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Information

Getting to Tiritiri Matangi

360 Discovery Bookings, which is operated by Kawau Cat Cruises, operates a regular ferry service.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL!

AND AVAILABLE ONLY FROM:

360 Discovery Bookings
on 0800 888 006 or www.360discovery.co.nz

Depart: Every day Wednesday to Sunday from Pier Three, Quay Street, Downtown Auckland City at 9:00 am and from Pier Z, Gulf Harbour at 9:50 am, arriving at Tiritiri at 10.15 am.

Returns: From Tiritiri at 3.30pm, arriving Gulf Harbour at 4.50 pm and Pier Three at 4.50 pm.

Includes: Return ferry to Tiritiri Matangi plus approximately 5 hrs on the island.

Weather Cancellations: Please call 0800 FANTAIL (0800 326 8245) after 7am on the morning of sailing to confirm if the vessel is sailing.

Prices:

- Ex AkL: Adult $66.00 Child $29.00
- Senior/Student/Backpacker $59.00
- Ex GH: Adult $39.00 Child $19.50
- Senior/Student/Backpacker $34.00

NB. There is an extra $3pp fuel surcharge on all bookings

Guided Walks:

- Adult $5.00 Child $2.50

Discounts available to the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi (SoTM) on special supporter weekends

School Visits

Schools wishing to visit Tiritiri should first visit our website:

www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz

SchoolVisits.htm

where you can download the school guidelines, then contact Mary-Ann either by telephone 09 476 0010 or e-mail manager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz.

Advance bookings are essential.

Overnight Visits

Overnight bookings can now be arranged to allow more and/or

or make a booking go to www.doc.govt.nz/tiritirimatankhouse

Those who are “internet averse” can still make a booking by phone by contacting the Warkworth Area Office 09-425 7812 (a small booking fee will apply).

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Families Weekend

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Kowhai Trip

September 15th

Social Night

September 20th – 21st

Non-Working Weekend

October 25th – 27th

Working Weekend (Labour Weekend)

2009

January 24 – 26

Working Weekend (Anniversary)

February 6 – 8

Non-Working Weekend (Waitangi)

April 10 – 13

Working Weekend (Easter)

If you wish to attend one of these exciting days or weekends they can be booked ONLY by contacting Mary-Ann at the shop on Tiritiri Matangi, telephone 09 476 0010 or e-mail manager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz.

Prices:

- Ex AkL: Adult $38.00 Child $20.00
- Ex Gulf Harbour $22.00 $14.00

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Contact Details

Chairperson: Peter Lee, Telephone: (09) 418 1332, e-mail: chairperson@tiritirimatangi.org.nz

Secretary: Jill Courtourad, Telephone: (09) 239 2014, e-mail: secretary@tiritirimatangi.org.nz

Treasurer: To Be Appointed

Membership Secretary: Simon Fordham, Telephone: (09) 274 1828, e-mail: membership@tiritirimatangi.org.nz

Dawn Chorus Editor: Paul Colgrave, Telephone: (09) 575 4515, e-mail: editor@tiritirimatangi.org.nz

Committee Members: Cathy Catto, Telephone: (09) 629 3903, e-mail: higcatt@axcis.co.nz

Murray Anderson, Telephone: (09) 236 0530, e-mail: teama@xta.co.nz

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Melinda Halbgood, Telephone: (09) 521 9504, e-mail: melinda@te-ngahere.co.nz

Carl Hayson, Telephone: (09) 470 4217, e-mail: cghpartners@clear.net.nz

Hester Cooper, Telephone: (09) 473 5695, e-mail: hester@cybernet.co.nz

Ray & Barbara Walter, Telephone: (09) 535 6941, e-mail: rayandbarbarawalter@xta.co.nz

Val Smytheman, Telephone: (09) 278 9309, e-mail: vjes@ihug.co.nz

Tiritiri DOC Rangers: Dave Jenkins & Jennifer Haslam (09) 476 0920, e-mail: tiritirimatangiodc@doc.govt.nz

SoTM Guiding & Shop Manager: Mary-Ann Rowland 09 476 0010, e-mail: manager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz

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From the Chair

Mamma Mia!

One could construct an entire history of SoTM from the titles of Abba songs.

It starts, of course, with an “SOS”.

Funding problems back in 1988? No worries – Jim Battersby and his initial band answered the island’s call. This was followed by many a “Ring, Ring” in the ‘90s, for everything from a tractor to a farm bike to a boardwalk.

And the answer to DoC’s questions increasingly became “I Do, I Do, I Do”.

But our ambitions – and scope became greater early this century, with two massive projects – the implements’ centre and the visitors’ centre.

Definitely a time for “Money, Money, Money”.

But it hasn’t always been about money. Over the years, DoC has realised our value, and decided to “Take a Chance On Me” when we developed our Memorandum of Understanding.

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And increasingly the vision and determination of our organisation.

For now, we have a grand opportunity to take the Supporters to the next level. What could this island project be? What is the Supporters’ role in it all? What must we treasure and protect along the way?

In the past two months we’ve had several meetings, involving guides, the committee and DoC, with more to come. While it’s early days yet, what has come out has been both humbling and exciting.

