

The 5 Year Plan Have Your Say!

Following on from the presentation of the draft 5 year plan at the last AGM and the subsequent publication of this in the Autumn bulletin, a number of members have indicated a desire to have input into the final document.

Whilst members are always welcome to provide input on any SoTM matter, and various means are available for this, the committee recognises the importance of involving the membership in adopting such a plan.

Consequently, members are formally invited to comment, in writing, on any aspects of the draft plan. This is not limited to those points already in the plan as there may be matters that should also be included.

If, as a result of submissions, it is clear that there are issues that require further consideration, then either the document will be amended accordingly or, where opinion appears to be divided on any aspect of the plan, a special meeting will be held to discuss

those specific issues.

The important thing is that the plan is adopted with the support of the membership, not just the committee.

Submissions must be received by the chairman, Carl Hayson, by **31 January 2003**.

Carl's address is:

21 Orchard Rd., Browns Bay

or

Email: cgpartners@clear.net.nz

The submissions will then be considered by the committee early in February with a view to achieving closure at the March AGM.



Cartoon by Neil Gange

In This Issue

Farewell to Sheep
Page 4



Takahe Family Tree
Page 5



New Sponsorship
Page 8



Special Visitors
Page 10



10 Years Ago
Page 11



Letters to the Editor
Page 12



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

SoTM Contacts

Chairperson

Carl Hayson 479 4217 cgpartners@clear.net.nz

Secretary

Julie Cotterill 812 8402 julieatpiha@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer

Lois Wilson 376 0233 wilsonfalconer@clear.net.nz

Membership Secretary

Val Smytheman 278 9309 vjess@ihug.co.nz

Newsletter Editor

Simon Fordham 274 1828 simonf@clear.net.nz

Committee

Cathy Catto	629 3903	higcat@actrix.co.nz
Sally Green	836 5963	sallygreen@xtra.co.nz
Gaye Hayson	479 4217	cgpartners@clear.net.nz
Peter Lee	418 1332	peter@naturaledge.co.nz
John McLeod	631 5664	jmcLeod@ihug.co.nz
Graham Ussher	815 6622	g.usher@auckland.ac.nz
Vicky Young	575 1114	vicky@lonelymiaow.co.nz

DoC Field Officers

Barbara & Ray Walter 476 0010 tiritirimatangifb@doc.govt.nz

Bunkhouse / Assistant Ranger 476 0920

Editorial

The draft 5 Year Plan has certainly created a degree of interest. It is a multi-faceted document that has taken much time to prepare. A special committee meeting, last February, debated the issues and agreed on the current form. Although opinion is divided on some of the issues, it was realized that the plan is just an indication of the strategic direction in which we wish to head and that each item will need to be discussed in detail before being ratified.

The committee consider that, as duly elected representatives of the membership, we have the mandate to carry this document forward. Having said that, we also have the responsibility to best represent the views of the membership.

In trying to ascertain how the membership thinks, I found a great diversity of opinion. Many were happy for the committee to proceed but a significant number felt that a greater degree of consultation was required. A few wanted a special meeting to discuss this but most recognised the impracticality of this idea.

Not wishing to ignore the need for membership input, the committee has decided to invite submissions on the plan. This is detailed elsewhere in this bulletin. In any case, members are always welcome, even encouraged to put forward their views on issues, either directly to the committee or through the "Letters to the Editor" column Dawn Chorus.

It should never be forgotten that Tiri, as it is today, is the result of many hours put in by volunteers. Some of these volunteers are committee members. Each member of the committee puts in many hours of hard work and everything we do is done in good faith with the ultimate aim of making Tiri a better place. All meetings are duly recorded and members are welcome to view the minutes. In any case, all members are entitled to participate or, in particular, make themselves available to join the committee.

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

Deadline for Summer Newsletter

January 31 2003



From the Chair

We are getting towards the end of the year and it is time to reflect on what has been achieved in the last 10 months.

