

Waiheke Weekender

Beaches, baches, boats and the good life in the Hauraki Gulf • 29 September 2022



Island girl

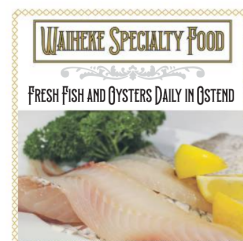
Helen Vause speaks to researcher Valia Papoutsaki about her life living on and studying islands from Europe to Waiheke.
Story page 3.
Photo Helen Vause

Also this week: Anthony McNamara on being back home in Great Britain during the royal funeral, Jenny Nicholls reviews a novel about the men who killed the first King Charles, new thinking in landscape architecture with Tim Feather, and a dessert recipe from pioneering Waiheke olive oil producer Margaret Edwards.

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Waiheke Marine Project Panui
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Waiheke Marine Project

Waiheke Marine Project (WMP) is a collaborative Mana Whenua and Waiheke Island community partnership project. We aim to protect and regenerate Waiheke Island's marine environment through the use of action-based kaitiakitanga – guardianship.

Tēnā tātou katoa

Thank you for your ongoing engagement and support. We hope you will enjoy these excerpts which are samples of our regular newsletter. They include updates and perspectives from our project team, containing highlights from within and surrounding the Waiheke Marine Project.

Ngā mihi nui,
Waiheke Marine Project whānui

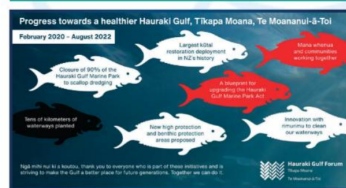


Image by Hauraki Gulf Forum
Beacons of Hope

The last few months from June to August have been packed with marine care activities on and around Waiheke Island, so much so, it has been tricky to find space to reflect on just what is going on. How do you orient yourself amongst this activity and what does it mean?

One of the things I learned over this period was about the use of reef sound as an orientation cue by the puerulus stage of the kōura, southern rock lobster, *Jasus edwardsii*. Migrating pueruli use sound as a cue to locate coastal reef habitat to settle. Underwater sound may increase the chance of successful settlement and survival of this valuable species. So, more noise from existing kōura is likely to increase the chance of young kōura to settle.

This got me thinking about orientation cues or beacons of hope that the WMP has been generating in the last year. Beacons offer possibilities of hope to get out of the difficult situation. For us all, that means moving away from the degenerated state to a destination that everyone wants, that of mauri ora, a thriving marine environment. The following are some highlights from WMP linked activities. In reading these examples, perhaps you too will be like a young kōura and migrate towards this marine regenerative activity with the WMP. You are very welcome. Come and make some noise.

1. WMP Regenerative Dive Programme trained 16 youth in snorkelling and 21 adults in Scuba Diving.
2. 2nd annual Kōura dive survey of 2022 attracted 106 registered volunteer divers and boat skippers, covering 10,000sqm of seafloor and found just 22 kōura.
3. Wetland week hosted by Waiheke Resources Trust and WMP celebrated the incredible efforts and love for rohe kōrepore (wetlands) joining the land and the sea.
4. Over 40 people took part in Te Tiriti workshops, learning of the power and dynamism of Māori society pre-1840 and finding hope to be effective tangata Tiriti moving forward.
5. 21 Rāhui signs made by MPI with guidance from

Ngāti Pāoa Iwi Trust were installed by Auckland Council on advice of mana whenua local Chris Bailey.

6. Focused on training in beach cleaning techniques with plans for regular beach cleans around the island.
7. Youth initiative of Fishing waste pods designed and in process of being installed with some funky signage.
8. A kororā survey has been completed by DabChick and her two conservation dogs.

I am not the only one noticing beacons of hope. A recent post by the Hauraki Gulf Forum encourages us to notice the progress that is being made towards a healthier Tikapa Moana. One of the noted progress points is a shout out to the mahi we are doing within the WMP and others around the Gulf. Mana whenua and communities working together. #ahumoana

Miranda Cassidy-O'Connell -
Project Kaiwhakarehe/ Navigator



Image of Jeanine Clarkin

Jeanine Clarkin ~ Abridged Interview

Jeanine Clarkin of Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Raukawa and Irish descent. Clarkin chose to move to Waiheke, seventeen years ago, because of ancestral ties.

She is an internationally acclaimed Māori fashion designer who was in Paris and London from September 13-18th to present her latest creations on the catwalk. Despite an intensely busy creative life (she has curated a number of exhibitions at the Waiheke Art Gallery) plus mentoring and supporting many artists and other creatives on Waiheke, she tells me she had made a commitment to the improvement of the environment she lives in. This is because to her, fashion is a response to social context and she is driven by identity and nga taonga tuku iho, the treasures passed down to us from our ancestors.

