Kakariki like it hot
The warmer weather this summer saw some pairs produce two clutches

Photo competition winners
Ranger Dave paddles off
Tiritiri snippets

360 Discovery will carry on but Takahe may not

Ferry company 360 Discovery has had its Tiritiri wharf licence renewed until 2021 so it will continue to provide the Island service for the next five years. However, the ferry Takahe, which has been doing the run in recent months, may be replaced or upgraded. And the service will also be changed to include a Maori cultural component.

The licensing process this year included input from DOC, SoTM and Hauraki Gulf Iwi. SoTM chair Brian Chandler said the decision by Explore Ferries to pull out of the Waiheke run made the decision simpler but the review still looked closely at whether 360 Discovery was the best option to provide the service in the future.

The group looked at the suitability of the current boat. ‘So, while Takahe will remain our designated vessel for the time being,’ he said, ‘it may be that an existing Fullers boat, a totally new boat or a converted Takahe may be the Tiritiri boat in the not too distant future.’

360 manager Jimbo Bailey said the company was delighted to have the licence renewed and with revised conditions which ‘will lead to new and exciting developments to the service that we provide to our customers. The inclusion of Maori cultural offerings will enhance the world-class visitor product that we provide.’

Jimbo said he was not yet able to say what the Maori cultural component might be. ‘Now that the tender has been awarded we will be meeting with the relevant iwi to work on this together.’

It was also too early to be specific about the future of the vessels, he said, but he did provide an artist’s impression of how the Tiritiri boat might be painted in the future.

From the chair

Rain and repairs mean the dams are filling up at last

We are now past the shortest day of the year, so spring should be just around the corner, (although it doesn’t look like it as I write!).

The good news about all the rain is that the Wharf and Fisherman’s Bay dams are getting full and it looks as though the recent repairs have been successful. The bad news is that some of the tracks and roads are not in good condition. Recent work on Ridge Rd has improved part of it, but beyond Spaghetti Junction it is a bit of a bog.

While we have removed clay from the track to Hobbs Beach and put in drainage on the Cable Track during recent working weekends, these are both badly in need of road metal and we just cannot get any more on to the Island until spring. So please be careful on these sections, especially when guiding.

Getting materials to the Island is a constant concern. Tide, weather, availability (of barge, trucks, biosecurity and volunteers), fauna disturbance, etc, are all key factors, and even when everything works it costs $11,000 to deliver $1,000 of metal. Unfortunately our last attempt saw the Sealink barge (loaded with six trucks and a Bobcat) have to give up and return to Half Moon Bay fully loaded. We waved to the ranger from 200m off.

Enough doom and gloom though. On the back of a fantastic breeding season the Island is full of bird song, so it’s a great time to visit. The increase in guiding fees seems to have had no impact on the number of visitors taking a guided walk and boat cancellations have had only minimal effect on our shop takings, so our revenue stream is strong.

One area in which volunteers are often needed on Tiritiri is monitoring the Island’s fauna and flora. Biodiversity projects take place at periodic times throughout the year, and if you let us know that you are interested we will add you to the Biodiversity Volunteering Database. This means you will receive an email advising when volunteers are needed for a particular project.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the upcoming AGM where we will say more about last year’s achievements and next year’s plans.  

Brian Chandler

Tricky tomtits

There has been a little confusion about the item on translocation of tomtits (shown in Danielle Laury’s photo at right) in the May issue of Dawn Chorus. Here’s what the authoritative NZ Birds Online says: ‘To date this species has proven difficult to establish populations through translocation. Seven attempts have been made, some involving more than one transfer, with only two translocations (Mangere Island in the Chatham Islands, and Cape Kidnappers) resulting in new populations.’

COVER: Mauritz Slabbert’s delightful photo of a kakariki won first place in the fauna section of this year’s photographic competition. Other winners are on pages 8-9.
Tiritiri in Beijing

The special beauty of Tiritiri Matangi has been on display to the vast numbers of passengers flowing through Beijing Airport for the past month.

A wonderful photo by Martin Sanders, showing a kereru in flight, is featured on one of 25 posters in a spectacular exhibition of some of New Zealand’s top attractions in the airport departure lounge.

The opportunity came from Auckland Airport which, as a result of its sister relationship with its Beijing counterpart, was offered the chance to put up a display in the Chinese capital’s main terminal.

The airport’s Ann Marie Desmond contacted Tiritiri to explain that, ‘We want to ensure Auckland and surrounds get some great press so have worked with Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development, Northland Inc and various individual operators to pull the imagery together for the exhibition. I have had a look on several tourism sites and see that Tiritiri Matangi comes out on top so wondered if you had an image we could add to the exhibition?’