A few examples are:

- Fernbird and brown teal translocations
- New mower for Ray
- Introduction of 5-year plan (strategy)
- 50th Bulletin (in colour)
- On-going negotiations for Visitors Centre, Wharf Shelter and North East Bay Wetland

Negotiating is an important skill in today's world and so it is with the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi, who are continuing to build bridges with the many stakeholders on the island. These include the members, the general public, the Department of Conservation, the iwi of the island, suppliers who sell and support the island plus other environmental groups such as Forest and Bird. The Supporters need to build relationships with each of these groups to ensure the long term goals for the island are met.

Examples of some of the relationship building this year have come as a result of the five-year plan (strategy):

Meetings between the Department of Conservation - these meetings have provided a good dialogue ensuring the strategies of both DoC and the Supporters are in harmony with each other.

Meetings with the Rodney District Council have been extremely useful in clarifying the processes that are required to obtain building consent and planning permission. This is particularly important in that we envisage considerable work will be undertaken next year on the erection of structures such as the Wharf Shelter, the Visitors Centre and North East Bay Wetlands.

Visits have occurred from some of the iwi of the island to oversee planned facilities, namely Hariata Gordon from Ngati Poa and Wayne Knox from Te Kawerau a Maki. Each of these visits has received general endorsement of the Supporters' plans for the island and have helped to develop a platform for future relationships with the iwi.

Additionally there has been some discussion amongst the members regarding the plan and in this bulletin we will continue to confer with our members by requesting submissions on the plan.

To summarize, a relationship is defined "as a condition that exists between people or groups that deal with one another". Therefore negotiations are important to build long term relationships with other groups that will mutually benefit the future of the island. I expect this to be an important part of the future work conducted by the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi to ensure the long term goals for the island are achieved.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for their support during the year and wish you all a merry Christmas.

Carl Hayson

Page 3 Bird



Photo Simon Fordham

WHITE-FRONTED TERN

Tara

Sterna striata

A lovely scene on a summer's day on Tiri while walking along the Ridge Track is the sight of White-fronted Tern flying overhead, beaks full of small fish on their way to feed their chicks at the colonies on the eastern side of the island.

This is the commonest tern on the New Zealand coast, rarely seen inland. Many, including most juveniles, winter in Australian waters.

This graceful bird has a long black bill and short black or reddish black legs. The breeding plumage is very pale pearly grey and white on top and the black cap is separated from the bill by a white forehead. The neck and underparts are usually white. At rest, the deeply forked tail extends well beyond the wings. When not breeding the black cap recedes to above the eyes and the tail is level with the wings when the bird is resting.

On Tiri the White-fronted Terns nest adjacent to Red-billed Gull colonies. Tern nests are often less than a metre apart. 1-2 eggs, pale green-blue to light brown with an array of spots are laid on bare ground. The first egg is larger than the second. Both parents incubate for about 24 days, and a few days after hatching the chicks join others in a crèche. Usually only one chick is reared which fledges at 29-35 days but the adults continue to feed the chick up to three months after leaving the colony.

They feed in coastal waters in large flocks. Small fish (smelt and pilchards) are caught by shallow plunge diving, in company with Fluttering and Flesh-footed Shearwaters, Australasian Gannets and Red-billed and Black-backed Gulls. Skuas will pursue the White-fronted Terns and force them to disgorge and drop the fish they have caught.

The New Zealand Fairy Tern - *Sterna nereis davisae* is our smallest and rarest rare tern and has not been seen on Tiri.

Morag Fordham

It's Time for Ewe to Go

By Ray Walter

As part of the revegetation of the south eastern paddock, it has been necessary to reduce the number of sheep. Approximately 60 sheep had been retained to keep the grass down until we were ready to replant the area.



It has been decided to keep a few sheep to graze the area between the lighthouse and the foghorn. Eventually, even these will go and all fences will be removed.



Cybernews

I would like to thank both Peter Crow and Max McRae for donating their photographs of flora and fauna for use in the Tiri Website and to also thank Morag Fordham for helping me by writing some of the fact sheets. Many new web pages have been created due to their submissions. If you haven't visited the website recently then you'll be pleased to see how it's developed .

www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz

Sally Green



Guiding Story

When guiding a young school group recently I was still at the wharf area and a kingfisher was repeatedly flying around us waiting to go into its nest to feed young. I asked the group if they could see the kingfisher. One little boy piped up and said "Miss, its landed on your t-shirt!". I was wearing one of the hand painted t-shirts that Barbara sells in the shop.

