



Bulletin 71  
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# Dawn Chorus

Photograph © Paul Colgrave

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# Information

## Getting to Tiritiri Matangi

360 Discovery™, which is operated by Kawau Kat 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**

**Departs:** 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 10.15am.

**Returns:** From Tiritiri at 3.30pm, arriving Gulf Harbour at 4:00 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 \$59.00 Child \$28.00  
Senior/ Student/ Backpacker \$53.00  
Family \$145.00

Ex GH: Adult \$35.00 Child \$17.00  
Senior/ Student/ Backpacker \$30.00  
Family \$85.00

**Guided Walks:**

Adult \$5.00: Child \$2.50

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

## Upcoming Events 2008

**January 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**

Anniversary Working Weekend

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Adults Non working weekend

**February 6<sup>th</sup>**

Waitangi Day Picnic

**March 17<sup>th</sup>**

AGM - Kohia centre

**March 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Working Weekend

**April 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>**

Families Weekend

**April - Date to be advised**

Tiri Kids Day

**May 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

Families Weekend

**May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Queens Birthday Working Weekend

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**

Families Weekend

**August 24<sup>th</sup>**

Kowhai Trip

If you wish to attend one of these exciting days or weekends they can be booked **ONLY** by contacting Megan at the shop on Tiritiri Matangi, telephone 09 476 0010 or e-mail [manager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:manager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz)

**Prices:**

Ex Akl: Adult \$38.00 Child \$20.00

Ex. Gulf Harbour \$22.00 \$14.00

For non-event days please contact

360 Discovery Bookings.

## School Visits

Schools wishing to visit Tiritiri should first visit our website:

**[www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz/  
SchoolVisits.htm](http://www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz/SchoolVisits.htm)**

where you can download the school guidelines. Then contact Megan either by telephone 09 476 0010 or e-mail: [manager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:manager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz).

**Advance bookings are essential.**

## Overnight Visits

Overnight bookings can now be made on line. To find out more and/or make a booking go to [www.doc.govt.nz/tiritiribunkhouse](http://www.doc.govt.nz/tiritiribunkhouse)

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).

Supporters' doing official volunteer work like guiding or working in the shop, should book their accommodation through the guiding coordinator to obtain free accommodation. This volunteer work has to be at the request of the guiding co-ordinator or the supporters committee.



# From the Chair

Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Island are an asset rich organization. Although we own many material items, not the least of which are the visitor centre, implement shed and numerous items of transport & machinery contained within, these are not the assets to which I refer. Our single most important asset is our volunteer base, without whom SoTM simply would not exist.

Over the years, an immeasurable number of hours have been put in by volunteers, thereby making Tiritiri Matangi what it is today. Contributions range from one off tasks to those that visit the island on a regular basis, in many cases once or more each and every week. Many volunteers also contribute off the island by way of administration and meeting attendance. All contributions are of value and add to the final product.

One of the measures of the success of our project is the number of other restoration projects that have sprung up, inspired by what has happened on Tiri. Many of the projects are in the Auckland area so, this does mean

there are more options for conservation volunteers. However, Tiri is unique and will, no doubt, continue to attract members who want to be part of the continuance and advancement of this wonderful project.

2008 will mark another milestone in the island's history – the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of SoTM. It does not seem that long ago since we invited David Bellamy to help celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> yet so much has happened since then. Once again, celebration is called for and it is intended to hold another dinner, along with an appropriate guest speaker, so that members can toast the triumphs of the last 20 years.

Although the next AGM is some weeks away, now is the time for members to consider joining the 2008 committee. Although the committee membership is limited to 12, there are some members who are standing down. I, for one, have indicated that I will be retiring from the committee at the next AGM, as has our Treasurer, Bill Mancer.

Committee membership involves attendance at 6 weekly meetings, currently on a Sunday evening. Fortunately, much of the groundwork for these is done by sub-committees so they are not long drawn out affairs, typically around 2 hours.

The role of Treasurer is a somewhat specialist role and does require a knowledge of accounting practices. As the position has grown over the years, the Treasurer is now assisted by a bookkeeper, who manages the day to day cashflow. The Treasurer is ultimately responsible for management of finances and reporting to the committee and AGM.

Should you be interested in finding out more about this, or any other role on the committee, please do not hesitate to contact Bill, myself or any other current committee member.

