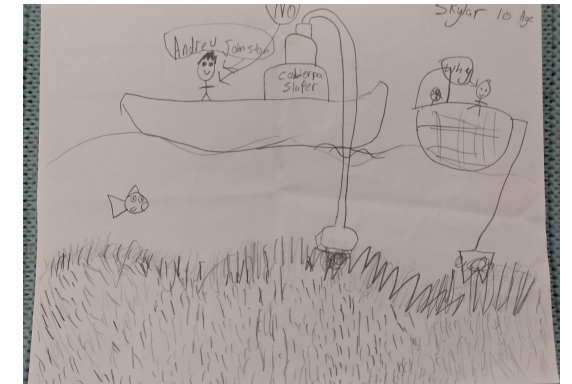
Drawings from 6 - 10 year olds at Russell School



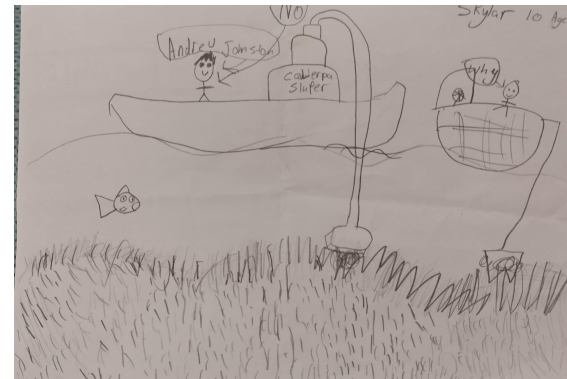
"Do not ancor your boat in this area"



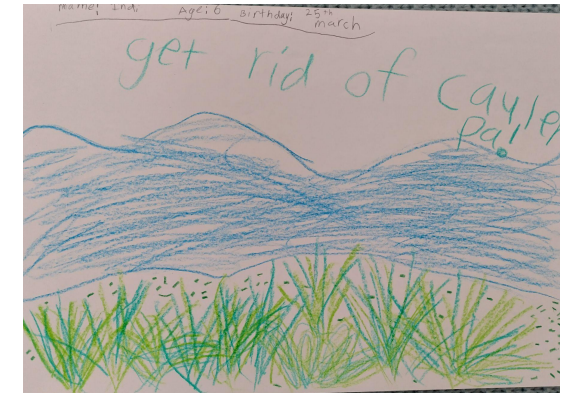
"Omakiwi"



"Andrew Johnson - Caulerpa Sluper"



