

bluecradle

IUCN Member

Sixth Annual Report 2026
Ripoata ā-Tau Tuaono 2026

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Blue Cradle Foundation

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE SIXTH YEAR OF OPERATION ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

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.

This Annual Report was presented to the Board Meeting of the Blue Cradle Foundation held by video conference in October 2026.

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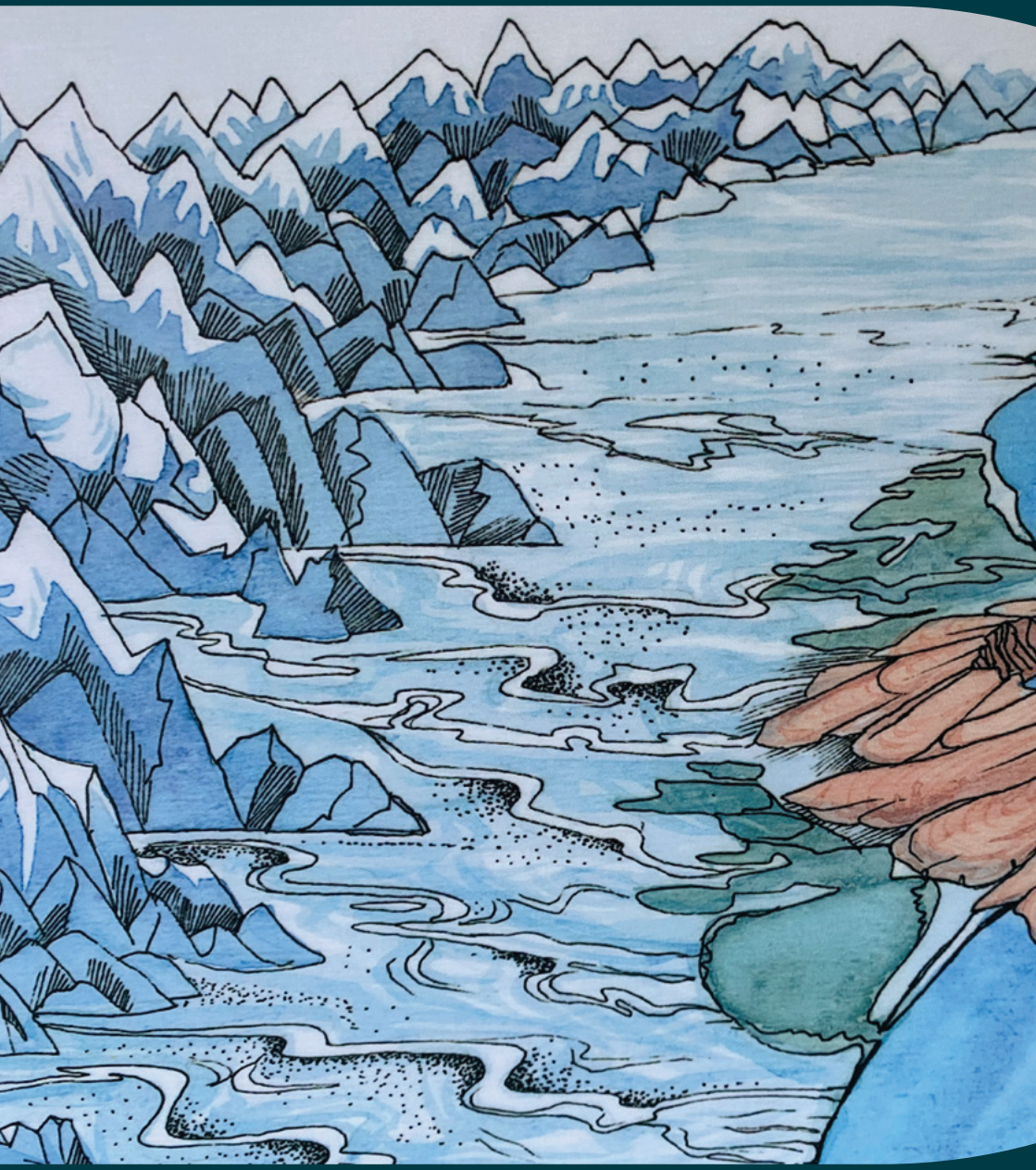
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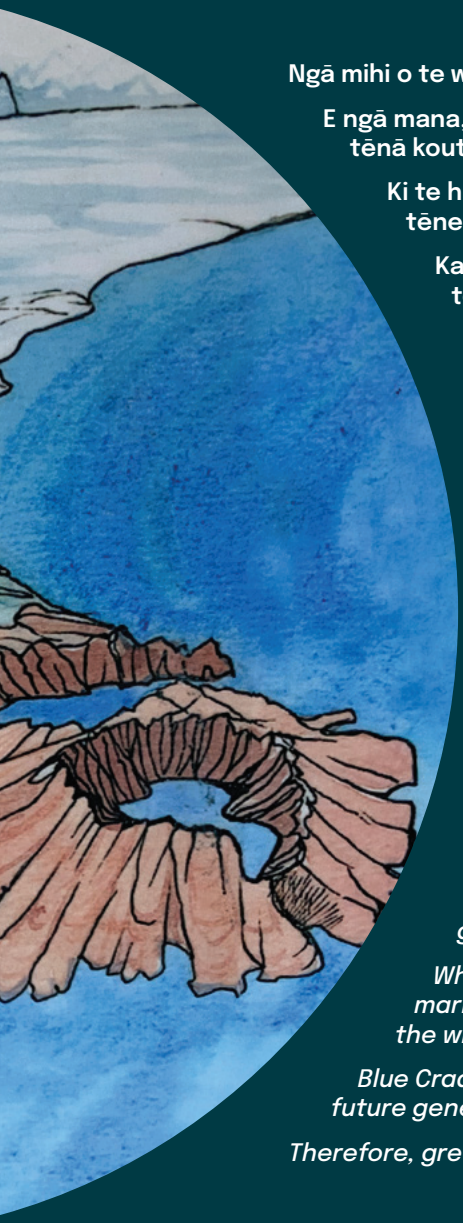
Toituu te marae a Taane-Mahuta,

Toituu te marae a Tangaroa, Toituu te Tangata.

Human health and survival depends directly on the health of our natural environment



Quail Island Quarantine Barracks - Department of Conservation



Ngā mihi o te wā ki a koutou katoa.

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karangatanga maha, tēnā koutou.

Ki te hunga kua huihui mai nei ki te tautoko i tēnei kaupapa whakahirahira, tēnā koutou.

Ka mihi hoki ki a Blue Cradle, ngā kaitiaki o te moana.

E mahi ana koutou ki te manaaki, ki te whakaora i te taiao moana, mai i Ōtautahi ki te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

He puna mātauranga koutou hei whakaako i ngā uri whakatupu.

Nā reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

Greetings to you all for this time.

To all authorities, all voices, and many affiliations, greetings.

To everyone engaged here to support this important environmental work, greetings.

We acknowledge Blue Cradle, the guardians of the ocean.

Who work to care for and restore the marine environment, from Christchurch to the wider Pacific.

Blue Cradle is a spring of knowledge, educating future generations.

Therefore, greetings, greetings, greetings to you all.

Founder's Message
He Kōrero nā te Tumuaki

Kia ora, bonjour, and greetings from Aotearoa to our Blue Cradle whānau, partners, supporters, and ocean champions across the Pacific and beyond.

This year marks another important chapter for Blue Cradle — one shaped by gratitude, consolidation, and a renewed sense of purpose about where we can make the greatest difference.

