

# The Mount Reef

## Mt Maunganui's Artificial Surfing Reef

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Mount Maunganui Reef Trust

# Friends of the Reef

by Grant Dyson - Trust Chairman

### Now's the Time to Support The Mount Reef

**W**elcome to the first issue of The Mount Reef newsletter. The question on everyone's lips this summer has been, 'What's happening with the reef?' In answer we can only borrow a line from a cheese commercial on television and say that "good things take time."

To be frank, things have moved slower than anticipated. The reef project entails getting approval from a number of authorities because of the effects an artificial reef may have on the land environment, such as the sand dunes, car parking, and the surrounding residential area. We would love to shove these considerations aside but the reality is there are no short cuts in the resource management process. In any event, things are falling into place.

Mount Maunganui Reef Trust members and supporters with legal and planning expertise, have steered us to the point where a resource consent application has been lodged with Environment BOP. We are confident of a positive result, given the tremendous amount of work carried out over the past five years or more by the University of Waikato and the Artificial Reefs Programme.

It's also encouraging to know that even though The Mount Reef may no longer be the first in the world, it will follow the success of the almost completed Gold Coast artificial reef, which is starting to yield quality waves. Our technical experts, Artificial Surfing Reefs Ltd, are presently involved in 10 projects that use surfing reef technology, as communities in New Zealand and overseas awaken to the scientific and recreational benefits of artificial reefs.

ASR Ltd have shown, on the almost completed reef near Surfers Paradise, that the technology works, so now it's up to us to get our own reef off the ground!



**Gold Coast reef engineer, Angus Jackson (left), samples the delights of the new reef on his bodyboard**

The Mount Maunganui Reef Trust acknowledge and gratefully thank all those who've attended meetings and shown an interest for the project over the last year. Now we need Friends of the Reef, to help take us across the finish line.

### The News Right Now is ...

**S**ince the meeting of surfers and supporters last April a stack of behind the scenes activity, including clouds of emails, faxes and documents, has been evident. Thanks to the enthusiasm of proposers and supporters, a strong presentation was put to the Tauranga District Council in June 1999 that resulted in \$150,000 being generously allocated to the project.

This leaves more than \$300,000 still to be funded. Community support has been widespread and virtually unanimous, with positive interest from groups like Coastcare BOP, Mount Mainstreet, Mount Progressive Association, Mount and Omani Lifeguard Services, Sport Bay of Plenty, the regional Sports Assembly Council,

windsurfers, schools, and the media.

As well as the vast amount of scientific research and planning that has already gone into the reef, many months have recently been spent on economic and social studies connected with the reef.

And though it's still unbuilt, The Mount Reef has, over the last couple of years, become a constant focus for school projects throughout Tauranga, and for post graduate endeavour.

The bottom line is, it looks very likely The Mount Reef will go ahead. What we need is continued community support, in the form of Friends of the Reef membership, and a green light from Environment BOP.

## The Reef Team...

Kerry Black: Hamilton - University Professor.  
Hamish Rennie: Cambridge - Lecturer in Geography.  
Grant Dyson: Tauranga - Journalist.  
Phil Smith: Mount Maunganui - Journalist.  
Bob Harnor: Mount Maunganui - District Councillor.

### Legal and technical support

Shaw Mead: Raglan - Reef Designer.  
Robert Makgill: Auckland - Solicitor.