



bluecradle



Fifth Annual Report 2025

Ripoata Tau Tuarima 2025

FYE 31 March 2025

Blue Cradle Foundation

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FIFTH YEAR OF OPERATION ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

The Blue Cradle Foundation is a non-profit organisation incorporated on June 4th, 2020, based in Ōtautahi/Christchurch. It is an Aotearoa New Zealand registered Charitable Trust #CC57834.

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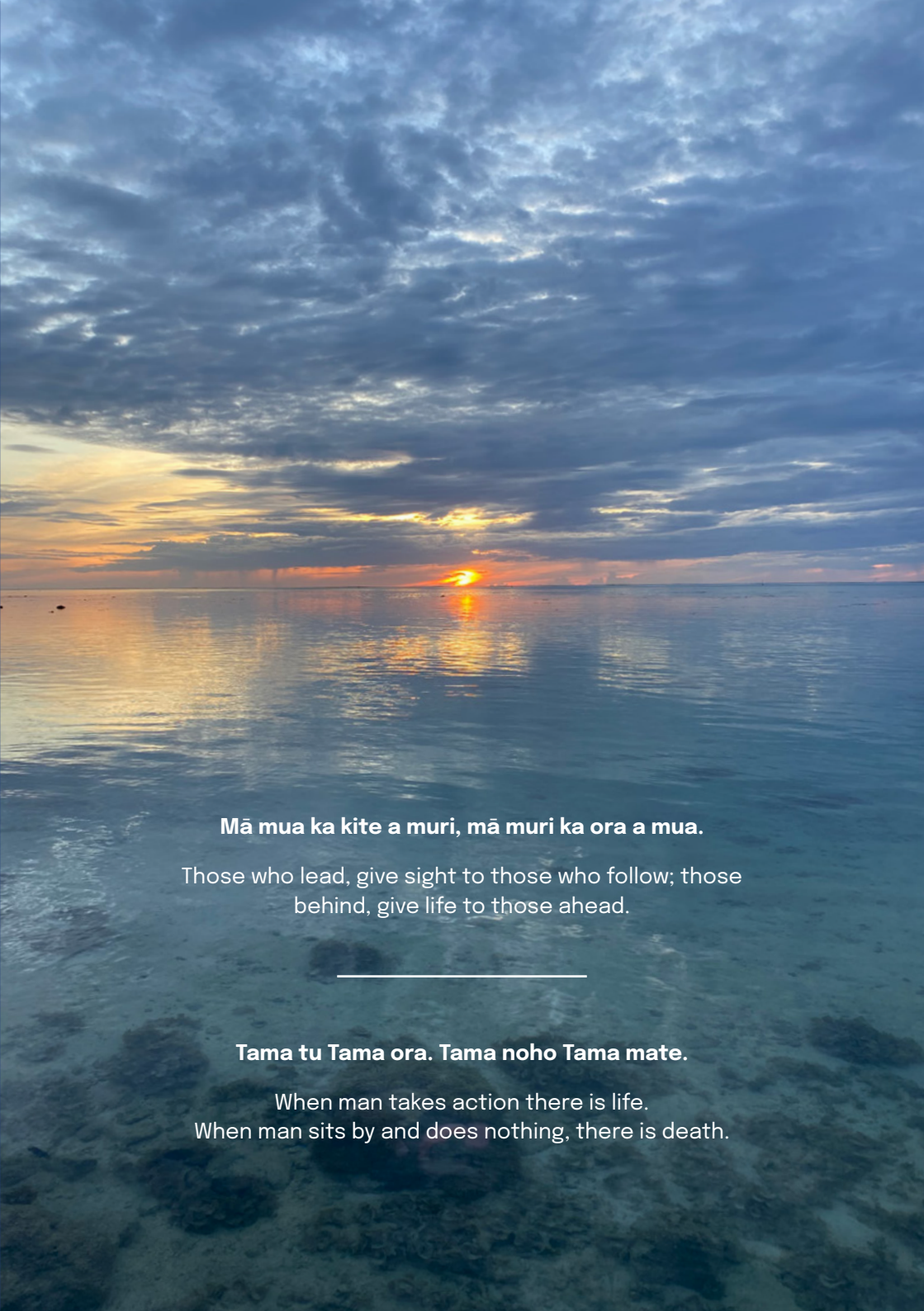
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The wheke (octopus) is a guiding Pacific metaphor for interconnectedness, with its many arms symbolising diverse pathways of knowledge and practice all linked to a central source. At Tiaki Moana, the wheke was used to map ideas and themes, showing how culture, science, and governance remain united. In Polynesian tradition, places like Taputapuātea in Ra'iātea and Mo'orea are considered centres of the wheke, the spiritual and ancestral heart from which navigation, knowledge, and kinship radiate across the Pacific. This imagery reminded participants that, like the wheke, communities are bound together through shared heritage, stewardship, and the ocean itself.

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright orange orb on the horizon, reflecting a golden path on the water. The sky is filled with layers of clouds, some dark and blue, others tinged with orange and yellow from the setting sun. The water in the foreground is a deep blue-green, with some darker patches visible beneath the surface.

Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua.

Those who lead, give sight to those who follow; those
behind, give life to those ahead.

Tama tu Tama ora. Tama noho Tama mate.

When man takes action there is life.
When man sits by and does nothing, there is death.

CEO's Message

He Kōrero nā te Tumuaki

Kia ora, bonjour, and warm Pacific greetings to all our friends, supporters, and ocean champions around the world.

It is with immense pride, courage, and gratitude that I present Blue Cradle's fifth annual report — a testament to what determination, relationships, and unwavering belief can achieve. This year was not simply our most ambitious to date; it was proof that even against the strongest tides, we can chart our own course and rise.

From the beginning, Blue Cradle was born out of necessity and hope — the hope that communities across Aotearoa and Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa could stand together to regenerate, protect, and love the ocean that sustains us. Five years on, that hope has solidified into a movement. What we have built is not fragile — it is courageous, resilient, and purposeful.

This past year, Tiaki Moana stood as a beacon of what is possible when the Pacific leads. With over 180 participants from 35 countries, it was more than a summit or a gathering; it was a declaration. A declaration that Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, community action, and youth leadership can come together to forge a new path for ocean governance. It was a victory — one earned through perseverance, trust, and thousands of moments of shared humanity. And it has already begun shaping policy, strengthening partnerships, and inspiring the next generation of guardians.

But Tiaki Moana was not an exception — it was an affirmation. Across every programme, every school, every community we have engaged with this year, we have seen the same message reflected back at us: the future belongs to those who believe in it enough to fight for it.

We are operating in a time when political and funding landscapes are shifting fast. Yet it is precisely in such times that organisations rooted in purpose must stand even stronger. Blue Cradle's role is clear: to serve our communities, elevate regional

leadership, honour the ocean, and deliver outcomes that are both tangible and transformative.

We are not stepping back. We are stepping forward — with confidence, clarity, and conviction.

What fuels us is not only science, strategy, or policy, but something deeper: relationships, love for place, and the bonds that hold communities together. These relationships — across iwi, partners, schools, governments, researchers, and families — are our anchor and our propulsion. They have carried us through challenges, and they will continue to drive us into the years ahead.

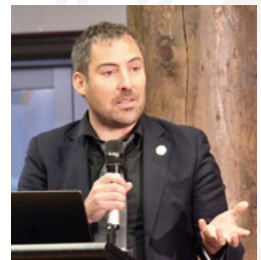
To our funders, partners, volunteers, participants, and supporters: thank you. Your belief has beaten every odd, opened every door, and helped shape a legacy we are only beginning to understand. Everything we have achieved has been because of you — and everything we will achieve next will be because we continue this journey together.

The horizon ahead is bright, bold, and full of possibility. Blue Cradle is stronger than ever — and together, we will continue forging pathways, empowering communities, and protecting the ocean we love.

Mauri ora,

James Nikitine

CEO & Founder, Blue Cradle Foundation



Chair Message

He Kōrero nā te Heamana

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present this Annual Report as Chair of the Blue Cradle Foundation, reflecting on a year defined by powerful partnerships and shared achievements.

The past year has truly demonstrated the strength of collaboration in driving ocean regeneration and community-led solutions. While we jointly navigate the ongoing challenges of escalating ocean temperatures and shifts in policy, our collective resolve has only strengthened. Our commitment to working hand-in-hand with local communities and supporting Indigenous-led solutions remains at the core of all we do.