First, I want to acknowledge Sam Rowland for her support, friendship, and leadership over the years. Sam has helped steer Blue Cradle in the right direction at important moments in our journey, and we are deeply grateful for everything she has contributed. We wish her every success as she takes on her new role as Chief Executive of Forest & Bird.

I also want to thank all of our funders and supporters who continue to believe in our work, and in particular the Tait Foundation for its support of our next phase. Organisations like ours exist because people and institutions are willing to invest not only in projects, but in ideas, relationships, and long-term change.

As we look back on what we have achieved and ahead to what comes next, education has always been — and is increasingly becoming — a central part of Blue Cradle's mission.

Our Blue Schools programme represents a major new strategic milestone for the organisation. Grounded in the principles of Ocean Literacy, it is designed to help young people understand the ocean's influence on us, our influence on the ocean, and their own ability to shape its future. We believe meaningful ocean action begins with understanding, connection, curiosity, and a sense of responsibility — and schools are one of the most powerful places in which those foundations can be built.

At the same time, we remain immensely proud of what Blue Cradle has already achieved.

Tiaki Moana demonstrated what becomes possible when Indigenous knowledge, science, communities, governments, and ocean leaders from across the Pacific come together around a shared purpose. That momentum must continue. In particular, we see significant opportunities to



Hine Taiao carving, made by the pupils of Tuia Burnside Primary school

advance Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) across our region and to support approaches to ocean protection that recognise the leadership, knowledge, and stewardship already present within Pacific communities.

Looking further ahead, the prospect of IMPAC7 also presents an exciting opportunity. Blue Cradle has already experienced first-hand what a bid to host the International Marine Protected Areas Congress can generate in terms of relationships, ambition, and regional cooperation. As discussions about the next Congress develop, we invite our partners across Aotearoa, Australia, the Pacific and beyond to think boldly with us about what IMPAC7 could look like, and what we might achieve together.

None of this work happens without people.

To our contractors, educators, trustees, volunteers, collaborators, and supporters: thank you for your energy, expertise, patience, and belief in what Blue Cradle stands for. And a very warm welcome to Lisa, who joins us as our new Board Secretary and will help support the organisation through this next chapter.

Blue Cradle continues to evolve, but our purpose remains constant: connecting people with the ocean, strengthening communities, and helping create the conditions for lasting ocean stewardship.

There is much still to do — and much to look forward to.

Long live Blue Cradle, and long live Blue Schools!

Mauri ora,

James Nikitine

Founder, Blue Cradle Foundation



Our Board of Trustees
Ngā Kaitiaki i te Poari



James Nikitine FOUNDER

James Nikitine grew up on the shores of Lake Léman in France, with formative years spent between the Mediterranean, the English Channel, Geneva and the French Alps. Influenced early on by the films of Luc Besson and James Cameron, his interests have consistently brought together the ocean, storytelling, exploration, science and technology. He holds an MSc in Marine Systems and Policies from the University of Edinburgh and a BA in European Film and World Cinemas from the University of Exeter. He is currently completing a PhD focused on immersive experiences and ocean literacy. Over the past decade, James has worked across marine science, policy, communications and filmmaking with governments, IUCN, Pew, WWF and other organisations. Since March 2026, he works with Island Conservation, based in California, USA, where he is managing a €20 million Pacific Islands project focused on holistic island ecosystem management and invasive species. He founded Blue Cradle Foundation in 2020, and continues to lead the organisation, where his work centres on ocean literacy, marine conservation, education and international collaboration.



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.



Jocelyn Papprill TRUSTEE

Jocelyn Papprill is now retired but remains passionate about education for sustainability, civic engagement, and empowering young people to find their voice. After 25 years as a teacher, she 'jumped ship' to focus on developing educational opportunities beyond the school gate. She has facilitated various Untouched World Foundation programmes since 2005, and since 2019 has coordinated Speaking 4 the Planet, a speech and art competition for Christchurch schools. Beyond these roles, she generously gives her time to several environmental organisations and her local community association.



Rasmika Maharaj TRUSTEE

Rasmika has more than 20 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, having a MBA in strategy and a grad diploma in Psych, and now 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.

Joined us in July & October 2026 - a warm welcome to Philippe & Vicky!



Philippe Gerbeaux TRUSTEE

Philippe has been a key member of central government programmes to effectively protect, manage and monitor New Zealand wetlands over a 30 years long career. He has served on many 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 from the Department of Conservation (DOC) 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 DOC 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 (Honorary Life Member), the French Ichthyological Society, and the Society of Wetland Scientists. He is the immediate past chair person of FAST!, France Aotearoa Science Technology and Innovation Association.



Vicky Southworth TRUSTEE

With a geology degree and a Master of Water Resource Management, Vicky understands that to care for the sea we must also care for the land and act for our climate. She was elected to Canterbury Regional Council in 2019 and advocated over two terms for greater protection of the natural environment and to ensure environmental education for children providing experiences in the field. Her biggest wins were enabling 25 more schools and kindies to access environmental education with EnviroSchool support and securing $10M over 10 years for Christchurch/Banks Peninsula community-led agency-supported projects. She is looking forward to supporting the Blue Cradle team with its focus on the marine environment.

Our Team
Tō Mātou Tīma



Lisa Baty – GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Lisa has recently joined Blue Cradle in a voluntary role to support Governance and Operational delivery. Her experience includes office and operations management as well as a governance secretariat and advisor at an executive level. The majority of her roles have been in the public health, council-controlled organisations, and government sectors.

Lisa's interest in the role at Blue Cradle is to contribute and support positive change in areas of environmental protection and sustainability. She also holds a Trustee role, with Whakatane Kiwi Trust.



Sian Carvell – BLUE SCHOOLS CURRICULUM DESIGNER

Sian Carvell (Future Curious) has worked in the education and engagement sector for over 25 years, with the majority of that focused on the natural environment and climate change. This has included classroom teaching, working for local government, and more recently, as the Director of Future Curious. Since 2015, she has supported schools, business, NGOs, and local and central government to authentically engage with children and young people via resource development and facilitation.



Molly Gardner – BLUE SCHOOLS EDUCATOR

Molly has been a science educator for 20 years with focus on adult teaching in genetics and environment focus for youth. She is a magician when it comes to teacher and is an asset on our team!



Alicia Mallo – BLUE SCHOOLS COORDINATOR

Alicia has worked in marine science, outdoor education and guiding and not for profit management for 20 years around the Pacific in Hawaii, Australia, Alaska, Tonga and New Zealand. Alicia has a BSc in Marine Biology and minor in Scientific Diving from Humboldt State University, Northern California and the University of Hilo Hawaii and a Masters in Marine Ecology with First Class Honours and Post Grad Dip with Distinction from the University of Auckland. She contracts her organisation management services, through her business Ika Moana, to a few not for profits in Canterbury- with dedications to environment, sustainability, conservation, civil defence and community well-being and youth development.



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.



Tilly Harris - UC PACE PROGRAMME INTERN

Tilly's interest lies in social and environmental justice and equity, especially exploring the intersectionality of environmental issues. She is studying sustainability at the University of Canterbury and enjoys spending time in nature. Her experience with Blue Cradle thus far has inspired a passion for education and has encouraged her to pass on knowledge to younger tamariki, in hopes that they become interested in the natural environment and protecting our planet.



Annabel Pawson - UC PACE PROGRAMME INTERN

Annabel's passion is advocating for Te Taiao, whether through working with youth and communities around her, or providing care for Papatūānuku. She finds joy in exploring the outdoors through tramping, and the peace found on our local beaches. Her role with Blue Cradle has developed her teaching and communication while also putting her studies into practice. She is excited to encourage environmental protection and sustainability for the younger generations to come.