Simon Fordham  
Chairperson

## The Tiri Gift Shop

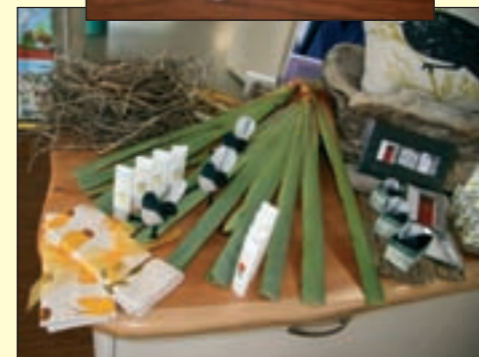
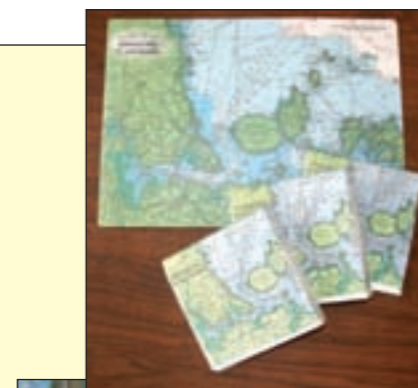
Seasons Greetings from the Tiritiri Matangi Store.

Plenty of NZ made surprises are available to help make your Christmas shopping a breeze, stress free and sustainable. Telephone and email orders welcome.

Hand made bird block prints, lighthouse notebooks, pohutukawa soaps, rewarewa honey – the celebration list continues as we try to enlist and work with our NZ suppliers. A unique Tiritiri Matangi retail shopping experience.

Join us in supporting the cause of celebrating everything uniquely New Zealand in Auckland's beautiful Hauraki Gulf.

Merry Christmas.



## The Schools that Visited

**August 2007**

Birkdale Intermediate  
Northcote College  
Birkenhead Primary  
Titirangi Steiner School  
Southern Cross Campus  
Manurewa Te Reo  
Unitec

Birkdale College  
Maccleans College

**September 2007**

Hamilton Boys High School  
Northcote College  
Selwyn College  
Westmere Primary x 2  
Unitec

**October 2007**

Auckland University  
Maungawhau Primary x2  
Royal Road Primary x5  
Rutherford College x2  
Mahurangi Technical College  
St. Josephs College  
Bay of Plenty Polytechnic

**Dawn Chorus February Deadline**

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2008**

## Carl Hayson – SoTM Life Member



At our annual social in September, SoTM welcomed a new Life Member, Carl Hayson. Carl joined the committee a few months after the formation of The Supporters and continued for the next 16 years, taking on various roles including Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman. Since retiring, he has been working on historical projects, particularly the restoration of the foghorn. Carl has made a tremendous contribution to the society, aided and supported by wife Gaye.

In order to keep this award a surprise, this was not notified to members beforehand so will need to be ratified at the 2008 AGM but there is no doubt that this is a popular recognition of years of service to SoTM.

## When is One More Tree Too Many?

by Ray Walter

This article is in reply to two questions that have been asked on a number of occasions over the past years. Why so many pohutukawas and why are we now removing some?

To answer the first question we need to go back to the original working plan for the Island dated October 1982 by the Lands and Survey Department for the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board. This document set out why we should plant, how we should plant and what we should plant.

Pohutukawas were chosen as a nurse crop because the seed was abundant on the Island, they were relatively easy to propagate and ideal for the harsh conditions on the Island i.e. wind, salt spray and drought during the summer months. They also grow quite quickly in their first few years and would provide the shelter needed for the following plantings and also shade out the microlina grass and bracken fern. Seed was collected from specimen trees on the Island, both on the west and east side. When propagated it was noted that plants from the west side tended to be a single upright plant and those from the east side were lower and multi branched.

The management plan considered that the plantings should be in a grid pattern and not be random planted, this would have been less effective in creating a closed canopy. Spacing was also important and 2.5m spacing was suggested. Advice given, after discussion with the Lands and Survey Nursery in Taupo was that such plantings would most likely only achieve a 30% success rate so spacing was changed to 2m apart. The naturally occurring pohutukawa on the island were spread at about 4 to 5m apart and in fact the planting success rate varied over the island. A survey carried out in the latter part of the 10 year programme showed that in places we had up to 80% success rate, by far too many.

The danger was that we were going to create a monoculture as under a closed canopy of pohutukawa there is very little regeneration of other plants and it can be quite sterile. This is very different to single stand alone pohutukawas. In total, over 5 to 6 years about 80,000 of them were planted. The comment was made if all the trees grew to 1m in diameter the island would be covered in solid timber.

As the project advanced and interplanting of other species took place these were able to do well because of the shelter provided. Some natural regeneration was taking place where light was available particularly kohekohe.

The second ten year plan was written in 1997 and it discussed the management of the pohutukawa plantings. Two proposals were put forward. One that they should be left alone with the idea that the strongest would survive and we would end up with a natural forest (200years?).

The second, which was adopted, that light wells should be created about 4 or 5m across by removing the weaker trees. These light wells could either be planted or left to regenerate. This work was started by Shaun Dunning and more recently carried out by Ian Price. Some of the clearings made by Ian have been planted and others left to regenerate.

