

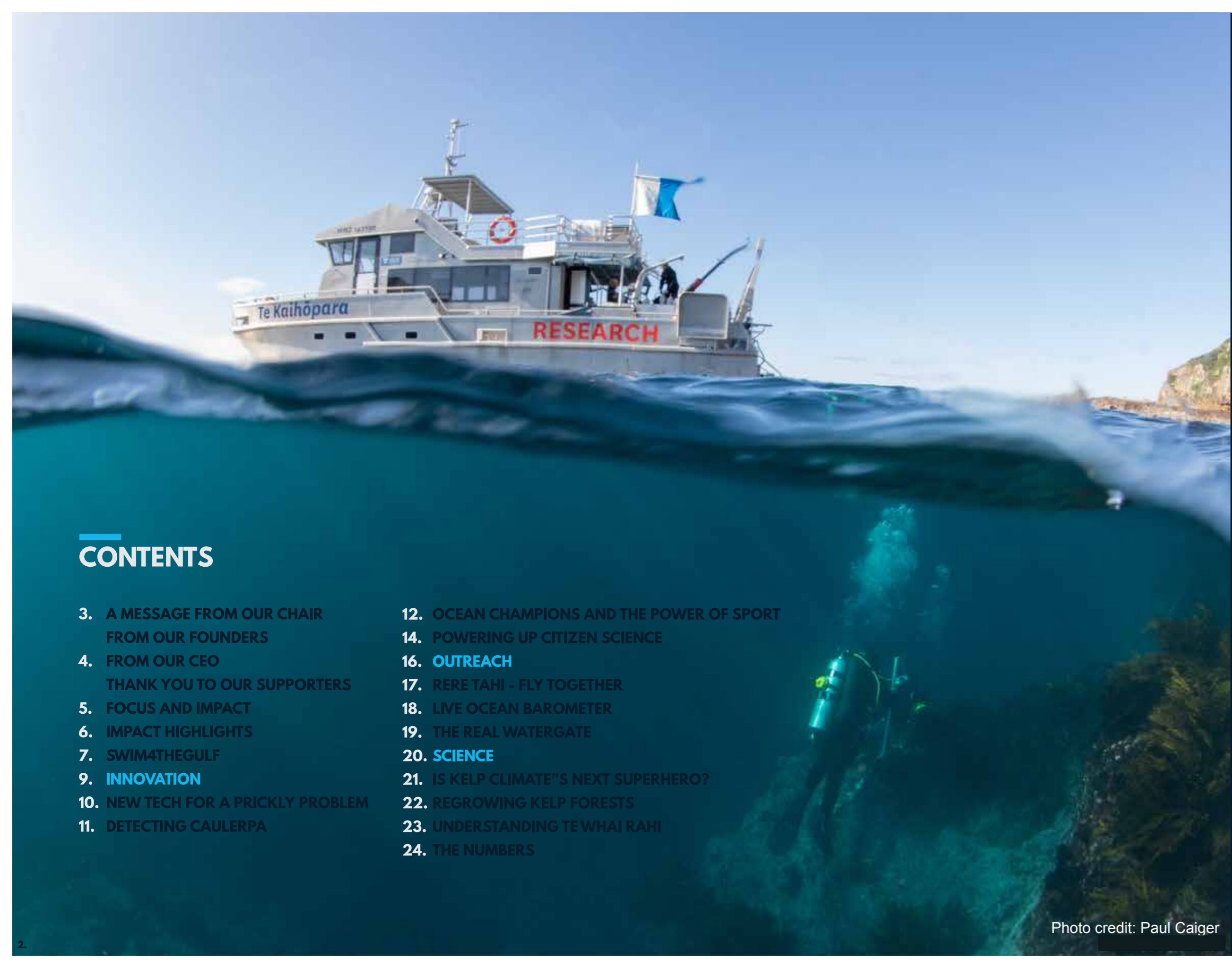


# LIVES OCEAN

FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 01 APRIL 2023 - 31 MARCH 2024





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**OUR VISION**  
A HEALTHY OCEAN  
FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

**OUR MISSION**  
SCALING UP SCIENCE,  
INNOVATION AND  
OUTREACH FOR A  
HEALTHY OCEAN

Photo credit: Paul Caiger

◀ BACK

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

### Tēnā koutou,

When it comes to the health of the ocean, the biggest challenge we face in New Zealand is getting it firmly on the public and political agenda. This year Live Ocean made waves.

### ALONGSIDE OUR STRONG AND EVER-GROWING PARTNERSHIPS WITH EXCEPTIONAL SCIENTISTS, INNOVATORS AND COMMUNICATORS, LIVE OCEAN'S 'SECRET SAUCE' IS OUR CONNECTION TO OCEAN SPORTS AND THE PLATFORM THAT IT PROVIDES.

With Swim4TheGulf we extended our reach into the ocean swim community. Jono Ridler's incredible non-stop 33-hour (with no wetsuit!) swim from Aotea Great Barrier to Auckland's mainland raised awareness for the state of the Gulf. Stopping the country in its tracks, the swim garnered close to a million social media impressions in 48 hours. Less than four months later, the Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill entered Parliament but it will need further championing to succeed.

Restoring the ocean's health requires action. The Black Foils raced around the globe with Live Ocean emblazoned on Amokura's wing, and as Round the Bays Charity Partner we welcomed 479 people to run as part of team Live Ocean alongside over 10,000 others who raced around Auckland's waterfront. Once again supporters around the country braved the winter cold for the Live Ocean Dip. We live and play around our ocean and these Live Ocean branded activities have all served to reinforce how important it is to us.

It was a hugely proud moment to see Live Ocean's founders Peter and Blair recognised with a BLAKE Award, anchoring them to the very special legacy of Sir Peter Blake and acknowledging their exceptional leadership across sport and the environment.

The revenue for Live Ocean Foundation, including Live Ocean (USA) was \$1,158,398 with 77.7% of our expenditure going to the science, innovation and outreach work we support. Income was down on FY23 as anticipated. Several large one-off donations were received in FY23 but with the bulk of these funds spent on the relevant projects in FY24. As you'll see in the report, our impact was the strongest yet. As always, we're proud to say 100% of public donations go to the projects we support.

