



## The SoTM 5-Year Plan

For the first time ever, the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi now has a written plan for the future. This plan is the result of many hours of discussion by the committee and, in particular, the efforts of immediate past president Peter Lee. It was presented to the AGM in March.

This is not a formal document in that each concept needs to be ratified before it is “set in concrete”. The ideas in it are intended to remind us where we would like to take the project.

The plan is outlined on pages 11 and 12.

## It was the Day the Tiri Guides had their Picnic

Dennis Green

Sunday 17 February dawned bright and beautiful and that's the way it was going to stay for the Tiri Guides picnic at Wenderholm Regional Park. Sally Green thought that the guides would benefit by spending some leisure time together and getting to know one another a little better. Judging by the turnout most guides agreed.

A site was booked which included a large grassy area, a couple of barbeques, and about 30 metres of beach, as well as some welcome shade from some of Wenderholm's beautiful trees.

Early arrivals bagged the site and prevented invasions from those members of the public who have difficulty with reading signs. Luckily no strong arm tactics were required due to the excellent conflict resolution skills of the guides.

As numbers started to arrive, so the fun

began. The main event of the day was a cricket match, which proved popular with young and old alike. Thanks to Cathy Catto for bringing the bats and balls

The sea also proved inviting and a number of people tried out John Turner's surf ski with varying degrees of failure. In fact, amongst the adults, it was only Olga Brochner who managed to stay upright on it for more than 20 seconds. Further sport was enjoyed with the children hunting for chocolate egg vouchers, not very well hidden by Sally and Olga, and a game of petanque.

A musical interlude was provided by Joan and Ted Erskine-Legget grand-daughters and friends as everyone tucked into the BBQ. The singing and dancing were an inspiration to us all!

**Continued on Page 5**

## In This Issue

Fernbird Transfer  
Page 4

Tribute to Mel Galbraith  
Page 5

Takahe Chicks Named  
Page 7

Saddleback Export  
Page 7

Weeding Report  
Page 8

Abseiling for Weeds  
Page 9

Constitution Changes  
Page 10

This newsletter has been kindly sponsored by 3M New Zealand

## Dawn Chorus

Dawn Chorus is the official newsletter of the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc. It is published four times a year. Contributions (including photographs) are gratefully received.

## Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc.

**PO Box 34-229, Birkenhead, Auckland 1310**

The Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi is a non-profit conservation volunteer group. Founded in 1988, to further the aims of the Tiritiri Matangi habitat restoration and species translocation project, our four aims are:

- To promote and enhance the open sanctuary of Tiritiri Matangi and to ensure the continuation of the project.
- To provide financial, material and physical support for the work on Tiritiri Matangi.
- To heighten public awareness of the existence and role of Tiritiri Matangi as an open sanctuary
- To do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the foregoing objects or any of them.

The annual subscription is:

- Adult / Family / Corporate - \$20
- Overseas - \$25
- Student / Child - \$5

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## Editorial

New Zealand is a lucky country!

Sure, there is plenty to grizzle about and things can always be better but we do have plenty to be optimistic about.

Sure, since the arrival of humans, we have seen the extinction of 42 species of bird, some of these as recently as the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We have also lost over 75% of our forests. Yet, whilst we should learn from past mistakes, we cannot change history.

Now, more than ever before, we have a level of awareness of the problems and are prepared to do something about it, both inside and outside of government. We still have many species left, as well as plenty of habitat.

We are fortunate that ours is a stable country. We are only too aware of the human suffering in many parts of the world as a result of conflict. What is often ignored is the wildlife that is lost when political instability exists. It must be very difficult to think of wildlife conservation when your own survival is in question.

We are also fortunate that, unlike many of the long established developed countries, we do still have a good proportion of our forests left.

We must not become complacent, however, or we will lose the kakapo, black robin and takahe. Furthermore, we need to reverse the decline of such species as the kiwi and kokako. It is much easier to save them now than if they were to reduce to a handful of birds.

Provided we don't lose the plot, the 20th century will be remembered as the last century in which native New Zealand birds became extinct. We will do it!

**The opinions of contributors, expressed in Dawn Chorus, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc.**

## Letters to the Editor

**Readers are encouraged to send their views on any relevant subject. Please forward these to tiri@clear.net.nz or mail to PO Box 64 042, Botany Town Centre, Auckland 1730**

**Deadline for Autumn Newsletter  
31 April 2002**



## From The Chair

The AGM in March saw the presentation of a five year plan, chaired by Peter Lee with input by John Mcleod from the Supporters and Dianne Brunton from Auckland University, that provided a valuable insight into the path the Supporters propose to move towards in the future. The plan outlined a timetable on the projects that we can assist on the island covering everything aspect from translocations, building developments, education through to communications. The basis for the timetable was taken from the 10 year working plan and from the Conservation management strategy, with input from the committee. Details of the plan are summarized in this edition and we expect this to signal a very exciting future for the Tiritiri Matangi project.