A monumental achievement, born from deep collaboration, was the Tiaki Moana: Guardians of the Ocean Summit in French Polynesia. This gathering united over 180 participants from across 25 Pacific nations – including Indigenous leaders, scientists, government representatives, and youth – creating a powerful, bottom-up movement. Together, we advanced the understanding and application of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

Our presence and active participation on the global stage were significantly amplified through joint efforts. We directly contributed to crucial discussions at the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum in Fiji, the One Ocean Science Congress, and the 3rd UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, as well as the Blue Economy and Finance Forum in Monaco. These engagements were vital in ensuring that Aotearoa's voice and Pacific wisdom collectively shaped international policy and conservation efforts.

Domestically, we continued to expand our reach and impact, always in partnership. The Blue Talks series in Ōtautahi and Tāmaki Makaurau, co-hosted with the Embassy of France, Diplosphere, and Marine Communications, fostered critical dialogue on ocean science, Indigenous knowledge, and the blue economy. Our inaugural

World Ocean Day event, supported by the Christchurch Art Gallery, City Council, and Rātā Foundation, connected global themes with local audiences. We were honoured to contribute to the Whakaraupō Moana Programme with Untouched World Charitable Trust, empowering rangatahi through place-based learning. Significant progress was also made on our Ocean Literacy Curriculum, developed with the input of educators and communities, and we successfully completed the Penguin Virtual Project in partnership with Technology Education New Zealand (TENZ) and Helps Pōhau Conservation Trust.

To underpin this growth, we have collectively strengthened our governance structures and procedures, ensuring our organisation is robust and resilient for the future. The unwavering dedication and diverse expertise of our Board, our passionate team, and our many collaborators have been instrumental in achieving these milestones.

To all our partners, funders, volunteers, and the communities who entrust us with their mahi: thank you. Your belief, active participation, and shared commitment are the bedrock of our success. Together, we are not just protecting our oceans; we are co-creating a deeper connection to them and ensuring a thriving future for all.

Ngā mihi

Sam Rowland

Chair, Blue Cradle Foundation



Our Board of Trustees

Ngā Kaitiaki i te Poari



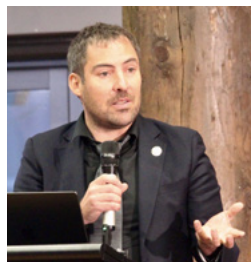
Sam Rowland **CHAIR**

Throughout her career, Sam has seen some of New Zealand's most remote landscapes and worked with many of our rare and threatened species. With a background in ecology, biodiversity investment, science communications, and strategy, she currently spends her time working at both a grassroots community level and at a national systemic level to create positive nature outcomes for Aotearoa New Zealand. Alongside this, she is co-chair of a Tairāwhiti based conservation organisation, Eastern Whio Link. They deliver over 30,000ha of sustained predator control for whio and kiwi, while delivering bush and conservation skills programmes. Sam lives in Tūranganui-a-Kiwa/Gisborne and is surrounded by beautiful East Coast beaches. When not working for nature, she is out in nature. You can find her surfing, looking for plants, collecting rocks or hiking.



Rasmika Maharaj **TRUSTEE**

Rasmika has more than 18 years' experience in the finance and legal industries and has the skill and knowledge to help individuals and charitable trusts build financial resilience to ensure long term sustainability. She is a qualified Financial Adviser, currently working at Craigs Investment Partners and is also a qualified solicitor and barrister of the High Court of New Zealand. Being brought up near the ocean in her home in South Africa, she is passionate about making sure that we are all aware and educated about all marine life and committed to doing what we need to, to ensure its survival. As a board member and a friend of the ocean, she hopes to contribute by calling on her knowledge of endowment funds, strategy, and charitable trust experience, to help ensure that the organisation grows from strength to strength.



James Nikitine **TRUSTEE**

James grew up on the shores of Lake Léman, in France. Of Russian and British descent, he spent his early years between the Mediterranean, the English Channel and Geneva/the French Alps, a place he still calls home. Influenced by the films of Luc Besson and James Cameron, he studied film then worked in dive tourism. He holds a Masters of Science in Marine Systems and Policies from the University of Edinburgh (UK), and a Bachelor of Arts in European Film and World Cinemas from the University of Exeter (UK). He is a PhD researcher in extended reality (XR) in the field of marine conservation.

As a marine scientist, consultant and filmmaker, his work in the last decade has been to communicate marine science and policy issues, working with the French & UK governments, the International Union for Conservation of Nature as well as non-for-profits e.g. Pew or WWF. He founded Blue Cradle during the Covid-19 lockdown in April-June 2020.



Jocelyn Papprill **TRUSTEE**

Jocelyn is a retired educator passionate about te taiao, sustainability and community. During her time as an educator for sustainability at Environment Canterbury she was an active advocate for youth voices within the civic environment. Prior to working for the regional council she worked as a Social Sciences teacher for 25 years and was heavily involved in the development of the 2007 NZ Curriculum and the creation of the Education for Sustainability achievement standards for NCEA.

Currently she is chairperson of the Christchurch Envirohub, coordinator of the local NZAEE branch and continues to contract as a facilitator for the Untouched World Foundation. She also volunteers weekly at the community garden and monthly at the McCormacks Bay Restoration project alongside giving time to numerous other environmental or community focused activities. In short, retirement certainly doesn't mean lying down!!

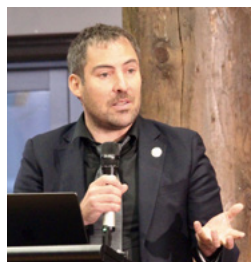


Matt Bateman **TRUSTEE**

Ngāti Waewae, Kai Tahu, Matt has 17 years of experience as Burnside Primary School Principal. Matt is passionate about environmental education, life, learning, family and adventure. Since early 2023, Matt has been supporting the development of Blue Cradle's Ocean Literacy curriculum and Blue Schools Network. Through his knowledge of Māori and Pasifika culture, and his expertise in teaching and learning, Matt is committed to bringing opportunities for young people in Christchurch and beyond, merging STEM with humanities, special field trips, all in a unique Oceania narrative centred around Pacific history and legacy.

Our Team

Tō Mātou Tīma



James Nikitine - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James is a French/British citizen from the French Alps region. As Founder of Blue Cradle in 2020, James is the main driving force behind the nonprofit. From administration, to accounting, branding, strategy, legal, communications and fundraising, James is responsible for all daily management aspects of the Foundation. He has extensive experience working in the nonprofit sectors in Geneva and Oxford, in peace-building and sustainability related organisations. He holds an MSc in Marine Systems and Policies from the University of Edinburgh, a BA in Film from the University of Exeter and is undertaking a part-time PhD at the University of Canterbury in immersive technologies.



Christina Eggers - IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY LEAD (VOLUNTEER)

Christina, a Kiwi raised on the stunning beaches of Queensland, Australia, is the co-founder of an award-winning charity dedicated to supporting mothers with sick children. Her impactful work has earned her several accolades, including the Westfield Local Heroes Award and the Christchurch City Council Emerging Leader Award. Passionate about fostering community connections and turning ambitious dreams into reality, Christina is currently pursuing her studies in Event Management part-time. She is also a proud mother of two wonderful children. In her spare time, Christina enjoys hiking, cooking, writing, and cherishing the company of great friends. Christina is thrilled to be a part of the Blue Cradle team, and is eager to contribute to Blue Cradle's vital missions



Tuialepa Tumama Tu'ulua - YOUNG PACIFIC LEADERS COORDINATOR

Tumama is an expert events and projects manager and has delivered several projects, working for and with the Pacific community. With a background in student support in tertiary and secondary education, he has vast service delivery and development experience. He is passionate about working with people and ensuring that people, whanau, and community are at the centre of all we do, especially the solutions created for them



Kalameli Tu'ulua - YOUNG PACIFIC LEADERS COORDINATOR

Meli brings 9 years of experience in the travel industry, with a deep expertise in the airline sector. She combines strong leadership skills with a proven track record in project management and holds a Master's in Business. As a proud daughter of the Pacific, Meli is passionate about creating inclusive, welcoming environments where people can truly be themselves, with a strong focus on hospitality.



Cécile Berthe - PROJECT COORDINATOR (TAHITI)

As a scientific mediator for over 10 years, I organise scientific and/or artistic events (seminars, exhibitions, contests, conferences, workshops) to promote a better understanding of coral reefs, these incredible yet fragile ecosystems. I previously worked with Blue Cradle and found myself in line with its objectives. I am thrilled to contribute to its mission of fostering sustainable and equitable marine ecosystems through research, education, and collaboration. I am particularly drawn to its commitment to addressing the most pressing challenges facing our oceans through a combination of science and community engagement.