Abigail Forbes a student from Auckland University found that there was little difference between replanted clearings and natural regenerating clearings. Bird life was much more diverse in the light wells than the surrounding pohutukawa plantings. Invertebrate diversity showed little change, this is not surprising due to the short time that these clearings have been in existence.

## Kokako release

A few more excellent photographs have emerged of the Taranaki kokako that were released on June 30th. Thanks to Kathryn Jones



[www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz](http://www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz)

# Kiwi Survey - A volunteer's view

Words by Yvonne Vaneveld. Photographs by John Carpenter (Ark in the Park overseas volunteer)

Night surveys involve a lot of time waiting for something to happen! On the night I went out, we stood on the cleared grassy hill one over from Wharf Rd (the one with the Maori sites on it). Gerhard played a tape of kiwi calls while I stood very still, concentrating on not being in the way (I'm not much use with only hearing in one ear - no stereo surround for me). The muzzled dogs & their very experienced handlers raced about looking & listening for the kiwi. Once spotted & caught, it's all on for a period of time as the kiwis are processed (weighed, measured, transmitters fitted). The survey team were kind enough to let me touch a kiwi claw & show me the vestigial wing. They also explained how kiwi feathers are more like hairs. This is why it's easy to gather feathers for DNA testing as, when the kiwi is stressed, it sheds its feathers as a defence mechanism. (I guess based on the theory that getting a mouthful of feathers might make a predator change its mind). By the way, there's a great article in the latest Forest & Bird magazine about the explosion in the number of community based programmes to "save the kiwi". Very heartening.

Cheers from Yvonne



The vestigial wing



The transmitter



## On-line bunkhouse bookings site is now live

by Rory Renwick

Further to the article in the previous newsletter, bookings for the Tiritiri Matangi Bunkhouse can now be made on line without having to make contact with one of the elusive island rangers. To find out more and/or make bookings go to: [www.doc.govt.nz/tiritiribunkhouse](http://www.doc.govt.nz/tiritiribunkhouse)

Those who are "internet averse" can still make a booking by phone by contacting the Warkworth Area Office **09 425 7812** who are able to make a booking on your behalf (though a small booking fee will apply).

Supporters' doing official volunteer work like guiding or working in the shop, should book their accommodation through the guiding coordinator to obtain free accommodation.

This volunteer work has to be at the request of the guiding co-ordinator (Megan) or the supporters committee.

All bookings that were made on the existing system have been transferred to the new online system. Have a look at the website - it's also useful for just

seeing if there are free beds available. Hopefully you'll find the new booking system much easier.



Tiri Tiri Matangi by Jake McGregor (Age 11)

Beckoning me towards you with your cloak of green.  
Gliding through the waves come the dolphins four.  
Docking on the shoreline, I hear the Saddleback screaming from his red hot burn,  
Kakariki chattering like machine guns reliving Gallipoli.  
Unseen, Tuatara watch, knowingly.  
Wood pigeons, grounded, drunken with their berry wine.  
The mountaineering Tomtit stripping insects of their life.  
Robins, pouncing on their prey, like tigers.  
The salty air sneaking up my nose.  
At night I smell the Kiwi's musky scent,  
The depressed Little Blue, lugging the world on his shoulders.  
In the dead of night I see the guardian, the huge giant, the lighthouse  
standing tall and proud.  
His powerful eyes cutting through the gloom.  
The next morning when I leave you, the Kokako song seems to echo  
through the mists of time searching for his long lost cousin.

# What ever happened to those hihi that went to Karori Sanctuary?

60 mainly juvenile hihi were transferred from Tiritiri Matangi in February and May 2005, and four juveniles from the Mt Bruce captive rearing programme, were transferred in February and March, 2005.

Survival exceeded expectations given the need for birds to familiarise themselves with a new environment and a high risk of birds dispersing out of the Sanctuary into surrounding areas.

There have now been two breeding seasons since the translocations. Seventeen females bred during the 2005-6 season (15 of these from Tiritiri Matangi and two from Mt Bruce; the first time that captive-reared hihi were known to breed after being released in to the wild). That season started early with the first egg laid on 19 September, almost a month earlier than on

including nine of the original transferees from Tiritiri. Thirteen females were successful in producing 69 fledglings – 20 fewer than the previous season and largely due to the inclement spring that also affected hihi breeding elsewhere. It was noticeable that the experienced breeders, in other words the Tiri survivors, had much higher productivity than first year breeders and there were fewer problems with aspergillosis, perhaps due to the

shorter season. We are experimenting with the supplementary feeding regime to see if we can have short but highly productive breeding seasons with few losses of breeding birds due to aspergillosis.

And so we're back into the long wait. We have learnt that over autumn/winter few hihi, especially females, use the feeders, presumably because natural foods are plentiful. There can be months between sightings of some individuals.