But Peter has decided to step down from his role as Chairperson at the meeting to develop new interests in the conservation arena. The committee and I want to thank him very much for his service as chairperson over the last 3 years and for providing a roadmap for the way ahead. Fortunately he will remain in contact with the committee developing sponsorship packages to fund the various Tiritiri projects and so his skills will not be lost to the group. Olga Brochner also decided to step down as secretary because of increasing commitments off the committee. We will miss Olga's enthusiasm and a zeal that she applied to this role and wish her well for the future.

Conversely I wish to welcome some new blood to the committee for 2002 bringing with them new talents and ideas. Firstly we welcome Dr Graham Ussher who has been involved with research on NZ reptiles and in particular on the Tuatara. As a student, Graham was based on Tiritiri for a period of time assisting Ray and Barbara with daily tasks. Graham's experience on the island and his considerable academic background will provide valuable information for the incoming committee.

Julie Cotterill has take the place of Olga as secretary and will bring her own special brand of enthusiasm to the role. Julie has been a keen volunteer for the island for many years both as a guide and assisting in other work on the island.

Finally we welcome back Cathy Cato, a committee stalwart from two years ago. Cathy served previously as Treasurer on the committee and brings back to the committee a wealth of experience.

The existing committee members carrying through include Lois Wilson performing an admirable job as Treasurer, Simon Fordham who remains as Editor of the Dawn Chorus, Val Smytheman who takes over the role as Membership secretary, John McLeod (building subcommittee), Sally Green who manages our website and as guiding coordinator, and Vicki Young who processes the mail out of the Dawn Chorus.

So now with a tremendous combination of old and new capabilities on the committee, we look forward to serving the members well over the next 12 months. Now to begin the implementation of the five year plan, so expect to see a lot of developments over the coming months.

Carl Hayson

## Page 3 Bird



### Grey Faced Petrel

*Pterodroma macroptera*

Oi

Many overnight visitors to Tiri during autumn and winter have shared in the excitement of encountering the Grey Faced Petrel, Tiri's most common seabird. Like all "true" seabirds, they usually only come ashore to breed, arriving at existing breeding sites in April to mark there territories.

From late June the female will lay one egg in her burrow, which may be up to 2 metres deep. She will incubate for the first few days then the male will take a turn whilst she goes searching for food, the diet being mainly squid.

They then take another turn each and, after 55 days, she returns to feed the newly hatched chick. The chick is closely guarded for the first two or three days then fed about every 4<sup>th</sup> night.

The chicks depart from early December to late January and won't return to breed for around 7, although they do visit a year or two prior to breeding.

At the northern end of Hobb's Beach is the "Petrel Station", the best breeding site on the island and easily accessible. Birds are called in by making "Red Indian" sounds although many are usually already there upon arrival. They are then picked up and checked for a band, one being attached to unbanded birds.

A bird was recently picked up here that was banded, on nearby Motuora Island, as an adult in 1964, meaning that it was over 40 years old.

The Grey Faced Petrel is also known as the Northern muttonbird, the chicks being legally harvested by Maori on privately owned islands.

Simon Fordham



# Little Brown Birds and Bulldozers

by Kevin Parker



Most people have never even heard of fernbird let alone seen one and yet Sir Walter Buller considered them to be our most common and widespread species.

Habitat clearance and introduced predators have taken their toll on all our indigenous species and fernbird are no exception. The Chatham Island fernbird, has joined the ranks of the extinct huia and piopio. When ship rats and cats arrived on Big South Cape and Herekopare Islands respectively, local populations of fernbird were quickly exterminated. However we are fortunate in still having mainland populations of these beautiful little birds. Due to the cryptic nature of fernbird and their fondness for wet, scrubby, dense, scratchy places where people generally do not go we must be extra vigilant. Fernbird have much in common with most of our invertebrates-when no one is really looking would a decline be noticed?



New Zealand conservation has been characterised by heroic rescues by dedicated and skilled workers. Such work has often been a last resort. The skill of those involved in such efforts is reflected in some of the spectacular successes. However shifting small numbers of endangered birds is a very hazardous activity. In an ideal world vulnerable species are identified prior to their population reaching dangerously low levels. Techniques and insurance populations should be established to deal with such species, before the loss of one or two individuals threatens the existence of the entire species.

Fernbird are known to be vulnerable to predation and usually exist in undervalued habitats. Therefore they are ideal candidates for establishing an island population. Fernbird have long been identified for introduction to Tiritiri Matangi, the first proposal been put forward in 1994. Due to land clearance for the northern motorway a suitable source population became available last year. A lapse in communication gave very little time to organise a transfer as habitat clearance had begun. However a team of volunteers was quickly put together and in late June 2001 to the background sound of chainsaws and a large bulldozer the first two fernbird were caught. They spent the night in transfer boxes in Orewa (at my Grandparents'

house!) and flew first class to Tiri the following day. Over the following two months a total of 13 birds were captured and transferred to Tiri. Fernbird are not the easiest birds to work with and at times were quite reluctant to come into the nets, but a lot was learnt and will be applied over the next few months for the second transfer.