Phillipe Gerbeaux - VOLUNTEER ADVISOR

Philippe has been a key member of central government programmes to effectively protect, manage and monitor New Zealand wetlands. He has served on technical advisory groups, science advisory panels and was the Oceania representative on the Science and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention for two terms. He chaired the steering committee for the organisation of the 11th INTECOL Wetlands Conference held in Christchurch in October 2021. He also played a central role in setting up the IUCN Regional Office for Oceania in Suva, Fiji where between 2006 and 2009, he was seconded as Chief Technical Advisor. Since 1983, he has regularly been involved in surveys of freshwater fauna throughout the Pacific Islands in collaboration with the Paris-based French National Natural History Museum. Before joining the Department of Conservation in 1995, Philippe worked for DSIR Hydrology Centre and NIWA (as a periphyton ecologist). He has been a member of several professional organisations, including the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society, the French Ichthyological Society, and the Society of Wetland Scientists. He now chairs FAST!, France Aotearoa New Zealand Science and Technology association.



Katherine Short - **TIAKI MOANA REPORT LEAD**

Katherine has an international background in marine policy, conservation, ecosystem-based management, and sustainable seafood. She brings extensive experience in programme development and cross-sector collaboration, working with stakeholders across policy, science, Indigenous knowledge systems, multilateral agencies, and industry.

She spent nearly 17 years with WWF, leading global policy on ecosystem-based fisheries management and establishing WWF International's Market Transformation Initiative. She later completed a Master's in Marine Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services at Imperial College London before co-founding Terra Moana Ltd with Tony Craig, advising Moana New Zealand and contributing to multiple projects within the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge, including co-authoring the New Zealand Blue Economy Principles.

Katherine is now Principal and Director of F.L.O.W. Collaborative Ltd, focused on enabling a regenerative blue economy. She works with partners committed to restoring coastal habitats, advancing ocean health, and increasing investment in community-led marine regeneration.



Dan Hikuroa - **FOUNDING CULTURAL ADVISOR, TIAKI MOANA**

Dr Dan Hikuroa (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato-Tainui, Ngaati Whanaunga, Pākehā) is an Associate Professor in Māori Studies at Waipapa Taumata Rau – University of Auckland. With a PhD in Geology, his expertise spans Earth systems, Mātauranga Māori, climate change, natural hazards, rivers, and environmental management.

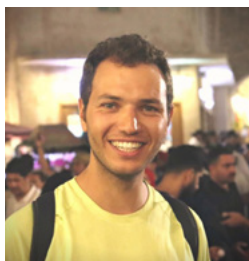
Dan works extensively with Māori communities using Kaupapa Māori approaches, contributing to projects in marine spatial planning, natural resource management, disaster risk reduction, catchment and river restoration, geothermal feasibility, industrial site rehabilitation, and iwi environmental planning. He has held roles in major initiatives including Te Awaroa – Voice of the River and the Māori-led blue economy programme Whai Rawa, Whai Mana, Whai Oranga.

He serves as Tumuaki Tuarua of Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taiao (EPA Māori Advisory), UNESCO New Zealand Commissioner for Culture, Co-Deputy Director of Public Engagement at Te Pūnaha Matatini, and sits on Pou Herenga (Climate Change Commission Māori Advisory) and the Pūniu River Care Board.



Maeva Gerbeaux - VOLUNTEER COMMUNICATIONS LEAD

Maeva is an undergraduate Marine Science student at the University of Waikato, Tauranga Moana. Having been raised by two nature-enthusiast French immigrants and surrounded by Te Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa, Maeva's passion for the ocean and all its living beings has deeply shaped her identity and pathway. Having seen many of the Pacific's underwater ecosystems first-hand, Maeva is committed to driving lasting ocean solutions through conservation science and creative communication. She is particularly passionate about using storytelling and media to inspire and drive meaningful change for our Moana. In her free time, Maeva enjoys being near, on, or under the ocean, running, exploring new places and cooking delicious plant based food.



Mehdi Balamissa - FILMMAKER

Mehdi Balamissa is a Franco-Moroccan filmmaker with a background in management from HEC Paris and documentary filmmaking from Université Paris Cité and the University of Southern California. He directed the short documentary *The Boss* (2019), which was acclaimed at over a dozen visual anthropology festivals worldwide. Mehdi also directed *Start Up for a Reason* (2022), an award-winning reportage on impact-driven entrepreneurship across four developing regions. His filmmaking practice focuses on addressing some of the most urgent social and environmental issues of our time. With a particular interest in marine conservation and literacy, Mehdi has been collaborating with the Blue Cradle Foundation on the editing of several documentary projects, including *Unwanted Passengers* (2023) and *The Ina'a: Protecting a Polynesian Treasure* (2023). He also recently directed *Tiaki Moana: Guardians of the Ocean* (2025).



Anthony Rohan - ACCOUNTANT

As a certified B-Corp, Fairground is passionate about supporting organisations who are making a positive social and environmental impact on the planet. It's an honour to support Blue Cradle's kaupapa with accounting services, especially with its focus on SDG 14 (Life Below Water) - which is so critical to a sustainable and flourishing future for all of the earth.



Erin Stewart - GRAPHIC DESIGNER

As a rock climber and trail runner I have developed a strong passion and love for the natural world and am honoured to support organisations like Blue Cradle in their mission to spread the word on ocean conservation and regeneration. Promoting education and awareness about conservation and sustainable practises is vital to building communities that are empowered to take action to protect their environments and encourage all to care for our unique flora and fauna.



Steven Moe - LAWYER

Steven Moe is a Partner at Parry Field Lawyers with a focus on “for purpose” organisations but his father is a marine biologist whose job meant Steven grew up by the ocean in Chile, the United States and New Zealand. That is why he was thrilled to help set up Blue Cradle as a charity – a full circle moment for him to see amazing work done to preserve the ocean that his childhood revolved around. He has worked as a lawyer for 23 years and hosts theseeds.nz which has a focus on people doing inspiring things which has 400+ episodes (including with James Nikitine) and another on governance for the Institute of Directors called Board Matters.



Sharon Wilson - VOLUNTEER

Sharon Wilson is a student at the University of Canterbury who, despite studying in a different field, has been involved in environmental and ocean conservation from a young age. Having grown up near the ocean and along the coast, she has developed a deep passion for marine protection. She contributes to conservation efforts in the Marlborough Sounds, leads beach audit surveys as a citizen science lead with Sustainable Coastlines, and actively advocates for greater awareness. Being part of Blue Cradle has been an honour for her, and she looks forward to continuing her involvement in the future.



About Us

Mō Mātou

A bridge for communities driving marine regeneration.

Our Mission is to advance equitable, effective ocean literacy and action through:

- » Blue Schools
- » Strategic Collaboration
- » Community-led MPAs & OECMs
- » Storytelling

Our goals:

- » Providing communities with the tools, knowledge, and skills to regenerate marine ecosystems and species across the Pacific.
- » Ensuring ocean literacy programmes are accessible to teachers & students, confidently moving forward and unlocking future potential.

Our legal constitutional goals

- » To promote the conservation and regeneration of the ocean's ecosystems and species.
- » To promote and support communities working on ocean health impact solutions in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.
- » To promote ocean literacy, marine science and conservation education and ocean science for sustainable development.

Blue Cradle is based in Ōtautahi/Christchurch, the country's second largest City in population, close to Whakaraupō/Lyttelton harbour, New Zealand's third largest port. We are lucky to call this region home, inside a marine mammal sanctuary, with unique marine biodiversity, and the gateway to Banks Peninsula, Te Pātaka-o-Rākaihautū/Horomaka.

Being based in the "garden City" in Canterbury, one of our goals is to give visibility to the coastal and marine environment, whilst celebrating Christchurch's unique coastal and offshore

features. We strive to grow relationships with the local marine communities, the port authority, the fishing industry, hapū and community groups, cultivating our sense of belonging, and supporting our ocean identity.

Our approach is grounded in close collaboration with local communities, institutions, Indigenous groups, NGOs, and other associations. We aim to ensure that ocean science and conservation are relevant, accessible, and impactful, while fostering greater ocean literacy across all levels of society.

Ocean Literacy Curriculum

Marau Mātauranga mō te Moana

In 2025, we continued to advance our vision for a national Blue Schools network – an ambitious initiative to embed ocean literacy across primary and secondary education in Aotearoa New Zealand. This year's focus was on refining our strategy, strengthening partnerships, and preparing the groundwork for an experiential pilot programme to be launched in Waitaha/Canterbury.