Emma Hunter - VIDEOGRAPHER

When I was five years old, I saw my very first film at the cinema. Disney's Aladdin. My love of visual and musical media was born at that moment. Then DVDs arrived on the scene and I discovered a treasure trove of behind the scenes videos of voice actors bringing the animation I loved to life. Ever since then I dreamt of being in that booth, wearing those headphones and making the characters come alive. Now I get to play with cool technology and make magic for others. I also get to wear the headphones and have voiced for different animated creatures. One day, I hope to do that at Disney or Pixar!

I'm a healthy mix of creative, technical and organisational talent which means I can make it look good, sound good and get it down on time.



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.



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, Aotearoa New Zealand's second largest city, close to Whakaraupō / Lyttelton Harbour and one of the country's major ports. We are privileged to call this region home — a place of distinctive coastal and marine biodiversity, within a marine mammal sanctuary and at the gateway to Banks Peninsula, Te Pātaka-o-Rākaihautū / Horomaka.

From the "Garden City", we work to bring greater visibility to the coastal and marine environment and to celebrate the unique places, species and communities that shape our ocean identity. We seek to strengthen relationships with local marine communities, mana whenua, the port, the fishing sector, educators, researchers and community groups, building a deeper sense of connection, stewardship and belonging.

Our approach is grounded in collaboration. We work alongside communities, institutions, Indigenous groups, NGOs and other organisations to make ocean science, education and conservation relevant, accessible and impactful. At the heart of this work is a commitment to strengthening ocean literacy and supporting people to understand, value and care for the ocean — locally, across Aotearoa New Zealand, and beyond.

Acknowledging our Outgoing Chair
He Mihi Whakamihi ki te Heamana Kua Wehe Atu

Thank you, Sam!

I first met Sam Rowland at an Edmund Hillary Fellowship gathering in late 2023. It quickly became clear that Sam brought something very special: a rare combination of strategic thinking, deep conservation experience, generosity, warmth, and an instinctive ability to bring people together.

At an important stage in Blue Cradle's development, Sam helped us strengthen, restructure and consolidate our Board, bringing greater clarity to our governance and organisational direction. She was elected Chair in June 2024 and has since played a central role in supporting the strategy, growth and resilience of the organisation.

Her contribution has extended far beyond governance. Sam represented Blue Cradle alongside us at the IUCN Oceania Regional Conservation Forum, co-led Tiaki Moana with me in Tahiti, and joined our delegation at the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, where we worked together across our official side events, speaking engagements and wider international programme. Through each of these moments, Sam brought not only leadership and professionalism, but an extraordinary ability to connect with people and build meaningful relationships.

People are, quite simply, Sam's jam. She understands that conservation ultimately depends on trust, relationships and communities, and she has consistently brought that philosophy into her work with Blue Cradle. Her passion for conservation is deeply personal too — grounded in her love for Tairāwhiti, for its people and landscapes, and, of course, for whio.



Sam has been an advocate, sounding board, strategist, colleague and friend. She has supported Blue Cradle through some of its most ambitious periods and has helped us remain focused on what matters most: our purpose, our people and the impact we want to create.

As Sam takes on her next chapter as Chief Executive of Forest & Bird, we are incredibly proud of her and excited to see the contribution she will continue to make to conservation in Aotearoa.

Sam is a remarkable conservation leader and a wonderful human being. Whatever comes next, she will always be part of the Blue Cradle family.

Thank you, Sam, for your leadership, your friendship, your belief in Blue Cradle, and for everything you have given to this organisation. With enormous gratitude, respect and love.

James & the BC team

Message & response from our outgoing Chair

As I step down as Chair of Blue Cradle, I do so with deep gratitude for the years we have shared.

It has been a privilege to help strengthen this organisation's governance and support its growth through this chapter, from the IUCN Oceania Regional Conservation Forum, to Tiaki Moana in Tahiti, to the UN Ocean Conference. Above all, I will carry with me the connections built across the ocean whānau throughout the Pacific; the relationships, shared purpose and collective hope forged in those moments will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you to James and the entire Blue Cradle team for your trust and partnership. I leave knowing this organisation is in strong hands, and I remain, always, part of the Blue Cradle family.

Sam Rowland





Membership Updates
Whakahoutanga Mematanga

Strengthening Our Networks: Aotearoa, Pacific and Global Partnerships

Collaboration has always been fundamental to the Blue Cradle Foundation. Ocean literacy and marine regeneration cannot be advanced by organisations working in isolation: they require relationships between communities, educators, scientists, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, governments and international institutions.

During 2026, we continued to strengthen Blue Cradle's participation in conservation and environmental education networks at the national, Pacific and international levels.

IUCN – Connecting Aotearoa with a Global Conservation Community

Blue Cradle has been an official Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since November 2023. IUCN brings together more than 1,500 government and civil society Member organisations from over 160 countries, creating one of the world's largest networks dedicated to nature conservation.

Our membership gives Blue Cradle an opportunity to contribute our experience in ocean literacy, marine conservation and Pacific collaboration to a much broader international community. It also connects our work with scientists, practitioners, NGOs and decision-makers addressing biodiversity and conservation challenges around the world.

In Aotearoa, we remain an active participant in the IUCN New Zealand National Committee, which brings together the country's IUCN Members. These include the Department of Conservation, New Zealand Conservation Authority, research organisations and environmental NGOs including WWF-New Zealand, Forest & Bird and ECO.

Participation in the Committee provides an important forum for maintaining relationships across the New Zealand conservation community and contributing to discussions around biodiversity, marine protection, Indigenous-led conservation and international environmental processes.

Our engagement with IUCN has also extended into the Pacific. Blue Cradle participated in the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum in Fiji and worked closely with the IUCN Oceania Regional Office through Tiaki Moana, including collaboration around the 2025 gathering in French Polynesia and subsequent engagement at the UN Ocean Conference in France.

These relationships reinforce an important principle of our work: while Blue Cradle is firmly grounded in Aotearoa New Zealand, the ecological and human systems we work within extend throughout Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa and beyond.

IUCN Member

Joining the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

A particularly important development in 2026 was Blue Cradle becoming a member of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT).

PIRT brings together intergovernmental agencies, NGOs and other organisations committed to supporting Pacific Island countries and territories in conserving and sustainably managing the region's biodiversity. Its membership includes organisations such as SPREP, the Pacific Community, IUCN Oceania, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, Conservation International, Island Conservation and the University of the South Pacific.

Joining this network represents an important step in Blue Cradle's long-term commitment to the Pacific.

Our contribution to PIRT is particularly focused on ocean literacy and community-led marine conservation. Through initiatives including Tiaki Moana, we have sought to create spaces where communities, Indigenous Peoples, scientists, governments and conservation practitioners can exchange knowledge and explore approaches to marine stewardship that reflect Pacific realities.

Membership provides an opportunity to learn from organisations with decades of experience across the region while contributing the perspectives and relationships Blue Cradle has developed through our own work.

It also strengthens the bridge between our programmes in Aotearoa — particularly ocean literacy and education — and our wider engagement across the Pacific.

ECO – Strengthening Our Connections Across Aotearoa

We also continue our membership of Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand (ECO), connecting Blue Cradle with the wider environmental NGO community across the country.

ECO provides an important collective space for environmental organisations working across biodiversity, conservation, climate and environmental policy. For a relatively young organisation such as Blue Cradle, participation in these established networks enables us to learn from organisations with long histories in environmental advocacy while contributing our own particular focus on ocean literacy, marine regeneration and Pacific engagement.