So many incredible people have leaned into support Live Ocean over the past 12 months. As always, my fellow trustees Shelley Campbell and Jez Fanstone play a pivotal role in the governance of Live Ocean Foundation and to Amanda Martin, Erin Miserlis, Andrew Judge and Jez Fanstone thank you for your continued support as Directors of Live Ocean USA.

We look forward to continuing our work together towards a healthy ocean and thank you for your continued support.

### Ngā mihi nui, MIRANDA BURDON



Credit: Zico O'Neill-Rutene

Credit: Zico O'Neill-Rutene

## FROM OUR FOUNDERS

### Kia ora Live Ocean whānau,

Our ambition is to bring people around ocean health, and this year it's been awesome to see people getting behind Live Ocean like never before. A massive thank you to everyone who has come on board this year. From swimming and running for the Gulf, to surfers, voyagers, global leaders and scientists lending their voices to our Real Watergate story. It's been amazing to get more people talking about the importance of a thriving and abundant ocean.

It was humbling to see Jono Ridler push to his limits and see how Swim4TheGulf brought new focus to the long-fought battle to protect and restore more of Tīkapa Moana Te Moanaui-ā-Toi, the very special Hauraki Gulf that we all know is at a tipping point. Like so many others, we have spent a lot of time enjoying the Gulf, whether it's sailing, diving or other ocean sports, but it needs looking after now, and decision makers must consider what's at stake if we don't get this right.

This year brought one of our proudest moments yet, when we were named BLAKE Leaders and were presented with our award by Lady Pippa Blake. It was a special moment for us and one we'll remember forever.

### Ngā mihi nui, PETER BURLING + BLAIR TUKE



## FROM OUR CEO

**Tēnā koutou,**

We're hugely lucky to have such an amazing Live Ocean whānau, from the people who lean in for a project through to our family of supporters who are at the heart of everything we do and provide Live Ocean Foundation with flexible, multi-year support. You're legends and understand change is hard and takes time, collaboration and commitment.

### THIS YEAR IT'S BEEN A HIGHLIGHT TO SEE THE RELATIONSHIPS WE'VE DEVELOPED WEAVE TOGETHER TO CREATE MARINE MAGIC.

While it was a difficult fundraising environment with the economic landscape, a highlight was joining forces with the New Zealand Nature Fund to raise \$140,000 for the Antipodean albatross. This is a huge amount for a seabird species and seeing that work develop from tracking to working with high-seas fleets is everything we hoped that could be achieved.

The much-loved citizen science project, Marine Metre2 got digital superpowers this year with a first-of-its-kind integration with Seascape technology. It's been amazing seeing the smiles on school students' faces as they look under rocks and then hearing from teachers about what a valuable tool the project offers to have the most understood seashore in the world.

Te Toki Voyaging Trust teamed up with the tall ship R Tucker Thompson to give 24 rangatahi an incredible experience on an eight day voyage bringing the mana of voyaging and mātauranga together with a piece of our sailing history. The University of Otago educators who joined the crew absorbed it all and upskilled both crews on citizen science for the ocean.

We had the opportunity to survey New Zealanders about their attitudes to the ocean in the Live Ocean Barometer. It showed what we always 'knew' but now we have the numbers. And they're compelling.

Thanks to our incredible small team and all the people who joined us over the year to keep driving forward. While the ocean is our driver, it's the people who make the journey so special.

**Ngā mihi nui,**  
SALLY PATERSON



## THANK YOU

This year we strengthened our collaborations with our project partners across science, innovation and outreach, matured our organisation and focused on putting the ocean on the agenda. An amazing year which was only made possible by our whānau of partners and supporters.

The community of ocean champions around us has strengthened with swimmers, paddlers, sailors and ocean lovers leaning in to raise critical awareness about the health of the ocean.