While this programme has not yet secured the full funding required to launch, we remain deeply committed to its realisation and are actively seeking key partners and supporters to help us bring it to life. The need and opportunity are clear: Aotearoa is uniquely positioned to become a leader in ocean education, and the time to act is now.

Why Ocean Literacy Matters More Than Ever

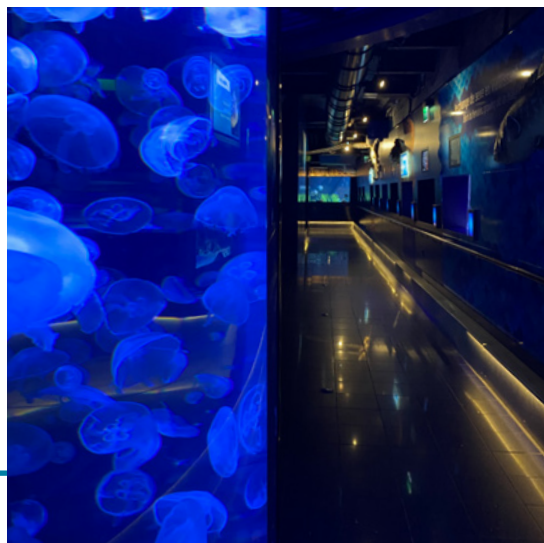
Ocean literacy is no longer optional. It is essential for tackling the planetary challenges of our time – from climate change and biodiversity loss to food security, ocean governance, and sustainable development. Around the world, there is growing recognition of the need for education that fosters deeper public understanding of marine ecosystems and their fundamental connection to our lives, economies, and cultures.

Aotearoa has a unique opportunity to lead this movement – not only through its scientific expertise and maritime heritage, but also by drawing upon its rich cultural and ancestral relationships with the ocean.

A Cultural and Scientific Bridge

At the heart of the Blue Schools initiative is the integration of Māori and Pasifika worldviews into ocean education. The programme draws from Te Moana Nui a Kiwa – the ancestral ocean that binds Pacific peoples – and recognises the ocean not just as an ecosystem, but as an ancestor, a highway, a provider, and a source of identity.

Our curriculum is being developed to weave mātauranga Māori and traditional Pasifika knowledge with contemporary marine science, offering students a culturally grounded, interdisciplinary approach to ocean literacy. This framework aims to foster pride, identity, and a deep sense of connection and responsibility among young people.



Progress in 2025

This year, we finalised the programme structure, drafted core learning modules, and developed a roadmap for implementation. Under the leadership of Matt Bateman, we have continued building momentum and engaging with schools, teachers, and curriculum specialists. Our design foregrounds hands-on, place-based learning, storytelling, field visits, and immersive technologies — all to inspire the next generation of ocean stewards.

We've secured strong expressions of interest from schools in Canterbury, and in-principle support from a growing network of partners, including:

- » – UNESCO NZ
- » – Moananui (Nelson's Blue Economy hub)
- » – Tertiary and academic institutions, CRIs and independent researchers

The Path Ahead

What we need now is the investment to activate this work. With the right support, we can launch a pilot programme in 2026 and use its impact as a blueprint to scale the initiative nationwide. We are actively seeking strategic funders, philanthropic partners, and public agencies to help us make this happen.

The Blue Schools network represents a generational opportunity — to transform education, elevate Indigenous knowledge, and inspire a culture of ocean care across Aotearoa and the wider Pacific. The vision is clear. The foundation is ready. The time is now.



Penguin Virtual Project

Kaupapa Mariko Kororā

In this last year, Blue Cradle successfully completed an innovative conservation education project focused on kororā (little blue penguins), developed in partnership with Technology Education New Zealand (TENZ) and the Helps Pōhatu Conservation Trust, and generously funded by the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust. The project aimed to increase awareness of the challenges facing these charismatic seabirds while creating engaging digital tools for learning and public outreach.

At the heart of the project is a Minecraft-based educational app, designed to immerse users — especially tamariki and rangatahi — in the world of little penguins. Through interactive gameplay, users can explore penguin habitats, learn about their life cycles and threats like predation and habitat loss, and engage in decision-making scenarios related to real-world conservation issues. This unique tool combines education and entertainment to foster empathy, knowledge, and action for penguin protection.

We are excited to announce that the app will be officially launched during Seaweed 2026 in Christchurch, with an interactive display and public engagement activities. The app is already being used by Pōhatu Penguins in Akaroa at their visitor centre and store, providing both locals and tourists with a fun, educational experience rooted in real-world conservation work.

As part of Blue Cradle's broader Ocean Literacy strategy, the app will also be integrated into the Blue Schools Network and made available to classrooms nationwide from 2026. This will allow students to engage with penguin conservation in an interactive way that aligns with curriculum learning and cultural perspectives.

This project builds on the long-standing efforts of the Helps Pōhatu Conservation Trust, whose work in penguin habitat restoration and predator control in the Banks Peninsula has been vital. By combining traditional conservation work with immersive technology, this project highlights how innovation, education, and partnership can come together to support marine biodiversity and inspire the next generation of ocean guardians. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who made this possible.



Whakaraupō moana / Untouched World

In May, Blue Cradle was honoured to contribute to the inaugural Whakaraupō Moana Programme, a new environmental education initiative led by Untouched World Foundation, focused on empowering rangatahi through place-based learning and marine stewardship in the Lyttelton Harbour/Whakaraupō area.



In 2023-24, Blue Cradle Founder and CEO James Nikitine was invited to work with the programme's designer to help shape its thematic direction and ensure alignment with broader ocean literacy goals. Whakaraupō Moana reflects shared values of connecting youth with marine ecosystems through experiential learning, storytelling, and cultural grounding. James continues to contribute to the programme each year.

Blue Cradle also had the privilege of presenting during the programme, with James delivering a keynote session about

the organisation's work across the Pacific, its focus on community-led conservation, and the importance of empowering young people to lead in the face of growing ocean challenges. The session was well received and sparked inspiring conversations among participants about the roles they can play as kaitiaki of their local moana.

Our involvement in Whakaraupō Moana builds on Blue Cradle's growing commitment to youth engagement as a central pillar of our mission. As we continue to develop the Blue Schools Network and expand our presence in marine education, we see strong potential in this partnership with Untouched World—especially in co-creating local-to-global learning journeys for youth that integrate science, policy, Indigenous knowledge, and climate action.

We look forward to supporting future editions of the programme and growing this collaboration to offer more opportunities for rangatahi across Waitaha and beyond to connect with the ocean and each other. Mauri moana, mauri ora.



World Ocean Day

Rā o Ngā Moana

On June 8th, 2024, Blue Cradle marked World Ocean Day with a special public event that brought together ocean advocates, scientists, students, and members of the community for an evening of film, conversation, and connection. Held at the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū, the event underscored our commitment to fostering public engagement and critical dialogue around ocean issues – especially at a time when marine ecosystems face increasing pressure.

The evening began with a cocktail reception in the gallery's foyer, offering guests a chance to network and connect over shared values for ocean conservation. This was followed by a screening of the powerful feature documentary *Deep Rising*, directed by Matthieu Rytz. The film explores the little-known but fast-emerging world of deep-sea mining and its geopolitical, environmental, and ethical implications – a topic increasingly central to the future of ocean governance and biodiversity.

Following the screening, we were honoured to host an exclusive online Q&A session with director Matthieu Rytz, who joined us live on Zoom (from London, UK) to discuss the making of the film, the challenges of uncovering such a complex global story, and the urgency of public awareness on issues unfolding beyond the ocean's surface.

The event was a resounding success, drawing a full house and stimulating meaningful discussions among attendees. It also served as an opportunity to connect World Ocean Day's global themes with regional audiences here in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

We extend our warm thanks to Matthieu Rytz, the Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch City Council, the Rātā Foundation, our speakers, volunteers, and all attendees who made the event possible. Events like these highlight the power of storytelling to inspire action and deepen our collective understanding of the ocean's role in our future.



Oceania Regional Conservation Forum Fiji

In September 2024, Blue Cradle participated for the first time as an official IUCN Member in the Fourth Oceania Regional Conservation Forum, held in Suva, Fiji. Organised every four years by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), this regional forum gathered over 150 participants from across the Pacific to shape collective conservation priorities and contribute to the IUCN global programme.