ECO is also represented alongside Blue Cradle within the IUCN New Zealand Committee, creating useful connections between our national and international conservation networks.

Continuing Our Membership of NZAEE

Education remains equally important to our network-building.

Blue Cradle continues to be part of the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE), connecting our work with educators and organisations delivering environmental learning throughout Aotearoa.

This relationship has become increasingly relevant as Blue Schools has moved from programme development into delivery. NZAEE provides a wider environmental education community within which we can share experiences, discover resources and connect with educators working across different environmental contexts.

Blue Cradle is listed as an environmental education provider for learners across multiple age groups, with our work encompassing marine and coastal environments, climate, biodiversity and sustainable living.

As Blue Schools develops, maintaining strong connections with the wider environmental education sector will help ensure that our approach remains collaborative and complements the excellent work already taking place throughout Aotearoa.

Stronger Together

Taken together, these memberships represent much more than logos on a website.

NZAEE and ECO connect us with educators and environmental organisations throughout Aotearoa. The IUCN New Zealand Committee connects that national work into the world's largest conservation network. PIRT places Blue Cradle within a community of organisations working collectively across the Pacific.

Each provides different knowledge, relationships and opportunities for collaboration.

As Blue Cradle grows, we want to continue acting as a bridge between these communities — connecting ocean education with conservation practice, local action with international experience, and Aotearoa with the wider Pacific.

Our participation in these networks reflects the same philosophy that underpins Blue Schools, Tiaki Moana and our broader work: meaningful and lasting ocean action is built through relationships, shared knowledge and collaboration.



Explorer Jean Louis Etienne in Christchurch
Kaiwhakatere Jean Louis Etienne ki Ōtautahi

Jean-Louis Etienne in Christchurch: Polar Exploration, Science and Ocean Stewardship

Blue Cradle Foundation began 2026 with a special international event, welcoming renowned French polar explorer, scientist and physician Jean-Louis Etienne to Christchurch for an evening dedicated to polar science, exploration and global ocean responsibility.

Held on 17 January at Naval Point Club in Lyttelton, the sold-out event was organised in partnership with Alliance Française de Christchurch and France Aotearoa Science Technology and Innovation (FAST!), bringing together a packed audience around a shared interest in Antarctica, the Southern Ocean and our changing climate.

The evening reflected the strong connections between France and Aotearoa New Zealand in polar research, ocean science and exploration. Philippe Gerbeaux, Chairman of FAST!, opened the programme by highlighting the importance of scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries. Sabrina Saunders welcomed guests on behalf of Naval Point Club, while Georgina Dawson delivered opening remarks on behalf of mana whenua, speaking about Ngāi Tahu's enduring relationship with the ocean and the importance of kaitiakitanga in protecting interconnected marine systems.

Isabelle Guitard, Director of Alliance Française de Christchurch, reflected on the importance of cultural exchange and sharing ideas across borders. Blue Cradle Founder and CEO James Nikitine then introduced the wider ocean context of the



evening, highlighting Antarctica's critical role in regulating the global climate and the inseparable relationship between the Southern Ocean and communities around the world. The event also coincided with the entry into force of the historic BBNJ Agreement, providing a timely reminder of the importance of international cooperation and marine protection.

Jean-Louis Etienne then took the audience on a journey through an extraordinary lifetime of polar exploration. Drawing on experiences ranging from expeditions to the North Pole and Greenland to decades of scientific work in Antarctica, he combined adventure, humour and personal stories with reflections on the profound environmental changes he has witnessed in the polar regions.

A major focus was his latest endeavour, Polar Pod — an innovative vertical research vessel designed to drift around Antarctica with the Antarctic Circumpolar Current. Rising approximately 75 metres above the ocean, Polar Pod is designed to host rotating scientific teams for up to three years, gathering data on ocean-atmosphere interactions, biodiversity and climate processes in one of the world's least understood and most influential marine environments.

The evening concluded with a lively audience Q&A exploring climate responsibility, international cooperation, scientific research and the future of the polar regions.

For Blue Cradle, Jean-Louis Etienne's visit represented more than an evening with one of the world's great explorers. It reflected many of the principles increasingly central to our work: ocean literacy, scientific curiosity, international collaboration and the power of storytelling to connect people with environments they may never experience directly.

From Antarctica and the Southern Ocean to the communities of Aotearoa and the Pacific, the evening reinforced a fundamental message: our ocean is one interconnected system, and understanding it is an essential first step towards protecting it.

L-R: Georgina Dawson, Ngāi Tahu; Philippe Gerbeaux, FAST! Chair; Explorer Jean-Louis Etienne; Sabrina Saunders, Naval Point Managing Director; Isabelle Guitard, Director of the Alliance Francaise; James Nikitine, Blue Cradle



Tiaki Moana Documentary
Te Muriata o Tiaki Moana

Tiaki Moana: Three Screenings Across Aotearoa New Zealand

Following the Tiaki Moana gathering in French Polynesia and the documentary's presentation internationally around the UN Ocean Conference in France, the second half of 2025 provided an opportunity to bring the film home to audiences across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Three screenings were held in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington between August and November, each hosted in partnership with organisations that have supported Blue Cradle Foundation's work in ocean science, education, conservation and Pacific engagement.

The screenings were more than opportunities to show a film. Each became a gathering in its own right, creating space for conversation around Pacific approaches to marine conservation, Indigenous and local knowledge, youth leadership, ocean literacy and the relationships that connect communities across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

Christchurch – 7 August 2025

The first New Zealand screening of Tiaki Moana took place in Christchurch on 7 August, in partnership with the University of Canterbury and the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies.

Bringing the documentary to Christchurch was particularly meaningful for Blue Cradle. Ōtautahi is our home and the place from which much of our work across Aotearoa and the Pacific is coordinated. The evening also provided an opportunity to connect Blue Cradle's Pacific work with the University of Canterbury community and the wider network of people engaged in Pacific research, conservation and ocean issues in Waitaha.

Professor Steven Ratuva, Director of the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, opened the event. His involvement helped situate the documentary within a broader Pacific context and reinforced the importance of ensuring that conversations about marine conservation recognise the histories, cultures, knowledge systems and aspirations of Pacific communities.



Christchurch screening, in partnership with the University of Canterbury and the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies.

Tumama Tu'ulua, Young Pacific Leaders Coordinator for Tiaki Moana once again did an excellent job as MC for the evening, guiding the audience through the programme and helping create the welcoming and conversational atmosphere that we hoped would characterise the New Zealand screenings.

At the centre of the evening was the Tiaki Moana documentary itself. Filmed in Tahiti, Mo'orea, and Ra'iatea, the film follows young Pacific participants and uses their experiences to explore the wider themes that emerged from the Tiaki Moana initiative: relationships with the ocean, community-led conservation, Indigenous knowledge, science, intergenerational learning and the role of young people in determining the future of the Pacific.

The Christchurch screening demonstrated how film can extend the life of a project. The gathering in French Polynesia had taken place months earlier and thousands of kilometres away, but the documentary allowed its people, conversations and emotions to enter a completely new setting and stimulate further discussion.

We are particularly grateful to the University of Canterbury, the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, Professor Steven Ratuva and Tumama Tu'ulua for helping make the first Aotearoa screening such a memorable occasion.

Auckland – 26 October 2025

The second screening took place in Auckland on 26 October as part of the FAST! Symposium.



This provided a different context for the documentary and another opportunity to introduce Tiaki Moana to people working across environmental science, conservation and related disciplines.

