

walking to their vehicle - it's not appropriate. "Nor should there be an expectation that visitors should be able to have access to endless amounts of water while many locals are left waiting for weeks to get water delivered."

Mr Walden says capacity issues have been an issue on ferries and for the island's infrastructure for as long as he can remember.

"In a sense that's part of the romance of living in one of the world's most beautiful places and one of the realities that naturally limits the size of our population."

The local group behind the monitoring observatory proposal is seeking ratepayer funding towards the cost of the programme, which would involve four Otago academics and students visiting the island three times a year. The local board has sought more information on costs. • *Geoff Cumming*

The island's surging popularity brings congestion and ructure.



## Progress sought on marine protection

Local board chairman Paul Walden wants to see the Waiheke community prioritise marine protection in the coming year.

"I think 2018 must be the year that, as a community, we make strong inroads into marine protection in the gulf," Mr Walden says.

Islanders, visitors and New Zealanders who spend time in the Hauraki Gulf needed to recognise it as a special place whose status needs support.

"The wonders that the Hauraki Gulf hosts, the things that make it such a desirable place to live or visit, are under threat - New Zealand is leading the world in biodiversity extinction.

"I think 2018 must be the year that, as a community, we make strong inroads into marine protection in the gulf."  
- Paul Walden

"The thrust of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park legislation is about protecting, maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity in and around the gulf. So there is a balancing act of sorts.

"I have a sense that we've lost our balance. We need to be giving more focus to

ensuring that, as we are selling our environment around the world, that we do so in such a fashion that helps to protect it.

"That means we need to be selling the values of those attributes.

"When it comes to a development such as a marina, a developer rightly is able to rely on a lawful public process. Yet when, as a community, we talk about establishing other conservation-focused mechanisms such as marine protection, we are seemingly pushed back to endless community conversations by decision makers."

In 2016, the Seachange working party appointed by the Hauraki Gulf Forum

**WISCO**  
WAIHEKE ISLAND SOCIETY  
FOR THE CARE OF ANIMALS

**READY MID JAN...**

These gorgeous babies will be looking for homes in January. Currently a little too feisty to check whether what sex they are.



85 Ocean Rd, Surfdale P. 372 5222  
**OPEN:** Mon - Fri 9 - 4, Sat 10 - 2  
Like us on facebook

**THE ISLAND'S COMPUTER GUYS**

New computers, mobiles, printers, routers and more!  
'Save my day' repairs.  
Networks and Websites.

**NOW** Apple Certified services and repairs.

Always ready to serve!



23B Tahiri Rd    theislandscomputerguys.co.nz    372.2126

made recommendations to sustain biodiversity in the gulf, including the creation of a network of marine reserves. But none were proposed for Waiheke's coastline, despite widespread community consultation and support.

In October, the local board released the findings of a survey by marine ecologist Tim Haggitt, which provided scientific backing for two large reserves along the island's populated northern coast. Dr Haggitt reported that the two areas were degraded and the recovery of marine species would benefit from a rest from fishing pressure. The areas included high quality habitat and had the potential to be highly productive, assisting the recovery of crayfish and finfish stocks in the gulf.



Marine reserves on Waiheke's northern coast would help the recovery of severely depleted species including crayfish.

**Ostend Store**  
 NZ POST SERVICES  
 GROCERIES



7 days  
 7am-8.30pm 372 8967  
 1/23 Belgium Street Ostend

Mr Walden noted when the report was released that it was over to the community to pursue marine reserves under legislation. He now says islanders have

led the charge on terrestrial restoration and conservation programmes for over 40 years, so the pedigree is there.  
 • Geoff Cumming

<h2>Cash Loans</h2>	<h1>WIN \$500!</h1>	<h2>Hassle Free</h2>
 <h3>Cars &amp; Boats</h3> 	<p>Waiheke winners have collected <b>over \$43,000</b> so far in our Flexipay Card Monthly Draw.</p> <p><b>NOW</b></p> <p>Every dollar of every loan - as well as every dollar spent on your</p>  qualifies for the monthly draw <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>continues to qualify to be drawn for the next 12 months.</p>	 <h3>Weddings &amp; Funerals</h3>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Paying Bills</li> <li>*Council Rates</li> <li>*Holidays</li> <li>*School Fees</li> <li>* Car repairs, WOFs</li> <li>*Vet's bills</li> <li>...made easy!</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Fast Cash Loans</li> <li>*Personal loans</li> <li>*Business Loans</li> </ul>  <p><i>We are local and we care for our customers</i></p>
<p>Te Huruhi Finance   <a href="http://www.flexipay.co.nz">www.flexipay.co.nz</a>   P.O Box 73 Oneroa Waiheke Island 1840   Phone 372 7076</p>		