Represented by Chair Sam Rowland and CEO James Nikitine, Blue Cradle joined governments, NGOs, Indigenous leaders, research institutions, and community organisations from more than 20 countries and territories across Oceania. Participation in this event marked a major milestone for our organisation as a newly admitted IUCN Member and deepened our integration into regional conservation networks.



Throughout the week, Blue Cradle took part in technical discussions and thematic sessions on marine protection, climate resilience, biodiversity, environmental justice, and Indigenous-led stewardship. These conversations provided valuable insights into regional trends and policy alignment, especially around the 30×30 target. Other

Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and the Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This important gathering was key in building the support for Tiaki Moana a few months later.

We were proud to share our experience in ocean literacy, policy engagement, and Pacific partnerships during breakout sessions and networking events. The forum offered an important opportunity to connect with fellow IUCN Members and partners, explore collaboration on future projects, and prepare for upcoming events such as the UN Ocean Conference (Nice, 2025) and the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Abu Dhabi, 2025).

Blue Cradle extends its thanks to the IUCN Oceania Secretariat and the Government of Fiji for their generous hosting and leadership. Our participation in Suva reaffirmed our commitment to supporting Pacific-led conservation, amplifying Indigenous voices, and advancing collaborative, community-based solutions for the ocean.

Blue Talks II: Ōtautahi

Korero Kahurangi II: Ōtautahi

New Zealand Science for Ocean Action

On 20 November 2024, Blue Cradle co-hosted the second edition of Blue Talks Aotearoa at the Christchurch Town Hall, in partnership with the Embassy of France to New Zealand, Diplosphere, and Marine Communications. The event brought together scientists, Indigenous leaders, policymakers, and civil society representatives to explore how Aotearoa New Zealand can contribute to the upcoming 3rd UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3), to be held in Nice, France, in June 2025.

The morning opened with a mihi whakatau from Maaka Tau of Ngāi Tūāhuriri, setting the tone for a day grounded in respect, collaboration, and shared responsibility for the ocean. This was followed by opening remarks from Blue Cradle, the French Embassy (via video message from Ambassador Laurence Beau), and representatives from Christchurch City Council and regional partners.

Speakers throughout the event reflected on Aotearoa's unique positioning at the crossroads of the Pacific and Southern Oceans, and the opportunity this brings to

influence global marine policy. Dr François Houllier (IFREMER), Dr Geoffroy Lamarche (Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment), Craig Pauling (Environment Canterbury), and Professor Karen Scott (University of Canterbury) offered insights into science diplomacy, governance, and marine protection.

A strong focus was placed on the integration of Indigenous knowledge and values in ocean science and decision-making. Linda Faulkner of NIWA delivered a keynote on the role of traditional knowledge in global ocean frameworks, followed by a rich panel discussion featuring Professor John Reid, Associate Professor Joanne Ellis, and Professor Kura Paul-Burke.

Later, Professor Elizabeth McPherson spoke on climate justice, followed by contributions from Erin Bomati, Professor Steven Ratuva, and NIWA scientists Dr Kim Currie and Dr Jess Hillman. We thank all participants, collaborators, and supporters. Blue Talks 2 affirmed the growing momentum for New Zealand to help lead inclusive, science-informed ocean action on the global stage.



Blue Talks III: Tāmaki Makaurau

Korero Kahurangi II: Tāmaki Makaurau

Building a Sustainable and Regenerative Blue Economy

On 28 May 2025, Blue Cradle co-hosted the third edition of Blue Talks Aotearoa at Fale Pasifika, University of Auckland, in partnership with the Embassy of France to New Zealand and Diplosphere. This event focused on the blue economy, serving as a lead-in to the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) and the 3rd UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3), both taking place in June 2025 in Nice, France.

Held in the heart of Tāmaki Makaurau, the half-day event brought together leaders from across the Pacific, academia, government, and the private sector to explore how Aotearoa New Zealand can help shape a sustainable and inclusive ocean economy. The event began with a mihi by Michael Steedman, followed by opening remarks from Professor Frank Bloomfield (University of Auckland), French Ambassador Laurence Beau, and Minister for Oceans and Fisheries Hon. Shane Jones.

A keynote by Professor Nick Lewis set the stage for deeper discussion, followed by two focused roundtables. The first explored the sustainable management of marine living

resources, balancing ecological, economic, and social dimensions. Moderated by Marjan Van den Belt, the discussion featured Howard Reti (Mohimohi Moana), Jason Mika (University of Auckland), and Katherine Short (FLOW Collaborative).

The second roundtable turned to the role of ports in regional development and maritime connectivity. Moderated by Nick Lewis, it featured insights from Nigel Ironside (Ports of Auckland), Tom Irvine (Hauraki Gulf Forum), and Cerasela Stancu (EnviroStrat), addressing green infrastructure, emissions reduction, and community resilience.

Blue Talks 3 highlighted Aotearoa's opportunity to lead in shaping the future of the blue economy. We thank all contributors and especially Eric Soulier of the French Embassy in New Zealand, who enabled us to lead this final important dialogue on ocean finance, equity, and regeneration at UNOC3 and beyond. As this was our last collaboration, we are sad to see him leave Aotearoa and wish him and his family the best in his new role and life in a new country!



TIAKI MOANA

Pacific Wisdom and Community Action for Ocean Protection

In March 2025, more than 180 participants from 25 Pacific countries and territories—and 35 countries overall—gathered in French Polynesia for *Tiaki Moana: Guardians of the Ocean*, a Summit and Workshop hosted by Blue Cradle Foundation with the Government of French Polynesia, the Rāhui Center, and the communities of Teva I Uta, Mo'orea, and Ra'iātea.

The vision was ambitious yet simple: bring together Pacific peoples, Indigenous leaders, youth, scientists, government representatives, and civil society to collectively imagine the future of marine protection, grounded in culture, community, and justice.



A Pacific-led, bottom-up approach

Tiaki Moana was not conceived as another top-down conference, but rather as a participatory gathering. Its format ensured that all voices – particularly Indigenous communities and young leaders – were central to the dialogue. Supported by the US State Department's Young Pacific Leaders programme, 42 youth from across 22 Pacific nations joined, shaping the energy and direction of the event. Sessions were conducted in multiple languages, including Reo Tahiti, English, Te Reo Māori, and French, reflecting the linguistic and cultural diversity of the region.

The Summit opened at the Presidential Palace in Papeete, where President Moetai Brotherson reminded participants that Pacific peoples are not just droplets, but the ocean itself – with the power and responsibility to act as wise guardians for future generations. Keynotes from leaders such as 'Aulani Wilhelm (CEO of Nia Tero), Leituāla Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago (Regional Director, IUCN Oceania), and Sheridan Waitai (Ngāti Kuri, Te Ara Whānui Research Centre, Aotearoa) underscored the central role of Indigenous leadership, tikanga Māori, and culturally grounded stewardship in advancing conservation.

Exploring OECMs through a Pacific lens

At the heart of the workshop was a regional dialogue on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). While marine protected areas (MPAs) have long been the dominant tool in conservation, OECMs recognise a broader range of place-based practices that achieve positive biodiversity outcomes – including rāhui, bul, mātaítai, taiāpure, tapu/tabu, and Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs).

Participants acknowledged that OECMs could play a critical role in meeting the global "30x30" target under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. But for the Pacific, OECMs must be re-imagined: not as externally imposed categories, but as living, community-driven expressions of sovereignty and cultural continuity. In this spirit, participants playfully reframed OECMs as "Our Effective Conservation Measures."

Discussions highlighted that successful Pacific OECMs must be:

- » Community-based and voluntary rather than state-led.
- » Deeply rooted in ancestral knowledge and cultural practices.
- » Flexible, adaptive, and context-specific, not one-size-fits-all frameworks.
- » Legally recognised, ensuring access to resources and institutional support.
- » Inclusive of youth, women, and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

Voices of the Pacific

Panels showcased practical experiences from across the region. In Fiji, over 400 LMMAs form the backbone of community stewardship. In French Polynesia, rāhui systems blend traditional knowledge with scientific monitoring. In the Cook Islands, the Takitumu Conservation Area – the Pacific's first terrestrial OECM – restored populations of the rare Kākerōri flycatcher. From the Marshall Islands, efforts to protect 33% of nearshore marine areas demonstrated how communities can drive ambitious, adaptive conservation.

Throughout, challenges were acknowledged: balancing traditional fishing rights with commercial pressures, lack of legal recognition for customary systems, and sustaining long-term engagement and funding. Yet the message was clear: conservation succeeds when it is people-centred, culturally grounded, and community-led.