The Auckland screening continued the conversations that had begun in French Polynesia and Christchurch while connecting the project with another community of researchers and practitioners. Bringing the documentary into the Symposium also demonstrated the value of storytelling alongside scientific and technical discussion. Marine conservation is fundamentally informed by evidence, but decisions about the ocean also involve communities, values, culture, relationships and different ways of understanding place.

Tiaki Moana was created to make those human dimensions visible.

We extend a particular thank you to Dr Philippe Gerbeaux for his support in enabling the Auckland screening and for his continued contribution to Blue Cradle Foundation and its work. Opportunities such as this depend on individuals willing to make connections between organisations and create spaces in which different communities can meet.

The Auckland event represented another step in building a wider audience for Tiaki Moana in Aotearoa and maintaining momentum around the ideas that emerged from the original gathering.

Wellington – National Commission for UNESCO

The third New Zealand screening brought Tiaki Moana to the Wellington region, hosted by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO at the Earth Sciences Institute.

The Wellington event provided a fitting conclusion to the three-screening journey. Bringing together perspectives from science, conservation, education and international engagement, it reflected many of the relationships that sit at the heart of Tiaki Moana.

We are especially grateful to Linda Faulkner and Silke Bieda for hosting and supporting the event and for creating an opportunity to share the documentary within the UNESCO community.

The relationship with UNESCO was particularly relevant to Blue Cradle's broader direction. Ocean literacy increasingly sits at the centre of our work, and UNESCO's international leadership in ocean science, education and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development provides an important wider context for connecting people with the ocean.

The Wellington screening again provided an opportunity to move beyond simply watching the documentary. It encouraged reflection on what the experiences captured in French Polynesia mean for Aotearoa, how different knowledge systems can contribute to marine conservation, and how Pacific communities can have a stronger voice in discussions about the future of their ocean.

Wellington screening, hosted by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO at the Earth Sciences Institute.



Continuing the Tiaki Moana Journey

Taken together, the Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington screenings represented an important second chapter for Tiaki Moana.

The original initiative was never intended to end with a single gathering. Its purpose was to create connections between people, knowledge and places and to provide opportunities for those relationships and ideas to continue developing.

The documentary has become one of the principal ways of carrying that work forward.

Across the three New Zealand screenings, Tiaki Moana moved between a university and Pacific studies setting in Christchurch, a scientific symposium in Auckland, and a UNESCO-hosted gathering in Wellington. Each audience encountered the film from a different perspective, but the underlying message remained consistent: protecting the Pacific Ocean is inseparable from the people, cultures, communities and relationships that surround it.

For Blue Cradle Foundation, the screenings also demonstrated the role that storytelling can play alongside research, policy and conservation practice. Facts and scientific evidence are essential, but creating lasting relationships with the ocean also requires emotion, identity, experience and opportunities for people to see themselves within the story.

We sincerely thank all three host organisations and everyone who contributed to these events — particularly the University of Canterbury and Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, Professor Steven Ratuva and Tumama Tu'aula in Christchurch; FAST! and Dr Philippe Gerbeaux in Auckland; and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, Linda Faulkner and Silke Bieda in Wellington.

Their support enabled the voices and experiences captured through Tiaki Moana to continue travelling across Aotearoa and helped turn three documentary screenings into three opportunities for connection, reflection and conversation about our shared ocean.



Seaweek 2026
Kaupapa Moana 2026

Bringing Ocean Literacy to Life at Tūranga

Seaweek 2026 represented one of Blue Cradle Foundation's most ambitious public ocean literacy initiatives to date. From 28 February to 8 March, we transformed Tūranga, Christchurch's central library, into a hub for immersive learning, marine science, storytelling and community engagement.

At the centre of the programme was the Seaweek Immersive Lab: a purpose-built 360° panoramic projection environment designed to bring audiences closer to the ocean through large-scale imagery, spatial sound and storytelling. Over the course of the week, more than 2,000 participants engaged with the Immersive Lab and associated activities, including school students, teachers, families and members of the wider community.

The experience explored a simple but fundamental idea at the heart of ocean literacy: the ocean influences us, and we influence the ocean. Immersive content introduced audiences to marine environments and the seven Ocean Literacy Principles, combining scientific knowledge with relational and personal perspectives on our connections with the moana.







Launching Blue Schools

Seaweek also provided the setting for the first major field experience of Blue Schools Aotearoa, following three years of programme development.

Students from Te Aratai College and Tuia Burnside, alongside participating groups from Ao Tawhiti Unlimited Discovery, visited Tūranga for dedicated learning sessions. Students rotated between different experiences combining technology, creativity and marine education.

Inside the Immersive Lab, groups experienced panoramic ocean films and educational content with content from NZ Geographic and the Antarctic Science Programme's Anthony Powell (Antzworks). Alongside this, Technology Education New Zealand (TENZ) delivered a Minecraft Education experience developed around Pōhatu Penguins and marine conservation. Students used iPads to explore a virtual marine environment and consider some of the real-world challenges facing kororā and their habitats.

Imagination Station added another creative dimension through LEGO-based activities, challenging students to design marine creatures and explore environmental problems and possible solutions through collaborative making.

Together, these activities demonstrated the philosophy behind Blue Schools: ocean literacy should not be confined to a textbook or classroom. It can combine science, technology, creativity, storytelling, culture and direct experience to help young people build their own relationship with the ocean.

A Week of Public Ocean Conversation

The programme extended well beyond school visits. Three evening public events at Tūranga brought together scientists, conservation practitioners, educators and community members for conversations about the ocean, marine protection, climate change and our changing relationship with marine environments.

The week culminated in Moana Discovery Day on Saturday 7 March, a free public event designed particularly for families and young people. Tūranga became a meeting place for organisations working across marine science, conservation, education and environmental engagement, allowing visitors to move between displays, activities, conversations and immersive experiences.

This combination of formal learning, public dialogue and informal discovery was an important part of the week. Rather than presenting ocean literacy as a single programme or message, Seaweek created opportunities for people to encounter the ocean from different perspectives and through different forms of knowledge.





Collaboration at the Heart of the Programme

The scale of the week was only possible through collaboration.

Blue Cradle worked closely with Christchurch City Libraries and Christchurch City Council, alongside a broad network of organisations and individuals. Contributors and collaborators included Antarctica New Zealand, BLAKE, Technology Education New Zealand (TENZ), AS Built, New Zealand Geographic, Imagination Station and Pōhatu Penguins, together with educators, speakers, marine practitioners, volunteers and community partners.

AS Built provided important support for the immersive technology, while New Zealand Geographic contributed marine visual content. Prior to the public opening, the installation was assembled and tested at the University of Canterbury's Mechanical Engineering facilities, allowing the projection system, calibration and content to be tested before being relocated to Tūranga.

The Immersive Lab also intersected with research being undertaken through the University of Canterbury's Human Interface Technology Laboratory (HIT Lab NZ). A PhD user study conducted alongside the exhibition investigated how immersive ocean experiences influence emotional connection, spatial presence and perceptions of the relationship between people and the ocean.

Building on Seaweek

For Blue Cradle, the significance of Seaweek 2026 extends beyond the success of a single event.

The Immersive Lab demonstrated how libraries, schools, researchers, technology organisations, conservation practitioners and community groups can work together to create accessible ocean learning in the heart of a city. It also provided a highly visible launch platform for Blue Schools and demonstrated the potential of immersive storytelling as part of a broader ocean literacy approach.