And we have learned that we must always remember just why we were founded as we develop our future. We have also been delighted by the shared commitment so many people have to the idea of Tiritiri; not simply a just another community conservation project, but truly “first among equals”, a project and a concept that was, is, and must remain, a beacon and an inspiration.

As always, the committee welcomes your thoughts, ideas and contributions.

Peter Lee

The Tiri Gift Shop

Greetings from the Tiritiri Matangi Island Shop

With a simple phone call or a quick email you can buy a birthday gift for a friend, a Christmas present for a loved one overseas or just a treat for yourself.

We have kina card holders for only $6 each.

Ceramic brooches by Jeanette Shearer, pohutukawa leaf, fantail or feathers. $28. Beautiful ceramic life-size feathers also by Jeanette, perfect for a hall table or can be hung on the wall from $20-$30.

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The pohutukawa earrings by Sue Bancroft are also available as a pendant for only $20. The earrings are $40 a pair.

Our beautiful hand-painted T shirts now come in a fitted women’s style with either taku ke or saddleback design for $45.

www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz
Stitchbird in Suburbia

by Yvonne Vaneveld

As long time Tiri supporters and lovers of nature, we made a conscious decision to move “out west” in 2001 as we very much enjoyed tramping in the Waitakere ranges and were interested in the Ark in the Park concept just beginning in the Cascades Kauri Park area. For those of you who don’t know, this is a partnership project (Auckland Regional Council and Waitakere Forest and Bird) using community volunteers to significantly reduce pests in matrixes of regenerating forest. So far, the project is actively trapping and baiting on 1000 hectares but there are plans to move outwards & control pests on 2000 hectares.

This is a long term aim to steadily reintroduce native birds and plants. So far, the following birds have been welcomed to the Waitakere Ranges: North Island robins, whiteheads and stitchbirds (thank you Tiri). And there are plans for kokako, bellbirds, kaka, etc, in years to come.

We managed to buy a bush section within a couple of kilometres of the Cascades and set about the building, we were exploring down the bush clad valley in front of the house and prior to even beginning the building, we were dreaming when we heard the distinctive high pitched call of a male stitchbird on the deck at our house one day. Sure enough over the coming weeks we were calling him and we caught glimpses of him whizzing around; he is particularly adept at buzzing the sparrows. Knowing that our resident tui wasn’t likely to let him in for a feed at the sugar water he proclaims as his own, we put out another feeder on the opposite side of the house. Finally, he found it and is drinking at his own private feeder. He has now been around for just over a month and so far he is alive in a street full of cats and a valley full of moreporks.

We feel very privileged to have such a rare wee bird in our backyard. We can’t help but worry about him but accept that he is particularly adept at buzzing the sparrows. Knowing that our resident tui wasn’t likely to let him in for a feed at the sugar water he proclaims as his own, we put out another feeder on the opposite side of the house. Finally, he found it and is drinking at his own private feeder. He has now been around for just over a month and so far he is alive in a street full of cats and a valley full of moreporks.

As many of you are no doubt aware, the Department of Conservation, through the Auckland Volunteer Coordinator, provides volunteer opportunities for the rangers to assist the rangers with various tasks. Enquiries for the volunteer placements tend to slow down a little in winter and Mary-Ann has been very helpful in sending out SOS emails to the supporters when we have volunteer placements to be filled. I thought I would take this opportunity to explain the programme in more depth and see if more Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi would like to take up this placement on this great programme.

The volunteer programme sees two volunteers travel to Tiritiri Matangi on the Sunday morning ferry and depart on the following Saturday afternoon ferry. Travel to the island is subsidised and currently costs only $18.00 return. We will miss you Jen! Thank you for everything you have done to make Tiri a better place. Best of luck in whatever you choose to do next and we trust that you will continue your involvement with the Supporters.

DOCSourced Volunteers

As many of you are no doubt aware, the Department of Conservation, through the Auckland Volunteer Coordinator, provides volunteer opportunities for the rangers to assist the rangers with various tasks. Enquiries for the volunteer placements tend to slow down a little in winter and Mary-Ann has been very helpful in sending out SOS emails to the supporters when we have volunteer placements to be filled. I thought I would take this opportunity to explain the programme in more depth and see if more Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi would like to take up this placement on this great programme.

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The volunteer’s first task whilst on the island is to give the Ray and Barbara Walker Visitor Centre a clean then on following days they can work at their own pace from a list of tasks given to them by the rangers during their induction. These tasks may include beach clean-ups, track clearing, painting, weeding and mixing the sugar water for the bishi feeding stations. The usual volunteer day is six hours of work and the rest is free time.

I know that many Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi spend many voluntary hours assisting with guiding, the visitor centre, maintaining weed plots and assisting with other species work and we do not wish to compete with that valuable work. I would however like to explain that the two volunteer opportunities are not mutually exclusive. We would welcome any of the supporters who would like to spend the week on Tiritiri Matangi assisting the rangers in their duties on the island.

It is a wonderful opportunity to experience the nightlife of the island; hearing the kiwi call, seeing a tautara splashing through the undergrowth, calling to the seabirds from the petrel station and watching the lights of Auckland from afar. It is also an opportunity to learn a little about the work of the Department and its rangers.