Sally Green



All in the Family

A Genealogy of Tiri's Takahe Population

Compiled by Val Smytheman



Source Populations

Maud Island

Mr. Blue (tx 1991)
Matangi (tx 1991*)
Blossom (tx 1997)

Maudie (tx 2000)

Stormy (1988/89)
(tx 1991)

JJ (1989/90)
(tx 1992)

* Matangi was transferred to Tiri as an egg and raised by Stormy & Mr. Blue

Kapiti Island

Bubble (tx 1994)
Kaitiaki (tx 1995)

Mana Island

Tussock (tx 1994)
EB (tx 1994)

Burwood Bush

Irene (tx 1994)
Pounamu (tx 1994)
Greg (tx 1994)

tx = year translocated to Tiri

Whetu — JJ
(or Kaitiaki?)

Rossie (2000/01)

Blakie (2001/02)

Stormy — JJ

Aroha (1992/93)

Iti (1993/94)

Kowhatu (1994/95)

Whetu (1994/95)
(fostered by Mr. Blue — Aroha)

Glencoe (1995/96)

Manawanui (1996/97)

@dot (1997/98)

Glencoe — Aroha

BJ (2)
(2001/02)

Kaitiaki — Aroha
(or Whetu?)

Opal (1996/97)
(fostered by Bubble — Irene)

BJ (1) (1996/97)

Greg — Pounamu

Maia (1994/95)

Whakama (1994/95)
(fostered by Bubble — Irene)

Kristin (1995/96)

Ahikaea (1997/98)

Bellamy (1998/99)

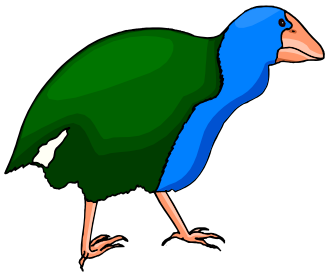
Whakama — Pounamu

2 Unnamed Chicks
(1999/2000) & (2000/01)

Kristin — Ahikaea

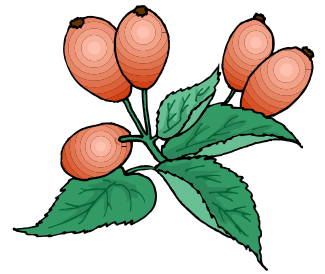
Blackwatch (2000/01)

Sapphire (2001/02)



Flora and Fauna Notes

Compiled by Barbara & Ray Walter,
Matt Low & Asa Berggren



Flora

With the proposed planting of the southeast paddock, you will notice a large increase in plants in the nursery. When the nursery was in full production it was producing approximately 25,000 trees a year. The southeast paddock will only require 8,000 – 9,000 trees a year.

The variety will not be as great as the slopes are exposed to the south-westerlies and easterlies so the trees will have to be the more hardy types. It is only intended to plant the steeper slopes and isolated small pockets of bush on the flatter areas and to maintain approximately 40% of the area in grasslands. This is to provide habitat for takahe and brown teal. We intend to have a Supporters' planting Day on the Sunday of Queen's Birthday weekend.

The kowhai flowering has been outstanding this season. The first flowers appeared mid July and a few trees still have flowers. The early flowering flax was devastated again by the kakariki but the later flowering plants are surviving but going into seed quickly.

Fauna

Takahe

The sad news is that, Pounamu, Greg's mate disappeared in August and, in spite of intensive searching by us and Max from Burwood Bush, her body was not found. She had not bred the previous year because of a severe liver infection.

As the Lighthouse Gang of Kaitiaki, JJ, A Dot, Rossie and Blakie consisted of 3 females, we decided to pair A Dot with Greg in the Fisherman's Bay pen. Their first clutch of eggs failed (?) due to a clumsy changeover resulting in broken eggs but they now have a second clutch and a better nesting site.

At the initial introduction, A Dot hid for 36 hours before deciding Greg was worthy of her attentions!

