



Annual Report 2024-25

The Kaikōura Ocean Research Institute Inc., established in 2012, is a registered Charity in New Zealand

We at KORI are excited to share our year with you all! The following pages are a quick snapshot of our activities and a tribute and thanks to all who have supported us in so many ways. From sponsorship to the many, many volunteers, we'd like to say a huge thank you to all who have kept KORI not only going, but thriving! Here's to another great year!

The People

We are nothing without you all - the people who keep KORI going! Our team has expanded since spring, and are based in Kaikōura as well as hailing from all over the world - including many of our interns and volunteers!

A huge shout-out to our Secretary Kapri, Treasurer Ailie and Chair/Director Jody and our entirely volunteer committee as well as Florence, Gabriele, Walde and Coni our precious interns and the 173 volunteers (and 166 visitors) who helped to spot whales from the hill during the Great Kaikōura Whale Count 2025



The Place

A HUGE thank you to the sponsorship from Sime's Kitchen over this past year, where Sam sponsored the use of the upstairs space for storage, events, interns and workspace as well as the use of the internet.

We are currently on the lookout for a new home! Please reach out if you have a space to sponsor or let for a reasonable fee!



Sharing Their Shores Event

On the 3rd of November we ran a student and family event above Sime's Kitchen with a variety of activities and fun for all ages! Some of the visitors to the event was a group of Wildlands field school (University) students, one of which ended up returning to Kaikōura to run a split volunteer internship assisting with little penguin colony checks and with the banded dotterel project!



Research Projects

KORI was directly and indirectly involved in a number of research projects both locally and a little further afield. Dr Heidi Pearson from the University of Alaska, who is now one of our beloved committee members, undertook a 17 day dolphin photo ID project during Feb and March. 113 groups of dusky dolphins were spotted with 22,399 images obtained during the trip. Over 19 matches, including individuals photographed and ID'd in 2002 and 2006 studies were found (very exciting!) and this project revitalised a project that started over 40 years ago!

A theodolite that Dr Bernd Würsig gifted very generously to KORI was shipped to Thibaud Guerin of TriOceans in the Bay of Islands in December 2024 for a land-based survey project that ran from January to June. During this time, 42 surveys were conducted over a total of 174.5 hours from 2 different stations. Marine mammals were spotted 16 times (mostly bottlenose dolphins) with 150 marine mammal behavioural observations collected both within and outside of the Marine Mammal Sanctuary safe zones. 985 vessels were also monitored, providing valuable data on compliance across multiple locations and vessel types.

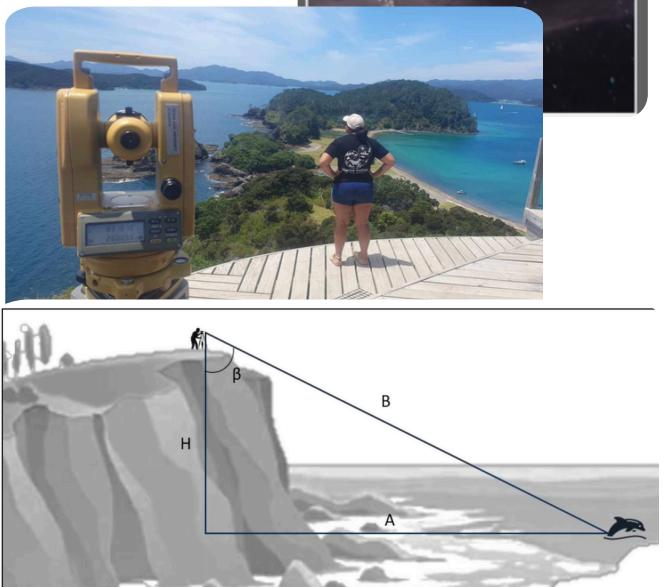
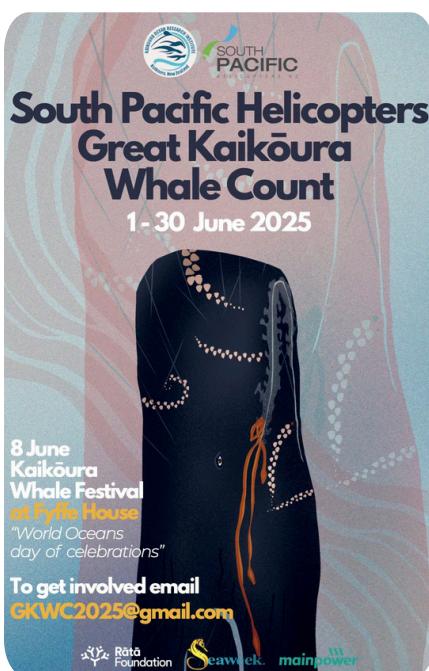