If you would like further information or would like to take up a placement on the programme please contact Sue Cameron, Volunteer Coordinator, at aucklandvolunteer@doc.govt.nz or on 09 425 7812.
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Our birder friends have been welcomed to the Waitakere Ranges: North Island robins, whiteheads and stitchbirds (thank you Tiri). And there are plans for takaka, bellbirds, kaka, etc, in years to come. We managed to buy a bush section within a couple of kilometres of the Cascades and set about building a little bush eyrie. We have a magnificent view of the Cascades and the Kowhai Valley. We have now been around for just over a month and so far he is alive in a street full of cats and a valley full of moreporks. Knowing that your resident tui wasn’t likely to let him in for a feed at the sugar water he proclaims as his own, we put out another feeder on the opposite side of the house. Finally, he found it and is drinking at his own private feeder. He has now been around for just over a month and so far he is alive in a street full of cats and a valley full of moreporks. We feel very privileged to have such a rare wee bird in our backyard.

It is a wonderful opportunity to feel free to drop in. You may just see or hear a Tiri stitchbird a long way from home.

Dawn Chorus 74 August 2008

Photographs © Paul Colgrave

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Photographs © Paul Colgrave

Fairwell to Jen

By Simon Fordham

August 20 will see another significant change to the island personnel - Jennifer Haslam will be leaving us after 3 years as Assistant Ranger.

I first met Jen during a tree planting trip on nearby Motuara about the time she applied for the position, although she had been a Tiri guide for over a year prior to that. It was immediately clear that Jen held a passion for conservation and the various projects.

One of my initial impressions was of a person who pays much attention to detail, as demonstrated by her extensive use of the whiteboard during her interviews for the position. It was also here that we learnt of the life of a Jillaroo (the female equivalent of a Jackaroo) in outback Australia. It was apparent that many of the skills that Jen had learnt were directly relevant to an island situation.

Right from when Jen assumed her role on the island, she has not only demonstrated competence in the numerous skills required but, most importantly, has joined the respect and friendship of so many volunteers, colleagues, researchers and other visitors to the island.

Over the last 3 years, there have been a number of changes on Tiri and Jen has very much been one constant that has helped the project continue to move forward.

We will miss you Jen! Thank you for everything you have done to make Tiri a better place. Best of luck in whatever you choose to do next and we trust that you will continue your involvement with the Supporters.

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When Anne Rimmer gives her talk about Tiri to various community groups she often picks up snippets about Tiri’s history. At a U3A meeting in St Heliers recently, an elderly lady, Irene Erica Cowan, supplied the following information:

Her great-grandmother arrived in NZ on the immigrant sailing ship, the “Constantinople” which struck a rock off Tiri. The ship managed to refloat itself, and safely made Auckland on 17 May 1850.

The Tiri book (pages 31-32) gives the following account of the incident:

On the night of 16 May 1850, the barque Constantinople, arriving after a five-month voyage from England, struck Dwarer Rock off Tiritiri Matangi.

While the ship did not sink, the incident further fuelled the calls for a lighthouse: “Not one light is there to point the becalmed Mariner his path,” trumpeted the Southern Cross newspaper. “No pilot is placed at a station where his services are of value.”

A report on the incident recommended that “a light should be placed on the west point of Tiri Matanghi [sic].” Although other locations were also being considered, Tiri was strongly favoured by Auckland harbour master Captain Burgess and Tiri was included in the Coastal Light Plan of 1861.

It was this maritime incident plus another involving the “Constant” which persuaded the authorities to build the lighthouse on Tiri.

Erica Cowan had been a Correspondence School pupil. She produced her copy of the 1938 Christmas Annual and read out a piece about Tiri, which had been written by Bunty Davies. Bunty was the younger daughter of Auckland Harbour Board Signalman William Childs Davies. The family lived on Tiritiri Matangi before the Second World War, from 1928–39. Here’s Bunty’s published piece:

---

**BIG WHEEL**

| Big wheel is working we know that it helps to send a warning to fog-bound ships. So may the big wheel keep on turning while there is danger near.

Bunty Davies, S. 3, Tiri Tiri Signal Station. Auckland.

The last sentence, probably inserted by the editor, is a clever play on a popular song: “Let the great big world keep turning. Never mind if I’ve got you…”

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**DIAPHONIC FOGHORN**

This photo from the Tiri slide collection shows the drum for the diaphonic foghorn arriving on Tiri.

The two girls are almost certainly Nancy and Bunty Davies.
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The Tiri book (pages 31-32) gives the following account of the incident:

On the night of 16 May 1850, the barque Constantinople, arriving after a five-month voyage from England, struck Deaer Rock off Tiritiri Matangi. While the ship did not sink, the incident further fuelled the calls for a lighthouse: “Not one light is there to point the becalmed Mariner his path,” trumpeted the Southern Cross newspaper. “No pilot is placed at a station where his services are of value.” A report on the incident recommended that “a light should be placed on the west point of Tiri Tiri Matanghi [sic].” Although other locations were also being considered, Tiri was strongly favoured by Auckland harbour master Captain Burgess and Tiri was included in the Coastal Light Plan of 1861.

It was this maritime incident plus another involving the “Constant” which persuaded the authorities to build the lighthouse on Tiri.