Aroha and Glencoe – had 2 fertile eggs producing 2 chicks of which one was found dead after a few days.

The Lighthouse Gang – JJ had 2 eggs, one only fertile but it failed to hatch – due to a dead embryo. They have time to nest again.

Ahikaea and Kristin's offspring, Blackwatch and Sapphire decided to leave home together and appeared in the Wharf Road, Wattle Valley area. After 3 days Sapphire returned home but Blackwatch stayed away. Ahikaea and Kristin have produced 2 chicks this year (only 4 days old at present). Very rarely do they manage to look after 2 chicks.

Iti, after losing a lot of weight due to a slight liver infection has fully recovered and she and Blossom now have a nest.

Irene and Bellamy – are yet to nest.

We now have 3 lone males, Whakama, Whetu and Blackwatch.

Stitchbird (Hihi)

It was a slow start to the season with the birds nesting about a month later than last year. The pre-breeding census found 96 birds (about 50% higher than last year) with most adults surviving the winter and almost half the juveniles including a male and female from the first release.

To accommodate all these new birds, Sandra Jack (DoC) and Matt Low (research) have been placing nesting boxes in new areas and expanding older areas (thank you Ian for all the new nest boxes). Because of this, areas like bush 2 have gone from 2 pairs last year to 4 pairs (and maybe 5) this year. Breeding is now well under way and at the end of the first week in November, 13 females have eggs in their nests, 1 has chicks and another 20 nests have been built. T

The big news is that the female from the bottom of bush 22 (BR/BM) has decided that she prefers the traditional style of home and has built a nest in a cavity in

a pohutukawa at Pohutukawa Bay. This is the first known natural nesting attempt for stitchbird on Tiri.

Robins

The robin season started well with Asa Berggren (research) finding 83 adult birds, including 2 birds that haven't been seen for over 3 years. Most are in pairs (38 pairs) and can be found almost everywhere on the island now.

Large bush patches like the Kawerau area and Wattle Valley have more pairs than last year and even the lower scrubby coastal areas to the north and east tend to have a pair in each area.

The season looked like it was to produce a bumper crop until the rain failed for several weeks and the food supply dried up. Many chicks starved and 23 of the nests failed last month.

The good news is that those birds have started to re-nest and hopefully robins will be thick on the ground soon. Eight chicks have fledged and the progress of these birds is currently being monitored by Angelique Hofman from Holland who is assisting Asa with her work.

Kokako

Cloudsley Shovell and Te Koha Waiata have nested a little earlier this year and have 2 eggs. Shazbot has gone back to her previous and first mate, Te Hari. Kahurangi has spurned Te Karanga and is now with Bel Canto, his first time to pair. Single birds are Kaha, Te Karanga, and last year's juvenile, Kanuka.

Saddleback

Stop Press

13 November 2002

Cloudley Shovell has a chick so her eggs must have been laid earlier than thought!



The breeding season is later than last year with only a few nests with chicks and eggs so far. Saddleback numbers do show concern, especially in the Wattle Valley area which was in previous years the most heavily populated area. The Island has been very dry and the insect population consequently has suffered – this may be the reason for later nesting.

Brown Teal

Brown teal on the bunkhouse dam are now nesting again – their first nest failed. The male is very young and very aggressive. He has beaten up one of the paradise shelduck's ducklings which later died. This pair is Tiri bred. The pair on Pumphouse Valley dam also nested without success – the male of this pair is one of the recently introduced birds. Unfortunately there has been further harrier predation of some of the recently introduced birds.

Kakariki (Red-crowned parakeet)

No sign of nesting yet but there are large numbers and they have been devastating the flax lowers.

Little Spotted Kiwi

Being sighted more frequently.
Whitehead

Whitehead appear to be the commonest bird on the Island. There is a male in bush 1 of the Kawerau Track that is now 11.5 years old. There may be a translocation of these birds to the Hunua Ranges in the near future.

Fernbird

Two different pairs (including an unbanded Tiri bred bird in each) are known to have chicks at N E Bay.

Bellbird

These honeyeaters appear to be preferring the planted areas, especially where there are a lot of cabbage trees. At one time they were only seen in Wattle Valley and the Kawerau Track.