Since release, the birds have been spotted all over the island. Various trips by myself to locate birds were often slightly depressing affairs-two days walking and playing calls to find one bird. The breakthrough came in late March when I located four birds including a pair on territory. I spent an hour with the first three birds but was unable to get a look at their bands. I saw heads, wings, tails and one case upper legs-but no bands. The fourth bird I saw had no bands on one leg and I am 95% sure that there were none on the other leg as well-a very strong indication of breeding on the island. For those hoping to catch a glimpse of Tiri fernbird the area above Northeast Bay, Fishermans Bay, the bottom of Lighthouse Valley and Little Wattle Valley have all had recent sightings. Keep an eye out all over the island though. With the second transfer birds could be seen literally anywhere. It is more likely that fernbird will be heard rather than seen. Particularly distinctive calls include u-tick, teeoo and a sharp chip. Any sightings should be recorded, particularly if you manage to get band combinations and forwarded to myself ([k.parker@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:k.parker@auckland.ac.nz)).

A huge number of people have been involved in the transfer efforts. Carl Hayson provided a huge amount of support both in the field and with the logistics of organising the actual transfer. Mel Galbraith also provided support and advice. Rosalie Stamp put in an admirable effort organising the transfer permits. Ray, Barbara and Ian were always ready on the island to deal with new arrivals. The advice and support of Tim Lovegrove and Sandra Anderson was invaluable in figuring out how to catch fernbird. Dianne Brunton, my supervisor, for help in the field and in the office. Tiri volunteers included Mike and Simon and Morag Fordham who despite top efforts in the field did not get a close up look at a fernbird. Maybe this year! In addition a large number of volunteers from the University of Auckland assisted in catching birds. The transfers could never go ahead without the generous support of a long list of such people and I apologise to those I have left out. Watch this space for details of the second transfer. There is an abundance of suitable habitat, which will soon be filled with calling fernbird!

# A Tribute to Mel Galbraith

by Carl Hayson  
Chairman, SoTM

It went largely unnoticed at the AGM but finally after 14 years of continual service on the committee, Mel Galbraith slipped quietly off into retirement (from the committee, of course). Officially Mel had stepped down when his term of chair ended in 1999, but he remained as a co-opted member by representing the Supporters on the Auckland Conservation board. In this capacity, Mel was able to give recommendations to the committee not only on matters arising from the board but also befitting a senior statesman on matters affecting the committee which were invaluable. Although he has already received accolades for his service to the Supporters, I feel members should be aware on what he did on a more practical level as a member of the committee. The events below are not necessarily in chronological order.

Mel became a founder member of the society in October 1988 and became its first secretary under the chairmanship of Jim Battersby. Mel at that time was instrumental in developing the structure of the organization, setting protocols and helping introduce the Supporters Logo (Saddleback), which is the emblem of the Supporters today. He progressed on to the editorship of the newsletter, a role he held for two years and in which time he developed a professional format for the magazine.

He was even known to give advice to subsequent editors to maintain in order to maintain this professional layout. Mel, with the assistance of Glenfield College where he worked, produced the coloured flyers and inserts, announcing significant events for the Supporters that are still in use today. Other developments included the new membership forms used on the island, which are little changed from their original design.

During this role as editor, Mel created the membership database from a typed list onto a computer database because of the increasing pressure of maintaining a membership list. This computer program has served the Supporters well for nearly 10 years and is still in use today. He then ventured into the field to become part of the team involved in the translocation of the Hihi from Little Barrier Island to Tiritiri. Using a variety of students from Glenfield College, Mel organized students to mist net birds on Little Barrier Island, build nest boxes for the cavity nesting honeyeater and arranged stickers and leaflets to promote the transfer.

His finale as Chairperson of the society included a major coup for the Supporters, with the successful invitation of David Bellamy to the Supporters 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Assisted by the British council, Mel was also able to encourage Chris Baines from the UK for last year's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and so the Supporters have been privileged to receive personal overseas support for the project. Finally he was elected to the Auckland Conservation Board and remained in contact with the committee until the present time.

Mel is now developing a new role with an organization promoting an urban sanctuary on the North Shore and we expect his dedication in that group to be as equally as important as it has been to the Supporters.

Mel has made extraordinary contribution to the group since its inception, and helped establish the standing in the conservation field that the Supporters now enjoy. But although leaving the committee signals the end of an era, I am sure that he will never be far from the organization he helped to develop so successfully over the past decade and a half.

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## Tiri Guides Picnic (Continued from Page 1)

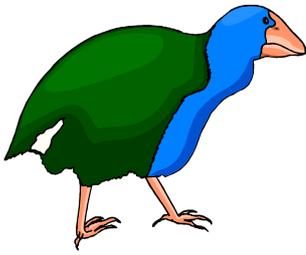
The highlight of the day was an unscheduled performance by a number of native pigeons who obviously realised they had a captive audience of birders. They spent much of the late afternoon in spectacular displays of aerial agility, rising rapidly on the air currents of the Wenderholm cliffs only to be followed by a steep dive, reminiscent of a German dive bomber.

All good things have to come to an end and as we made our way into the heavy SH1 going home traffic, everyone reflected on a great day at a great location. Thanks to the organisers.