Erica Cowan had been a Correspondence School pupil. She produced her copy of the 1938 Christmas Annual and read out a piece about Tiri, which had been written by Bunty Davies. Bunty was the younger daughter of Auckland Harbour Board Signalman William Childs Davies. The family lived on Tiritiri Matangi before the Second World War, from 1928–39. Here’s Bunty’s published piece:

**BIG WHEEL**

Have you watched a big wheel of an engine working? I have and, although I keep well away, I know when the wheel is working because I help Dad to start it. This wheel has another little wheel attached to it, which has a round leather belt. When the big wheel is started, it makes the little wheel work. Faster, and faster it goes, until you can see a silver streak. Then it goes on and on and on until it is so fast that you can see the wheel go by. You see, while this big wheel is working we know that it helps to send a warning to fog-bound ships.

So may the big wheel keep on turning while there is danger near.

Bunty Davies, S. 3, Tiri Tiri Signal Station. Auckland.

Bunty’s last sentence, probably inserted by the editor, is a clever play on a popular song: “Let the great big world keep turning, Never mind if I’ve got you...”
A New Aviary for Tiri

Many visitors to Tiri will be unaware that we have an aviary on the island, particularly since the surrounding vegetation has gone some way to conceal this. Although usually vacant, it has on occasion housed injured birds (remember Snell the pigeon?) and, on one occasion, inadvertently trapped a kiwi when it tested the 30cm drop through an open door and, surprise surprise, was unable to fly out. Its escape was aided the following evening when it was discovered by a group of nocturnal birdwatchers.

However, the main use of the aviary is for holding captured birds for translocation to other conservation projects. Whilst this facility has been adequate for some translocations, temporary additional aviaries have had to be employed to reduce stress on captive birds. A small room at the end of the current structure is used for “processing” birds but this room is barely adequate.

With the increased number of transfers from the island expected to continue, the time has come to consider a new purpose-built aviary. The key considerations will be for a slightly larger facility divided into three or four separate partitions. A processing room will be designed for a clean, comfortable work flow as well as providing water, lighting and electricity.

The island will benefit from a more functional aviary as it will be used as part of our “kokako swapping” and similar programmes designed to improve genetic diversity. However, it is recognised that the greatest benefit will be to those many groups that wish to use Tiri as a source for establishing populations in their own block of bush. For this reason, it is not intended that SoTM be asked to fund this directly. Instead, external funding will be sought, in the name of SoTM with support from a number of other interested organizations.

The fact that we are able to “export” some of our birds is testament to the success of the Tiri project. In a relatively small, predator-free environment, limited by coastal boundaries, some species have quickly reached large numbers, possibly even saturation levels. It is well recognised that, as populations reach saturation, many individuals do not survive due to competition for food and territory.

An improved facility will not lead to a greater number of translocations as proposals will still need to go through the usual scrutiny, particularly with regard to the effect of removing birds from Tiri. However, it will provide a better temporary environment, not just for the birds but those specialists involved in the pre-translocation processing.

Photographs © Simon Fordham
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Flight of Memories
By Ray Walter

When Barbara and I retired in 2006 we were given by Rolien Elliot, DoC Area Manager Warkworth, and Tony Monk of Helitrans, a certificate for a flight by helicopter to visit the three lighthouses in the Hauraki Gulf. They were Cuvier Island off the Coromandel Peninsula, Moko Hinau north of Little Barrier and Whangarei Heads, and of course Tiritiri Matangi.

I was stationed on Moko Hinau for seven and a half years before moving to Tiritiri Matangi in March 1980. Although I was never stationed on Cuvier I had made a number of trips there during my time in the Gulf. We wanted to make the trip during settled weather and the opportunity arrived on Wednesday 5th March. Barbara and I were accompanied by my daughter Lyndah, who grew up on Moko Hinau, her partner Dave and our granddaughter Emma aged 6.

We arrived at the Helitrans heliport in Albany at 8.30 am and were greeted by Tony and Julie Monk. After a cup of coffee we were introduced to our pilot Jude and cameraman Tom, who was to film our trip back in time. After instruction in safety we donned life jackets and boarded our machine for a short trip back to our lighthouse to visit Lyndah. She had arrived back from the wharf and had made a drink for us all. Dave then took us in a second machine, to Cuvier in a second machine, a Eurocopter 120 with a camera fitted under the fuselage. Tony’s son Blair was to film the first part of the journey, which was a good look around at the work being done and had a cup of tea on the front veranda.

We took theｎorthern route to Cuvier. We looked out to the South Pacific Ocean, in the distance to South Island, 700km to clean and polished. We all sat out onto the balcony - the view was magnificent. To the right beyond we could see the Poor Knights, and to the left Little Barrier and Takatu Peninsula. Time for lunch, which we had sitting on the lawn. Jude circled us on the southern side of the island, we sat on the eastern part of the island, as we approached Jude took us over to Little Barrier and Kauau to the right as we flew towards south. Tiritiri Matangi then appeared with the lighthouse clearly visible on the left of the island as we approached. Jude took us around the western end of the island over North East Bay and as we crossed over the ferry we just left the view of Gulf Harbour. Flying along the southern side gave us good views of the plantings. It is getting harder to tell the newly planted areas from the old and existing bush. We turned around and landed to the east of the tower by the rain gauge. As Jude had not returned from seeing the ferry depart we went up to the lighthouse to see if the tower many times it was a new experience for Emma and some time later we made our way to the house where to our surprise we found some timber that had been planted over thirty years ago. They were quickly devoured. Lyndah searched around the house and found a small plaque with the names of the MoW men who had been to the top of the lighthouse. The cows and a bull. Lyndah said that when the station was automated she had been to the top of the lighthouse.