Innovative pathways and intergenerational learning

The Workshop, hosted at CRIOBE and Fare Natura on Mo'orea, adopted an "Unconference" format where participants proposed and shaped discussions themselves. Using the motif of the wheke (octopus), ideas were visually mapped to highlight interconnections between themes. The six tikanga (principles) guiding the event – consent, equitable voice, respect, active listening, time consciousness, and fun – created a safe, inclusive environment for dialogue.

Themes explored included:

- » Indigenous Knowledge and Leadership – asserting that re-indigenising marine governance is essential.
- » Existing Tools – emphasising hybrid approaches that blend traditional and Western systems.
- » Innovation and Sustainability – showcasing frameworks like "Weaving Oceania" and "Ridge to Reef" to restore land-sea connections.
- » Governance and Future Generations – calling for inclusive, transparent structures that empower youth as leaders today, not just tomorrow.

Young Pacific Leaders concluded by imagining the year 2035, when the Pacific had reclaimed cultural identity, overcome colonial legacies, and achieved 30x30 through Indigenous-led governance. Their vision offered both hope and a challenge: to become great ancestors for the generations to come.

Field immersion and cultural grounding

The closing days in Ra'iātea brought participants to Taputapuātea, the UNESCO World Heritage marae and cradle of Polynesian navigation. Standing on sacred ground, communities and delegates reflected on ancestral knowledge and

the sacred responsibility of guardianship. These field immersions were described by participants as transformative – reinforcing the inseparability of land, ocean, culture, and spirit.



Priority actions emerging from Tiaki Moana

The Summit & Workshop identified clear next steps for advancing Pacific stewardship and OECMs:

1. Centre local communities and indigenous leadership in OECM governance
2. Build genuine, participatory community engagement and trust
3. Recognise and legally support indigenous-led marine management systems
4. Develop and implement Pacific-specific OECM tools and innovations
5. Ensure inclusive, transparent, and culturally grounded governance structures
6. Reframe OECMs through a Pacific lens affirming sovereignty and cultural identity
7. Deliver sustainable and innovative financing mechanisms
8. Establish a regional peer-learning network and foster collaboration

A spark that continues to grow

Tiaki Moana was more than an event. It was a moment of connection, reflection, and collective purpose – a spark that has ignited an emerging movement. It showed that Pacific wisdom and community action are not only vital to the region but central to solving global biodiversity challenges.

By centring Indigenous knowledge, empowering youth, and weaving culture with science, Tiaki Moana laid the foundations for a regenerative ocean future. As Blue Cradle, we are deeply grateful to all participants, partners, funders, and communities – especially those of Teva I Uta, Mo'orea, and Ra'iātea – for their generosity and leadership.

The Pacific has spoken: OECMs must be our effective conservation measures, built from within, not imposed from outside. The

challenge now is to carry this momentum forward – to ensure that the wisdom, courage, and creativity of Tiaki Moana continue to shape ocean governance, in the Pacific and beyond.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Government of French Polynesia, the Rāhui Center, SPREP, IUCN, Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy, the U.S. Department of State's Young Pacific Leaders programme, the Fonds Pacifique, the CRILOBE, Fare Natura, and all of our partners, speakers, volunteers, and community hosts in Teva I Uta, Mo'orea, and Ra'iātea. Their generosity, knowledge, and leadership made Tiaki Moana possible. We especially thank the Young Pacific Leaders and the many Indigenous leaders, scientists, NGOs, and governments who came together to shape a collective vision for the ocean.



One Ocean Science Congress

Blue Cradle attended the One Ocean Science Congress in Nice, France, held just before the 3rd UN Ocean Conference. The Congress brought together scientists, policy-makers, Indigenous leaders, and civil society from around the world to share cutting-edge knowledge and build bridges between disciplines, cultures, and communities. For Aotearoa New Zealand, it was a vital moment to be present, connect, and contribute to global discussions on how science and Indigenous knowledge can jointly advance ocean stewardship.



We were proud to be part of a strong Aotearoa New Zealand delegation, including researchers from universities, Crown Research Institutes, and NGOs, whose work spans marine ecology, climate impacts, ocean governance, and Indigenous-led research. Their presence highlighted the depth and breadth of New Zealand's scientific community and the relevance of our experiences to global conversations.

Blue Cradle contributed directly under Theme 1: "Integrating knowledge systems, with a focus on responsibility and respect for the ocean." In a session attended by around 60 participants, we presented the outcomes of the Tiaki Moana Summit held earlier in March in French Polynesia. Our presentation highlighted how Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), rooted in Indigenous worldviews, can strengthen biodiversity outcomes while respecting cultural practices and sovereignty.

The session affirmed that integrating science with Indigenous and local knowledge is not only possible but essential for effective governance. Tiaki Moana's emphasis on partnership, equity, and intergenerational responsibility resonated strongly with international colleagues, reinforcing the Pacific's leadership in ocean protection.

Our participation ensured that Aotearoa's experiences and voices were part of shaping global ocean science dialogue—showing that knowledge integration is the pathway to collective responsibility and a healthier future for our ocean.



Blue Economy and Finance Forum

Blue Cradle participated in the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF), held in Monaco as a lead-up to the UN Ocean Conference. BEFF brought together national leaders, financial institutions, investors, philanthropists, and ocean innovators from over 100 countries to confront the massive funding shortfall for SDG 14—Life Below Water—across global ocean conservation efforts.



The forum emphasized that only around USD 30 billion has been mobilized for the maritime economy, whereas USD 175 billion per year is needed to transition toward sustainable, regenerative blue economies. Participants explored practical strategies—such as blended finance, debt-for-nature swaps, blue bonds, and biodiversity credits—to close this gap and reshape ocean conservation as both a public good and a viable economic investment.

Among BEFF's highlights was a side event on seaweed, featuring the launch of the Global Seaweed Coalition and efforts to scale seaweed as a high-value climate and livelihood solution.

Blue Cradle joined these global conversations, gaining fresh insights into financing models, investment pathways, and the central role of ocean health in climate resilience. We engaged with a wide range of stakeholders—from governments and

philanthropies to innovative blue startups—ensuring that Aotearoa's experience and advocacy for community, Indigenous-led, ecosystem-centered marine protection were part of ongoing blue economic dialogue.

By joining BEFF, Blue Cradle not only expanded its international networks but secured a stake in the emerging finance partnership for ocean solutions—a critical step toward scaling Pacific-centered ocean conservation.



UNOC3

The 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), held in Nice in June 2025, was one of the year's most significant moments for global ocean governance. Thousands of delegates from governments, NGOs, Indigenous communities, and youth movements gathered to advance commitments under SDG 14 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Blue Cradle was proud to contribute on several fronts. In the Green Zone, we hosted a panel discussion at "La Baleine," an immersive ocean space, where we presented outcomes of the Tiaki Moana Summit and facilitated dialogue on integrating Indigenous and scientific knowledge systems. The event drew strong participation and helped position Pacific leadership at the heart of the conference.

We also co-hosted an official UNOC3 side event at the Citadel of Villefranche-sur-Mer, where the Tiaki Moana documentary was screened, followed by a panel discussion alongside our partners at IUCN, SPREP, and Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy. This gathering amplified Pacific voices and highlighted the role of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in achieving 30x30.

Beyond our own events, Blue Cradle attended numerous high-level sessions, including the launch of the Protection Principle, co-authored by the late Rémi Parmentier, whose vision and leadership remain an enduring legacy for the global ocean community.

UNOC3 also provided the chance to connect with like-minded advocates and allies, including renowned oceanographer Sylvia A. Earle, and to show support for the Ocean Youth Manifesto, powerfully put forward by Aotearoa rangatahi, calling for intergenerational justice and urgent ocean action.

For Blue Cradle, UNOC3 was not only a moment of visibility but also a platform to strengthen partnerships, amplify Pacific-led solutions, and ensure Aotearoa's voices continue to resonate in global ocean governance.





NZMSS Blenheim

In July 2025, Blue Cradle was honoured to be invited by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO to contribute to the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society (NZMSS) Annual Conference, held in Blenheim. This prestigious gathering brought together scientists, researchers, practitioners, and community leaders from across the motu to share insights on marine science, conservation, and policy.

Blue Cradle presented jointly with Anna Campbell, CEO of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, in a session highlighting outcomes from the 3rd UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France. Together, we shared perspectives on Aotearoa New Zealand's participation and the opportunities and challenges it faces in global ocean governance. This collaboration underscored the value of civil society and NGO voices working alongside scientific organisations to strengthen the collective response to ocean challenges.