Guiding and shop manager Mary-Ann Rowland offered several options from which Martin’s kereru photo was chosen. The resultant poster was on show through most of July and August. The images will also be part of the airport’s Spring Chinese social media Weibo campaign. After the exhibition went up Ann Marie contacted Martin to say, ‘The images have already had good reactions. Your shot looks amazing!’

Tourism award

In another boost for the Island’s tourist appeal, Tiritiri has been awarded a 2016 Certificate of Excellence (at left) by TripAdvisor ‘reflecting the consistently great reviews you’ve earned’. This follows a long run as TripAdvisor choice as Auckland’s top tourist attraction.

Working Weekend

The Queen’s Birthday Working Weekend was a bit different from the usual, due to a longstanding tramping club booking in the bunkhouse on the Sunday night, but there was still a full quota of helpers on Saturday and most of Sunday, and enough were able to stay over to complete the remaining tasks on Monday.

Working weekend stalwarts Ray Walter and Ian Higgins took a well earned sabbatical and there were a lot of new faces but the shared dinners were as tasty as usual and the after-work atmosphere as convivial.

Weather conditions could not have been better and, although the lack of track metal on the Island meant that many of the original tasks could not be carried out, there was plenty of work to be done.

Concrete was demolished and re-laid at the implement shed (with the bonus of kokako singing in the trees above the cement mixer). The rotting fence at the back of the shed was also completely replaced. Much pruning took place and some critical track work was carried out.

Chair Brian reports that, ‘as always, the weekend was a success for the Island and great fun for all who participated’.

In print

Two of the Island’s regular guides who are also keen photographers have been busy producing great new books.

Derek Tearne (at right) has put together a 32-page booklet entitled *BIRDS IN THE BUSH: a guide to the fauna of Tiritiri Matangi Open Sanctuary*, which sells for $10.

Meanwhile Martin Sanders has finished a revised version of his highly successful *TIRITIRI MATANGI: a visitor’s illustrated guide*, (at right) which sells for $35.

COM E ON IN: A pair of pateke enjoy the rare pleasure of a swim in the Wharf Dam.
After nine years as DOC Ranger on Tiritiri Matangi Dave Jenkins is poised to move on – in fact, by the time you read this, he may have already gone – leaving behind lots of good friends, happy memories . . . and a takahe named Jenkins.

But, although he thinks it is time to try something new, Dave says Tiritiri has got so much into his blood that he will be back, possibly as a guide, so he can continue to enjoy the Island and satisfy his addiction to its amazing birdsong.

Before he came to Tiritiri, Dave had a background in horticulture and landscape gardening and he worked some years for the Auckland Council’s parks department. His move into conservation was sparked when he was made redundant by the council and, after being self-employed for a time, he took a job with the Motuora Restoration Society.

That was interesting work, he says, but after three-and-a-half years he was starting to be affected by the isolation. ‘On Motuora you’re often the only one on the island – in winter there are very few people, though summer is certainly busy with campers – and there’s no ferry.’

So, when the job on Tiritiri came up Dave saw it not as an escape to tranquility, but to somewhere with more people and much better transport links. ‘On Motuora I got off once a month for four days and it usually took me half a day to get away in my own boat and half a day to get back in my own boat. So, of course, being able to just jump on to a ferry was a big difference and avoided all the anxiety over whether the weather would be okay for me to get off . . . and I could do it with dry feet.’

Dave got the job at a time when the Island was still adjusting to life after the long reign of Ray Walter. ‘In some ways I was lucky that Ian Price, who was ranger for about a year, acted as a bit of a buffer because Ray left big boots to fill.’ Unfortunately Ian left a month before Dave arrived but ‘I had an awesome time working with [ranger] Jen Haslam. She was good fun to work with and we got on very well. It was a big learning curve finding out where things were and how things worked but we enjoyed it.’

It was, as with most new jobs, a matter of finding his feet, then getting more closely involved and ‘I’d like to think that over the years I have made a difference and kept the Tiritiri project moving ahead.’

Naturally a great deal of the job involved working with SoTM which he has seen develop from an organisation mainly about planting trees to one focussed on biodiversity and education. The education programme ‘is wonderful and it just keeps
Sunshine casserole

One of Dave's contributions that will be especially missed by those who regularly stay on Tiritiri is his legendary sunshine casserole. These are described as 'a delicious vegetarian wonder miraculously created from fridge left-overs and bits of forgotten and scarcely recognisable pieces of cheese'.

growing' and 'the Supporters have grown into the role of looking after all the species that now live here, many of them translocated, and in protecting their habitat, which has included managing the weed problem.'

Unsurprisingly most of Dave's special memories from the Island revolve around the birds and especially the takaha. 'When I first arrived part of our role was to monitor the takaha nests. I think the first time I saw a chick on the nest was when Greg – and I'm not sure who his partner was then – had two chicks. When I discovered the nest Greg was on it and he was a very co-operative takaha so I was able to see these two chicks ... which was pretty wonderful really.'