Lyndah spent in it cleaning and polishing the lens. She brought back memories of the hours Lyndah spent in it cleaning and polishing the lens. We turned around and saw the lighthouse as we passed over Tiritiri. The panes and dome of the lighthouse were made of glass and was later fitted to Tiritiri. The panes and dome were removed and the room and radio room, demolished when the station was automated.

Lyndah had and arrived home! Our family arrived on Moko Hinau in November 1972. We were on transfer from Castle Point lighthouse on the Wairarapa coast east of Masterton. The transfer was intended to be for about three to four years but ended up being seven and a half years due to the automation of the lighthouse service. So Lyndah, only seven years old, had spent most of her childhood years on this isolated lighthouse. When we arrived, the station was manned by three keepers as we worked on a ten day system. We flew on our way out eight weather reports a day, one every three hours. The station was in a fair state but required a lot of work to bring it up to a good standard. One of the things that was typical of most island stations was the state of the milking cows. The cows were so indolent that we were milking four or five cows for a bucket of milk between three families. There were twenty-eight cattle on the island. We hired a scow, sold the lot and bought three cows which we brought back from the mainland. The north eastern 107.9 metres high. After circling the light we landed on a concrete pad that was the shelter on the island. The lens was a huge pile of large stones.

The Moko Hinau group is made up of a number of islands sitting on small rock stacks to larger islands like Burgess Island and Fanal Island which is to the east of the main group. We always been interested in Fanal Island as it is very hard to land on. There are no beaches. Landing is made on a exposes south facing rock shelf and visitors to the island have been known to be stranded there for days before they could get off. I asked Jude if we could circle Fanal and we flew north round at cliff height. The north eastern side consisted of quite large coves, some that appeared to be quite deep and just a few metres wide. Most interesting was the main valley in the centre, about two or three hundred metres long and fed with a brook that was similar to The Kawanewa track on Tiritiri. We were met by Neville, Area Manager Warkworth, and Tony Monk of Helitrans, a certificate for a flight by helicopter to visit the three lighthouses in the Hauraki Gulf. They were Cuvier Island off the Coromandel Peninsula, Moko Hinau north of Little Barrier and Whangarei Heads, and of course Tiritiri Matangi.

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We arrived at the Helitrans heliport in Albany at 8.30 am and were greeted by Tony and Julie Monk. After a cup of coffee we were introduced to our pilot Jude and cameraman Tom, who was to film our trip back in time. After instruction in safety we donned flying jackets and boarded our machine a Eurocopter 120. We had no idea Tony was going to film us to Cuvier in a second machine, a Eurocopter 120 with a camera fitted under the fuselage. Tony’s son Blair was to film the first part of the journey from the air. When we lifted off we passed over the North Shore making for the Coromandel Peninsula passing the Noises to our right and Tiritiri to the left. Ahead by Moneua. We skirted the southernmost views of the extensive nikau stands and steep bush clad slopes. Cuvier, now in front of us, rose out of a beautiful blue sea. The island is one of the most productive of New Zealand’s lighthouses from a birding point of view. The settlement and nesting areas on the island are so inbred that we were milking four or five cows for a bucket of milk between three families. There were twenty-eight cattle on the island. We hired a scow, sold the lot and bought three heifers. Lynda took her cows with her. The station was made of concrete and the top was left intact but suffered many years later. The buildings were now returning the buildings to their former state and hopes to make it available for public use. Lynda searched around the house site and stood on the spot where the tower once stood. It was quite a scramble down to the old wharf one more place they might be used by squatters or off to Little Barrier. Lynda sat on the tall cow shed with Cape Brett in the Bay of Islands. We had a good look around at the work being done and had a cup of tea on the front verandah. There was a small automatic light, the same type as that used at the Moko Hinau lighthouse.

The next part of the trip took us over Great Barrier on the way to Moko Hinau. While we were having a look around, the helicopter had been flown down to the lighthouse to the settlement to take us on the next part of our journey.

We flew up the eastern coast with its white sandy beaches and rugged cliffs crossing the island. About halfway up we had a good view of the Moko Hinau group in way in the distance. The Moko Hinau group is made up of a number of islands forming from small rock stacks to larger islands like Burgess Island and Fanal Island which is to the east of the main group. I had always been interested in Fanal Island as it is very steep hard to land on. There are no beaches. Landings is made onto an expanse surrounded facing rock shelf and visitors to the island are restricted but could only land on the island on request. The lighthouse was made in Thames, is 15.2 metres high and first lit in 1889. In 1899 because of the difficulty of servicing, career members and the top has to messages to the mainland but this proved too difficult and was soon abandoned.