**A huge thank you to you all.**

### FOUNDING PARTNERS

**AKO Foundation**

**FORSYTH BARR**

**BAYLEYS**

**Whakatapu**  
Aotearoa Foundation

### MAJOR SUPPORTERS

**APL**  
WINDOW SOLUTIONS

**DENTONS KENSINGTON SWAN**

**DOYLE**

**DONOVANGROUP**

**Generate**

**OMEGA** **Joyce Fisher Charitable Trust**

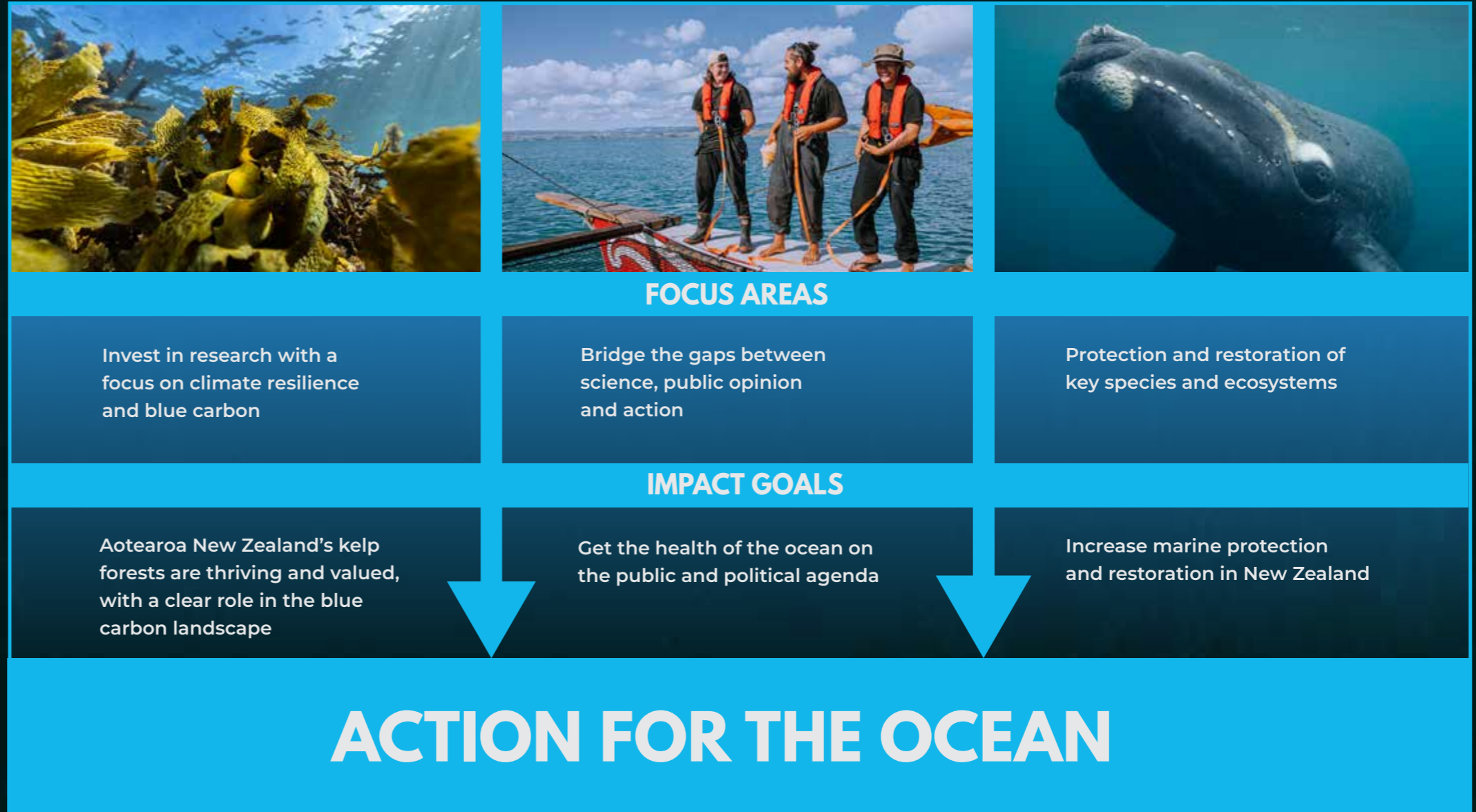
**ASHLEY & BEN RENSHAW**

**EDGAR FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**THE MACE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**



# FOCUS & IMPACT



Live Ocean Foundation is committed to funding and amplifying marine science, innovation and outreach that contributes to achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



# IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

**99**  
KILOMETERS

## SWIM4THEGULF

99km. Non-stop. No wetsuit. Jono Ridler's epic mission raising awareness about the health of Tīkapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi The Hauraki Gulf.

**24**  
RANGATAHI

## TE TOKI VOYAGING TRUST

24 rangatahi embarked on an 8 day sailing voyage that blended mātauranga Māori with scientific knowledge, engaging in activities such as Marine Metre<sup>2</sup> surveys, plankton collections, wildlife transects, and underwater video recordings.

**11**  
TAGS

## OCEANIC MANTA, TE WHAI RAHI

11 satellite tags have been deployed to track the movements of mantas to help scientists better understand the role of New Zealand waters in the manta's lifecycle.

**29**  
SATELLITE TAGS

## SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE

Tohorā tagging data is helping Dr Emma Carroll and her team at the University of Auckland to inform policy and decision-making aimed at enhancing the protection of southern right whales in New Zealand waters.

**3X**  
BETTER

## CAULERPA RESPONSE

Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) are able to survey 3x more efficiently for 1/3 of the cost of SCUBA diver-based surveys.

**140K**  
RAISED

## ANTIPODEAN ALBATROSS

Live Ocean joined forces with the New Zealand Nature Fund to raise \$140,000 for the Antipodean Albatross funding a Seabird Safe Toolkit for fisheries.

**200m<sup>2</sup>**  
MAPPED IN 6 MINS

## SEASCAPE

Pioneering technology by Dr Arie Spyksma, University of Auckland and New Zealand Geographic, is changing the way scientists and citizen scientists gather data.

**479**  
RUNNERS

## RUN4THEGULF

479 people Run4TheGulf at Round the Bays 2024 for Live Ocean, official charity partner of the event for 2024.

**\$8**  
MILLION

## KELP & CARBON

Dr Caitlin Blain's research team has already been able to demonstrate that the reforestation of reefs in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park could be worth nearly \$8 million NZD in carbon storage.

**20-30**  
YEARS

## REGROWING KELP FORESTS

Active restoration efforts 'resetting' the system has shown it can accelerate the regeneration of kelp forests by up to 20-30 years, with kelp returning in just 2 years.

**NEW**  
TECHNOLOGY

## MARINE METRE<sup>2</sup>

Seascape technology is helping to digitally power up citizen science project Marine Metre<sup>2</sup> allowing users to create 3D models of the seashore.

**11.7**  
MILLION

## THE REAL WATERGATE

11.7 million reached through social media channels for The Real Watergate campaign.



# SWIM4THEGULF

**99KM. NON-STOP. NO WETSUIT.**

Jono Ridler's epic mission raising awareness about the health of Tikapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi The Hauraki Gulf

[▶ WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



**“The extent to which Swim4TheGulf really captured people’s attention outstripped my wildest hopes. I’m not the only New Zealander who wants to leave my children and grandchildren with a healthy and productive ocean.”**

JONO RIDLER

From Aotea Great Barrier to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. 33-year-old Aucklander Jono Ridler pushed himself to the absolute limits over 33 hours to achieve a record non-stop ultra-distance open water swim to raise awareness about the health of the Gulf.

The swim, supported by Live Ocean, tested the limits of human endurance and was driven by Jono’s personal desire to inspire urgent action to protect and restore the health of the Gulf.

In 2021 the Government announced a plan that conservation groups hailed as a good first step towards turning the health of the Gulf around, but nearly three years on any changes are yet to come into effect. Jono’s swim captured the nation’s attention, acknowledging the significance and value of the Gulf and acted as a call to Government to protect and restore it.

**99KM**

From Karaka Bay, Aotea Great Barrier Island to Campbells Bay, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

**53K**

of social culminated in 48 hours across landing page and tracker views

**920K**

Social media impressions

**\$1.4M**


Over \$1.4 million of PR value

**5M+**

people reached through 48 media stories and engagement with major party environment representatives in New Zealand Government

[◀ BACK](#)





**LET'S PROTECT WHAT WE ALL  
LOVE AND NEED, THE OCEAN**



A group of four children are on a rocky beach, testing a water filtration device. The device is made of white PVC pipes and a black filter. One boy in a green shirt and blue hat is holding the device over a small pool of water. A girl in a white shirt with a rainbow and a black hat is looking at the device. Another boy in a blue shirt and white cap is adjusting his sunglasses. A girl in a white shirt and pink hat is looking on. The background shows the ocean and a clear sky.