Since then a real bond has developed between the ranger and the takaha, especially those that have lived round the lighthouse. 'I've really loved seeing them and their chicks grow over a number of seasons. I don't think anyone could watch them and not find them endearing.'

Nevertheless, having a takaha chick named after him does seem to have come as a bit of a shock. 'In the nine years I've been here I never put my hand up for naming one of the chicks and I wasn't going to. I thought, oh well, I'll let someone else do that. 'But I got a bit of a prompt from Kay Milton that this was my last opportunity to do it. And she also suggested the name. I wasn't going to do that personal, I was thinking of a Maori name that I could relate to. So I'm quite chuffed that the name Jenkins will live on a bit longer on Tiritiri. It's quite moving really. It gives me a living link to Tiritiri and to the Takahe Recovery Programme, both of which I've been involved with.'

Another special memory, this time from the past year, has been the joy of seeing so many kokako ‘bouncing around the place. It’s been wonderful to see. They’ve been easy to spot because they are so numerous, and you can just walk along and, oh, there’s a kokako sitting there, and it’s obviously used to human company, it doesn’t bounce away.’

The nine years he has been ranger on the Island is longer than he expected but it came about because of all the changes in DOC which made it difficult to offer permanent jobs ‘and I’ve been happy to stay on.

‘But I think it is now time for me to move. It’s not so much that I’m exhausted with Tiritiri, more that there are other things it would be exciting to explore. My present contract ends on 26 August and I’d expect to move then or thereabouts. Where I go is uncertain at this time. I’m looking at various opportunities with DOC. But I’m sure there’ll be something interesting to do.’

When he does leave, Dave says he’ll hugely miss the contact with the Supporters ‘who have given me so much help in managing the Island. It’s been an awesome experience meeting so many wonderful people.’

Among his special memories are the guides who come here on a regular basis, give so much and are obviously very attached to the Island; the working weekends with their amazing shared banquet; the Christmas Day celebrations . . . they were wonderful; and working with the larger-than-life Mary-Ann, who started work on the Island about two months after me, especially those summer days jumping off the wharf when the ferry has gone and the Island is quiet.’

In fact, he adds after a reflective pause, ‘I wonder whether guiding is a role I could perform in the future. I like to pass on information. And I like empowering others in working for the conservation of our great treasures.’

The other thing he’ll miss is the birdsong. I’ve become accustomed to it. I suppose I do even take it a bit for granted. But whenever I go home and walk into the native bush in the suburbs of Auckland it’s very quiet and I feel its absence. And when I come back the song is all around and it’s wonderful.’

And that’s another reason to return to Tiritiri as a guide.

A ranger who paddles his own canoe

One of Dave’s great pleasures during his time as ranger was to take out one of his two kayaks and paddle round the Island. As a result he has become the guardian of a mysterious secret sea cave. Indeed, as the time for his departure grew near, Mary-Ann and two volunteers took the opportunity to join Dave on a farewell circuit of the Island and pick up some of his knowledge. ‘The sun was setting, the little penguins making their raucous calls as they came in for the evening and every now and then a black backed gull would swoop low over us complaining loudly at the disturbance,’ she recalled. ‘With the high tide and just enough light we were able to paddle through the arches and the secret cave a little further south along the coast. This Island is truly idyllic.’
Kanuka gets a new name and a new family

Kanuka, once referred to awkwardly as 'the tree teatree', now has a new species name and seven new siblings, but is no longer seen as brother to that other tea tree, manuka, writes Warren Brewer.

For over 100 years the native tree known as kanuka was described botanically as *Leptospermum ericoides*, putting it in the same genus as manuka, *Leptospermum scoparium*.

In the 1980s kanuka was transferred into the predominantly Australian genus *Kunzea*. Three New Zealand species were described and kanuka became *Kunzea ericoides*. During the 1990s the name *Kunzea ericoides complex* was coined to express the increasing examples of diversity noted in plants that had been placed in the taxon *ericoides*.

Now, following 15 years of study by a team of Australian and New Zealand botanists, 10 New Zealand species of *Kunzea* have been described, with seven new species separated from the 'ericoides complex'.

The main reason for this perplexing situation was that early plant taxonomy in New Zealand was dominated by the English botanist Joseph Hooker (1817-1911). He was a 'lumper', taking a broad view of species diversity, dismissing the views of other botanists whom he regarded as 'splitters'.

They, however, could see enough differences in growth habits, bark appearance and habitats of specimens collected to suggest that other species existed. The splitters' views were supported by Maori at the time who gave these trees different names because of their growth forms and wood properties. Some of these Maori names have been re-called and used for the new species of *Kunzea*.