A central part of our contribution was presenting the outcomes of the Tiaki Moana Summit, which had convened earlier in the year in French Polynesia. Sharing this experience with New Zealand's marine science community allowed us to highlight the significance of Pacific-led conservation approaches, particularly around the role of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). By showcasing how community and Indigenous-led stewardship models can support the global 30x30 agenda, we contributed to discussions





about the intersection of science, culture, and governance in Aotearoa's marine policy future.

The conference also gave us the opportunity to reconnect with Dr Dan Hikuroa (University of Auckland) and Katherine Short (F.L.O.W. Collaborative), both of whom were co-authors of the Tiaki Moana outcomes report. Our reunion provided valuable space to reflect on how the report is being received regionally and internationally, and how its recommendations might inform national policy and community practice.

Beyond the formal sessions, NZMSS served as an invaluable space to connect with Aotearoa's wider marine science ecosystem. We engaged with researchers from universities, Crown Research Institutes, government agencies, and NGOs, strengthening partnerships that will be essential for the next phase of Blue Cradle's work. These conversations reaffirmed that tackling ocean challenges in Aotearoa



requires collaboration across disciplines and sectors, blending Indigenous knowledge with Western science, and ensuring that policy reflects both.

We would like to warmly thank the NZMSS organising committee, the UNESCO New Zealand team, and our fellow presenters and participants for their generosity and support. Their invitation allowed Blue Cradle to stand alongside some of the country's leading marine scientists, share Pacific perspectives on conservation, and strengthen our place within the national and international marine science community.

For Blue Cradle, being present in Blenheim was more than an academic exercise. It was a chance to bridge global insights with local realities, connect Tiaki Moana's Pacific kaupapa with Aotearoa's marine science networks, and strengthen the collaborative spirit needed to protect our ocean, now and for generations to come.

What's to come

Ngā mahi kei te Haere

Tiaki Moana Screenings

In late 2025, Blue Cradle will host a series of screenings of the Tiaki Moana documentary, sharing the story of Pacific-led ocean protection with audiences across Aotearoa New Zealand. The journey begins with a premiere at the University of Canterbury in Ōtautahi Christchurch in August, where the film will be presented alongside kōrero

and reflections from the summit. This will be followed by a screening in Auckland in partnership with FAST!, bringing together ocean advocates and community leaders from across the North Island. Later in the year, a Wellington screening will be held in collaboration with UNESCO NZ, connecting Tiaki Moana's vision with national policymakers, researchers, and civil society.



Seaweed Immersive Exhibition

For Seaweed 2026, Blue Cradle is planning a groundbreaking immersive experience designed to connect people more deeply to the ocean. We are preparing to host an exhibition that will feature a 7-metre diameter, 3-metre-high immersive projection room, allowing audiences to be surrounded by 360-degree visuals and soundscapes of the marine world. Inside this innovative space, visitors will be able to experience immersive films, interactive presentations, and educational sessions on a wide range

of ocean topics—from climate change and biodiversity to Indigenous knowledge and Pacific stewardship. This exhibition will also showcase Blue Cradle's unique approach to combining science, culture, and technology to create experiences that resonate emotionally as well as intellectually. Seaweed has always been a moment to highlight ocean awareness nationally, and with this new immersive format, we hope to make 2026 a particularly memorable and impactful edition.



World Ocean Day 2026

World Ocean Day has become a cornerstone of Blue Cradle's calendar, and 2026 will be no exception. In Ōtautahi Christchurch, we will host a programme of activities that builds on our tradition of bringing film, panel discussions, and workshops to the community. Plans are underway for a thought-provoking film screening followed by an engaging discussion with ocean experts, leaders, and young advocates. Blue Cradle's approach to World Ocean Day is to combine education, inspiration, and action—reminding communities that we are all ocean people, and that our choices have ripple effects across ecosystems and generations. This annual event is both a celebration and a call to action, ensuring that the global movement for ocean protection is felt locally, in Christchurch and beyond. As always, watch this space: World Ocean Day 2026 promises to be inspiring and energising.



The Next Chapter for Blue Cradle

Blue Cradle now enters a pivotal phase, building on five years of steady growth while preparing for our next stage of development. Looking ahead to 2026, we are developing the Blue Schools programme for Canterbury alongside a three-year strategy to expand this model across the region, strengthening future ocean literacy and long-term community engagement. At the regional level, we are advancing follow-up work from Tiaki Moana through Te Ara Moana, a multi-year programme designed to support Pacific partners with ocean governance, OECM pathways, monitoring, and collaboration. Alongside this, we are finalising a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of French Polynesia, which will anchor a sustained partnership in research, education, and policy.

Our focus remains firmly on strengthening relationships with key regional entities, including OPOC, SPREP, SPC, and IUCN, ensuring our work aligns with Pacific priorities and contributes meaningfully to collective efforts. We are also preparing to recruit a high-calibre Ambassador or Patron who can represent our mission, elevate our visibility, and support our long-term goals.

This next chapter is one of determination and optimism—continuing to build on what we have achieved, staying courageous and ambitious in the pursuit of 30×30, and forging pathways that look well beyond it. Blue Cradle will remain a trusted partner and catalyst for ocean protection, guided by purpose, hope, and the relationships that have carried us this far.



Our Supporters

Ngā Kaitautoko

FUNDERS



SPONSORS



THE BLUE CRADLE FOUNDATION IS A MEMBER OF



PARTNERS



SCIENCE PARTNERS







Financial Statements

Ngā Tauākī Pūtea

Blue Cradle Foundation

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Compilation Report to the Trustees of Blue Cradle Foundation.

Scope

On the basis of information provided and in accordance with Service Engagement Standard 2 Compilation of Financial Information, we have compiled the financial statements of Blue Cradle Foundation for the year ended 31 March 2025.

These statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Responsibilities

The Trustees are solely responsible for the information contained in this financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet your needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

The financial statements were prepared exclusively for your benefit. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the financial statements.

No Audit or Review Engagement Undertaken

Our procedures use accounting expertise to undertake the compilation of the financial statements from information you provided. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit or review engagement has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

Independence

We have no involvement with Blue Cradle Foundation other than for the preparation of financial statements and management reports and offering advice based on the financial information provided.

Disclaimer

We have compiled these financial statements based on information provided which has not been subject to an audit or review engagement. Accordingly, we do not accept any responsibility for the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the compiled financial information contained in the financial statements. Nor do we accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, including liability by reason of negligence, to any person for losses incurred as a result of placing reliance on this financial report.

Fairground Ltd

Dated: 12 November 2025

Blue Cradle Foundation

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Legal Name of Entity

Blue Cradle Foundation

Entity identifier

CC57834

Date of Incorporation

4 June 2020

Entity's Purpose or Mission

Operating for charitable purposes to promote ocean science and conservation education across Canterbury and beyond.

Entity Structure

Charitable Trust governed by trustees.

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services

Blue Cradle is heavily reliant on volunteers to support its operations and programme delivery. During the year ended 31 March 2025, volunteers contributed approximately 1000 hours across events, governance, communications, fundraising, and project support. This in-kind contribution significantly reduced operating costs and enabled Blue Cradle to deliver activities such as Tiaki Moana, documentary screenings, and community engagement programmes. Without this voluntary support, the charity would require substantially greater financial resources to maintain its current level of activity.

Physical Address

15 Westholme Street, Strowan, Christchurch, New Zealand, 8052

Postal Address

PO Box 21045, Christchurch Central, Christchurch, New Zealand, 8140

Trustees

Sam Rowland - Chairperson
Matt Bateman
James Nikitine
Rasmika Maharaj
Jocelyn Papprell

Bankers

BNZ

Accountants

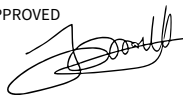
Fairground Ltd

Approval of Financial Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present the approved financial report including the historical financial statements of Blue Cradle Foundation for year ended 31 March 2025.

APPROVED



James Nikitine

Trustee

Date 25/11/25

Jocelyn Pappill

Trustee

Date



19 Nov
2025

Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Description of medium to long term objectives

Blue Cradle works to protect and regenerate the ocean by promoting conservation, ocean literacy, and community empowerment. In the short to medium term, we aim to raise public awareness, support Indigenous and local stewardship, and influence policy towards more holistic and sustainable marine governance.

