

# Life's a beach for ambassadors

Meet two of Waiheke's superstar beach ambassadors, Waiheke local Caitlyn McMahon Baragwanath and Tim de Koning from Holland.

## Caitlin McMahon Baragwanath

### What's your favourite beach?

Palm Beach because it's beautiful, but it's also hectic at this time of year.

### How and why did you get involved in this project?

Through Facebook, funnily enough. It popped up on one of the community pages and I signed up. Now I'm doing my fourth summer. As for the why, I was 16 at the time and wanted a job that wasn't hospitality. I also loved the opportunity it provided to meet new people.

### What does it involve?

We essentially walk on the beaches over the summer period and as a result, we chat to people. Whether it's tourists in need of information or frequent Waihekean beachgoers, there are always people eager to have a conversation. We're also there to encourage people to be more environmentally focused at the beach by taking their waste away with them and keeping the beaches as clean as possible.

### Have you encountered any issues on the job?

I would say the most significant issue would have to be any unsavoury indi-

viduals, especially when alcohol is involved on the beach. However, in saying that, it's very rare to be in any real danger and 99 percent of the people I've spoken to while in the role are lovely and really just curious as to why I wear an apron on the beach.



18-year-old Tim de Koning from Holland is an intern at the Waiheke Resources Trust.

have the knowledge and resources to help the environment on their own. As part of the community ourselves, the WRT encourages community members to take part in our sustainability and restoration projects as well.

### What's your favourite beach?

Palm Beach.

## Tim de Koning

### What do you do as a beach ambassador?

I try to encourage sustainable behaviour and support the public to take personal responsibility in public places by preventing littering and promoting the "pack-in, pack out" concept to reduce overflowing bins and recycling.

### What's the goal?

The aim of this project is not only to help the environment but to help the community

19-year-old beach ambassador Caitlyn McMahon Baragwanath is about to embark on a Bachelor of Global Studies at Auckland University.

### Have you encountered any issues on the job?

The overflowing bins at Palm Beach, probably due to dumped household waste. •

### Want to be an ambassador?

The Waiheke Resources Trust is currently looking for more beach ambassadors, particularly for Onetangi Beach.

The organisation is a proud living wage employer, which makes the position a fantastic summer job, especially for young people. To find out more and register your interest, visit [wrt.org.nz](http://wrt.org.nz) and search for Beach Ambassadors or get in touch with [livne@wrt.org.nz](mailto:livne@wrt.org.nz). •



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