Our trees on Tiritiri are still called kanuka but are now described botanically as *Kunzea robusta*. This is the dominant species of *Kunzea* in New Zealand flora, extending all over the North Island and much of the South Island. It is also the tallest species in the genus, growing up to 30m tall with a trunk exceeding 60cm in diameter.

A close relation and near neighbour to Tiritiri's trees is Great Barrier Island kanuka, *Kunzea sinclairii*, a shrub which is sometimes prostrate. Further north and restricted to the island group is Three Kings kanuka, *Kunzea triregensis* (the name meaning three kings), the dominant woody tree on the group.

*Kunzea ericoides* (resembling heath) is now naturally restricted to the northern tip of the South Island and has a new Maori name, manuoea. Rawiritoa, *Kunzea amathicola* (sand dwelling), is another new species, mostly confined to sand dunes. Others of the new species also have restricted habitats.

Kanuka has a strong presence on Tiritiri with a mixture of some large old trees and many younger ones planted during the decade of restoration.

Kanuka's small white flowers have long stamens which extend beyond the petals. When in full bloom the trees look as though they have been dusted with snow.

The flowers provide nectar for honey bees, flies, moths and beetles. The common stick insect (with the species name *hookeri*) feeds on kanuka's soft, fine, green foliage. The tree's canopy is also a favourite habitat for geckos.

The bark of older trees can hang in strips and forms a refuge for many native insects. The deep moist leaf litter beneath mature trees forms an ideal site for several native orchids to flourish.

Kakariki have been observed chewing kanuka leaves and mixing them with oil from their preen gland. This is then spread under their feathers when preening. The birds have also been seen to swallow a mixture of chewed bark and leaves, suggesting that they use it for treating both internal and external parasites. Maori used kanuka timber to make rigid bird spears, eel traps and weapons such as lances. Early European settlers used it for wharf piles, wheel spokes, fencing and firewood.

The genus *Kunzea* now has 65 species, 55 endemic to Australia (described as weedy bushes and small trees) and 10, including our kanuka, endemic to New Zealand. The genus name honours Gustav Kunze (1793-1851), a German botanist who had a special interest in ferns and orchids. Holly leaf fern, *Lomatopsis kunzeana*, a native of Florida, also honours him.
Kakariki, or red-crowned parakeets, on Tiritiri have just enjoyed a longer than usual breeding season and more second clutches, probably due to the warmer weather. A total of 20 chicks fledged from the 16 monitored nests (see Tables 1 and 2) during a season which was longer than last year, running from 25 November, when the first egg was seen, to 3 March, when the last nest failed.

This February was the second hottest on record for Auckland and there was evidence of at least four second clutches, something seen elsewhere with kakariki but not often reported on Tiritiri. The second clutches all failed, which is not unexpected. Despite this (as seen in Table 1), our fledge rates were still in line with other years.

Approximately one week prior to fledge date, chicks were banded and blood samples were taken to screen for beak and feather disease virus as well as to look at the number of red blood cells present to determine whether they were suffering from anaemia. Nest mites feed on blood, and we suspect chicks from nests with large numbers of nest mites will be anaemic – ie they will have fewer red blood cells – as a result of the infestation.

This year, for the first time in three seasons of testing, a number of chicks tested positive for beak and feather disease virus (BFDV). This virus can cause high mortalities in young and fledgling parrots, although some species are less likely to develop serious disease than others. We found 50% (10/20) of fledging kakariki were positive for the virus, and several of these fledglings had mild feathering abnormalities that could be associated with the infection. It is unknown if any chicks died due to the virus, as unless the chicks are collected very soon after death we are unable to do a post mortem to determine the cause of death. We are following up these results with further testing of nesting material. The symptoms caused by the virus can include yellow feathers, feather loss on the wings, tail and body, and a poor immune system leading to death.

The skin mite we are also monitoring in the kakariki can cause similar signs of feather loss on the head and neck, so it can be hard to tell just by looking at a bird whether it has a skin mite infestation or BFDV infection. However, previously we have found very few birds infected with BFDV on Tiritiri (<1%), versus the large number of kakariki we have found to have skin mites (mange).

This September, when the kakariki team comes back for its third annual banding trip, we will be able to investigate both the skin mite and the virus in the adult population, and see if there are any changes.

Prior to the breeding season, Marc Cremades of the Singapore Hornbill Project provided three additional camera nest boxes (below). We now have four camera nest boxes installed in Wattle Valley, replacing boxes where kakariki have nested previously. Unfortunately, timing didn’t allow the camera equipment and power supply to be installed this season. Happily, the birds weren’t put off by the tardis-like camera boxes as chicks fledged from two of the four, which is promising for when we finally get the cameras going.