Tui

More birds are returning from the mainland for breeding but, because of the flax devastation, they will breed to the pohutukawa flowering as they did 2 years ago.

Kingfisher

There are large numbers all over the Island and they are all ready nesting.

Kokako Plans for the 2002 / 2003 Breeding Season

As part of the national strategy for kokako management, two female chicks were last year removed from Tiri, prior to fledging, for breeding with males from Puketi Forest.

This season, there are no plans to remove any chicks from the island.

Any offspring from Taranaki source birds, presently in captivity, will be sent to Tiri. These are currently at Mt. Bruce and Otorohanga Wildlife Park, with high hopes of breeding at the latter this season..

There are also plans to swap some eggs with birds in the Hunua Ranges. However, it is uncertain whether this will happen this season as approval has yet to be sought and synchronisation of nests is also a logistical consideration.

Status of Saddleback at Karori Wildlife Sanctuary

Transferred from Tiri –June 2002

At the beginning of September approx 60% of the released saddlebacks were known to be alive and resident inside the Sanctuary. This compares extremely well with other species released here. For example, 60% of whiteheads released last year and 53-55% of robins released here in the last two years established territories inside the Sanctuary.

We have been monitoring 9 pairs and their breeding status is as follows:

- One pair successfully fledged 2 chicks at Labour weekend which we are thrilled about, being the first saddleback chicks known to have fledged on the mainland for over 100 years.
- One pair hatched a chick but we think it may not have fledged successfully - the male died from peritonitis.
- Three pairs are currently sitting on eggs (one of these laid infertile eggs first time round).
- One pair has been nest building and three other pairs may be nesting but they are proving very difficult to follow!

It looks as though pairs with adult females have been earlier to lay and have produced larger clutches than young and inexperienced females.

The tail mounted transmitters were very useful for tracking the birds initially and did not appear to affect breeding, transmitted females successfully hatching chicks. The batteries of these have now failed.

Given the very steep terrain in the Sanctuary and the fact that some birds have called very little compared with others, it is possible that other saddlebacks are present and the true population may be higher, for instance, one male was seen over Labour weekend for first time since June.

Also, we have a number of single juveniles (males and females) that appear to be taking time to establish territories and pair up. Their mobility makes it difficult to monitor them, but they are seen sufficiently often

Raewyn Empson
Conservation Manager



Sponsorship Announcement



Yates NZ Ltd. And Nufarm NZ have generously offered their support in assisting SoTM with their work on the island.

Yates, long time supporter of Motuora Island, are now supplying us with potting and seed raising mixes. Their generosity will mean a significant saving and guarantee of supply for the supporters over the next few years as we revegetate the sheep paddocks with 5,000 plants per year. Special thanks to Philip Dunn of Yates NZ Ltd.

Nufarm NZ, a division of Nufarm Ltd., have agreed to provide Tiri and Motuora with 100 litres of Roundup per year for the next 5 years. One of the biggest challenges for both islands is weed eradication and with the guarantee of a generous supply of Roundup, a major expense has been overcome, thanks to the generosity of Nufarm.

Special thanks to Nicola Smith and Chris Brown of Nufarm NZ.

This year's weed team starts work early November and will work with Ian Price for the next 2 months.

Cathy Catto

Labour Weekend Working Bee

For many years now, every long week has been a supporters working weekend. A combination of enthusiasm, ability and Ray's remarkable organizational and teaching skills results in a considerable amount of work being completed. It is always an opportunity, not only to contribute to the project but also learn valuable tricks of the trade for use elsewhere.

Labour Weekend was another classic weekend for hard graft and a little bit of socialising at the end of the day.

Amongst the projects for this weekend was the fitting of a safety rail on the Kawerau Track just above the large pohutukawa. Typical of the philosophy of volunteer work on Tiri, results are achieved by many people contributing to the end result.



Jane Mackay

The sky hadn't made up its mind when our party of 13 met at Gulf Harbour Marina. We boarded Fuller's enormous ferry for the 15 minute journey with our usual personal gear plus sealed polystyrene boxes of food.