She describes herself as a fashion activist and a human barometer measuring the mauri of the moana on her daily swims at Oneroa Beach. She has always known that something has been happening to the sea (not good).

Jeanine believes the privilege of facing Moehau and Tikapa Moana on a daily basis comes with responsibility. Part of her picking up the paddle of responsibility, as mana whenua, involves the Rāhui that's been put in place around Waiheke's coastline. She would like the Rāhui extended so there is a long enough time period for it to make an impact. She knows it takes up to seven years for the Kōura to become full grown adults. As a member of the Waiheke Marine Project's Ngāti Pāoa ki Waiheke partner group she perceives her favourite pipi (action work) as the 'rewilding' of Kōura, which will be an important contributor to an improved, balanced moana.

There has been a lot of learning and sharing for her coming into the Waiheke Marine Project (WMP). When asked "if the Project is making a difference" she replies that it is starting to. In some ways WMP is still at the moana 'rescue' stage. Jeanine points

out that it will take time to reverse 50 years of damage caused by bad decisions and management but she holds hope that more Ngāti Pāoa will be involved in the future and appreciates the effort that ma ta waka and community put in. Jeanine is pleased there will be more visible Rāhui signs around the island. We can be sure that Jeanine will continue to amplify environmental messages in her art and design.

Head to our website to read the full interview.

Sue Fitchett - Communications Team Member



Photo supplied by SEALIFE Kelly Tarltons Aquarium

The Kōura were not simply hiding!

Last year's discovery of only 23 Kōura during the project's survey has been validated by repeating the mahi recently along Waiheke Island's Northern Coast. In what is planned to be an annual event the 105 volunteer divers and skippers registered to take part in this year's survey, of which 89 divers covered an area of 10,000sqm equivalent to 14 rugby fields. This year also saw the inclusion of graduates from the projects Regenerative Dive Training programme. They completed 56 transects over near shore reefs and boulders only sighting 22 Kōura — they were not simply hiding.

Head to our website to see the full Kōura Dive Survey 2022 Results.



Sustainable Business Award | Mayoral Conservation Award

Fresh news ~ Dual award nominations

We are humbled and happy to announce that WMP were finalists in the 2022 Sustainable Business Awards, for our collaboration alongside mana whenua and the Waiheke community. Working towards the protection and regeneration of Waiheke Island's marine environment. Congratulations to all the amazing winners, it was a wonderful evening of connection. What an honour to be acknowledged in the efforts to implement the 9 commitments from Future Search.

Waiheke Marine Project was also a finalist in the annual Ngā Tohu Tiaki Taiao a te Koromatua / Mayoral Conservation Awards 2022 for the Kōura / Crayfish Dive Survey. The annual awards, now in their fourth year are said to "recognise and celebrate the power of community led conservation and the outstanding work carried out by these individuals and groups, despite the challenges they face."



@waihekemarineproject

Island scholar calls this island home

Valia Papoutsaki has a particular interest in islands and the people who live on them. Helen Vause talks to the scholar who has made a career from studying islands as distant as Crete, Okinawa and the Shetlands as a researcher, writer, and oral historian.

From Waiheke, the place she loves to call home, Valia Papoutsaki leads an international network of other researchers with an interest in small island cultures.

Her work has taken her to some tiny outcrops and communities most people would never know of, let alone set foot on, where she has worked, observed and collected data about the life rhythms of people in their small settlements.

Islands are unique places, says Valia, that shape identities in ways that differ from mainlands. They share geographical and social features: land surrounded by water and small-scale social groups, where "cultural interactions are densely intermeshed and shape distinctive communities. They are communities defined by a collective identity and close, reciprocal relationships."

Islands are places with strong senses of community and strong networks, where people care and have sense of accountability, she says. Wherever those islands are in the world, she says there is a common theme of 'islandness' that's kept her, and other small island researchers fascinated.

"A significant characteristic of the island is the direct and frequent contact between its members and the feeling of belonging and sharing that has developed over a period from within. Island communities are actively constructed by their inhabitants, whose island identity results from this process."

The stories of all the individuals and the collective groups who live on islands give the culture it's particular feel. Valia has not only been listening to the stories of people from remote corners of Japan, Scotland, Papua New Guinea and many other places to inform her research projects. With training in New Zealand in oral history to further her skills, she's been actively teaching island dwellers to capture their stories with sound and pictures, using cellphones.