<table>
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<th>Nest mites</th>
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Table 1: Kakariki breeding success on Tiritiri.
Images of Tiritiri:

FLORA (at left, from top):
1 Bruce Crossan
2 Geoff Beals
3 Mary-Ann Rowland

UNDER-16 (below, from top):
1 Cameron McGeorge
2 Abi Low
3 Lucas Schnuriger

FAUNA:
1 Mauritz Slabbert (cover photo)
2 John Sibley (below, left)
3 Kathryn Jones (below, right)
winners of the 2016 photo competition

LANDSCAPE (above, anti-clockwise from top):
1 Geoff Beals
2 Chad Cottle
3 Kay Milton

PEOPLE:
1 Peter Flynn (at left)
2 Chris Wilson
3 Neil Davies
Tiritiri robins find new homes at Shakespeare Regional Park and Bream Head

We’re into the quiet time of year, when there is less to say about the Island’s wildlife than there is during the breeding season and its aftermath.

Of course, this doesn’t mean that animals are idle during the winter months. They are as busy as ever feeding themselves and often grappling with the wet and windy weather. But the winter is down time for most researchers and observers, so whatever our fauna are up to, we generally don’t know so much about it.

Toutouwai/North Island robin

We don’t often report on robins but they have been making news since the last issue of Fauna Notes.

Forty North Island robins were removed from Tiritiri in May and are now establishing themselves at two sites: Bream Head and Shakespeare Regional Park (20 birds at each). There they joined robins translocated a few weeks earlier from Mangatutu (Pureora Forest). The birds at both sites are being monitored and some have formed pairs.

Forty robins may seem a lot to remove from Tiritiri, given that it is about 25% of the population estimated at the end of the last breeding season, but robins breed well on the Island and are highly territorial. By removing some of the young birds we ease the pressure on space and give them the chance to set up territories and breed in their new homes.

Kokako

As reported in issue 105, we had 20 kokako fledglings in 2015-16. Sadly, the number surviving has gone down to 18. Wynter, daughter of Noel and Rehu, became ill and died a few weeks after fledging and has been buried on the Island in her parents’ territory. One of Lucky and Bariki’s offspring from their second nest disappeared shortly after fledging.

Young birds are always more vulnerable than more experienced ones and, although the survival rate of kokako on Tiritiri has generally been excellent, it is only realistic to expect some losses during the winter.

Some of last year’s fledglings have been seen by visitors associating with each other and with young birds from previous years. The youngest from last year are still recognisable by their mauvish-coloured wattles, whereas those that hatched early last season already have blue wattles.

We had been hoping to be able to move some of our kokako to Parininihi, North Taranaki, this winter, but the translocation has been postponed until 2017. This means we shall probably start the next breeding season with around 60 birds.

Korimako/Bellbird

Michelle Roper’s study of bellbird song on Tiritiri continues. Her final count for the 2015-16 breeding season was omitted from the last Fauna Notes, so here it is.

A total of 82 chicks was banded during the season and breeding finished around mid-January. A few of the later nests were lost due to rain in early January. Of course Michelle’s study only covers a portion of the Island’s bellbird population so many chicks go unbanded.

More recently she has been on the Island conducting a playback experiment with adult bellbirds, looking at how adults respond to the sound of the different stages of song development. This has enabled her to keep an eye on how bellbirds are congregating at various food sources, including the sugar water feeders, flowering puriri trees and kanuka.

One male is particularly noticeable, having a number of white feathers on his wing, tail and head, a condition described as ‘leucistic’.

Michelle hasn’t yet managed to get a phof that particular bird but a visitor to the Island a few months ago did take a photo of a bellbird with a lot of white on its head.

Stick insect

A large green stick insect was found on the Island on 6 June and a photo of it was duly dispatched to DOC entomologist Chris Green. It is the smooth stick insect, scien-
The scientific name *Clitarchus hookeri*, which is one of the most common species found throughout New Zealand. This one is a female and they usually have a body-length of 8–10cm.

There are two colour forms, this uniform green with lateral pale stripe or similar but pale brown colour. Both these forms are designed to blend in with the foliage and branches of their host plants. They typically eat the foliage of manuka, kanuka and pohutukawa, all of which are plentiful on Tiritiri.

Because the foliage of these trees is usually well above our visual range we don’t often see these stick insects, even though there may be good numbers present high up in the canopy. The smooth stick insect can live for over a year which means it over-winters as an adult, which is exactly what this one is doing. Most stick insect adults of other species die in autumn or early winter and the species survive the winter as eggs in the leaf litter; these hatch in the spring to continue the life cycle.

**Other species**

During May, two fur seals took up residence at the southern end of the reef near the wharf, delighting ferry passengers as they approached and left the island.