In true tramping style we loaded our packs and food onto a truck so we wouldn't be burdened, a style I could get used to. The DoC warden greeted us on the beach and explained, as the island was rodent free, could we please check our lunch boxes etc for rats and mice. There was much speculation as to what would actually happen if we did spot a rodent in our lunch – drop it in horror – or ratatouille for dinner!

The warden pointed out we should beware of a takahe named Greg who lacked a sense of personal space and propriety. I suspected looking for takahe would be like sighting cassowaries in Daintree National Park.

The group strolled leisurely up to the ex lighthouse keeper's house stopping to amaze at the bellbird population that filled the bush with song. We unpacked our gear, checking the sealed boxes for rodents, and I was amazed to see not one takahe – but a whole flock wandering past.

After lunch we split into 2 groups, one group removed some old fencing and the group I was in planted manuka and cabbage trees after hacking our way through the grassy shagpile. Very nice soil underneath! An hour and a half later we ran out of trees, downed tools, and went on a bush walk spotting many different varieties of native birds.

Barbara had put a joint of pork in the oven to roast, and we enjoyed it that night with accompanying roast kumara, pumpkin and potatoes. After seconds and dessert we took torches outside to search for the shy Little Spotted Kiwi.

It was a glorious night, calm and warm and we covered quite a lot of the island. Some of the group was rewarded with sightings, but I was unsuccessful and returned to the house. Daphne and Neil had scoured the island returning to find one close by. I resolved to see one for myself and went out with only my mini Maglight and after a bit of rummaging through bushes found a reluctant specimen.

All I needed to complete my stay was to see the kokako.

Next morning after a sunny ramble around the island I was still kokako-less – although once again Daphne and Neil had seen them.

We cleaned up, putting our packs outside to be transported down to the boat – surely we weren't expected to carry them! I lurked for a long time in the wattle grove hoping to spot the elusive kokako, then it was time to make a move – do I take the left fork to the ferry – or the right? I decided I would follow Anthony who seemed to have an eye for the birds – a good decision, as he spotted a pair of kokako that obliged us by moving into a good viewing position. The impending ferry departure however, cut short our bird watching.

Thank you Barbara for a very enjoyable weekend, and thank you to the fellow members for your company.

VACANCY - TREASURER

A fantastic opportunity exists to make an important contribution in assisting SOTM to achieve its goals. The Treasurer performs a key voluntary role within the Committee. Tasks are primarily those of financial management, as an experienced accounts assistant attends to most of the usual bookkeeping and administrative tasks.

Key Requirements:

- Honesty and integrity
- Commitment
- Good communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Financial management experience

For more information, including a job description, contact

Lois Wilson ph 376-0233 email wilsonfalconer@clear.net.nz or
Carl Hayson ph 479-4217 email cgparkers@clear.net.nz

Special Visitors to the Island

We have had a succession of important visitors to the island this year .It began with the committee inviting the Rodney District Council, Mayor, councillors and administration staff to come to the island to show them the treasure they have within their territorial authority . The Mayor unfortunately could not come, but two councillors , and various members of the administrative team made the trip . We in fact had two trips, guided by Carl, Mel & myself . We walked through Wattle Valley ,showed them the completed implement shed, proposed visitors' centre, the lighthouse complex, the bunkhouse, walked down through the Kawerau track along the foreshore to the proposed Wharf Shelter . This was the first time that most of them had been to the island and they were suitably impressed . One councillor has since stayed overnight with his family and also has given \$1000 towards the restoration of the Foghorn. The rest of the team are now actively supporting us in every way they can , and from now on any building consent fees have been waived and they have been extremely helpful in getting the visitors centre planning application underway.

The next two important visitors to come were representatives of our iwi, Hariata Gordon from Ngati Paoa and Wayne Knox from Te Kawerau a Maki .The main purpose of these visits was to get their approval for the proposed visitors centre, wharf shelter and wetland dams for the brown teal ,as well as showing them what has been achieved so far, as well as the 5 year plan . They wholeheartedly approved our plans and have given us their blessing . They are also very keen to involve the rest of their iwi in our developments.