Description and Quantification of the Entity's Activities

2025

Blue Cradle delivered the Tiaki Moana Summit in French Polynesia with over 200 participants from 35 countries, produced and screened the Tiaki Moana documentary in New Zealand, and advanced ocean literacy through school engagement and the Penguin Project educational app. We presented at major international forums including UNOC3, the One Ocean Science Congress, and BEFF, and published the Tiaki Moana Outcomes Report. Overall, we directly engaged around 1,000 people through events, 15 schools with 400 students, and strengthened partnerships with UNESCO, SPREP, IUCN, and other Pacific and international bodies.

2024

In its fourth year of operation, the Blue Cradle Foundation further consolidated its status as a significant marine NGO working in ocean regeneration and ocean literacy. With the addition of new Trustees, the appointment of a new Chair and Deputy Chair, its governance has been restructured effectively.

The Blue Cradle Foundation also became an IUCN member, the world's largest conservation union. This has boosted the organization's credibility and commitment to protecting marine ecosystems and species even more.

Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	NOTES	2025	2024
Revenue			
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	1	1,290	6,639
General grants	1	750,259	41,957
Government service delivery grants/contracts	1	5,000	15,000
Revenue from commercial activities	1	22,904	-
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	561	76
Other revenue	1	-	521
Total Revenue		780,014	64,193
Expenses			
Employee remuneration and other related expenses	2	259,834	43,502
Expenses related to commercial activities	2	371,888	14,379
Grants and donations made	2	100	10,000
Other expenses	2	259	-
Total Expenses		632,081	67,882
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		147,932	(3,688)

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	NOTES	31 MAR 2025	31 MAR 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and short-term deposits	3	147,035	10,385
Debtors and prepayments	3	17,826	2,786
Total Current Assets		164,862	13,171
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	2,852	-
Total Non-Current Assets		2,852	-
Total Assets		167,714	13,171
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	193	162
Deferred revenue	4	15,646	8,066
Other current liabilities	4	-	1,000
Total Current Liabilities		15,839	9,228
Total Liabilities		15,839	9,228
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		151,875	3,943
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses (or deficits)	6	151,875	3,943
Total Accumulated Funds		151,875	3,943

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

Depreciation Schedule

For the year ended 31 March 2025

NAME	COST	OPENING VALUE	PURCHASES	DEPRECIATION	CLOSING VALUE
Computer Equipment					
Apple MacBook Pro 14-inch	3,111	-	3,111	259	2,852
Total Computer Equipment	3,111	-	3,111	259	2,852
Total	3,111	-	3,111	259	2,852

These financial statements have been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Operating receipts		
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	1,290	6,639
General grants	757,839	25,000
Government service delivery grants/contracts	5,000	15,000
Gross sales from commercial activities	22,904	-
Interest or dividends received	561	76
GST received	6,029	6,254
Other cash received	-	521
Total Operating receipts	793,622	53,491
Operating payments		
Employee remuneration and other related payments	(456,840)	(47,500)
Payments related to commercial activities	(175,123)	(20,240)
GST paid	(21,090)	(4,326)
Total Operating payments	(653,054)	(72,067)
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	140,569	(18,576)
Cash Flows from Other Activities		
Receipts from other activities		
Repayments received on loans made to other parties	-	15,926
Receipts from other activities	193	-
Total Receipts from other activities	193	15,926
Payments from other activities		
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	(3,111)	-
Repayments paid on loans made to other parties	(1,000)	(12,426)
Total Payments from other activities	(4,111)	(12,426)
Total Cash Flows from Other Activities	(3,918)	3,500
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	136,651	(15,076)
Bank Accounts and Cash		
Opening cash	10,385	25,461
Net change in cash for period	136,651	(15,076)
Closing cash	147,035	10,385

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

Statement of Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Basis of Preparation

The entity is permitted by law to apply the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard issued by the External Reporting Board (XRB) and has elected to do so. A PBE may apply the standard if it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses less than or equal to \$5,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Revenue

Revenue is recorded based on the stage of completion of the service at balance date.

General funding received from government, grants or capital grants are recognised as revenue when the funds are received if there are no documented expectations over use.

If funding is subject to documented expectations over use, the funds are initially recorded as deferred revenue. As the documented expectations over use are met, the deferred revenue is reduced, and revenue is recorded.

Donations, koha, bequests and other fundraising revenue with no documented expectations over use are recognised as revenue when cash is received.

Donations, koha, bequests and other fundraising revenue with documented expectations are initially recorded as deferred revenue. As the documented expectations over use are met the deferred revenue balance is reduced and revenue is recorded.

Interest revenue is recognised as it is earned during the year. Dividend revenue is recognised when the dividend is declared.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The entity is registered for GST. All amounts are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST) except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

Income Tax

Blue Cradle Foundation is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Changes in Accounting Policies

The entity has applied the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard for the first time this year. This new Standard, when applied, supersedes the previous version of this standard *Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Not-for-profit)*.

As a result of the first-time application of this standard, changes were required to revenue recognition, because of the change from accounting based on use or return conditions to accounting based on documented expectations over use.

Some aggregation changes to items in the statement of financial performance were required on first time application of the Tier 3 (NFP) standard. Comparative amounts have been presented in accordance with the requirements of this standard.

There have been no other changes in accounting policies since the date of the last Performance Report.

Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
1. Analysis of Revenue		
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities		
Donations Received	1,290	6,639
Total Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	1,290	6,639
General grants		
Grants Received	750,259	41,957
Total General grants	750,259	41,957
Government service delivery grants/contracts		
Grants Received (Government)	5,000	15,000
Total Government service delivery grants/contracts	5,000	15,000
Revenue from commercial activities		
Ticket Sales	22,904	-
Total Revenue from commercial activities	22,904	-
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		
Interest Income	561	76
Total Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	561	76
Other revenue		
Other Revenue	-	521
Total Other revenue	-	521
	2025	2024

2. Analysis of Expenses

Employee remuneration and other related expenses		
Subcontractors	259,834	43,502
Total Employee remuneration and other related expenses	259,834	43,502
Expenses related to commercial activities		
Catering & Entertainment	124,094	1,728
Conference Expenses	5,495	2,434
Consulting & Accounting	2,016	1,695
Equipment Hire	633	1,217
Film Production Expenses	12,607	-
General Expenses	3,567	-
Materials	3,432	-
Merchandise Purchases	12,652	828
Office Expenses	3,241	2,109
Travel	203,710	3,998
Website Expenses	442	370
Total Expenses related to commercial activities	371,888	14,379

	2025	2024
Grants and donations made		
Donation Expenses	100	10,000
Total Grants and donations made	100	10,000
Other expenses		
Depreciation	259	-
Total Other expenses	259	-
	2025	2024

3. Analysis of Assets

Cash and short-term deposits		
BNZ -05 Account	15,000	-
BNZ Account	116,390	2,319
BNZ Fonds Pacific Goby Account	-	5,566
BNZ Penguins Account	-	2,500
BNZ Tiaki Moana Report Account	13,284	-
BNZ YPL Tiaki Moana Account	2,361	-
Total Cash and short-term deposits	147,035	10,385
Debtors and prepayments		
GST	17,826	2,786
Total Debtors and prepayments	17,826	2,786
	2025	2024

4. Analysis of Liabilities

Creditors and accrued expenses		
Sundry Creditors	193	162
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	193	162
Deferred revenue		
Unspent Funding	15,646	8,066
Total Deferred revenue	15,646	8,066
Other current liabilities		
Loan - Trustees	-	1,000
Total Other current liabilities	-	1,000

	2025	2024
5. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Furniture and Fittings		
Purchases	3,111	-
Depreciation	(259)	-
Total Furniture and Fittings	2,852	-
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	2,852	-
	2025	2024

6. Accumulated Funds

Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)		
Opening Balance	3,943	7,631
Current year earnings	147,932	(3,688)
Total Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	151,875	3,943
Total Accumulated Funds	151,875	3,943

7. Commitments

There are no commitments as at 31 March 2025 (Last year - nil).

	2025	2024
8. Deferred Revenue: Unused Significant Donations, Grants, Bequests and Pledges with Expectations over Use		
Tiaki Moana	15,646	-
Fond Pacific Goby & Penguins	-	8,066
Total Deferred Revenue: Unused Significant Donations, Grants, Bequests and Pledges with Expectations over Use	15,646	8,066
	2025	2024

9. Related Party Transactions

Payables		
James Nikitine - Trustee	-	1,000
Total Payables	-	1,000
Purchases		
Marine Communications	59,000	18,000
Total Purchases	59,000	18,000

Marine Communications is the consulting business of James Nikitine, who is a trustee.

10. Events After the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report (Last year - nil).


11. Ability to Continue Operating


The entity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.




bluecradle

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