The seals were also spotted by members of the Auckland Yakity Yak Kayak Club when they paddled out to Tiritiri. ‘Some of us went around Woody Island which has a nice bit of rock-gardening,’ the club reported, ‘but as it was low tide we couldn’t make the most of it. We had two seals join us as they played in the rocks.’

Compiled by Kay Milton, with contributions from Morag Fordham, Chris Green, Michelle Roper and Mary-Ann Rowland.
Election needed for SoTM Committee

An election will be required for the SoTM Committee after 11 nominations were received for the nine positions. After five years on the committee Roger Bray is taking a break to focus on expanding his computer consultancy and software development companies, though he will continue on the Infrastructure Subcommittee and will still contribute through infrastructure and kokako work as well as guiding. All the other committee members are seeking re-election and there are also nominations for three newcomers in Barry Fraser, Adam Weller and Carol Wildermoth. The nominations are:

**Chairperson**
Brian Chandler

After one year in the role, I have increased admiration for the amazing job done by John Stewart and his predecessors. Running Tiritiri effectively and profitably is a complex business and there is no end of new issues to address. But it can also be very rewarding, which is probably the main reason why I am standing for a second term. The other reason for continuing is that there is still so much to do. While our plans for the lighthouse museum, signal mast and new accommodation/field centre have not progressed anywhere near as far as I would have liked, there are signs that we are making progress. With biodiversity doing so well, our education programme going from strength to strength, shop and guiding continuing to flourish and our financial position stronger than ever, it’s not a bad time to be in the chair. I hope that you are happy for me to stay.

**Secretary**
Gloria Nash

I am the current secretary of SoTM having been in the role for just on one year and have thoroughly enjoyed the new challenges and friendships. I have been a member of SoTM for many years and have made several visits to the Island on planting programmes and day trips with family and workmates. I have had a lifelong interest in the outdoors, conservation and travel and am a retired Legal Executive.

**Treasurer**
Kevin Vaughan,

I am the current treasurer and have a background in accounting and management. I have spent many years overseas before returning to retire in New Zealand.

**Committee (nine required)**

Helen Bucksey

I’ve had two terms on the SoTM committee, and keen to do it all again for the next year. A group working successfully together can achieve so much more than individuals - so let's look forward to celebrating the future achievements of our supporters group, building on the amazing work that has already been done. To the SoTM committee I bring an enquiring and analytical mind, complemented by an organised, pragmatic and good-humoured approach which is invaluable for working in a team. I have useful IT skills and a passion for all that SoTM aims to achieve, but my most important contribution may just be a roll-your-sleeves-up attitude to getting the job done. Whatever the job may be.

Hester Cooper

I come from a research background and the work I do with the Biodiversity Subcommittee continues to be a challenge that I love. The Biodiversity Plan now serves as a guide to future projects and allows us to set up projects which can give our volunteers a greater variety of ways to contribute to work on the Island. Among other projects, this year was time for our 10-yearly Tuatara Survey and we continued the Fantail Project tracking the movements of the Tiritiri fantails in summer and winter. There is a growing base of volunteers interested in helping with biodiversity projects; the response to our calls for help has been great. The work of the SoTM Committee allows me the chance to assist the bigger challenges for the Supporters, in an environment where conservation budgets are shrinking by the year. It is a pleasure and a privilege to contribute to this work.

Simon Fordham

Along with my wife, Morag, I have been involved with the Tiritiri project for over 23 years. For 16 of those years, I have been a member of the committee, four of those as chairperson. Even when not on the committee I maintained an active role with SoTM, including membership of four subcommittees, coordination of the rifleman translocation, a period as membership secretary and, for seven years, editor of Dawn Chorus. As always, it is a privilege to work with a committed team as we face unprecedented change and associated challenges in our efforts to preserve what has been created and to take the project forward.
Barry Fraser
I joined SoTM last year and have since been a midweek guide. I spent my working life in northern Coromandel where I bred orchids for export. I am passionate about conserving the remnants of our precious flora and fauna. I was a foundation member of Papa Aroha Environmental Group and managed bait and trap lines. I am a life member of the QE2 Trust having covenanted my property in perpetuity. I worked with Coromandel Maori to establish the first kura kaupapa on the Peninsula and have represented it in negotiations with the Ministry of Education and local pakeha. I have been treasurer for Kapanga Kohunga Reo and am a member by marriage of a large Ngati Whanaunga whanau. I believe my experience could be useful to SoTM as we move towards a closer association with Iwi. I will do all I can to protect and improve the treasure that is Tiritiri.