# INNOVATE FOR SOLUTIONS





# NEW TECH FOR A PRICKLY PROBLEM

**“The combination of robust and timely scientific data and powerful visual comparisons can aid our decision makers to better understand the gravity of the situation our marine environments are currently faced with.”**

DR ARIE SPYKSMA, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

Marine life in Northern Aotearoa New Zealand is under threat with the sub-tropical long-spined sea urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*) rapidly taking over, mowing down kelp forests which are home for many important species.

*Centrostephanus* are thriving in the New Zealand marine environment as warmer waters due to climate change are boosting their reproductive success, making them more abundant and without major predators like crayfish to keep their numbers in check. Dr Arie Spyksma, University of Auckland is harnessing the power of Seascape technology to capture high-resolution 3D models of the seafloor, giving researchers and decision-makers a clearer understanding of the impact this is having on key marine ecosystems.

## 3D MODELS

High resolution 3D models used to monitor impact of sub-tropical long-spined sea urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*) on marine ecosystems

## WARMING OCEANS

Warming ocean temperatures and lack of large predators like crayfish are causing the species to thrive

## MONITORING

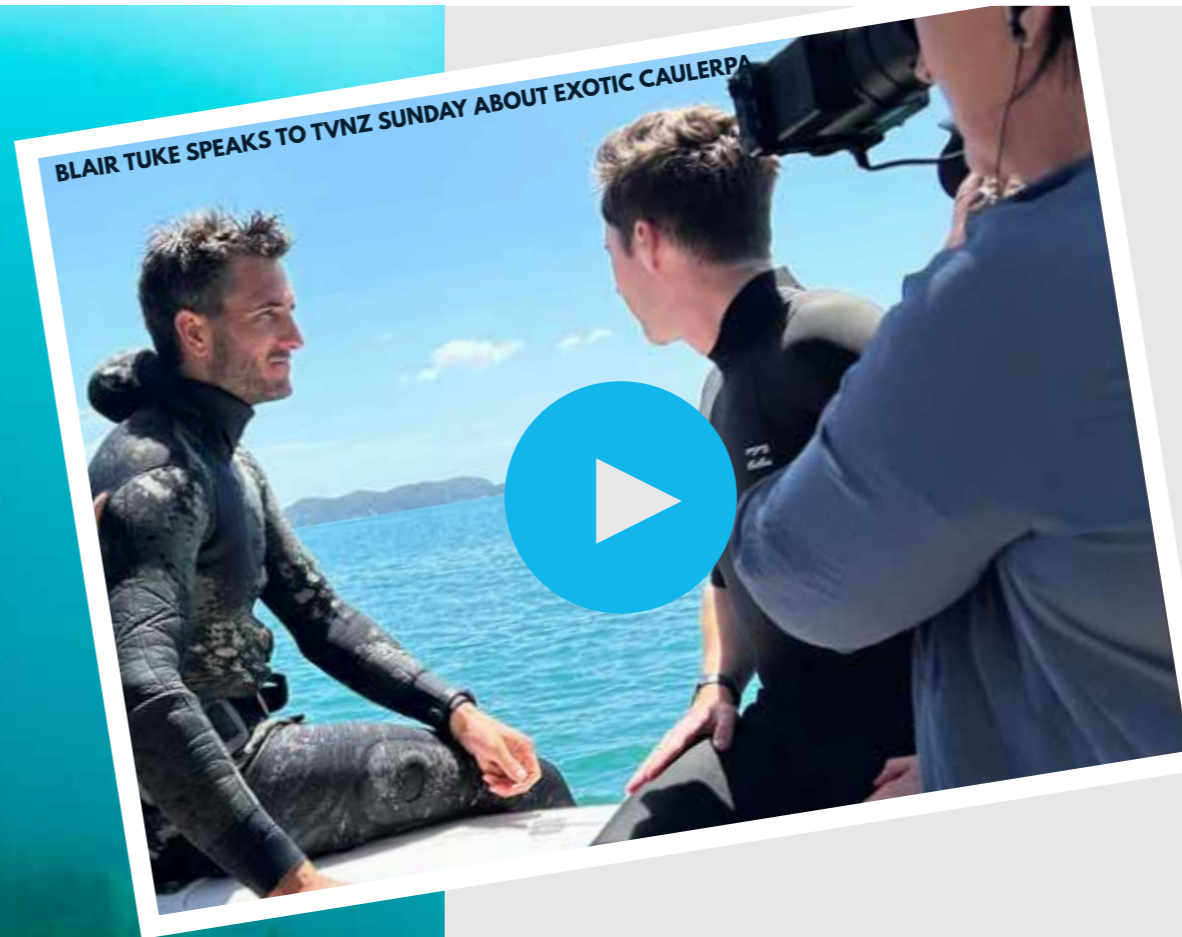
Monitoring sites include Cape Brett, the Hen and Chicken Islands, the Alderman Islands and the northern top of the Coromandel Peninsula



# DETECTING CAULERPA

“Finding and treating caulerpa will be a large version of Whack-a-Mole. All the sightings (bar one) so far have come from locals being out there, so getting them the tools they need will be key.”

PETER MILES, MUSSEL RESTORATION TRUST / REVIVE OUR GULF



The clock is ticking with exotic caulerpa rapidly spreading in New Zealand waters. Described as the world’s worst marine pest, it spreads quickly, forming thick, suffocating mats which smother other species and is incredibly difficult to eradicate. Significant infestations are now present off Rāwhiti in the Bay of Islands and in Tikapa Moana Te Moanaui-ā-Toi The Hauraki Gulf.

Peter Miles, a trustee at the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust / Revive Our Gulf project and an engineering technologist is on a mission to help speed up detection across Aotearoa by developing a low-cost Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) tool which can be adopted by iwi and local communities for detecting both caulerpa and other invasive species.