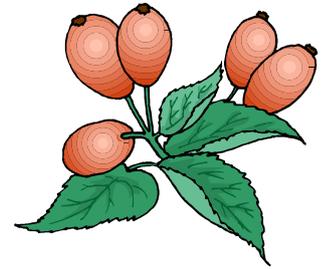
Photos – Ted Erskine Legget





# Flora and Fauna Notes

Compiled by Barbara Walter



## Flora

The glasshouse is once again full of seed trays that will provide plants for the 2003 planting season of the south eastern paddock to create habitat for takahe and brown teal. There are 5,000 plants in the nursery at present for planting this winter.

Takahe need clumps of trees to hide from harrier hawks and there will also be mown areas for them and the brown teal. The sheep will go soon except for 6 to be retained in the house paddock.

Wattles are late flowering this year – still only a few flowers. Kohekohe fruiting on the Kawerau Track has been attracting tui, kokako, stitchbird, bellbird and saddleback.

Kohekohe also have a lot of flower buds so next year should see very good fruiting. Mapou has had a very good season, whitehead have been feasting themselves on the fruit> It has been a good year for cabbage tree, coprosma and karo fruit.

## Birds

### (The Feather Report)

#### **Takahe**

All birds are in good condition and the 3 chicks are 6 months old. Whetu, since his sojourn at Auckland Zoo, has not been accepted by his previous family but wanders in the same territory, managing to avoid confrontation. He used to be the bully of the Lighthouse Gang but is now not even keen on pukeko and will run away from them.

Greg, and at times Pounamu as well, keep visitors amused on Hobbs Beach. Whakama is on his own in the Fisherman's Bay / Pohutukawa Bay area.

#### **Stitchbird (Hihi)**

103 chicks fledged this season, in addition to the 5 that were transferred to Mt. Bruce. They are using the feeders a lot as natural food is scarce. The bush has been very dry so there are very few insects. The Wattles will relieve the situation when they are in full flower. 45 adults and 54 chicks have been accounted for at present. Two birds, a male (M-RR) and a female (G-M), banded on Little Barrier Island in 1995 prior to transfer to Tiri, are still alive.

#### **Kokako**

TKW and Cloudsley Shovell built their 3<sup>rd</sup> nest but didn't use it. Kanuka (Shazbot and Kaha's juvenile) is seen in the Kawerau Track area.

TKW and Cloudsley Shovell's chicks that went to Puketi were named Tiritiri Koha and Tiritiri Waiata. Tiritiri Waiata was transferred to Auckland Zoo whilst Tiritiri Koha was transferred to Hamilton Zoo. Each one has now been joined by a Puketi male and it is hoped they will breed sometime in the next couple of breeding seasons.

#### **North Island Robin**

A good season with 50 adults and 84 young fledged. There were more 3<sup>rd</sup> clutches than in previous years. They are being seen in the planted areas more and more now. Dr. Doug Armstrong from Massey University is visiting to do an up to date census in May.

#### **Brown Teal**

The Bunkhouse Dam pair have settled their differences and have been seen copulating. The young male on the Wharf Dam has not

been seen recently. More birds will be released on Tiri in June. They will be fitted with transmitters so that a student may do research on them.

These birds will be transferred from the captive breeding centre based at Ruawai, but the actual day of arrival is yet to be ascertained. With the proposed wetland development, it is hoped to establish a larger population of this seriously endangered species on the island. A proposal to improve the advocacy of this species on Tiritiri is also to be advanced.

Three have also been seen on Hobbs Beach at night, as well as lone females on the Fisherman's Bay and Pumphouse Valley Dams.

#### **Saddleback**

Another good season and there have been some very late juveniles. Our last bird from Cuvier Island, whence they were originally translocated, is still alive and had 2 chicks again this year and with the same mate from the first breeding season on Tiri - November 1984. She is now 18 and he is 17½! A previous Cuvier bird lived to 21 but she had 3 different mates. In June here is to be a transfer to Karori Sanctuary in Wellington of 40 Tiri saddleback (see next page).

#### **Kakariki (Red Crowned Parakeet)**

A good season and plenty of flax seed for them to eat. Ian Fraser, assisted by Stuart Corliss and Megan Willens, have been mist-netting kakariki and holding them in the aviary for blood screening.

They are being banded so that the same ones aren't caught twice. A vet and assistant are doing the blood screening. They are checking for a number of parrot diseases in order to

set reasonable standards for imported parrots. Also, DoC will gain baseline information to learn about the risk of diseases to native birds plus any future changes in disease profile. This study is funded by MAF.

### **Little Spotted Kiwi**

Kiwi are seen frequently around the lighthouse - nursery area, Wharf Rd., Wattle Valley and near the wharf. Hugh Robertson and Rogan Colbourne will conduct a Kiwi census in July.

### **Grey Faced Petrel**

OSNZ members have banded several birds and also a recapture was made of a bird banded on Motuora as an adult in 1964. This bird is therefore at least 40 years old.

### **Kereru**

A juvenile was seen being fed crop milk by the parent bird on the Kawerau Track. There have been good sightings of several Kereru in that area.

### **Whitehead**

An excellent breeding year again and it may well be the most numerous resident bird on Tiri.

### **Spotless Crake**

These are easily seen on the Wharf Dam as the dam level is so low. Our overseas bird watchers are especially pleased to see them as these birds are usually so shy.