Chris Hannent
I have been a member of the committee for one year and have enjoyed contributing and being a part of the organisation. My passion lies in promoting Tiritiri Matangi and engaging the public to become involved and have helped this through my experience in social media marketing. As well as being a member of the SoTM committee, I also enjoy being involved in the Visitor Experience Subcommittee, guiding and being a part of the kokako monitoring team. I look forward to being a part of committee for another year.

Carl Hayson
I joined SoTM in 1989 and have had over 20 years experience on the committee, including taking on the roles of treasurer, secretary and chairperson. I now head the Infrastructure Subcommittee. I retain a strong interest in all aspects of the Island, currently with a particular interest in restoring the lighthouse precinct.

Peter Lee
My commitment and involvement with Tiritiri Matangi goes back over 25 years and includes two terms as chairperson. Among other things I’m a regular working weekender and occasional guide. I have a wide knowledge of the Supporters, its challenges and opportunities, and am keen to continue to bring that wide perspective for the benefit of the Island. Currently I’m also deputy chair of the Northcote College Board of Trustees and I’m also on the Lifeline NZ Endowment Trust. In my professional life I run my own boutique financial planning consultancy. As well as financial skills, I have a wealth of marketing and communications experience, which is of increasing importance for the Supporters.

Kay Milton
I’ve been volunteering for Tiritiri for seven years, monitoring several bird and reptile species, helping with translocations, guiding visitors, digging drains, painting walls and installing seats on working weekends. Much time on my laptop has been spent contributing to Dawn Chorus, and drafting, proofreading and commenting on various documents for SoTM. Add to this the many hours knitting beanies for the shop, and it feels like Tiritiri has penetrated every corner of my life. Helping to shape the management of the Island on the Biodiversity Subcommittee, which I now chair, and the main committee has been especially rewarding. I hope to continue in these roles as SoTM seeks to advance some of its most ambitious and interesting projects.

Ray Walter
I wish to stand again for a position on the SoTM Committee. I have been a committee member since the inception of SoTM and still hold strong feelings for the Island. I have been a member of the Infrastructure Subcommittee for a number of years and would like to continue my work as such. I have been involved with the plans to carry out the maintenance of the track network, the repair and rebuilding of some of the dams, and the development of the historical and nautical history of Tiritiri Matangi.

Adam Weller
I am a Chartered Environmentalist who has been working in sustainability since completing an MSc in Environmental Management at Hertfordshire University. With its rich history in protecting NZ’s biodiversity and ground-breaking initiatives such as replanting an entire Island and translocating birds, Tiritiri is the jewel of the growing number of predator-free areas and I am proud to be involved with it as a guide. I have a passion for protecting the environment and I am keen to get more involved by joining the SoTM Committee. My experience includes being a project manager for the City of London and North Shore City Council and a territorial medic with the NZ Army. I have volunteered with Ark in the Park, am founder of the NZ Live Action Role-Playing Society, spent three years as a Red Cross Volunteer and am an instructor at the Auckland Sword and Shield Club.

Carol Wildermoth
My first encounter with Tiritiri Matangi was in 1985 to plant trees. After a lengthy launch trip, I recall being overjoyed at the offer of a cup of tea by Barbara Walter, then planting pohutukawa seedlings. Fast forward to about 1995, a re-visit to Tiritiri on the scow Te Aroha was a wonderful experience, with amazing growth and new bird populations to view; I never imagined the island would be transformed in such a short time. Originally a secondary science teacher, from 1985 I worked in public health promotion in a range of roles, from co-ordination to advocacy, community issues and management. Recently I have volunteered as a guide and enjoy the diversity and enthusiasm of my fellow volunteers as much as the regeneration of the flora and wildlife. If my skills and background can be of use, I would be happy to contribute time and energy to the SoTM Committee.
Hey Tiri Kids! Read the Kakariki Story, then find the words written in **bold** in the word search below!

The Kakariki Story

Do you know **kakariki** means **green** in Maori? Their English name is red-crowned **parakeet**, named after the red feathers on their head!

Have you seen a kakariki? There are lots of kakariki on Tiritiri Matangi Island, but they are now very **rare** on the mainland. This wasn’t always the case - about a hundred years ago they were quite common, but introduced **predators** such as feral **cats**, **stoats** and ship **rats** have killed many birds.

Kakariki are an **endemic** bird. Endemic means that they are found only in New Zealand and nowhere else in the world! This makes the kakariki a very **special** bird.

The kakariki were first released on Tiritiri Matangi in 1974. The island is now a **sanctuary** where they can live and breed in safety from introduced predators.

If you think you've seen a kakariki on the mainland it's probably an eastern **rosella**, an Australian interloper, which is bigger and has bright blue, yellow, green and red plumage.

