

## **The Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve Trust**

The Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve Trust was established in 2010. The trust was created to protect, maintain, enhance, develop and promote Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve and associated terrestrial public reserves at Hahei. Current Trustees are Wendy Helms (Chair), Shelley Balsom (Deputy Chair, Ngati Hei), Barbara Ritchie (Secretary/Treasurer), Hayley Jones, Joe Davis (Ngati Hei), Brian Keucke and Ron Egan.

One of the main reasons for setting up the Trust was so that funds could be raised to develop the educational potential of the reserve. We are extremely pleased to be able to help with the funding needed to deliver The Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust's programme Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) to local area schools. The focus of the EMR programme ([www.emr.org.nz](http://www.emr.org.nz)) is to provide quality education opportunities, increasing awareness, and encouraging action and support for marine conservation in New Zealand.

We also provide 'free' Community Snorkel Days. The Trust provides the equipment and guides. It is open anyone wishing to experience a marine reserve. These will be held in February and March.

We are a Charitable Trust. Anyone wishing to make a donation to help with the operation of the trust and EMR programme can contact the secretary - Barbara Ritchie at [barbritchie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:barbritchie@xtra.co.nz) For information about the EMR programme in Hauraki contact Amber Boyd [hauraki@emr.org.nz](mailto:hauraki@emr.org.nz)

The Trust is also an umbrella for the Hahei Reserves Management Group. This group is responsible for the planting around Hahei on reserve land. Recently, they have established a MOU with DOC to take on weed and pest control at the Cathedral Cove Reserve. These volunteers work tirelessly under the guidance of Brian and Margaret Green. Because of their relationship with DOC and the volunteer work they do, the group was nominated to receive a donation of traps from Predator Free NZ. These traps are able to be acquired by residents and ratepayers for a set donation. See Sarah at the Hahei Store if you are interested. The funds being generated from this will be used to buy further traps.