Most importantly, the week brought people together around the moana. Students learned through play and exploration; families discovered marine science together; researchers and practitioners shared knowledge; and communities were invited to reflect on the connections between ocean health and our own lives.

Seaweek 2026 provided a practical demonstration of the direction Blue Cradle is taking: placing ocean literacy, education, collaboration and meaningful human-ocean connection at the centre of our work.

Thank you to our partners

Christchurch City Council · Seaweek · ASBUILT A Smarter World. Digitally. · New Zealand Geographic · BLAKE Inspiring environmental leadership · Antzworks · HITLabNZ

Blue Schools
Ngā Kura Kahurangi

Blue Schools Aotearoa: From Vision to Reality

2026 marked a major milestone for Blue Cradle Foundation with the launch of Blue Schools Aotearoa, following three years of programme development, partnership building and curriculum design.

Blue Schools was created around a simple idea: young people growing up in one of the world's great marine nations should have opportunities to understand the ocean, experience it directly, and develop their own relationship with it. Ocean literacy is about understanding both the ocean's influence on us and our influence on the ocean. For Blue Schools, it is also about creating connection, curiosity and confidence, and giving young people the tools to participate in the future of their marine environment.

The programme launched in Waitaha Canterbury with two participating schools, Tuia Burnside and Te Aratai College, reaching approximately 200 young people during its first year. Rather than treating ocean education as a one-off school visit, Blue Schools was designed as a sustained programme combining classroom learning, practical science, field experiences, mātauranga Māori, creativity and interaction with people working directly in marine science and conservation.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

Throughout 2026, students progressed through structured learning sequences designed to build knowledge over time. Classroom sessions introduced marine ecology and the principles of ocean literacy through images, films, games, experiments and discussion. Visiting scientists and practitioners then helped transform these concepts into practical experiences.

Each term, classroom learning was connected with field-based experiences where students could apply what they had learned in real environments.

At Naval Point in Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour, approximately 225 children across the two schools participated in one of the programme's largest field experiences. Rangatahi surveyed the intertidal environment using quadrats, identified seaweeds and invertebrates, examined small marine organisms under microscopes and translated their observations into scientific illustrations.

Students also explored the cultural history of the area and the connections between mana whenua and the marine environment. This integration of scientific and ancestral knowledge is fundamental to the Blue Schools approach: the ocean can be understood through multiple ways of knowing, and meaningful ocean literacy in Aotearoa must be connected to place, people and history.

Other activities throughout the year included building and deploying "Marine Motels" as artificial habitats, investigating microplastics, participating in Litter Intelligence surveys, examining marine food webs and considering the health of local coastal environments.

These activities were deliberately practical. Building a Marine Motel, for example, introduces students to engineering design, hypothesis testing, biodiversity monitoring and data collection. Microscope investigations develop observation, classification and critical-thinking skills. Environmental surveys introduce field methods, systems thinking and evidence-based conclusions.

Blue Schools therefore provides not only environmental education but a pathway into STEM learning through the ocean.



Connecting Rangatahi with Experts

One of the defining features of Blue Schools in 2026 was the number and diversity of people students encountered.

Rather than learning about marine science only through teachers or textbooks, rangatahi worked directly with scientists, artists, environmental practitioners and cultural knowledge holders.

Contributors included Kirsty Brennan from Lyttelton Port Company, former Environment Canterbury Regional Councillor Vicky Southworth, former Department of Conservation scientist Dr Philippe Gerbeaux, Dr Olga Pantos from PHF Science, marine scientist Dr Joyce Yager, Faumuina Felolini Maria Tafuna'i from Flying Geese, cultural expert and Blue Cradle Board member Matt Bateman, and Climate Action Campus artists Josie Backhouse and Sue Greenwood. The Christchurch City Council Coastal Adaptation Team and University of Canterbury interns also contributed to programme delivery.

These relationships are an important part of the Blue Schools model. They expose young people to real people working in science, conservation, culture and environmental management while showing that science is collaborative, practical and connected to the places in which they live.

Blue Schools at Seaweek

A major moment in the first year was Seaweek 2026 at Tūranga.

Blue Schools students participated in a large-scale ocean literacy experience bringing together immersive technology, marine science, Minecraft Education, creative activities and conservation organisations.

Students entered the Seaweek Immersive Lab, explored marine and Antarctic environments, investigated food webs and experienced different approaches to communicating ocean science. The event gave Blue Schools an opportunity to connect its year-long school programme with the wider Christchurch community and demonstrate what ocean literacy can look like when education, science, technology and creativity come together.

Seaweek was also an important reminder that Blue Schools does not exist in isolation. It forms part of a wider ecosystem of schools, libraries, scientists, community organisations, local government, conservation practitioners and businesses working to improve people's relationship with the ocean.



Supporting Teachers as well as Students

Blue Schools is designed to leave capability behind within participating schools.

Teachers receive access to the annual curriculum, lesson plans, presentations, health and safety documentation, external resources and connections to citizen-science platforms and programme partners through an online portal.

The objective is not to replace teachers, but to provide them with resources, experiences and professional connections that make it easier to continue teaching marine science after facilitated Blue Schools activities have finished.

Early teacher feedback has been particularly encouraging. One teacher described how a student who struggled to engage at school became completely absorbed while constructing a Marine Motel, subsequently becoming the "expert" who helped another class. Another highlighted how Blue Schools had removed the financial barrier that often prevents schools from accessing outdoor education and believed the students' connection with the ocean would remain with them as they grew.

Student feedback from the Seaweek experience was similarly positive, with the large majority of surveyed students describing the experience positively and demonstrating a strong preference for practical, creative, collaborative, visual and outdoor approaches to learning.

Building the Team and the Programme

Delivering Blue Schools at scale required the organisation itself to evolve.

The curriculum was initially developed by science educator Sian Carvell of Future Curious Ltd. During 2026, the delivery team grew to include Lead Teacher Molly Gardner, Operations Coordinator and teacher Alicia Mallo, and University of Canterbury interns and teachers Annabel Pawson and Tilly Harris, supported by Blue Cradle trustees and a growing network of specialist contributors.

Matt Bateman provided cultural and curriculum guidance, while Jocelyn Papprill supported curriculum development and teachers.

The first year also provided important lessons about what is required to make the programme sustainable. Blue Schools received significant support from the Tait Foundation, alongside contributions and collaboration from Rātā Foundation, Lyttelton Port Company, Christchurch City Council, Marine Metre Squared and numerous individuals and organisations.

Their support has enabled Blue Schools to reduce one of the most significant barriers to experiential science education: the cost of taking students outside the classroom.

TAIT FOUNDATION

Thank you to the Tait Foundation for being the main supporter of our Blue Schools programme.

Looking Ahead

2026 has demonstrated that Blue Schools can move beyond an idea and function as a practical, year-long ocean literacy programme.

The next phase is about consolidation and careful growth. The programme will continue with its existing schools while working towards welcoming additional schools, strengthening its curriculum, expanding partnerships and aligning learning with the evolving New Zealand science curriculum.

Our longer-term ambition is to develop a model that can be adapted by communities elsewhere in Aotearoa while remaining genuinely place-based. Blue Schools should look different in different places because every coastline, community and relationship with the ocean is different.

What should remain constant is the underlying purpose: empowering young people with the knowledge, connection and confidence to care for Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

The first year of Blue Schools has shown what becomes possible when schools, scientists, iwi, educators, community organisations and funders come together around that shared goal. It is a foundation on which we intend to build for many years to come.







IMPAC7 bid
Te tono mō IMPAC7

Building on a Near-Winning Bid

Blue Cradle's involvement with the International Marine Protected Areas Congress remains an important part of our international conservation journey.