This pilot project is already looking to be a game changer as ROV surveys are both 3x faster and cost a third of SCUBA dive surveys. While caulerpa is a monumental issue requiring a national response, Live Ocean saw the opportunity to contribute to the solution by partnering with the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust and other funders to support Peter’s work.

## 3X MORE EFFICIENT

Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) are able to survey 3x more efficiently for 1/3 of the cost of diver-based surveys

## TV COVERAGE

Blair Tuke spoke to TVNZ Sunday about exotic caulerpa in Omakiwi Cove, the Bay of Islands





# OCEAN CHAMPIONS & THE POWER OF SPORT



# OCEAN CHAMPIONS & THE POWER OF SPORT

## RUN4THEGULF



Photo credit: Georgia Schofield

### 479 PEOPLE RUN FOR LIVE OCEAN

479 people gathered in Auckland in March 2024 to Run4TheGulf as part of team Live Ocean, taking part in New Zealand's largest running event – the 2024 Southern Cross Round the Bays. As the official charity partner for this year's edition, over \$36K was raised including a \$25K cheque from event organisers Stuff Events for vital marine conservation work in the Hauraki Gulf.

## LIVE OCEAN RACING



Photo credit: Live Ocean Racing

### LEARN ABOUT TE WHAI RAHI OCEANIC MANTA

The Live Ocean Racing team, separate entity with same purpose as the Foundation, took time out to connect with Manta Watch New Zealand Founder Lydia Green learning about te whai rahi oceanic manta in Aotearoa. The group ventured out to Te Hauturu-o-toi with Lydia on a manta survey and learnt first-hand about her work to uncover more about the oceanic manta in New Zealand waters.

## PADDLE FOR PURPOSE



### 2000KM - 75 DAYS - \$17K RAISED

Cared, Connor, Drew and Kurt embarked on an epic mission to paddle 2,000 km from Cape Reinga to Wellington in March 2024. During their 75-day adventure, these four legends raised over \$17k for Live Ocean and the Mental Health Foundation.

## THE BLACK FOILS AND SAILGP



Photo credit: Iain McGregor for SailGP

### THE BLACK FOILS WIN \$35K USD FOR THEIR CHARITY PARTNER, LIVE OCEAN FOUNDATION

The Black Foils, New Zealand's SailGP Team, finished second in the league's Impact League season 3, winning \$35k USD for the team's charity partner Live Ocean Foundation. The money went towards supporting kelp restoration in Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour. The team also raced on home waters in Lyttelton in March 2024, winning the event in front of the home crowd.

## BLAKE LEADERS



Photo credit: Brendon O'Hagen

### PETER BURLING AND BLAIR TUKE AWARDED BLAKE LEADERS AWARD

Live Ocean founders Peter Burling and Blair Tuke were awarded a 2023 BLAKE Leaders award for their leadership and contributions to a more sustainable future for Aotearoa. The pair were awarded their BLAKE Awards in honour of the late Sir Peter Blake from Lady Pippa Blake and Sarah-Jane Blake.



# POWERING UP CITIZEN SCIENCE

“New Zealand could have the best understood seashore of any country.”

DR SALLY CARSON, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO



Photo credit: Josh McCormack

Marine Metre<sup>2</sup> is a popular citizen science project, founded by Dr Sally Carson, Director of the New Zealand Marine Studies Centre at the University of Otago. The project is widely used by school children to survey a square metre of seashore collecting data that's valuable to scientists – and it just got digital superpowers!

Now, in a first-of-its-kind digital integration, Marine Metre<sup>2</sup> users can easily create interactive 3D models of their survey sites, helping school children and communities to investigate and record their local seashore and track how it's changing over time. The 3D models are created using Seascape photogrammetry technology, a cutting-edge tool pioneered by New Zealand Geographic and Live Ocean project partner University of Auckland marine scientist Dr Arie Spyksma. Now anyone can build an accurate 3D model of a section of seashore using photos they take on a smartphone or tablet, with uploaded data widely available for scientists and organisations to access.

## NEW DIGITAL UPGRADE

Marine Metre<sup>2</sup> was given a full digital revamp, launched in 2024, which enhanced the learning experience for teachers and students

## 2268 METRES SURVEYED

2268 metres of the New Zealand coastline has now been surveyed

## 1558 SCHOOLS

1558 New Zealand primary and secondary schools involved

◀ BACK

Photo credit: Josh McCormack



An aerial photograph of a lush green forest with a winding path. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**WE PARTNER WITH EXCEPTIONAL MARINE SCIENTISTS,  
INNOVATORS AND COMMUNICATORS TO DRIVE ACTION  
FOR A HEALTHY OCEAN**



A photograph of two women sitting on the deck of a boat, looking out at the ocean. The woman in the foreground is wearing a red and black jacket and has her hand near her face. The woman behind her is wearing a light-colored jacket and is resting her chin on her hand. The boat's wooden structure and rigging are visible in the background. The text 'OUTREACH THAT CONNECTS' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

OUTREACH  
THAT CONNECTS





# RERE TAHI FLY TOGETHER

Empowering Northland youth through sailing

Aotearoa New Zealand's story is intrinsically linked to the moana and the many wayfinders who voyaged across the ocean, first by waka then by ship.

Knowledge and appreciation of our history is critical in rebuilding our connection with the ocean. By learning about those who crossed the ocean before us we can restore and protect it for future generations.

In November 2023, 24 rangatahi from Te Tai Tokerau were given the unique opportunity to connect with this heritage, through an eight-day voyage sailing on two distinctive vessels: a tall ship and a waka hourua. Through the collaborative partnership between Te Toki Voyaging Trust (TTVT) and The R. Tucker Thompson Sail Training Trust, two powerful kaupapa came together to create an unforgettable experience for these young participants. Alongside marine scientists from the New Zealand Marine Studies Centre – University of Otago, the crew blended mātauranga Māori with scientific knowledge to create engaging learning opportunities through activities like Marine Metre<sup>2</sup>, plankton net collections, bird and mammal strip transects, and baited underwater videos.