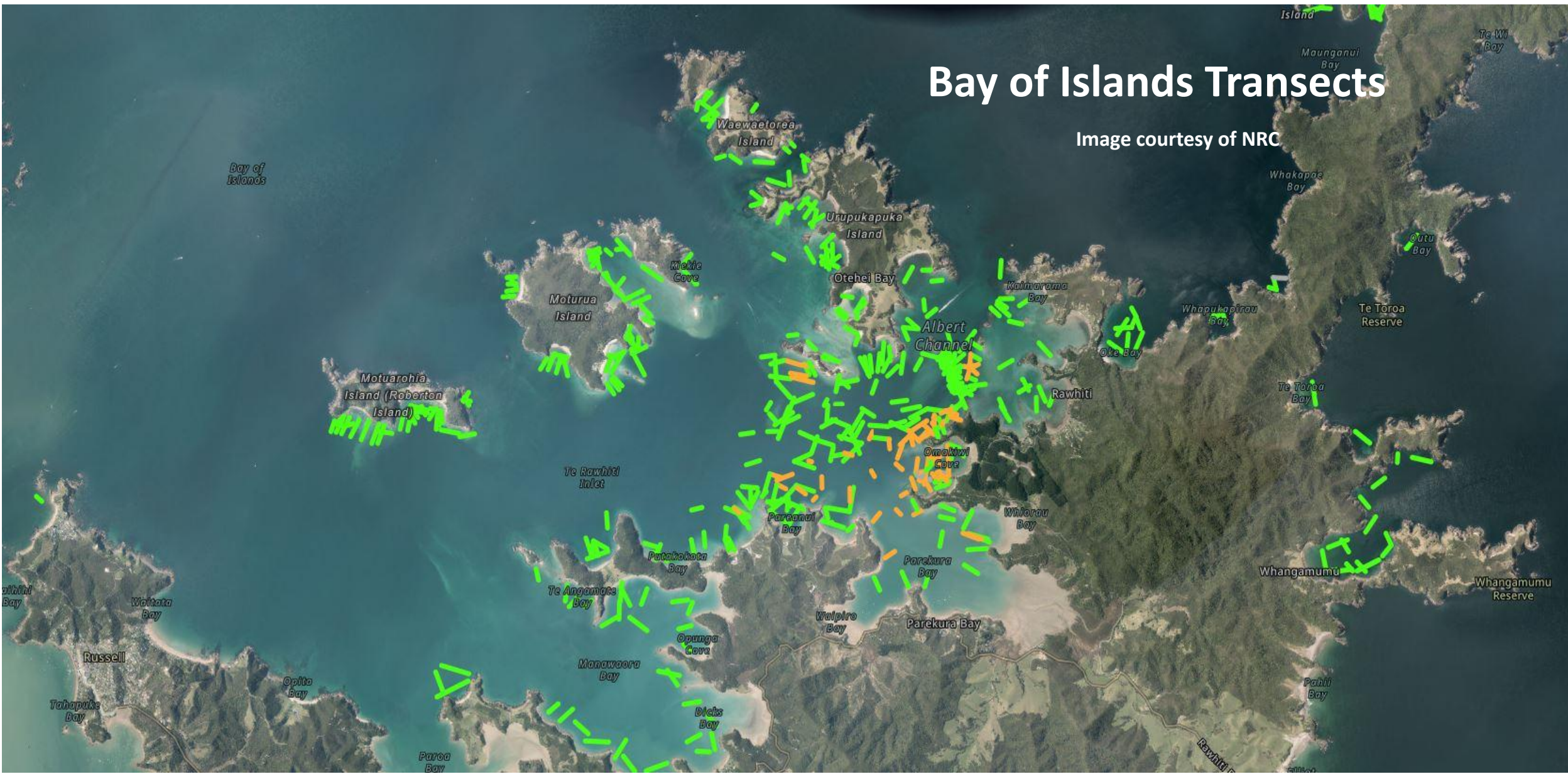
"Boatie asking 'why?' - Andrew saying 'No'"



"Get rid of caulerpa!"

Bay of Islands Transects

Image courtesy of NRC



Intertidal Trials



On Water Surveillance

Monitoring of the Rahui / CAN area by

Wai Knot Ltd

Jun '23 to April '24 - 170 vessel callouts

28 December - highest callouts (9 in one day)

Highest volume = Long weekends & Christmas

Anzac Day - 7 callouts

People ask why bother?

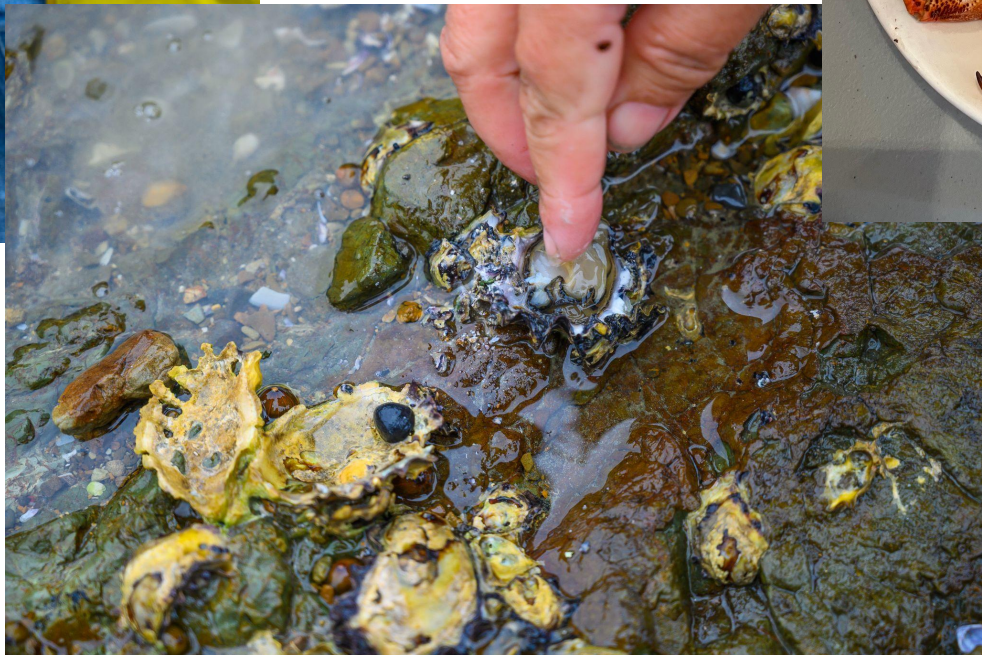
Just look at these images of boats with Caulerpa hanging off the anchor