### **Little Blue Penguin**

These are very vocal and coming ashore in quite large numbers.

### **Tomtit**

One Sunday in March, a tomtit was seen in the nursery area.

### **Skink**

The stitchbird feeders often attract other species such as bellbird and even tui but Val Smytheman reports seeing a skink sipping on the nectar.

## **Naming of New Takahe Chicks**

### 1) The lighthouse gang (Kaitiaki, JJ, A Dot, & Rossie)

Blakie (RM -R) female – A very large chick so banded with “red socks” before DNA tests but is actually a female. However, the name will remain.

### 2) Glencoe & Aroha

BJ (Blue Junior) (WM-Y) male – Named after Mr. Blue

### 3) Kristin, Ahikaea & Blackwatch

(Blue) Sapphire (BM-Blk) female – Named by the “Tiri Kids”. There is already a Sapphire in the Murchison Mountains. She will be registered as Blue Sapphire but will be known as Sapphire on Tiri.

Over the years, three birds were sent as females to Tiri – Kaitiaki, EB (now dead) and Blossom. The all turned out to be males. Feather DNA has now solved this problem so we guess we should have waited with “Blakie” but many visitors were keen to have a bird with “red socks” earlier on.

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## **North Island Saddleback Transfer**

Raewyn Empson, Karori Wildlife Sanctuary

Up to 40 Saddlebacks will be transferred from Tiritiri Matangi Island in the Hauraki Gulf to Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in June 2002. This transfer is very significant because it will bring saddlebacks back to the mainland for the first time in over 100 years. Saddlebacks are highly susceptible to predation from rats, mustelids, and cats because they are very noisy and inquisitive birds, often seen foraging for insects in leaf litter on the ground. They also nest in holes. They are unlikely to survive outside the Sanctuary and since there is no other North Island mainland location at the present time large and safe enough for saddlebacks, the population established at the Sanctuary will be very important.

Some of the saddlebacks will have small transmitters attached to their tails so we can monitor their survival and dispersal after release. Phil Smiley from Victoria University will undertake this research as part of his Masters thesis. Despite the fact that there will be plenty of safe natural sites to roost and nest in within the Sanctuary, we will install roost and nest boxes to provide them with familiar sites to roost in initially, to encourage them to set up territories within the Sanctuary. Supplementary feeders will also be installed in several locations for the same reason.

North Island saddlebacks have distinctive orange wattles at the base of the bill and a bright chestnut saddle over the back and rump. They will often be seen prying at bark for insects followed by excited fantails and whiteheads that pick up smaller insects that have been disturbed by the saddleback. They are also a natural seed disperser of many trees and shrub hardwoods because they eat fruit in addition to insects, so play a useful role in habitat restoration. They form lifelong pair bonds and pairs communicate regularly with each other with a very noisy and distinctive range of calls. We expect them to breed well in this new location and to expand in numbers quite quickly. So they should become very visible or audible within a relatively short time.

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary  
[www.sanctuary.org](http://www.sanctuary.org)



# Weeding Report 2001 - 2002



by Ian McLeod

Our war on weeds on Tiri continued this year thanks to the Supporters of Tiritiri who donated \$20 000 to buy equipment and hire temporary staff.

The weed programme was split into two parts: Stage one focussed on grid-searching the island and controlling and target weed species found, with a particular goal of searching for and destroying the weed species Japanese honeysuckle (JHS), mothplant, Mexican devil, mile-a-minute (*Dipogon lignosus*), sweet pea and pampas grass. During the grid-searching other weeds such as hemlock, cape ivy, climbing dock, bone seed, montbretia, and sweet briar were found and controlled by spraying or removal. Stage two focussed on the boxthorn infestations growing on the cliffs on the north eastern side of the island. This year Abseil Access were the lucky recipients of the contract to weed the cliffs on Tiritiri (a mixed blessing!). A team of three abseilers spent 7 days on ropes here in early March, negotiating the dangerous cliffs and battling the extremely vicious boxthorn plants.

Tiritiri Matangi ranger Ian McLeod was in charge of the weed project, and three extra staff were hired over the summer to assist him – Dave Hislop, Felicity Ward and Mark Spencer. The “weed team 2002” completed of the Stage One of the weeding program. Dave was hired as a supervisor and was responsible for the team when Ian was carrying out other duties. Having previously run a graphics and design business, Dave also put his talents to use on rainy days, sign-writing in the shed. Mark and Fliss were students looking for a holiday job with a difference. All three “weeders” were fit (especially after 8 weeks of weeding) and hardworking. Due to poor weather conditions the weeders’ contracts were extended for a further two weeks in order to reach our targets after the rainy weather in November and December.

For those not familiar with weed control, it goes something like this: Choose a hot muggy summers day. Put on full overalls a mask, goggles and rubber gloves. Fill a backpack sprayer with 15 Litres of herbicide. Lug it through either dense bush, or a mixture of head high muehlenbeckia and bracken fern for eight hours. All the while keeping a sharp eye out for even the smallest weed seedling. Needless to say, weed control is hard work. Days began at 6.00am in an effort to avoid the afternoon sun, and most days ended with a well-earned swim at Hobbs Beach or bombing off the wharf. The abundant wet days were spent on a variety of tasks, such as digging out arum lilies and rose bushes, general cleaning and maintenance of spray equipment and of course Dave’s signage in the shed.