A pleasant half hour looking around the tower (Tony had been able to get in the tower key to all the lighthouses on Jude’s pilot, landed in front of the lighthouse on the edge of the 104 metre cliff. The cast iron spiral stairs are 1,079 steps high and is first lit in 1889. As we approached the Moko Hinau we could see the reason why the light was so inbred. There were twenty-eight cattle on the island. The beach, like many of the beautiful islands off the Gulf, has very large granules of sand, round boulders 200mm to 300mm across. Conditions to move such a mound of stones would have been worth seeing. The best of a deckhand was left on the top of the tower. We turned around and landed to the east of the tower by the gulf. Thank you to Jude our pilot and Dave, Life jackets on, all aback and off to Little Barrier, Little Barrier to the left and Kawau to the right as we travelled south. Tiritiri soon appeared with the light clearly visible on the left of the island as we approached. Jude took us around the western end of the island over North East Bay and as we crossed over the ferry was just leaving the wharf for Gulf Harbour. Flying along the southern side gave us good views of the plantations. It is getting harder to tell the newly planted areas from the old and existing bush. We turned around and landed to the east of the tower by the rain gauge. As Dave had not returned from seeing the ferry depart we went over to the lighthouse, and it was the tower many times but it was a new experience for Emma and some time for her to learn to milk. We had written an article on Emma’s interest and enjoyment made me realize that the lighthouses that we had visited are amazing structures. Most of them have had their original lens systems that have been used in the lighthouses on conservation land are accessible to the public yet in Australia lighthouses on conservation land are open to the public. A small charge is made for a guided tour that goes to the maintenance and upkeep. On the first floor of Tiritiri’s are two of the lamps and lens systems that have been used in the lighthouse. It was an emotional time for Lynda.

Lynda and Jude had arrived home! Our family arrived on Moko Hinau in November 1972. We were on transfer from Castletown lighthouse on the Wairarapa coast east of Masterton. The transfer was intended to be for about three to four years but ended up being seven and a half years due to the automation of the lighthouse service. So, Lynda, only seven years old, had spent most of her childhood years on this isolated station. When we arrived, the station was manned by three keepers as we worked on a two-yearly rotation system. We flew out eight weather reports a day, one every three hours. The station was in a fair state but required a lot of work to bring it up to a good standard. One of the things that was typical of most island stations was the state of the milking cows. The cows were so inbred that we were milking four or five cows for a bucket of milk between three families. There were twenty-eight cattle on the island. We hired a scow, sold the lot and bought three heifers. Lynda raised three calves. The first calf was taught to milk by her sister Nina and we...
Flora Notes

by Warren Brewer

Visitors to Tiri during June have been treated to a spectacular display from the kohekohe (Ceylonium spectabile). The first flower buds began appearing at the end of March and by mid-May the first flowers were open. The trees were festooned with blossoms which developed from the trunks, limbs and main branches. This is described as cauliflory (stem - flower) and emphasises kohekohe’s tropical affiliation.

In tropical rainforests there is a strong presence of cauliflorous trees and shrubs. In a distinct zone below the forest canopy they offer their stem flowers to a wide variety of pollinators (birds, bats, climbing vertebrates and insects). This ease of access to flowers and seed-bearing fruits below the entanglement of the canopy benefits both the trees and the pollinators.

Our next floral treat will be in early spring with the arrival of the first blossoms from kowhai and clematis.

The scramblers and ramblers on Tiritiri Matangi belong to two plant families, the bindweeds (convolvulaceae) and the dock family (polygonaceae).

The bindweeds are represented by two genera, Ipomoea and Calystegia. The first flower buds began appearing at the end of March and by mid-May the first flowers were open. The trees were festooned with blossoms which developed from the trunks, limbs and main branches. This is described as cauliflory (stem - flower) and emphasises kohekohe’s tropical affiliation.

Plants in the dock family belong to the genus Muehlenbeckia (after H.G.Muehlenbeck, a French physician). This genus contains shrubs and climbing plants and N.Z. has 6 species. Fifteen other species occur in New Guinea, Australia and South America.

Two species are present on Tiri. "Pohuehue, Muehlenbeckia complexa, a variable scrambling climber forming tight clumps with its thin interlacing branches. The plants are dioecious (separate male and female) with small white flowers. It is best seen on the short cut to the Wattle Track. Pohuehue is currently being used at the Auckland Botanic Gardens to form its eastern boundary (supported on a wire frame).

Muehlenbeckia australis, our second species, has heart-shaped adult leaves. It is also dioecious with male flowers in open sparse panicles (loose branching cluster of flowers). The small green female flowers are in large panicles. A fine example is at the entrance to the Wattle Track over the road from the short cut.

Although Muehlenbeckia vines are considered to be weeds in some areas of N.Z., on Tiritiri Matangi they play a valuable role. They provide shelter and nesting sites for several of our birds. They are an important habitat for many insect species (their leaves are eaten by caterpillars of the common copper butterfly). Ripe Muehlenbeckia fruit is sought after by both birds and lizards.

Scramblers and Ramblers

by Warren Brewer

Dawn Chorus 74 August 2008
Flora Notes

by Warren Brewer

Visitors to Tiri during June have been treated to a spectacular display from the kohekohe (Dysoxylum spectabile). The first flower buds began appearing at the end of March and by mid-May the first flowers were open. The trees were festooned with blossoms which developed from the trunks, limbs and main branches. This is described as cauliflory (stem - flower) and emphasises kohekohe’s tropical affiliation.