## 24 RANGATAHI

24 Rangatahi from Te Tai Tokerau participated in the Rere Tahī – Fly Together voyage

## 8 DAY VOYAGE

8 Day voyage sailing on two distinctive vessels: a tall ship and a waka hourua

## 585 PEOPLE ENGAGED

University of Otago scientists joined the Te Toki Voyaging Trust (TTVT) Waka Festival in Kāiterikeri and workshops in Kawhia, co-developing science observation tools and activities with the TTVT crew and rangatahi.







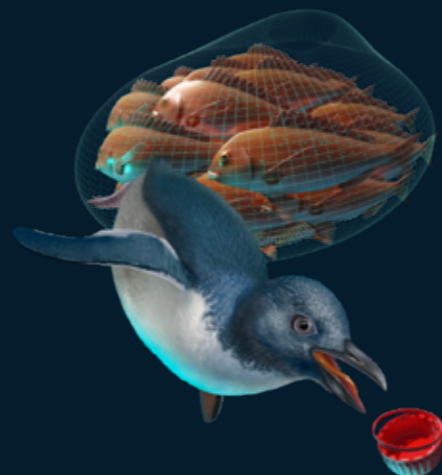
# LIVE OCEAN BAROMETER

Fresh insights show Kiwis want ocean health prioritised for future generations



**95%**

The ocean is important to me



**70%**

Concerned about the health of New Zealand's ocean

**77%**

Concerned about the loss of biodiversity



**77%**

The ocean should be protected & managed for climate response



**92%**

It's important to protect the health of the ocean and what it produces



**77%**

Marine protection should be expanded



One of the largest ocean spaces on the planet



**67%**

of recreational fishers think marine protection should be expanded in New Zealand



▶ WATCH THE VIDEO

# THE REAL WATERGATE



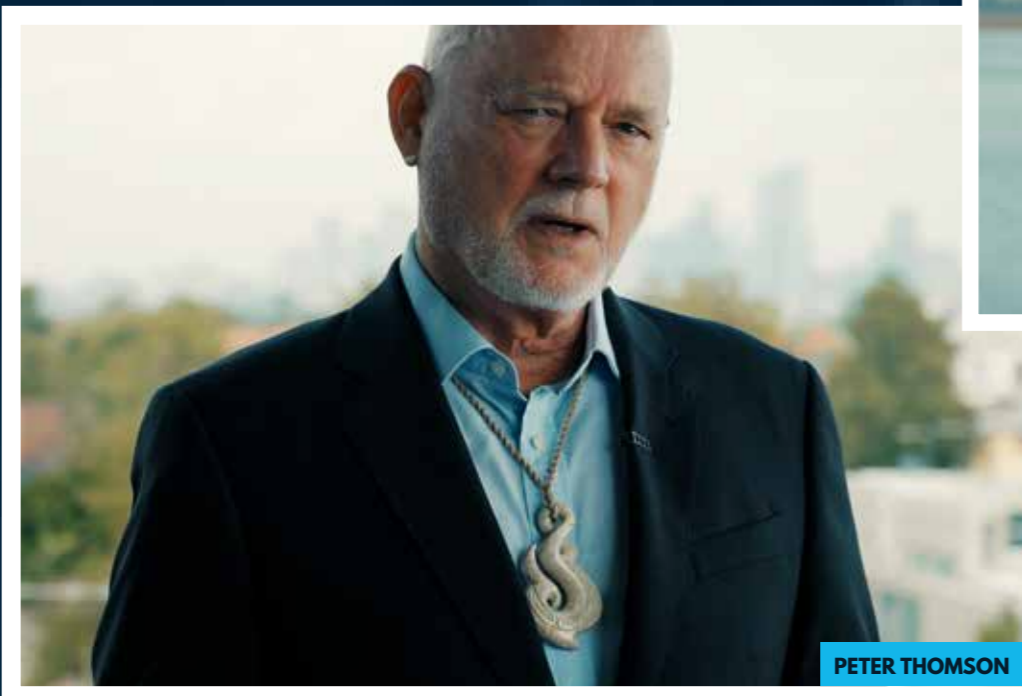
DR DIVA AMON



PETER BURLING + BLAIR TUKE



HOTUROA BARCLAY-KERR



PETER THOMSON

**“If we don’t conserve biodiversity by establishing marine protected areas covering at least 30% of the ocean by 2030, we will witness a cascading extinction of the species and habitats that sustain life on this planet.”** AMBASSADOR PETER THOMSON, UN SECRETARY GENERAL’S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE OCEAN

On World Ocean Day 2023, Live Ocean founders Peter Burling and Blair Tuke were joined by renowned ocean advocates from around the world stepping forward to speak about “the greatest cover up in history”.

The satirical video exposé, and content on realwatergate.com, created with DDB (pro-bono support) and VICE Media group highlighted the vital role of a healthy ocean as our greatest ally in the fight against climate change. “The aim of The Real Watergate was to re-frame how we see the ocean and to do that in a way that challenges our assumptions and opens our eyes. When we look to the role nature and biodiversity has in climate resilience, we must look to the ocean,” said Sally Paterson, Chief Executive of Live Ocean Foundation.

The Real Watergate featured a stellar cast of ocean and sporting legends from New Zealand and around the world. The line-up included UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean Ambassador Peter Thomson, international marine biologist Dr Diva Amon, Tohunga Waka Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr, swimmer and UN Patron of the Oceans Lewis Pugh, youngest solo round-the-world sailor Jessica Watson, and champion free diver William Trubridge.

11.7 MILLION

11.7 million reached through social media channels

10.8 MILLION

10.8 million video views

## VOICES WHO SUPPORTED THE CAMPAIGN

SAILORS BLAIR TUKE & PETER BURLING UN SECRETARY GENERAL’S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE OCEAN PETER THOMSON MARINE BIOLOGIST DR DIVA AMON ECONOMIST SHAMUBEEL EAQUB UN PATRON FOR THE OCEAN LEWIS PUGH UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND PROFESSOR ROCHELLE CONSTANTINE FREE DIVER WILLIAM TRUBRIDGE SAILOR JESSICA WATSON PRO SURFER ACE BUCHAN SCUBA DIVER ANNIKA ANDERSEN FISHER PIO TEREI TOHUNGA WAKA HOTUROA BARCLAY-KERR WING FOILER YAGO LANGE

◀ BACK



A man in a wetsuit is swimming underwater, holding a camera rig. The water is clear and blue. The man is looking down at the camera. The camera rig is black and red, with a lens and a viewfinder. The man is wearing a black wetsuit and a black watch on his left wrist. The background is a deep blue ocean with some light reflections on the surface.