Over half of the island was meticulously searched for invasive weeds, and some plots that had not been previously grid-searched were investigated. The total area searched was slightly lower than last year’s effort due to

frustratingly wet weather, but was still higher than the years preceding that. The island was split up into smaller weed plots in comparison to previous years. All major weed infestations were marked with blue triangles and their locations were stored using a GPS.

Escort herbicide was used in previous years, however Du Pont donated a large amount of Answer in 2000 (which has the same active ingredient as Escort). Answer was trailed last year and proved to be as effective as Escort in controlling the target weed species. Vigilant herbicide gel was also brought in this year. This herbicide is extremely selective and was used when weeds were intertwined around sensitive plants.

Overall, the number of adult plants found for most target species was slightly higher than in the 2000 – 2001 weed control programme. This is likely a reflection of the excellent growing conditions in 2001 and many of these were found in more remote plots which had not been searched until now. However weed abundance is still far lower than in years preceding the 2000 – 2001 season. Juveniles are still germinating in old infestation sites highlighting the importance of continued weed control. The current investment in weed control will be well worth it in future years, and the reduction in weed abundance will mean that weed control should be quicker, more efficient and cheaper in years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, contractors and volunteers who helped make the weed program this year a success. Finally, a special thanks to the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi whose continued support makes this all possible.



**Tiri Island Weed Team 2001 - 2002**



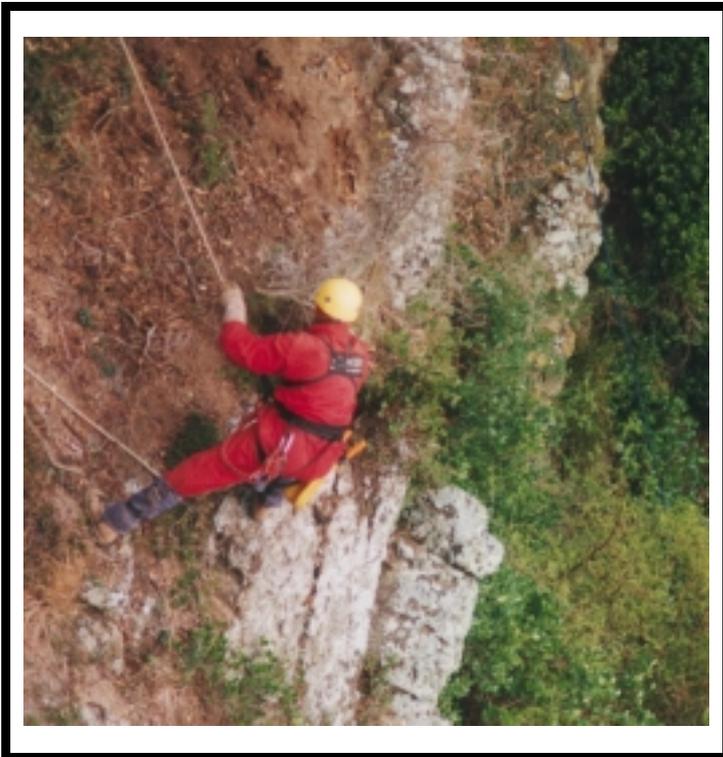
# Hanging In There!!!

Martin Wilson

A team from Abseil Access recently visited the island with the prime objective of removing some of the more inaccessible, invasive weeds.

Abseilers Martin Wilson, Clayton Lowe and Greg Clarke found over 1000 boxthorn, 4 apple of Sodom and 1 mile-a-minute in Pohutukawa Bay, No-name Bay and North East Bay over 10 days. One area required boat access - Clayton rowed!

Of interest, 4 Seabirds and 1 blue penguin were found entangled in the boxthorn.



A robin frequently visited us as we uprooted numerous plants and exposed worms and other invertebrates.

Heavy protective clothing was necessary despite the hot conditions. Occasional spikes would pierce through the soles of our workboots into our feet.

We finished with piles of dead cuttings reaching 6 metres high.

The highlight of our time was not abseiling but seeing kokako on the Kawerau track on 3 occasions.

## Caption Competition



Last edition, readers were invited to suggest a caption for the cartoon of Greg the Takahe. Whilst only a few entries were received, they were all worth publishing.

*DoC's answer to MAF's beagle programme (Karen Hally)*

*"Heh! You a Pakeha... but me the TAKAHE! So where ya take ya tukker-eh?!" (Ross Worth)*

**And the winner:**

*"This is my patch, so bog off! ..... but your lunch is welcome to stay (Pat Greenfield)*

Congratulations Pat. A \$20 gift voucher awaits you at the Tiri shop.