As a colleague of hers wrote about scholars whose focus is on small islands and islanders, the approach to research shouldn't be with a big net 'but with tweezers and a



Valia Papoutsaki: Islands are places with strong senses of community and strong networks. Photo Helen Vause

microscope.' So now it is time to dig deeper into the stories of Waiheke and of the Waihekeans themselves. To start the process off, Valia will run workshops at the island's adult learning centre. She'll be facilitating the documentation of personal stories connected with island life and history, family island connections and the stories of groups or small collectives that have all contributed, she says, to the island's life and development. Using cellphones, participants will learn to interview, record, transcribe and publish and upload their personal stories to share where they choose. Island tells her local people and groups all have stories worth sharing and she

says the project is her commitment to the Waiheke Island community.

"Of course there are multiple stories and there are particular characteristics. This population has a high number of activists and artists and a collective identity of activism, advocacy and social justice. It's a highly creative community, there is a certain group of strong independent woman. Getting their stories recorded is an exciting prospect."

From the first workshops, this is a project that has scope for many more would-be oral historians to take part, using cellphones and other easy-to-use technology, she says. "Anyone can learn to do this."

Not long home from an annual conference on island studies in Shetland, she recorded the happy banter with Scots aircrew about the merits of biscuits and shortbread as she flew once again on a tiny aircraft to her special destination. It's a familiar sort of scene to her.

Just getting to islands, she says, is a special ritual that involves a sort of transformation in the traveller. The ferry trip to Waiheke has the same effect of shifting the mood of the homecoming commuters, as they move from one culture to the one where they live, she says.

"That ferry trip is kind of like a decompression zone," she says, chuckling, "on the way here you change back into your



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Valia in Jamaica with Bob Marley.

comfortable island character."

Growing up in Heraklion, the port city of the island of Crete, set her life experience apart from that of her mainland Greece contemporaries.

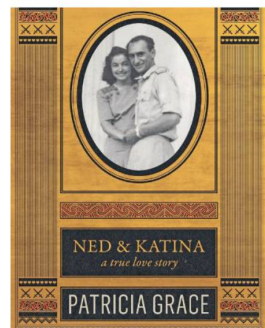
"Everyone knows you are from Crete be-

cause the 'aki' on the end of Papoutsaki is the suffix that tells them that."

Setting out on the pathway to becoming, Dr Evangelia (Valia) Papoutsaki, global citizen and scholar with a passion for social justice and communications, she left home in



A blunt sign in Terschelling Islands in the Netherlands.



Ned and Katina, wartime love story from the Island of Crete.



The Yoron Island sandbar, in the Amami Islands. It disappears when the tide comes up.

Crete for postgraduate education in the UK and completed her doctorate. She's spent more than two decades of an international development career in Europe, in former Soviet Union regions and in the Asia-Pacific region. Her early career years were spent in Central Asia, based at times at Universities in Mongolia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, with a focus on communications and media and guest lecturing at other institutions across those lands for three years from 2000. She laughs, rolling her eyes heavenwards, as she recalls working in temperatures of minus 40 degrees and hoping that life would soon take her somewhere much warmer and sunnier.

By 2003 she was working in Papua New Guinea at the university in Papua, where she was Head of Department in Communication Arts, supervising a regional news bureau and writing and blogging. In a career embedded in international systems, and education and curriculum development, invariably she'd be moving on to a fresh challenge. The next stop was looking likely to be in Kazakhstan, until someone at a conference suggested she look at an opportunity in New Zealand. And she came here to AUT's Pacific Media Centre as a research associate and

stayed for three years on her first visit, long enough to fall in love with the country. There would be forays to Japan during visiting research posts but she came back to a job at Unitec, and stayed.

"There was just something about the country that felt like a good fit to me. And one day I asked myself, why do I keep renewing my work permit?" she says, now a home owner and permanent resident of the country. "I love this country; it's provided so much opportunity." And it's an island, which she believes shapes some of its life and culture.

She says her elderly parents, still living on Crete, are resigned to the fact that she has happily put down roots far away. On a curriculum vitae that reflects stays in many different lands and cultures, she describes herself as linguistically diverse. In addition to her native Greek she speaks French, Spanish and Italian but she also has basic proficiency in Russian and in Melanesian Pidgin English.

She laughs recalling how little she knew about the country when she first arrived here. But she did know about war-time connections, and relationships formed between people in both places, including in towns of her childhood. One of those stories was about the

Her early career years were spent in Central Asia, based at times at Universities in Mongolia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan

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Eating in Okinawa's 'blue zone' islands, famed for the longevity and diet of the very aged locals.

young Māori soldier Ned who was wounded on Crete and Katina, the local girl whose family sheltered him. They married and later came to live in New Zealand. The story of Ned and Katina was published by author Patricia Grace but there are other island stories of love and friendship to be told, says Valia.