Our previous bid to host IMPAC6 demonstrated what is possible when governments, Indigenous leaders, conservation organisations, communities and international partners come together around a shared vision for marine protection. Although the Congress was ultimately awarded elsewhere, the process built valuable relationships, strengthened our networks, and confirmed that our region has a compelling contribution to make to the global marine conservation conversation.

As attention now begins to turn towards IMPAC7, we have started reconnecting with partners, former collaborators and members of the wider IMPAC community to understand how the next chapter may take shape.

At this stage, our focus is on listening, rebuilding momentum and identifying where there may be genuine appetite for collaboration.

The context has also evolved. Since our previous bid, Blue Cradle has continued to grow its international engagement through Tiaki Moana, the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, regional conservation forums, and a range of partnerships across Aotearoa and the Pacific. These experiences have reinforced the importance of Indigenous leadership, regional cooperation, community-led conservation, ocean literacy, and the growing role of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures in achieving long-term marine protection.

IMPAC7 offers an opportunity to bring these themes together on a global stage.

For Blue Cradle, the value of the Congress goes well beyond hosting an international event. It is about creating a platform for meaningful dialogue, strengthening relationships across the region, and showcasing practical approaches to marine conservation that reflect the realities, knowledge and leadership of ocean communities.

There is still considerable work ahead, and the shape of any future involvement remains open. What is clear, however, is that there is strong value in beginning the conversation now.

Over the coming period, we hope to continue engaging with governments, conservation organisations, Indigenous leaders, researchers, funders and international partners to explore what a strong and genuinely collaborative IMPAC7 proposition could look like.

Our previous experience showed us that ambitious ideas can create momentum even before they become reality. IMPAC7 represents another opportunity to think boldly about how our region can contribute to the future of global marine conservation.

We invite our partners and supporters to join that conversation.

What's to come
Ngā mahi kei te Haere

Tiaki Moana documentary release

In late 2026, the Tiaki Moana documentary will reach audiences across Aotearoa through its release on RNZ. Following screenings in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington, as well as its international journey, the RNZ release represents an exciting opportunity to share the voices, experiences and stories captured through Tiaki Moana with a much wider audience. The film explores Pacific relationships with the ocean through youth perspectives, Indigenous and local knowledge, science and community-led conservation. Its release will help extend the legacy of Tiaki Moana and continue conversations about ocean stewardship across Aotearoa and the Pacific.

Blue Schools Year 2

Following the successful launch of Blue Schools in 2026, Year Two will focus on strengthening the programme and expanding from two to four schools across Waitaha Canterbury. We will continue working with our existing schools while welcoming two new school communities into the network. The programme will build on lessons from its first year, with classroom learning, field experiences, expert engagement and practical ocean science remaining at its heart. We are also developing new partnerships and seeking additional funders to support this next stage of growth, with the longer-term ambition of establishing a sustainable Blue Schools model that can expand across Aotearoa.

IMPAC7 bid

For IMPAC7, the next step is to continue building relationships, testing interest and understanding where the strongest opportunities for collaboration may lie. We will stay engaged with the international IMPAC community while reconnecting with partners across Aotearoa, the Pacific and the wider region. The focus for now is on creating the right conditions for a credible, ambitious and collaborative proposition to emerge. As the process becomes clearer, Blue Cradle will continue to advocate for a strong regional voice, Indigenous leadership, meaningful partnerships and a vision for marine conservation that looks well beyond 2030.

Seaweek 2027

Following the success of the 2026 Immersive Lab at Tūranga, planning is already beginning for Seaweek 2027. We want to build on what worked while creating new opportunities for schools, families and the wider community to experience ocean science, conservation, technology, creativity and storytelling. Early ideas include another collaborative programme of school experiences, public events, talks and hands-on discovery, with plenty of room for new concepts. Most importantly, we want Seaweek to remain collaborative.

If your organisation, school, research group or community has an idea, activity, speaker or experience to contribute, we would love to hear from you!.



Our Supporters
Ngā Kaitautoko

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SCIENCE PARTNERS













Sponsor shout-out

SMIDGE
SUNCARE



Natalie Jones didn't set out to start a sunscreen company. She just couldn't find one she felt good about wearing.

Most sunscreens either didn't work for her sensitive skin, or came in single-use plastic. For someone who spends as much time in and around the ocean as she does, the lack of sustainable sunscreen options didn't feel right.

Nat first trained as a zoologist. After travelling the world and working in education and wildlife rescue, she came home to Aotearoa to begin her career in conservation. Nat is a redhead who loves diving, tramping and being outside, so sunscreen is part of her everyday life. So in 2029, she turned her kitchen into a sunscreen lab and started experimenting. After a lot of research, she developed an SPF 40 mineral sunscreen made with a handful of naturally derived ingredients, packaged in a plastic-free tin and made in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Smidge helps to fund ocean conservation because she believes businesses have a large part to play in the fight against climate change. Supporting Blue Cradle each year is part of that. Nat values how Blue Cradle brings ocean literacy into communities across the Pacific, because people look after what they understand and feel connected to.

Nat doesn't pretend a sunscreen company can change the scale of the climate crisis. What she does believe is that businesses should be reducing their impact and creating solutions, rather than watching from the sidelines.

Nat lives in Whitianga and is on the moana most days with her local waka ama club. Smidge - from the name to the brand to the passion behind it - is built on her belief that it's the many positive actions, no matter how small, add up resulting in big impact.



Financial Statements
Ngā Tauākī Pūtea

Blue Cradle Foundation
For the year ended 31 March 2026

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 2026.

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

Fairground Ltd

Dated: 5 October 2026

Blue Cradle Foundation

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Legal Name of Entity

Blue Cradle Foundation

Entity identifier

CC57834

Date of Incorporation

4 June 2020

Type of entity

Charitable Trust

Entity's Purpose or Mission

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

Entity Structure

We are a stand-alone charity.

Entity's governance arrangement

Key decisions for our charity are made by a Board of Trustees. They set the strategic direction, ensure financial stability and oversee its overall operations.

Other entities controlled by the entity

Nil.

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services

The entity is heavily reliant on volunteers and donated goods and services. The Trustees all serve in a voluntary capacity, providing their skills, expertise and counsel to guide the organisation. Operational tasks have also had oversight from the Chief Executive, who has likewise worked in a predominantly voluntary capacity.

Physical Address

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

Postal Address

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

Blue Cradle Foundation

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Trustees

James Nikitine - Chair
Sam Rowland - Chair (stepped down on 14/04/2026)
Matt Bateman
Rasmika Maharaj
Jocelyn Papprill
Phillipe Gerbeaux (onboarded on 7/07/2026)

Bankers

BNZ

Accountants

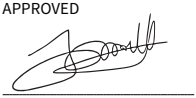
Fairground Ltd

Approval of Financial Report

For the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trustees are pleased to present the approved financial report including the historical financial statements of Blue Cradle Foundation for year ended 31 March 2026.

