




The resilience of deep-sea benthic communities to the effects of sedimentation

Tēnā koutou katoa, nau mai hoki mai ki tō tātou pānui. Ma te waka eke noa, kia mahitahi ai!




BY DR MALCOLM CLARK, LEE RAUHINA-AUGUST AND DI TRACEY

5 NOVEMBER 2019

Tangata Whenua Engagement

Nā tou rourou na tōku rourou ka ora ai ngā tangāta katoa – with your skills and mine, we will all thrive.

With engagement a priority for the ROBES programme, the research and survey plans for 2018 and 2019 were discussed at various meetings with Tangata Whenua and Moriori. NIWA’s Pou Ārahi Lee Rauhina-August and Programme leader Malcolm Clark have regularly met with Hokotehi (Moriori), Te Aitanga o ngā uri o Wharekauri (Ngāti Mutunga), and Ngāi Tahu. From these meetings, the project is better able to gauge and understand the viewpoint, share concerns, and discuss opportunities for groups to be involved in the research.

Lee, Malcolm and NIWA scientist Joanne O’Callaghan, visited Wharekauri/Rēkohu in 2019 and had further discussions with Ngāti Mutunga, Te Aitanga o ngā uri o Wharekauri, and Hokotehi Moriori Trust. As a result, two representatives were mandated by their organisations to participate in the second survey that took place in June 2019.



Tangaroa berthed in Wellington prior to sailing to the Chatham Rise

Representatives on Tangaroa ROBES Voyage 2019

Key to the success of the Tangaroa voyage was the opportunity for the ROBES team to work with tangata whenua uri/descendants **Apirana Daymond** representing Te Aitanga o ngā uri o Wharekauri, and **Cassidy Solomon** representing Hokotehi Moriori Trust.



Apirana working with the team on deck after the multi-corer has been retrieved



Cassidy sieving sediment samples

Throughout the voyage Apirana and Cassidy both contributed positively to the research aims of the ROBES project and were certainly very valued members of the team.



Apirana sieving sediment (left), Cassidy holding a stony coral sample collected in the beam trawl (right) and labelling samples (bottom image)



The success of Apirana and Cassidy’s participation in the second survey has helped us understand the value of working with tangata whenua. Successful relationships were formed and trust and confidence was built. Personal viewpoints and concerns for Wharekauri/Rēkohu were shared.

The NIWA team had pleasure getting to know and working with both Apirana and Cassidy and look forward to hearing more about their future plans.