Have you seen some kakariki going bald? Some of them lose a lot of feathers at certain times of the year, especially in the spring. This is because of a tiny **mite** that is invisible to the human eye. Scientists are working to learn more about this mite and keep the kakariki healthy.
Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi

*Dawn Chorus* is the quarterly newsletter of the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi (SoTM). We are a volunteer incorporated society working closely with the Department of Conservation to make the most of the wonderful conservation restoration project that is Tiritiri Matangi. Every year volunteers put thousands of hours into the project and raise funds through membership, guiding and our Island-based gift shop. For further information see www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz or contact P O Box 90-814 Victoria St West, Auckland

**SoTM Committee**

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Treasurer: Kevin Vaughan  
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Visit Tiritiri Matangi for education or recreation

**Day trips:** 360 Discovery runs a return ferry service every Wednesday through Sunday from Downtown Auckland and the Gulf Harbour Marina. Bookings are essential. Phone 0800 360 347 or visit www.360discovery.co.nz. Call 09 916 2241 after 7am on the day to confirm the vessel is running.

**School and tertiary institution visits:** The Tiritiri education programme covers from level 1 (5-year-olds), to level 13 (17-18-year-olds), to tertiary students. The focus in primary and secondary areas is on delivering the required Nature of Science and Living World objectives from the NZ Science Curriculum. At the senior biology level there are a number of NCEA Achievement Standards where support material and presentations are available. For senior students the Sustainability (EFS) Achievement Standards where support material and presentations are available. The speaker will be Nicholas Turoa, the temporary services manager at DOC’s Warkworth office and so SoTM’s primary point of contact with the department. Nicholas will speak about DOC’s relationship with Iwi following the Hauraki Gulf Islands Treaty of Waitangi settlements and how this will affect the operation of Tiritiri Matangi. See the website for details.

**25 September**  
Guides’ Day Out on Tiritiri.

**1 October**  
Guides’ Day Out on Tiritiri.

**2 October**  
Dawn Chorus Walk: An early morning ferry trip and walk to hear the birds in full song. Booking details will be posted on the website near the time. (If the walk has to be postponed due to bad weather it will be held on 9 October.)

**8-9 October**  
Supporters’ Hosted Weekend.

**22-24 October**  
Labour Working Weekend.

**5 December**  
Evening talk. At Room 115, Unitec Institute of Technology, Mt Albert. Enter through Gate 4 on Carrington Road. See the website for further details.

**Supporters’ Hosted Weekends** are led by guides who will show off the Island’s special places. Reduced price on the ferry and half price in the bunkhouse. Children welcome. **Working Weekends** are your chance to give the Island a hand. Travel is free, as is accommodation in the bunkhouse. Book through guiding@tiritirimatangi.org.nz

**Visiting Tiritiri Matangi for education or recreation**

**Coming Events**

- **3-4 September**  
  Supporters’ Hosted Weekend.

- **19 September**  
  7.30pm Annual General Meeting, Kohia Education Centre, Gate 1, 78 Epsom Avenue, Epsom.  
  The speaker will be Nicholas Turoa, the temporary services manager at DOC’s Warkworth office and so SoTM’s primary point of contact with the department. Nicholas will speak about DOC’s relationship with Iwi following the Hauraki Gulf Islands Treaty of Waitangi settlements and how this will affect the operation of Tiritiri Matangi. See the website for details.

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**Overnight visits:** Camping is not permitted but there is limited bunkhouse accommodation. Bookings are essential. For information on booking overnight visits, go to: www.doc.govt.nz/tiritiribunkhouse. Bookings can also be made by phoning the Department of Conservation’s Warkworth Area Office on 09 425 7812, though an additional booking fee will apply.

**Supporters’ discount:** Volunteers who are undertaking official SoTM work can obtain accommodation free but this must be booked through the Guiding and Shop Manager at guiding@tiritirimatangi.org.nz or 09 476 0010. SoTM members visiting privately can get a discounted rate by booking through DOC’s Warkworth Area Office 09 425 7812.
The stunning 2017 Tiritiri calendar

For more information see www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz ring 09 476 0010 or email shop@tiritirimatangi.org.nz

The Tiritiri Matangi calendar for 2017 will shortly go on sale and it's more spectacular than ever. Priced at just $18, it's the ideal Christmas gift for family and friends, and a great choice for sending overseas. Best of all, the profits come straight back to the Island.

And when you buy your calendars don't forget that our unique Island shop has an incredible array of other gift ideas, including nature books, ceramics, bags, puzzles, jewellery, soft toys, artwork, natural beauty products, special t-shirts and much, much more.

So come and spend a day on Tiritiri Matangi Island, see the wonderful birdlife, enjoy free tea and coffee, buy treasures for yourself and gifts for loved ones, and support an amazing conservation project.

For more information see www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz ring 09 476 0010 or email shop@tiritirimatangi.org.nz