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The scramblers and ramblers on Tiritiri Matangi belong to two plant families, the bindweeds (convolvulaceae) and the dock family (polygonaceae).

The bindweeds are represented by two genera, Ipomoea and Calystegia. Genus Ipomoea (ips a worm; homoios resembling). -ips was a name given by Linnaeus to bindweeds to describe their wormlike growth. It contains about 450 species which are twining, climbing plants found in tropical and subtropical regions. On Tiri we have Poikilos (Ipomoea cairica of Cairo, Egypt) which also grows widely in the tropics. It occurs in N.Z from the Kermadec Islands to North Island and then as far south as Tiritiri Matangi. Its flower is trumpet-shaped, light purple and appears abundantly in summer. It can be found on the hillside track leading down to Fisherman’s Bay.

Two species of Ipomoea are important food crops; they are: Sweet potato (kumara) Ipomoea batatas, originally from South America. Note - Batata is from the Taino dialect (pre-Columbian people of Central America) and became patata in Spanish and subsequently potato in English. Water spinach (ong choy) Ipomoea aquatica which is grown as a leaf vegetable and is widely used in Malay and Chinese cuisine. Genus Calystegia (covered calyx, a covering at the base of the flower) which contains 25 species, all twining climbers mostly of the temperate regions. Two species are widely present on Tiri. They are:

Shore bindweed Calystegia soldanella (a shilling - leaves coin shaped) Its trumpet-shaped flowers are pink with white stripes and it has a strong presence along the shoreline of Little Hobbs beach.

N.Z. bindweed Calystegia sepium (of hedges) whose flowers are pink and leaves are thin and heart shaped. It can be seen on the Wattle Track in the swampy crakeless spot.

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Takahe
Montague and Ahikaea can usually be found along the Ridge Road. All the other birds are still around the Visitor Centre. Greg continues to stalk unsuspecting visitors displaying their lunches.

Sadly Whakama was found dead towards the end of May. Barbara Walter has provided the following information about Whakama. He was about thirteen and a half years old and was hatched here on Tiri. His actual parents, Greg and Pounamu, were transferred to Tiri from Burwood Bush in May 1994 and their first clutch produced two chicks, Maia and Whakama. He was transferred just after hatching to Irene and Bubbles who had infertile eggs and were nesting at the main Fisherman’s Bay dam. Whakama means shy and he lived up to his name! Life was not easy for him as at the age of eleven months Irene and Bubbles left him to fend for himself and he became quite a recluse, often not being seen for some days. (Irene actually took over Iti’s nest and eggs after beating Iti up!)

In December 1999 Whakama paired up with his mother Pounamu who had left Greg and they produced a chick that disappeared at seven days old. Six months later Pounamu went back to Greg and from then on Whakama lived by himself around the Eastern Track/Wetlands area.

On the morning bird round he was often in hiding and not seen. His body was found on the way to the southern end of the island. It is not strange for these birds to leave their territories before dying. JJ, before she died, went from the southern end of the island to the northern end.

Stitchbird/Hihi
During May the target number of sixty juvenile birds was caught for translocation to the Ark in the Park site in the Waitakere Ranges, West Auckland. A further five juvenile females were caught at the same time and were sent down to the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington.

Kokako
Recently in the mornings, six Kokako (Fern and Punga, Te Koha Waiaata’s and Cloudisley Shovell’s offspring, Te Karanga and Keisha, Moby and Pukaha) have all been seen together bounding between the fire break and the implement shed. Naughty, naughty Pukaha and Te Karanga were feeding each other while Moby looked on in disgust. To show her displeasure, Keisha went off with Fern and Punga for a “girls’ day out”. All is forgiven and now Pukaha is back with Moby and Te Karanga is back with Keisha.

Naki (Chatters’ and Te Rae’s offspring) has recently been seen around the Kawerau track following Te Hari and his new mate Piper.

Brown Teal/Pateke
The dams are all filling up after all the heavy rain.

Rose is on the Lower Wetlands dam and is at least fourteen years old which makes her our oldest duck. Ruan is still on Fisherman’s Bay dam and Blue Bonnet is on the Emergency Landing dam. Finn the Philanderer sometimes visits her there otherwise he can be found with Solita on the Bunkhouse dam. Their two ducklings are quite large now and one is a male so he is being chased away but the female is still there. At one stage the ducklings tried to chase Solita away. Sometimes Aggie also pops in but again she is chased away.

Ossie and Bella are still at the Wharf dam.

Whitehead
On 20 April this year 91 birds were caught and transferred to the Ark in the Park (51 birds) and Motuora Island (40 birds).

Fernbird
A fernbird was seen out in the open having a five minute bath in the Wharf dam.

STOPPRESS
KOKAKO RELEASE
At this stage we are hoping to release on Tiri Poutama (the last Taranaki bird left in captivity) on Saturday 30 August (weather permitting). This will be a public release and anyone wanting to see a kokako up close can book through MaryAnn Rowland (tel: 09 476 0010).
Fauna Notes

Compiled by Morag Fordham

Takahe

Montague and Ahikaea can usually be found along the Ridge Road. All the other birds are still around the Visitor Centre. Greg continues to stalk unsuspecting visitors displaying their lunches.