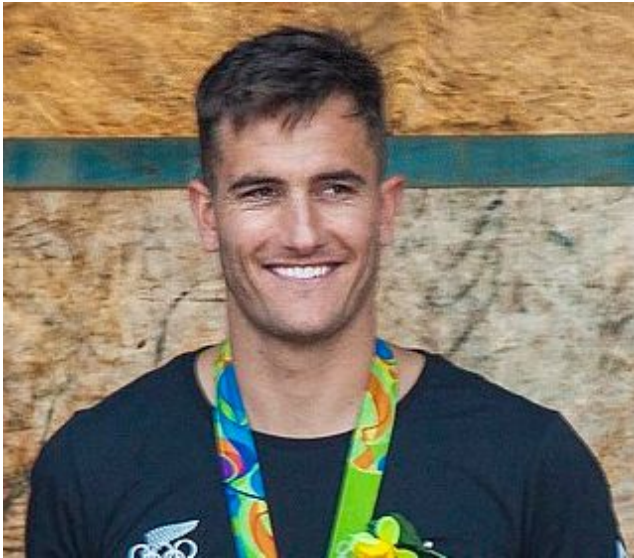








Blair Tuke dive at Omakiwi Bay



*Blair Tuke - Live Oceans
America's Cup Winner
New Zealand Olympian*

Blair said in the 'Sunday' programme:

“It was terrifying seeing what I saw”

“There is absolutely no chance for any sort of marine life or shellfish to live there”

“Caulerpa poses a huge biosecurity risk for New Zealand”

“The response has been totally inadequate”

“If we sit back and do nothing, let this take over, well that’s the Kiwi way of life changed forever”



WE HAVE SO MUCH TO LOSE IF WE DON'T ALL TRY

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP US IN THIS FIGHT

- Mahia te mahi (getting to work)
- Your skills, thoughts, optimism and support
- Donations of time, resources and funds to keep the good work that has already started, continuing

NGA MIHI

Year 2 Aspirations – Community In Action



Our Aim is to Eliminate Caulerpa by

- Investing in innovative technology & solutions
- Informing Government policy
- Educating NZ about the catastrophic effects of Caulerpa
- Increasing our local workforce capacity
- Raising an estimate of up to \$50M over the next 10yrs to achieve this

Some say it can't be done, but we say there's too much to lose!

Grant McCallum - Member of Parliament

- Farmer and advocate for the agriculture sector
- Dedicated Northland National Party activist
- Bachelor of Commerce Agriculture from Lincoln University
- Farmed dairy and beef since 1995 at Maungaturoto, Northland
- Vice President of the Northern Area Federated Farmers - 2005
- Organised the 2017 Farmers' Protest at Morrinsville
- Chair of the Kauri Museum board at Matakoho
- Chair Otamatea High School Board of Trustees
- Governance and coaching of local bowls and rugby clubs
- Member of National BlueGreens - Chair Parliamentary Caucus
- Serves on Parliament's Education and Workforce Committee
- Deputy Chair of Transport and Infrastructure Committee



Join Us



Are you passionate about saving the Bay of Islands from Caulerpa?

Complete the Expression of Interest Form at www.conquercaulerpa.nz or leave your contact details today

Can you help with

Policy direction

Innovation Research

Upskill Programmes

Education & Comms

Fundraising

Admin & Relationships

Need more information - Receive updates from

www.conquercaulerpa.nz