Figure 2. Theodolite tracking through trigonometry

South Pacific Helicopters Great Kaikōura Whale Count 2025



With some amazing sponsorship from Mainpower and headline sponsor South Pacific Helicopters, the Great Kaikōura Whale Count 2025 went off with a bang!

The sponsorship allowed us to provide stipends to the fabulous Florence and Gabriele to run and coordinate this year's GKWC count, based out of the South Pacific office space in town. They did a wonderful job coordinating the hundreds of volunteers that helped out throughout the month of June to spot, count and collate the data on each and every marine mammal spotted on our shores!

This year, the weather allowed for 22 observation days on the hill. In addition to the count itself, we were also able to run 3 inclusive community events, celebrating and educating the community and all visitors about the whales that visit us.

A total of 173 volunteers contributed to 495 scans and a total combined effort of 346 hours on the hill spotting the whales!



The Great Kaikōura Whale Count for 2025 spotted:
119 humpback whales, 64 sperm whales, 62 pods of dusky dolphins,
2 orca, 1 blue whale and 1 southern right whale!!

Looking to the year ahead

We have big plans for the year ahead, coming up quickly with our first event set for January! Don't forget to sign up for our SWIM FOR OUR SEAS event we are running in partnership with the Kaikōura Aquatic Centre on the 25th of January! This will be our first ever swim-a-thon, and there are flipping heaps of ways to participate in the lead up as well! Head to the Pool or email kaikoura.aquatic.centre@gmail.com to register or find out more. See you at the Pool!!!

We are also announcing a new collaboration! We are partnering up with Conservation Kids NZ to bring you the all new 'Young Marine Biologist Course'!

This is for kids 5-12 years of age, accompanied by a parent or guardian. We plan on running 6 Sunday sessions over 6 months beginning March 1, 2026 - so watch this space!



We will be looking to run the annual Great Kaikōura Whale Count again this year! If you or your business is keen to support this incredible annual tradition, please reach out to us at kaikourakori@gmail.com!

If you're keen to join the fun and excitement and get involved in any of our upcoming programmes, please get in touch. Keep up with what's on by following our Facebook page: [@kaikourakori](https://www.facebook.com/kaikourakori)

Structure & Financials

KORI (Kaikōura Ocean Research Institute Incorporated) has recently re-registered in accordance with the new regulations for incorporated societies in New Zealand, and alongside an updated constitution, we have also created a new accompanying structure to help us streamline our governance level and our operations.

The table to the right shows a summary of money in and out over the past year. As a small not-for-profit, we rely heavily on our members and committees voluntary time, as well as the time and energy of many volunteers. Where we can find funding we enjoy providing some compensation or support via a number of internships, such as those that allowed our various events, including the GKWC, to flourish this past year.

Received	2025	Expenses	2025
Remainder from KDC Creative Communities grant	\$1,089	Xero monthly fees	\$362
Mainpower grant	\$2,500	Wordpress annual cost of website	\$138
Seaweed grant	\$800	Insurance	\$490
South Pacific Heli sponsorship	\$2,500	Research boat servicing	\$1,125
Donations from Wings Over Whales fundraiser	\$1,236	Space for KORI	\$0
Merchandise sales	\$354	Internship stipends (x4)	\$6,010
	\$8,479		\$8,126

Thank YOU for all your support!



A huge thanks to our supporters



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Kaikoura Ocean Research Institute



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