The HMS Buffalo (located off Buffalo Beach, Whitianga) is a significant New Zealand archaeological site. Even if the HMS Buffalo is an important and easily accessible archaeological site, it has been overlooked locally and nationally (like much of our maritime heritage). As a result of collaboration between Kurt Bennett (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga), Rebecca Cox (Whitianga Museum) and Matthew Gainsford (W Gumbley Ltd), the HMS Buffalo Re-examination Project was formed to enhance awareness of, and education about the site and archaeology through public engagement within the local community (including volunteers, the general public and area schools).

This has been achieved through a strong collaboration with the Mercury Bay Museum, on-site fieldwork (using vocational divers), public lectures (including during Archaeology Week), educational on-site school visits, and follow-up classroom presentations for the area schools. Results from fieldwork and research about the site and ship will be incorporated into the region's history syllabus and an updated Buffalo exhibition at the Mercury Bay Museum.

The project's progress and results have been published in the museum and through multiple publications (both popular and peer-reviewed) with a national and international audience and local and national news articles, including a slot on TV3 evening news. The project has also worked alongside Ngāti Hei since they have strong ties to the site and the immediate area. The project has also included working with the Royal New Zealand Navy to survey the HMS Buffalo wrecking corridor and the area of Cooks Anchorage using side-scan sonar and magnetometer surveys to locate the wreck trail across the bay. Future plans include a GIRT education and training event to encourage local divers to adopt the wreck.

The HMS Buffalo Re-examination Project has significantly contributed to re-engaging people, especially the local Whitianga community, with an important historical and archaeological site.