

# Kyra Barker

[kyra.kiwi](http://kyra.kiwi)

## Year 12 | Albany Senior High School, Auckland

I'm passionate about marine conservation and plan to study it at university. Through volunteering, education programmes, and creative projects, I work to connect people with the ocean and inspire them to protect it.

## Conservation & Environmental Experience

**Senior Snorkel Guide**, Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust / Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) | 2023 - present (three seasons)

- Volunteer snorkel guide leading safety briefings and guiding school groups, holiday programmes, and public snorkels through marine reserve environments
- Top 10 volunteer in the first season; top youth volunteer for the 2024/25 season
- Senior snorkel guide for the 2025/26 season
- Featured in a Mountains to Sea blog profile: "[A young marine biologist in the making! — Kyra Barker's volunteer journey](#)"

**Ocean Youth Aotearoa**, Kelly Tarlton's Marine Wildlife Trust | 2024 - present

- Researched and presented "Marine Reserves: Why and where do we need more?" covering NZ's 44 marine reserves, the 30x30 project, island reserves, and practical ideas for community action
- Designed and developed "Seaslugs & Seaweed", an original marine conservation board game inspired by Snakes & Ladders, teaching kids about native vs. invasive species and positive/negative marine actions through play. Currently in development for use at EMR events
- Invited twice to participate in a sea turtle release at Rangaunu Harbour, Northland (March 2026), releasing four rehabilitated turtles alongside DOC and iwi representatives.

**Te Kohoura Rewilding Initiative** | 2024 - present

- Volunteered at rewilding events assisting with kina harvesting, biodiversity surveys, and marine metre squared surveys
- Community-led marine restoration focused on kelp restoration and marine ecosystem health

**Young Ocean Explorers**

- Volunteered assisting Riley with a couple of education programmes in 2025

**Te Taiao Impact Project** Hub at Albany Senior High School 2026 - present

- Water quality testing and marine environment fieldwork in partnership with MTSCCT
- Comparing freshwater and marine environments inside and outside protected areas
- Continuing development of the Seaslugs & Seaweed board game

# Duke of Edinburgh's Award — Silver

Auckland Challenge | 2025 (53/52 hours completed, voluntary service sign-off pending)

- **Skills:** Pottery
- **Physical Recreation:** Swimming and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
- **Voluntary Service:** Conservation volunteering with Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, as well as other beach, river and community clean-ups.
- **Adventurous Journey:** Five-day Spirit of Adventure leadership voyage aboard the Spirit of New Zealand

As part of the programme, our group raised \$12,500 through sponsorship proposals, community cleanup days in Kumeū, and grant applications. I co-wrote the sponsorship letter and designed some of the promotional materials.

## Art & Creative

- Traditional and digital art, primarily of animals, landscapes, and ocean-themed work
- Ocean-themed creature ceramics, exhibited and sold work (funding the purchase of an underwater camera)
- Won the "Cutest Piece" art award at Kumeu Arts
- Photography
- Designed promotional and educational materials for fundraising and conservation projects
- Designed the colouring pages for the [Mountains to Sea Conservation Week Colouring Competition 2024](#)

## Education

- Albany Senior High School, Year 12 (2025 - present)
- Home educated, (2022 - 2024)

## Skills & Certifications

- PADI Open Water certified at age 12 and PADI Advanced Open Water certified at age 14
- First aid certified
- Digital design (Adobe Lightroom, Canva, and Magma drawing platform)
- Experience working with children and the public in outdoor water environment with Mountains to Sea

## Activities & Interests

- Swim squad training (twice weekly before school)
- Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ)
- I am an avid rockpooler, particularly in love with nudibranchs, triplefins and other little creatures
- Scuba diving, snorkelling, swimming, and just being outdoors in nature
- Reading: fantasy and natural history books mostly

## Links:

- <https://www.mountaintosea.org.nz/post/a-young-marine-biologist-in-the-making-kyra-baker-s-volunteer-journey-with-mountains-to-sea>
- <https://www.mountaintosea.org.nz/post/conservation-week-colouring-competition>