# SCIENCE TO UNDERSTAND



# IS KELP CLIMATE'S NEXT SUPERHERO?

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO

“If we know the long-term fate of released carbon from kelp, we’ll know the role of kelp forests in carbon sequestration which could reveal their full potential for climate change mitigation”

DR CAITLIN BLAIN, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

It’s possible the ocean’s kelp forests have unrealised potential which could prove hugely valuable in the global push to reduce carbon in the earth’s atmosphere, but there’s a piece of the kelp puzzle that needs solving.

Live Ocean is supporting the work of Dr Caitlin Blain from the University of Auckland to investigate how kelp forests contribute to coastal carbon cycles. Researchers know the majority of the carbon fixed by kelp through photosynthesis is being released back into the ocean, but what happens to it after that? This research will help scientists understand the long-term fate of this released carbon and is an important first step to valuing kelp forests in New Zealand.

“Dr Caitlin Blain is one of a handful of scientists around the world working in this compelling area of kelp as a nature-based solution in the face of climate change. It’s this sort of knowledge that could really step-change the way the world sees these underwater forests and how we prioritise the protection and management of them,” said Sally Paterson, Live Ocean Foundation Chief Executive.

## 62%

62% of carbon fixed by kelp is released as dissolved organic carbon back into the water column, yet it is not known what happens to it

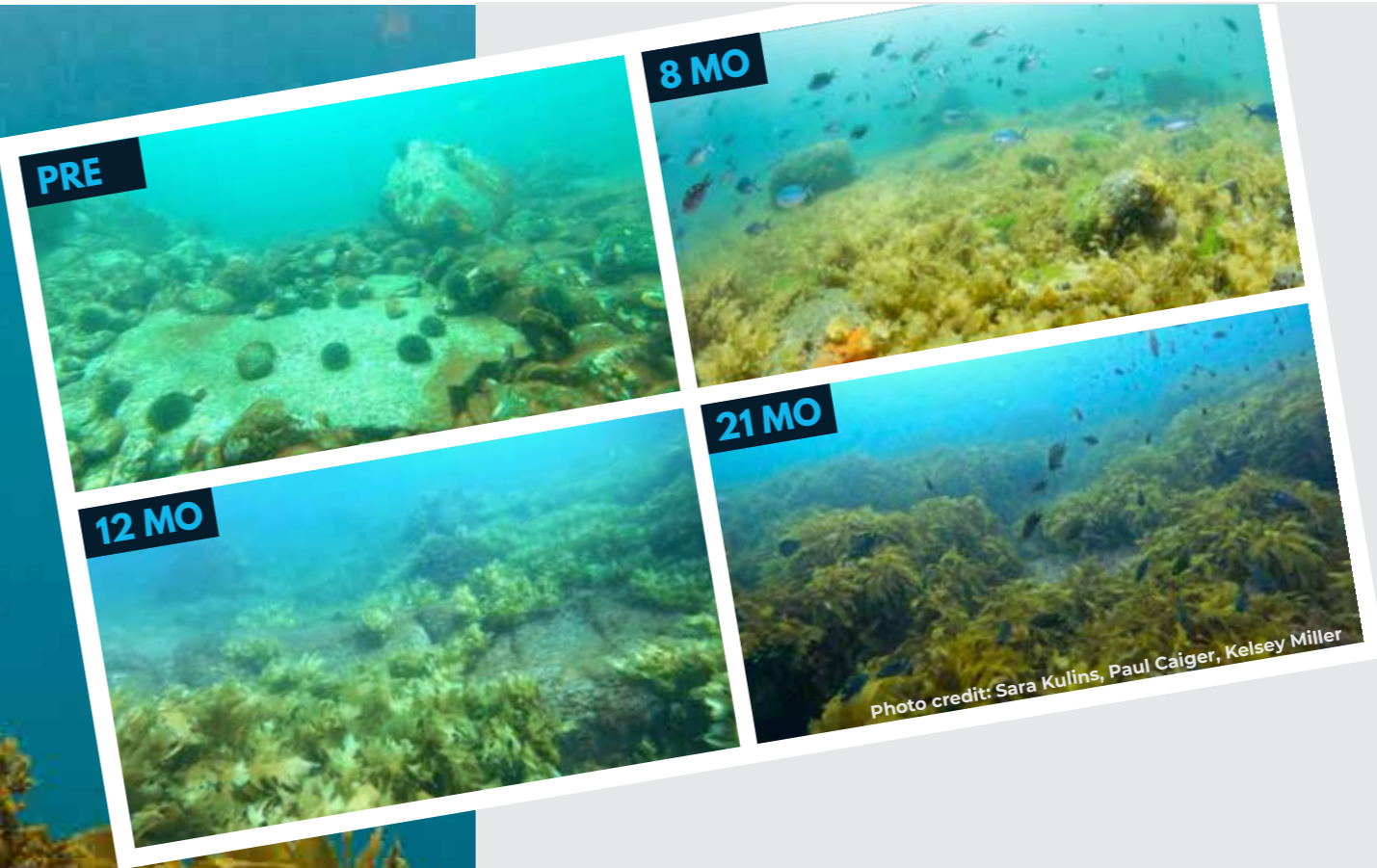
## \$8M

Dr Caitlin Blain’s research team has already been able to demonstrate that the reforestation of reefs in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park could be worth nearly \$8 million NZD in carbon storage

◀ BACK



# REGROWING KELP FORESTS



“Our research is examining the role of marine protection and restoration in allowing kelp forests to bloom, and their associated marine life to return and flourish.”

DR NICK SHEARS, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

Kelp is vital for ocean ecosystems to flourish, creating habitats for marine life and is hugely efficient at fixing carbon. However, many coastlines which were once home to vast forests of kelp, now lie bare, thriving reef ecosystems replaced by kina (sea urchin) barrens.