The latest group to visit the island was Fullers represented by Chris Bradley (General Manager) and Kath Mitchell (Sales Product Manager). They had been to the island before ,but found the trip extremely valuable with many exciting prospects being planned ie: Night trips and Historical tours.

As you can see it is important to involve all our key partners in our plans for the future as well as DOC so that we can achieve the very best for Tiritiri Matangi .If we work together as a team the islands future will be secure and we will achieve great results .

John McLeod

School Visits



Lincoln Heights
St. Cuthberts College Form II's (2 Trips)
Howick Intermediate (2 Trips)
Kaurilands
Papatoetoe High School
Wainui
Kademah College
Stanley Bay
Red Beach (3 Trips)
Waipu (2 Trips)
Baradene College (2 Trips)
Mt. Maunganui High
Bay of Plenty Polytechnic (3 Trips)

Working Bees—Thank You!

- North Shore Tramping Club
- Whangarei Tramping Club
- Manukau Tramping Club
- West Auckland Tramping Club
- North Shore KCC
- SoTM Labour Weekend

Reminder

The closing date for
submissions on the 5 Year
Plan is

31 January 2003

Takahe and Kokako Bands

On the enclosed flyer, you will see that the current ID bands of these birds are listed. It is intended to include an updated list with each bulletin.

By cutting out this list, folding along the broken line and then laminating, you will have a convenient chart for use on the island.



Calendar of Events

2003

January 25th — 27th
Anniversary Weekend
Working Bee

Thursday 6th February
Waitangi Day Picnic
(Early Booking Essential
- Seats are Limited)

Monday 17 March
Annual General Meeting
(date to be confirmed)

Sunday 1 June
Supporters' Planting Day
-Planting in Sheep Paddocks-



For all of the above bookings
must be made with Barbara,
not Fullers — 476 0010

10 Years Ago

Excerpt from Bulletin 12, December 1992

Another exciting discovery has been that of a large roost of spotted shags on an inaccessible site south of the lighthouse. Eleven spotted shags have been released on Tiri by bird rescue but this roost exceeds 60 birds. Although this is the most northern roost recorded, they still appear to flying some distance south to feed, perhaps to their traditional areas of Waiheke and the Firth of Thames. A fisherman familiar with this part of the gulf commented on the increasing scarcity of spotted shags there—perhaps people pressure is forcing the birds to move further afield, resulting in the Tiri colony being established. They will be closely monitored for evidence of breeding.

What's in a Name?

From the Reed Dictionary of New Zealand Place Names:

Tiritirimatangi Island *Auckland*, near Whangaparaoa Peninsula. Maori name: Tiritiri-o-Matangi, which is translated by Taimoana Turoa as the sanctified heaven of fragrant breezes. In *Te Takoto o te Whenua o Hauraki: Hauraki Landmarks*, he writes:

The name was transferred from the Polynesian homeland by the early Maori voyagers. In Maori mythology, Tiritiri-o-Matangi represented the tenth stratum of the 'be-spaced heavens' in the celestial order of divinity. It was from this place that the Polynesian demigod Tane — or some say Tawhaki — obtained the three baskets of knowledge known as Te Kete Tuauri, Te Kete Tuaeatea and Te Kete Aronui.

- Reproduced by kind permission of Reed Publishing -

See Through Stitchbird Nesting Boxes

Recent visitors to the island will have noticed that 2 boxes have been erected, adjacent Wattle track, so that visitors can get some appreciation of how stitchbird nest.

These boxes are based upon the design of the real thing, complete with a nest, but are transparent. They are, of course, not usable by stitchbirds.

Thanks to Brian Page of Post Form Plastics for donating the clear acrylic sheets for the purpose.

End of Year Message

Six weeks to Ho! Ho! Ho! Time! Ray's beard is growing thicker and whiter. He tells me it is Christmas approaching and nothing to do with age.

It has been an interesting year with the completion of the implement shed and the progress being made towards (hopefully) starting the new visitors' centre next year. With the removal of the bulk of the sheep from the lighthouse area, the final phase of the planting has begun.