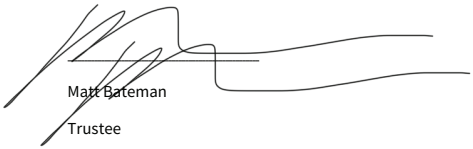
APPROVED



James Nikitine

Chair

Date 08/10/26



Matt Bateman

Trustee

Date 07/10/26

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

2026

- Blue Schools: In 2026, more than 200 students, five teachers and two participating Christchurch schools took part in three STEM-based marine learning programmes. Delivery combined classroom learning, field-based experiences and expert-led activities focused on ocean literacy, marine science, microplastics, climate adaptation, navigation and creative design, helping build both student engagement and teacher capability.
- World Ocean Day – 8 June 2026: More than 120 students attended interactive sessions at Naval Point, strengthening understanding of how the ocean supports life, the pressures affecting marine ecosystems, and the role individuals and communities can play in protecting them.
- SeaWeek Immersive Lab 2026: Delivered across February and March, the programme hosted a series of immersive screenings, interactive learning sessions and guided experiences designed to deepen understanding of marine environments, biodiversity, conservation and people's relationship with the ocean.
- Tiaki Moana follow-up screenings – New Zealand: Following the 2025 programme in Tahiti, Blue Cradle delivered follow-up screenings in New Zealand to continue sharing key stories, ideas and outcomes with local audiences.
- UN Ocean Conference and One Ocean Science Congress – June 2025: Blue Cradle participated in the UN Ocean Conference in Nice and the One Ocean Science Congress, contributing to international discussions on ocean conservation, science, policy and Pacific priorities.
- Regional Partnerships: Continued collaboration with IUCN, SPREP, the Government of French Polynesia and other regional and international partners to strengthen marine regeneration, protection, ocean literacy, and regional cooperation.

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.

Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended 31 March 2026

	NOTES	2026	2025
Revenue			
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	1	790	1,290
General grants	1	20,101	755,259
Non-government service delivery grants/contracts	1	179,636	-
Revenue from commercial activities	1	8,518	22,904
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	50	561
Total Revenue		**209,095**	**780,014**
Expenses			
Contractor payments and other related expenses	2	237,495	259,834
Other expenses related to service delivery	2	114,584	371,888
Grants and donations made	2	500	100
Other expenses	2	1,426	259
Total Expenses		**354,006**	**632,081**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		**(144,910)**	**147,932**

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 2026

	NOTES	31 MAR 2026	31 MAR 2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and short-term deposits	3	51,790	147,035
Debtors and prepayments	3	10,392	17,826
Other Current Assets	3	2,708	-
Total Current Assets		**64,890**	**164,862**
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	1,426	2,852
Total Non-Current Assets		**1,426**	**2,852**
Total Assets		**66,316**	**167,714**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	352	193
Deferred revenue	4	58,999	15,646
Total Current Liabilities		**59,351**	**15,839**
Total Liabilities		**59,351**	**15,839**
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		**6,965**	**151,875**
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses (or deficits)	6	6,965	151,875
Total Accumulated Funds		**6,965**	**151,875**

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 Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Operating receipts		
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	790	1,290
General grants	4,455	762,839
Non-government service delivery grants/contracts	238,635	-
Gross sales from commercial activities	8,518	22,904
Interest or dividends received	50	561
GST received	35,429	6,029
Total Operating receipts	**287,878**	**793,622**
Operating payments		
Contractor payments and other related payments	(237,495)	(259,834)
Other payments related to service delivery	(114,400)	(371,861)
Grants and donations paid	(500)	(100)
GST paid	(28,020)	(21,065)
Total Operating payments	**(380,415)**	**(652,860)**
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	**(92,538)**	**140,762**
Cash Flows from Other Activities		
Payments from other activities		
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	-	(3,111)
Payments to purchase intangibles	(2,708)	-
Repayments paid on loans made to other parties	-	(1,000)
Total Payments from other activities	**(2,708)**	**(4,111)**
Total Cash Flows from Other Activities	**(2,708)**	**(4,111)**
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	**(95,245)**	**136,651**
Bank Accounts and Cash		
Opening cash	147,035	10,385
Net change in cash for period	(95,245)	136,651
Closing cash	51,790	147,035

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 2026

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 or grants with no documented expectations over use

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.

General funding or grants with 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 and bequests received with no documented expectations over use

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

Donations and bequests received with documented expectations over use

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 and dividend revenue

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

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
1. Analysis of Revenue		
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities		
Donations Received	790	1,290
Total Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	**790**	**1,290**
General grants		
General Grants	20,101	750,259
Grants Received (Government)	-	5,000
Total General grants	**20,101**	**755,259**
Non-government service delivery grants/contracts		
Service Delivery Grants/Contracts - Non Government	179,636	-
Total Non-government service delivery grants/contracts	**179,636**	**-**
Revenue from commercial activities		
Ticket Sales	8,518	22,904
Total Revenue from commercial activities	**8,518**	**22,904**
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		
Interest Income	50	561
Total Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	**50**	**561**

	2026	2025
2. Analysis of Expenses		
Contractor payments and other related expenses		
Subcontractors	237,495	259,834
Total Contractor payments and other related expenses	**237,495**	**259,834**
Other expenses related to service delivery		
Bank Fees	20	-
Computer, Website & Subscriptions	1,911	3,321
Conference Expenses	26,609	3,495
General Expenses	-	5,567
Office Expenses	257	362
Telephone & Internet	211	-
Entertainment	611	147
Catering Expenses	606	123,946
Equipment Hire	1,024	633
Film Production Expenses	51,872	12,607
Materials & Purchases	2,980	16,084
Consulting & Accounting	2,112	2,016
Travel Expenses	26,372	203,710
Total Other expenses related to service delivery	**114,584**	**371,888**

	2026	2025
Grants and donations made		
Donation Expenses	500	100
Total Grants and donations made	**500**	**100**
Other expenses		
Depreciation	1,426	259
Total Other expenses	**1,426**	**259**

3. Analysis of Assets

	2026	2025
Cash and short-term deposits		
BNZ -05 Account	-	15,000
BNZ Account	51,790	116,390
BNZ Tiaki Moana Report Account	-	13,284
BNZ YPL Tiaki Moana Account	-	2,361
Total Cash and short-term deposits	**51,790**	**147,035**
Debtors and prepayments		
GST	10,392	17,826
Total Debtors and prepayments	**10,392**	**17,826**
Other Current Assets		
Work In Progress	2,708	-
Total Other Current Assets	**2,708**	**-**

4. Analysis of Liabilities

	2026	2025
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Sundry Creditors	352	193
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	**352**	**193**
Deferred revenue		
Unspent Funding	58,999	15,646
Total Deferred revenue	**58,999**	**15,646**

	2026	2025
5. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Computer Equipment		
Opening Balance	2,852	-
Purchases	-	3,111
Depreciation	(1,426)	(259)
Total Computer Equipment	**1,426**	**2,852**
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	**1,426**	**2,852**

	2026	2025
6. Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)		
Opening Balance	151,875	3,943
Current year earnings	(144,910)	147,932
Total Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	**6,965**	**151,875**
Total Accumulated Funds	**6,965**	**151,875**

7. Commitments

There are no commitments as at 31 March 2026 (Last year - nil).

8. Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at 31 March 2026 (Last year - nil).

	2026	2025
9. Deferred Revenue: Unused Significant Donations, Grants, Bequests and Pledges with Expectations over Use		
The Ocean Foundation Grant for Tiaki Moana project	-	13,284
US State Department Young Pacific Leader Grant for Tiaki Moana project	-	2,361
Tait Foundation Grant for Blue Schools project	58,999	-
Total Deferred Revenue: Unused Significant Donations, Grants, Bequests and Pledges with Expectations over Use	**58,999**	**15,646**

10. Related Party Transactions

In 2026, Blue Cradle Foundation made a payment of $79,500 to Marine Communications, which is the consulting business of James Nikitine, Chair of Blue Cradle Foundation. In 2025, $59,000 was paid to Marine Communications.

11. 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.

12. Ability to Continue Operating

The entity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.


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