Sadly Whakama was found dead towards the end of May. Barbara Walter has provided the following information about Whakama. He was about thirteen and a half years old and was hatched here on Tiri. His actual parents, Greg and Pounamu, were transferred to Tiri from Burwood Bush in May 1994 and their first clutch produced two chicks, Maia and Whakama. He was transferred just after hatching to Irene and Bubbles who had infertile eggs and were nesting at the main Fisherman’s Bay dam. Whakama means shy and he lived up to his name! Life was not easy for him as at the age of eleven months Irene and Bubbles left him to fend for himself and he became quite a recluse, often not being seen for some days. (Irene actually took over Iti’s nest and eggs after beating Iti up!) In December 1999 Whakama paired up with his mother Pounamu who had left Greg and they produced a chick that disappeared at seven days old. Six months later Pounamu went back to Greg and from then on Whakama lived by himself around the Eastern Track/Wetlands area.

On the morning bird round he was often in hiding and not seen. His body was found on the way to the southern end of the island. It is not strange for these birds to leave their territories before dying. JJ, before she died, went from the southern end of the island to the northern end.

Stitchbird/Hihi

During May the target number of sixty juvenile birds was caught for translocation to the Ark in the Park site in the Waitakere Ranges, West Auckland. A further five juvenile females were caught at the same time and were sent down to the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington.

Kokako

Recently in the mornings, six Kokako (Fern and Punga, Te Koha Waiaata’s and Cloudsley Shovel’s offspring, Te Karanga and Keisha, Moby and Pukaha) have all been seen together bounding between the fire break and the implement shed. Naughty, naughty Pukaha and Te Karanga were feeding each other while Moby looked on in disgust. To show her displeasure, Keisha went off with Fern and Punga for a ‘girls’ day out’. All is forgiven and now Pukaha is back with Moby and Te Karanga is back with Keisha.

Naki (Chatters’ and Te Rae’s offspring) has recently been seen around the Kawerau track following Te Hari and his new mate Piper.

Brown Teal/Pateke

The dams are all filling up after all the heavy rain.

Rose is on the Lower Wetlands dam and is at least fourteen years old which makes her our oldest duck. Ruan is on Fisher’s Bay dam and Blue Bonnet is on the Emergency Landing dam. Finn the Philanderer sometimes visits her there otherwise he can be found with Solita on the Bunkhouse dam. Their two ducklings are quite large now and one is a male so he is being chased away but the female is still there. At one stage the ducklings tried to chase Solita away. Sometimes Aggie also pops in but again she is chased away. Osise and Bella are still at the Wharf dam.

Whitehead

On 20 April this year 91 birds were caught and transferred to the Ark in the Park (51 birds) and Motuora Island (40 birds).

Fernbird

A fernbird was seen out in the open having a five minute bath in the Wharf dam.

STOP PRESS

KOKAKO RELEASE

At this stage we are hoping to release on Tiri Poutama (the last Taranaki bird left in captivity) on Saturday 30 August (weather permitting). This will be a public release and anyone wanting to see a kokako up close can book through MaryAnn Rowland (tel: 09 476 0010).

STOP PRESS

Hand this to your kids or pass it on to someone else to enjoy a range of activities about Tiritiri Matangi Island.

Answers (no peeking!) - flower stamens, big fruit, moth pattern, leaf hole, fruit/leaves on shoots, extra shoot, patch of canopy, puriri moth hole on main trunk, puriri moth hole on right branch, fruit/leaves off right branch, small branch off right branch, spider, caterpillar, primary wing feather on big hihi, ichen colour.

Hi everyone!

In this issue we have an awesome puriri spot the difference. The puriri is one of the best food sources for nectar for native forest birds, flowering throughout the year. There are 15 differences to spot - good luck! Jo and Tess
A link with Tiri’s past

When Anne Rimmer was in England in June she visited Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and gave her “Tiri Talk” to about 20 of the staff.

Slimbridge is on the Severn River near Bristol. It is the headquarters of the World Wildlife Fund, whose first chairman was the noted British artist and naturalist Sir Peter Scott (the son of Scott of the Antarctic). Sir Peter died some years ago but his widow, Lady Philippa Scott, still lives in a house in the grounds of Slimbridge and takes an active part in many of the activities there.

Back in 1982, as the Tiri project was getting started, Sir Peter and Lady Scott were taken to see the island. Sir Peter, approving, recorded in his diary that it had been ‘a memorable day, and WWF became the first major sponsor of Tiritiri Matangi. WWF NZ raised $40,000 which the government of the day matched two for one. This substantial ‘seed fund’ enabled the nursery to be built and financed the first few years of the planting programme.

Anne’s lunchtime talk at Slimbridge was well-attended, perhaps because one of their staff had volunteered on Tiri for a week and had thus “talked Tiri up” beforehand.

And in the audience was Lady Philippa Scott, who is now 94 years old, but still fit and well. For Anne, this was a delightful link with Tiri’s past. Lady Philippa remembered coming to Tiri in 1982, and spoke of her memories of NZ at that time.

http://www.wwt.org.uk/centre/122/slimbridge.html

Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc. PO Box 90814, Auckland Mail Service Centre, Auckland 1142

Dawn Chorus