"Some New Zealand soldiers in the Second World War got close to people in Crete who helped them. They would leave, often saying earnestly 'let me know if you ever need anything'. Maybe they would press a tiny note with contact details into the hands of a local person. That note might have been held in safekeeping for years.

"Years later, some of the women there, or their daughters, set out for New Zealand (and Australia) in hopes of a new life here."

With a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Valia set out to make contact with the big group of Cretan women migrants who had arrived here in the 1960s, and to doc-

ument their personal stories. Recounting their experiences of migration in later life, many of the women noted the excitement and surprise of finding they could have their own bank accounts when they came to New Zealand.

While she has been exploring the stories of Aotearoa, she's also travelled to conferences in island studies and to other islands, some in Japan and there she says, she's also felt strong affinity. There is a Research Institute for Islands and Sustainability in Okinawa, the southernmost island in Japan. And from there Valia has launched a research project into the culture of the Amami Islands in South West Japan, visiting four out of the eight that comprise this group. She has spent the most time in the large island of Amami Ōshima – 712 square km, with a population of 73,000. It's a location where she now feels comfortable, welcome and trusted. When she revisits her project later in the year, she'll have a place to stay and a bicycle to ride,



Wearing her special hat for freezing weather in the highlands of Kyrgyzstan, 2019.

striking a distinctive figure as one of few white women on the island.

The island is a little paradise of lush green, surrounded by white sand beaches and clear blue waters. The seafood and tropical fruit are legendary and the diet is unique and healthy.

The island has a large active ageing population which includes strong healthy women among the very elderly residents. In this part of the world longevity is a feature and these fit active elders eat little meat and a lot of vegetables and fruit.



Valia Papoutsaki in Crete, 2019.

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In the Shetlands this year, above left. Right: on Waiheke. Photo Helen Vause

The elderly, who can be full of life well past their 90s, are often looked after or helped by the younger population. Her focus is the 'communicative ecology' or the features of how the population interacts and works together. Community radio, she notes, plays a big part in supporting many positive aspects of community life. She is also interested in the population of young women from the island who have gone away for opportunities in the cities but are returning as farmers, growing high-value, bespoke products.

She hopes to be back on that island and on her bicycle before Christmas, but also hopes that one day Waiheke can become the site of

conventions for her international group of scholars, where they can gather and share findings on their island research projects. This island could even be the base for an institute or research centre for small-island scholars, she says.

Before she heads to the Amami islands again this summer, she's hoping to have a collection of Waiheke oral histories well under way, and to have planted the possibilities of the project firmly in the minds of local people and community groups.

"Islanders are great talkers and storytellers," she says. "In the village people chat here and exchange stories. And of course there is a

sort of accountability and understanding of relationships. We know we are all on this rock and we need to get along," she says.

Valia says she knows the stories are out there to be told by the people and the groups who make up the community and whose stories contribute to the 'islandness' of the place.

"But everyone has a story of their own, and no story is too small to be collected in this oral history project." You don't have to be a technical whiz to compile an oral history with pictures and sound, she says. She will be guiding the project participants to show basic skills on how use their cellphones to collect sound and images, how to set up a basic web-

site and how to upload their stories to be shared. Whatever stories emerge from this exercise and others that may follow, she envisages capturing them in one place on a digital platform.

She's excited to be using her skills on the island she loves and where new friendships have been forged (in spite of solitary stretches in lockdown.)

"On the mainland people ask me where my accent comes from. On the small island of Waiheke what matters is if you are an islander or a visitor. If you live on the island and are part of the community, that's your turanga-waewae." •

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Spring on Waiheke

It feels like the season has changed and we are all that little bit more willing to come out of our shells. The streets are getting busy and we are welcoming much awaited guests back to our shores. Cafes are refreshing menus for Spring and events are happening.

We are all more than ready for this season to kick off and bring the bounty of a good hearty summer on Waiheke. Smiles, giggles and a summer to remember!



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In the centre of the village you will find our dynamic "Shop the Rock" store. Packed with a range you may not know we had. From mens clothes to baby outfits and loads of Waiheke personalised products. Great for taking home to the family or keeping the kids busy this school holidays. A great selection of kids drinking bottles in store, keep them hydrated this summer. If its a towel for the summer you are after, we have you covered. We have a beautiful collection of Pounamu necklaces if you are after that special gift. We look forward to seeing you in store soon.

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