Ray and I would like to thank you all for your magnificent help and support throughout the past year. Without the generous help of the large number of supporters and other volunteers that participate in the project, the dreams and aspirations of those people who planned this would not have seen it come to fruition. Whether you are a regular visitor to the island or a non-active supporter we value your input.

We wish you all the best for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope that those who can will visit us in the coming year.

Barbara & Ray



Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor

Cathy Catto's letter to the editor in the last edition of the Dawn Chorus was a bit of a challenge (I felt) to the apparent fait accompli of the 5-year plan. I want to register my support for her stand. In particular I am concerned about funding any research without very careful consideration as to the benefit to the island and it's current flora and fauna. Some research projects may even be to the detriment of such life and if this is the case I do not think the Supporters should be supporting these projects. We have had many lovely students come to Tiri. The work they have done has often been of enormous help in managing the sanctuary and the young people have had a close and lasting relationship with the island and are now active members of S.O.T.M. However let us not lose sight of the fact that the reason for their research is primarily to promote their university studies and eventually to help them graduate with the best possible degree and go onto a brilliant career. Good luck to them. I just think we ought to think very carefully about what we do in this field.

The other part of Cathy's letter that interested me was concerning the seminar facility. I don't have a strong feeling about the provision of such but Peter's reply that a separate building is a 'requirement' of one of the iwi somewhat ruffled my feathers! I assume that this is a cultural requirement and perhaps on the marae it is normal to keep such functions separate but this is a very expensive exercise to keep one faction comfortable in their culture. The rest of us manage to adapt and make do as we have for many years with a leaky old shed.

Reading through the history of the newsletter it would seem that life was actually easier when all we aspired to was getting the trees planted, the tracks made and the membership numbers up to 100!

Marilyn Buckley



Dear Editor

On receipt of the latest Dawn Chorus, I am disturbed to read that, according to Peter Lee, the 5 Year strategic plan is in fact not a draft, but policy, having been approved by the last outgoing committee. It was my belief that the presentation by Peter at the last AGM was the beginning of the development of a 5 Year strategic plan and the opportunity for further discussion would be made available. In a discussion with committee member John McLeod, this belief was reinforced as he claimed that nothing had been finalised.

Although the committee is elected to manage the affairs of SoTM, a 5 year strategic plan is a plan about the philosophical future direction of an organisation and must be referred back to the members for direction.

Whilst recognising the valuable contribution made by Peter, the plan has not been developed on the basis of wide consultation with members.

My view is that the committee does not have a mandate to proceed with this plan until the "supporters" have the opportunity to contribute to its formation and pass a motion of support.

Ian Price



Peter Lee responds:

Research - Currently, all proposals for research, where funding from the Supporters is sought, are the subject of intense discussion by the committee to ensure they are beneficial to the island and meet our constitution. Going forward, we would only commission research where it was in the best interests of the island. A good example is a current project, where a researcher is being funded by us to look at the impact of visitors on the birdlife. Our current research funding policy is also being upgraded to set some strict criteria.

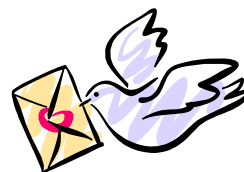
Seminar facility - oops! I should have

said that iwi had merely asked that we look at one. They are a key stakeholder on the island, and increasingly we must take their wishes into account (it's also a DoC requirement), but it's not part of our immediate planning.

Editors' Comment

It was incorrectly stated in the last newsletter that the 5 Year Plan, as presented, is "not a draft document in that it was approved by the outgoing committee".

In fact, whilst the outgoing committee held a special meeting to discuss the aspects of the plan, it was not adopted until the May meeting when it was actually accepted as a draft document.



Letter to the Island

Dear Tiritiri Matangi Island

I would like to pay another \$5 to join up membership again for 2003.

I love hearing about what's going on at the island. Congratulations on the bird count. I am pleased 'Tiri' is growing so well.

I enjoyed staying at your island for a weekend during Christmas. It was such fun.

I am glad that I am able to make a contribution to your wonderful island. The only problem is I live in Wellington so I am unable to come to meetings and fun days.

I am 14 years old and am happy to contribute to something that I will benefit from in years to come.

All the best. Can't wait for the next letter.

Jolene Hendry