

Eco School Cruises

Totaranui 250 School Trips

Why did the Polynesians leave their tropical paradise? How did they successfully navigate the Pacific and why did both Kupe and Cook find Totaranui so attractive?

2019 has been chosen to commemorate the achievements of these two famous explorers. The focus of the Totaranui 250 Trust on “Dual Heritage - Shared Future” is a wonderful kaupapa.

Maori Eco-Cruises would like to Tautoko this Kaupapa and offer schools an **All-day Eco/History trips** (either 1 day trip or 2/3 day school camps) on the Sounds that is following in the footsteps of both Kupe and Captain Cook.

We pick up the schools at Waikawa Bay Jetty at **9.00am**, put life jackets on them all, give a safety briefing and head for the outer Sounds for an all-day cruise, returning around **5.00pm**.

I am **Pete Beech** and my family have lived in the Sounds for 7 generations, (**Takutai's** for 20 generations). Our ancestors have lived the local history and we have grown up learning and studying New Zealand history, both Maori and European. We have learnt the **Maori Oral Histories**. Over the years, we have taken many authors and documentary makers to the Sounds, showing them the places both Kupe and Cook visited.

Some of the books in recent years are particularly interesting as they tell the stories from the indigenous people's perspectives.

One book said that within 10 years of making contact with Cook, up to 90% of all the indigenous peoples from New Zealand to Alaska had been wiped out by diseases, starvation, slavery, and oppression.

It's not hard to understand why they are not his biggest fans (not all attributable to Cook, but colonisation).

We have been taking schools on our Maori eco-cruise trips for over 20 years and over that period have learnt a lot about delivering our Oral Histories in a way that is interesting, fun and memorable.

Kupe and Cook's visits will be in your curriculum. If you are studying it and there are any aspects that you would like us to pay particular attention to, just let us know.

Of course, New Zealand wasn't discovered by Cook but by Kupe, and we will do our best to honour him and the Maori people by telling you his legends and showing you some of the places that he visited that were named after both him and his crew.

As for Captain Cook, we will first steam by **Cook's Lookout**, where he could see that New Zealand wasn't the great southern continent, but 2 islands separated by a strait, which his officers named in his honour. (We could arrange a guided walk up to the summit if you like but that would take about 3 hrs and it is best only for children over 8 years old.)



We would then check out **Pickersgil Island** named after Cook's cartographer, before steaming into **Wharehunga** and taking the tamariki up to visit **Kahura's Pa Site**. This is a fascinating place where 10 of Cook's men were killed, cooked and eaten.

Maori tell an interesting story that they Call "**The Trial of the Cannibal Dog!**" and say that this was the bay where Cook lost his Mana!

We will point out **Bald Hill** that Cook climbed. If you wish, we could steam up into East Bay and look for some of the feral goats believed to have been left behind by Captain Cook, along with pigs and fowls.

Next, we steam over to **Ship Cove**, site of Cook's most favourite camp site in the South Pacific, check out his Monument and read up on the very informative plaques erected by DOC, also a wonderful Poupou carved to describe Kupe's voyage.

We'll have lunch and a swim before heading over to **Motuara Island bird sanctuary**, home to some of New Zealand's rarest birds and the place where Cook planted the British flag and proclaimed Sovereignty.

His officers celebrated with a bottle of wine, never offered the Maori chiefs any. Then, when finished, they gave them the empty bottle. Maori say that they have been getting the empty bottle ever since!

Matua Pete will also relay to you the story of **Tupia the Tahitian Tohunga** from Rai atia who found he could understand the Maori Language. He became Cook's interpreter. Maori loved him – he was a priest, he knew their gods and their legends were his also, he was a healer, a navigator, even a fledgling artist and their first contact with Polynesia in hundreds of years.

Over the course of the day, we will give a comprehensive overview of Cook's ships and his 3 voyages around the world that culminated in his death in Hawaiki. We will also talk of Mrs Cook and their children.

We then steam for home. Remember that this is also an Eco-Tour and we will be looking for, pointing out and giving you all information on the natural world including our dolphins, Orca, seals, penguins, native trees and birdlife as well as talking about pests, their eradication and future plans. Additionally, we will explain the concept of **Kaitiakitanga** which means, "*We all have a responsibility to take care of the natural world.*"

If you would like, we can make this a 2/3 day camp so that you can include what could be a half-day walk up to Cooks Lookout, (which would be a highlight). It is a wonderful trek. It was one of the milestones of Cook's achievements on his first voyage.

The panoramic views of the Sounds as well as looking out over Cook Strait are amazing. That can be arranged as long as accommodation at Waikawa Marae and Resolution is available.

COST: \$50 +GST per day for each person (child or adult)

CAPACITY: max of 40 paxs.

DURATION: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (approximately)