# Constitution Changes

The 2002 AGM approved two changes to the Constitution. These were required to tidy up procedural matters regarding the receipt and payment of moneys, and also the dispersal of assets should the Supporters wish to wind up. Both had been supplied by Ian Haynes, our Honorary Solicitor (and chair of KPMG Legal!) and were approved without amendment. The new constitutional wording is now as follows:

## 10 Use and Control of Funds and Property

- (a) *The income, funds and property of the Society must be applied solely in or towards promotion of the objects of the Society as set out in Rule 2.*
- (b) *All moneys paid to the Society are to be received for processing by the Treasurer or other person authorized by the Committee.*
- (c) *All such moneys must be paid into such Bank account as the Committee determines.*
- (d) *All accounts in excess of \$500 must be submitted to the Committee for approval prior to payment.*
- (e) *The Treasurer has authority to pay accounts not exceeding \$500, but particulars of all such payments must be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.*
- (f) *All cheques must be signed by any two of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or other Committee members.*

**12(b)** *If upon the winding up of the Society or upon its dissolution by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies, there remains (after satisfaction of all its liabilities) any property whatsoever, the same must not be paid to or distributed amongst the Members of the Society, or any of them, but must be given or transferred to one or more institutions or clubs having objects similar to or in sympathy with the objects of the Society, or to one or more funds or causes the purposes of which are likely to further or be in sympathy with the objects for which the Society is constituted. The recipients must be determined by a majority of Members present in person at a general meeting to be held in accordance with these Rules at or before the winding up, or the dissolution and in default of the recipients being determined in the above manner, then the recipients are to be as determined by the High Court of New Zealand.*

**Our thanks to Ian Haynes and KPMG Legal for providing this work pro bono (free)**

## Donations wanted!!!

The Committee is keen to purchase a special camera to take time-lapse photos. This will be invaluable in building up a record of particular species. Rather than seek a single corporate sponsor, we feel this is a special project that you, our members, would be keen to participate in by making donations.

If you want to help make this a reality, please send your donation to the Treasurer, Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi, PO Box 34 229, Birkenhead, Auckland 1330.

## 2002 Island Diary

Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Bellbird Trip  
(book with Barbara – not Fullers)

Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>  
Kowhai Trip  
(book with Barbara – not Fullers)

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September  
Tiri Social Event  
Guest Speaker

October 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Supporter's Families Weekend

October 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>  
Labour Weekend Working Bee

## Island Notes

Schools have booked in early and most of 2002 is fully booked. Those that have visited already are:

- Rosehill Intermediate (7 trips)
- Laingholm School (3 trips)
- Willowpark Primary (2 trips)
- Hebron Christian College
- Michael Park School
- Birkenhead Primary
- Rotorua Girls High
- Tauranga College

A small group of St. Dominic students stayed overnight and had a magic evening with 2 kiwi right close to them.

Many families are returning as a result of a school trip.

Thank you to Auckland Tramping Club, Theresa & David MacIntyre's group and Chris & Maxine's group for your work on our tracks.

The DoC year ends 30 June. For the 9 month period to the end of March, this years visitor numbers are, 25,188 – 3,000 up on the same period last year.

A special thank you to all of the guides and shop helpers that have worked so hard during the busy season. The addition of 22 more helpers and 8 more guides, still in training, should make the next busy season easier.

Barbara

# The SoTM 5-Year Plan

Introduction	Summary highlights 2002-07
<p><b>Our mission statement</b> To develop and promote Tiritiri Matangi as a model of sustainability through conservation of New Zealand biodiversity, ecotourism, education and effective management.</p> <p><b>Strategic intent</b> By 2007, Tiritiri will become a key centre for research, education and management of rare and endangered species in a public environment.</p> <p><b>Philosophy and rationale</b> In an ideal world DoC would fund everything. This Plan reflects the fact that we do not live in an ideal world. If we do not undertake the activities, they will be significantly delayed or will never occur. This Plan reflects our desire to be proactive and to drive the future direction of the project. The Plan also provides a structured basis for our activities, and a way to test spending decisions and priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SoTM currently raises over \$150,000 pa in profits from a mix of shop profits, guiding revenues, sponsorship, donations and subscriptions. Even allowing for expenses some \$110,000 pa is currently available. With increasing membership this income will increase. The 2007 estimate is 1800 members and annual profits (excluding sponsorship) of \$150,000 pa. net of expenses.</li> <li>• An ambitious building programme will see the construction of a wharf shelter, new visitors' centre, new accommodation block and reacquisition of the bach. Existing tracks will be maintained and enhanced.</li> <li>• Planned and potential species translocations include tuatara, tomtit, rifleman, flax snail, giant weta, bat and one or more lizards.</li> <li>• Existing species such as kokako, fernbird, takahe and brown teal will be augmented through intensive management. The island will continue to export species to other refuges.</li> <li>• Habitat will be enhanced in three areas: development of a marine reserve, increased funding for weed management, and provision of wetlands for species such as brown teal.</li> <li>• The central theme will be significantly-increased spending on research, to the point where TM becomes a national centre for research into endangered and threatened species. SoTM will commission appropriate research and will also support captive breeding programmes.</li> <li>• The island's educational potential will be enhanced through a mix of interpretative signage, printed material, website, lectures and guiding.</li> <li>• The potential for low-impact ecotourism will be developed further.</li> </ul>
Criteria for selection	
<p>The activities selected are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permitted under our Constitution</li> <li>• Consistent with the CMS and the Working Plan</li> <li>• In line with the original 10-year plan</li> <li>• Consistent with our leading role in advocacy</li> <li>• Regarded as necessary or desirable to achieve the full potential of the island</li> </ul> <p>The plan reflects aspects of the island's five key histories: Maori, farming, maritime, military and conservation</p>	