Live Ocean Foundation is supporting a multi-year project by the University of Auckland’s Dr Nick Shears to understand both the scale of the problem and what happens when kina are removed from barrens within Tikapa Moana Te Moanaui Toi The Hauraki Gulf. So far ‘resetting’ the system has shown it can accelerate the regeneration of kelp forests by up to 20-30 years, with kelp returning in just two years. These findings could be very significant for new areas of marine protection, where kina removal could significantly accelerate habitat restoration.

**50%**  
DESTROYED

Up to half of the kelp forests on shallow reefs around Te Hauturu-o-Toi Little Barrier Island are now kina barrens

**20-30**  
YEARS

Active restoration efforts ‘resetting’ the system has shown it can accelerate the regeneration of kelp forests by up to 20-30 years, with kelp returning in just 2 years



# UNDERSTANDING TE WHAI RAHI

Currently, the globally endangered te whai rahi oceanic manta rays' status in Aotearoa New Zealand remains uncertain due to insufficient data. Mātauranga Māori shows Aotearoa has been a home for te whai rahi for centuries, yet a lot of mystery still surrounds these mantas.

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO

▶ SIGHTINGS MAP

MANTA WATCH  
NEW ZEALAND



“Citizen scientists play a massive role in targeting our research efforts and contributing to our collective understanding of this lesser-known population.”

LYDIA GREEN, MANTA WATCH NEW ZEALAND

Lydia Green's team at Manta Watch New Zealand is on a mission to uncover this mystery. By combining traditional knowledge, tracking data, and public sightings, they aim to understand the population size, movements, and lifecycle of mantas in New Zealand waters.

In early 2023 Live Ocean Foundation partnered with Manta Watch New Zealand to support Lydia's research and educate Kiwis about these ocean giants. Live Ocean funded the deployment of 11 satellite trackers to monitor manta movements over the 2023-2024 summer season. Tracking data has shown manta are active within Tikapa Moana Te Moanaui-ā-Toi The Hauraki Gulf. This season's data has confirmed that significant numbers of manta rays are foraging near to the Gulf's coastline and in busy shipping lanes. This data is crucial for enhancing protections for oceanic mantas and other species in New Zealand waters.

**\$19K**  
FUNRAISED

Live Ocean's public fundraising campaign raised \$19,075 for Manta Watch to continue their vital work understanding this data deficient species in Aotearoa

**11**  
MANTAS TRACKED

11 satellite tags were deployed to track manta movements, helping scientists better understand the role of New Zealand waters in the manta's lifecycle

**1X**  
BEST PRACTICE

1 New Best Practice Guide for Manta Ray Encounters published in December 2023 in Aotearoa New Zealand

**1268**  
MANTA SIGHTINGS

Citizen science helps Manta Watch New Zealand track the manta with 1268 recorded sightings in New Zealand waters with over 200 photo IDs recorded

◀ BACK

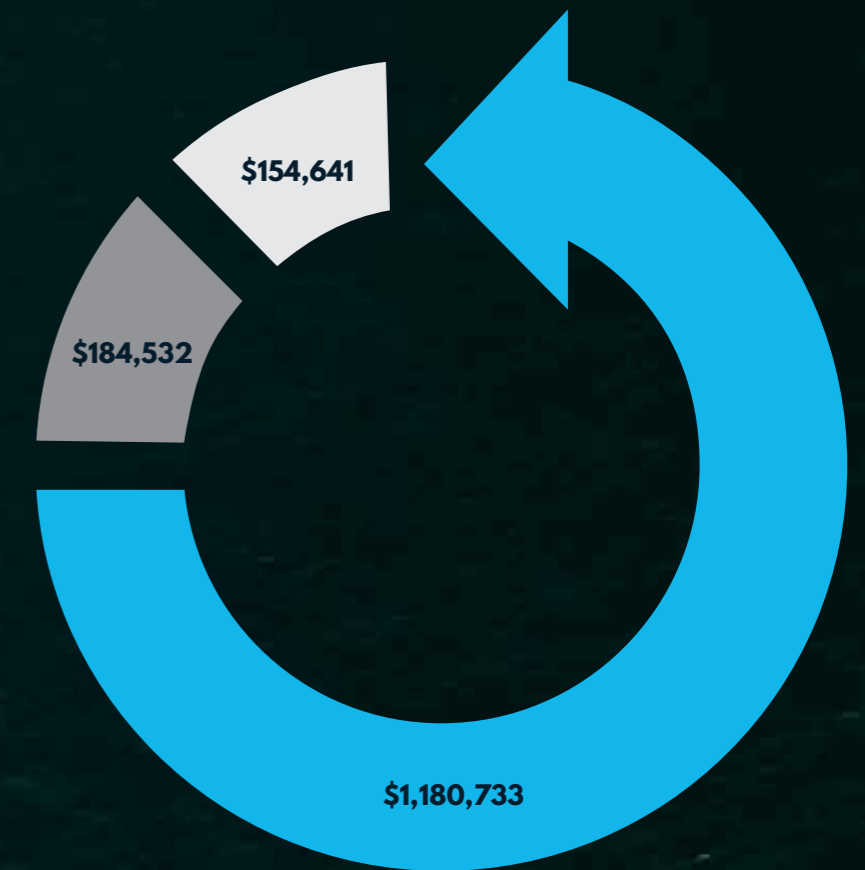


# THE NUMBERS

## CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS 2023-24

	FY2023-24	FY2022-23
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,158,398</b>	<b>\$ 1,913,626</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
PROGRAMME	\$ 1,180,733	\$ 877,730
FUNDRAISING/MARKETING	\$ 184,532	\$ 185,386
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 154,641	\$ 132,630
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,519,906</b>	<b>\$ 1,195,746</b>
<b>NET PROFIT</b>	<b>(\$361,508)</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 798,143</b>	<b>\$ 1,076,292</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 236,539</b>	<b>\$ 153,915</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 561,604</b>	<b>\$ 922,377</b>

Consolidated financials for Live Ocean (New Zealand) and Live Ocean (USA) for 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024. Full audited financials for Live Ocean Charitable Trust Group (NZ) are available on our website. Live Ocean USA form 990s submitted to the US Internal Revenue Service.



■ PROGRAMMES 78%  
■ FUNDRAISING/MARKETING 12%  
■ ADMINISTRATION 10%