

WHANGĀREI MUSEUM

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

# LIFE AND TIDES

*Celebrating the sea creatures of Aotearoa*



9 MARCH - 12 MAY 2024

Brought to you by **Kiwi North** in collaboration with **Seaweek**  
and supported by original artefacts from the historical  
**Museum of Fishes Northland**



# LIFE AND TIDES

## *Celebrating the sea creatures of Aotearoa*

Have you ever felt the skin surface of a sunfish? *Life and Tides* is a contemporary exhibition that focuses on marine life and local history, while igniting new elements of curiosity. This exhibition not only celebrates **Seaweek**, but recalls the past of Whangārei's iconic *Museum of Fishes*, a natural history hub which intrigued and educated locals and visitors across the 1990s. Revisiting some of the memorable concepts and original artefacts from the bygone *Museum of Fishes* allows us to re-examine them through a 21st century lens, to contemplate the natural micro-world of each sea creature: viewing the carefully preserved forms of these creatures enables us to wonder about the life that they lived, the role that they played within the complexity of the ocean, and to ask whether their surviving populations still swim within our own coastal tides. Each creature's size, shape, colour, and texture has evolved around its form, function, and specific role within a delicately balanced ecosystem, where humankind plays the most powerful role.

*Life and Tides* represents a legacy-project that Northland has long been a part of, celebrating our love for the sea and all that is within it. The exhibition also reframes a practice from both the ancient and recent past (taxidermy), and places it into a contemporary landscape. We no longer view these taxidermy fish as trophies, but as advocates for their species - complex and interconnected creatures with their own uniqueness, existing within a delicate balance.

*"No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced"*

- Sir David Attenborough

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