## Key outcomes

The Supporters' planned activities fall into seven Key Areas

Key Area	Description	Why this is important
1. Infrastructure	Buildings, plant and equipment	Represents significant area of activity for SoTM over next 5 years. DoC cannot fund required buildings.
2. Habitat enhancement	Weed management, marine reserve etc	Necessary to protect/augment biodiversity
3. Biodiversity & species management	Species translocations	A plan of attack is needed in absence of DoC one, so that identified species will be translocated as soon as possible.
4. Research	Mix of commissioned research and co-ordinated research	Tiritiri has the potential to become a major base for research and significantly advance NZ conservation, while still remaining within the bounds of our constitution.
5. Education & advocacy	Communications, outreach, membership, PR	Groups our stakeholder engagement activities (a stakeholder is anyone or any group who we affect or who is affected by us).
6. Ecotourism	Guiding and related activities	Tiritiri is becoming a major destination. By providing high-value experiences we enhance the experiences, the importance of conservation, and maintain a significant revenue stream
7. Effective management & leadership	Sustainability, influence and leadership	Recognises SoTM's opportunity to accelerate other projects and hence take pressure of Tiritiri, as well as our mana and leadership,

Continued on Page 12 →

## Key activities

What	Description
<b>1. Infrastructure</b>	
Wharf shelter	Open structure
Visitors' Centre	Multi-purpose facility housing expanded shop, refreshments, interpretation & seminars.
Accommodation block	Purpose-built facility housing 14 people and all ablutions, adjacent to bunkhouse.
Bunkhouse enhancements	Removal of two internal walls to create extra living space.
Bach	To return to SoTM for use by groups, families, VIPs. Possible upgrade
Accommodation – DoC officer	SoTM to facilitate DoC construction of new staff accommodation to free up bach
Trackwork	Ongoing enhancement/ maintenance of tracks, platforms
Seminar facility	Upgrading of workshop or construction of new facility for seminars and conferences
Machinery replacement	Rolling replacement & maintenance for ute, trailers, farmbikes
Lighthouse Complex restoration	Restoration of foghorn. Reconstruction of flagpole. Provision of interpretation.
Sundry infrastructure	Tools, materials
<b>2. Habitat Enhancement</b>	
Marine reserve	Support initiatives eg NZUA
Weed management	Take over from Lotteries Board plus increased weed management
Wetland	Construction of new wetlands for teal
<b>3. Biodiversity &amp; Species Management</b>	
Brown teal	Breeding & research, translocation
Rifleman	Research, translocation cost
Tomtit	Research, translocation cost
Tuatara	Research, translocation cost
Long-tail & short-tail bat	University of Auckland research (equipment \$30K) translocation cost
Giant weta	Research, translocation cost
Flax snail	Research, translocation cost
Lizards	Research, translocation cost
Key species management: kokako, kiwi, takahe	Active support of DoC program. Mix of research, transfer etc costs
<b>4. Research</b>	
Commissioned research	University of Auckland research into appropriate species etc on Tiri, particularly of national importance

Captive breeding programs	Off-site support of research and programs, e.g. Auckland Zoo (dotterel, kiwi), Unitec (flax snail, lizards)
Visitor impact research	Annual research into visitor experience/impact
<b>5. Education &amp; Advocacy</b>	
Interpretative signs	Repair, enhance signs along tracks and in structures
Printed and web-based material	Enhance existing printed brochures & posters as required. Develop new educative series.
Lectures	Continue presentation of lectures & talks at conferences and community groups
Media management	Maintain links with key media & stakeholders to demonstrate value of conservation to ordinary NZers
Membership	Maintain loyal and increasing membership e.g. seminars, newsletter
Outreach	Bringing lower socio-economic groups to Tiri, eg schooltrips
History	Assembling the histories of Tiri (iwi, farming, military, maritime, conservation)
<b>6. Ecotourism</b>	
Provide high-value guiding experience	Continue & enhance current programme – guides' training, standardisation etc
Key stakeholder access & accommodation	Provide access to key groups: ornithologists, conservation/ environmentalists, volunteers, sponsors, schools
General public	Provide access on selected basis to NZ and overseas visitors
Enhanced experience	Provide additional services e.g. afternoon or overnight guiding, ecotourism trips
<b>7. Effective Management &amp; Leadership</b>	
Sustainability	Committed to 'triple bottom line' i.e. environmental, social & financial excellence, e.g. in supplier choice.
Co-management	Establish & have close links with Tiritiri Matangi Trust and/or DoC
Leadership	Leverage off TM's success via involvement with conservation initiatives e.g. Conservation Forum, council planning. Become a lead manager for other islands.
Policy influence	Active participant in DoC and local authority policy planning, e.g. CMS