Sightings from outside the Sanctuary are few, although there was a case of a hihi seen at Wellington's Botanical Gardens and successfully returning to the Sanctuary, a round distance of at least 2 kilometres!

So, we have exceeded expectations in terms of breeding success, but like other sites have suffered attrition over winter. Having had hihi in the Sanctuary for only two years, it is still too early to know what influence dispersal (of juveniles in particular) will have on the long term viability of the population.

Matu Booth & Raewyn Empson  
Karori Sanctuary  
July 2007

Tiritiri. Fifteen females bred successfully, most raising two clutches, and four successfully raising a third clutch – almost unheard of elsewhere. Productivity was very high, especially compared with the offshore islands, with over five fledglings produced per female, a positive sign that the new environment was to their liking. However, deaths due to aspergillosis were high near the end of the breeding season, particularly among the breeding males, and we suspect that this was largely due to the longer than usual breeding season. So, there was a price for the extraordinary success.

And then came the waiting game. How many birds would be drawn over the fence into adjoining suburbs, and how many would survive and be recruited into the next season's breeding population? Attrition of juvenile hihi on islands over winter is well documented but the added factor of dispersal is one that is unique to Karori Sanctuary.

When the 2006-7 breeding season began there were 37 birds present,



Photograph © Katharina Kecht



Photograph © Eric Wilson

# Interpreting an Island by Maria Galbraith

How do you go about recording and displaying the vast and varied history of Tiritiri Matangi Island? Well for the past 2 years the Education and Communication sub-committee of the Supporters group has been deciding just that. From the early stages of creating a 'wish list' down to the final designs, it has been an interesting road.

Shortly after the completion of the Ray and Barbara Walter Visitor Centre in November 2005, DoC and the Supporters Committee met to formulate a plan for the interpretive displays. Together they outlined the requirements for the public and school visitors; aspects such as shelter as well as providing information and history. A tender for concept plans, design and overseeing the production, paid for by DoC, was taken up by Tiri Supporter Chris Gaskin's company Natural Lines.

The centre will have 3 main areas of display. On a wall-mounted curved panel along the eastern side there will be a timeline covering the island's history. This will be 85cm high and 7.8m long. Below this will be 2 glass-topped cabinets that will be used for displaying items of interest on the island, such as the light house keepers diary, mementos from farming and war occupation etc. Also on this side of the centre there will be a 3D topographic map of the island, made to scale and

showing details of tracks, structures and facilities.

The current children's corner will be kept as a children's activity space. The back wall will have an interactive display on predators and will incorporate the current stepped seating. An informative panel on birdlife will occupy the main wall in this area. It will include a touch-screen computer monitor, with another linked monitor installed higher on the wall, which can be used individually by the public or as a teaching tool for school groups. A night-time forest scene diorama will fill the internal wall of this area. This will include nocturnal animals such as Little Spotted Kiwi, Blue Penguin, Grey-faced Petrel, Morepork, Tuatara and Weta. The forest floor will be sloped, and include burrow entrances. A glass-topped display table will be free-standing within the children's area. It will be of coffee table height and have lots of compartments and shelving to display items such as feathers, skeletons

and nests, photo albums and books.

The third main display area is the corner opposite the side-doors. This part will highlight the natural world of Tiri, with a curved semi-circle wall to show the changing seasons and food found in the forest at different times of the year. There will also be dioramas of the bush behind this. A circular graphic will be applied to the floor beneath the curved display panel, depicting leaf litter in the forest, including insects and small reptiles as well.

Between this area and the shop doors there will be a bookshelf/display case. This will provide a permanent home to research publications and thesis work concerning Tiri, as well as reference books.

An AV screen is to be situated above the double doors leading to the outside yard area, and will show a montage of footage and images to do with the island.

This is a major project of the Supporters, due to the expenditure and the amount of planning involved. Currently we have applied for grants funding to help with the cost of the display, which in total is just shy of \$200,000. Success in gaining a grant will ensure the interpretation is installed all at once. If not, it will be done in several stages as the funds become available. Funding dependent, it is expected to be completed by mid-2008.

## Volunteers wanted to monitor weeds

I am very happy to report that the weed control programme is still progressing very well. We are getting very close to the goal of being able to incorporate weed control into the general maintenance programme without the need for bringing in staff from outside. It will take a couple of years more careful monitoring to ensure that we do not take the pressure off too soon and abseiling contractors will still be required for some time yet, but things are looking very promising. The numbers of mature plants of the target species are very low and with the help of volunteers the monitoring of known

infestation sites is working well. A big thank you to all those supporters who have been monitoring sites throughout the year and digging seedlings.

It has also been very pleasing to have had a number of reports of sightings of suspicious plants from other people working on the island which have led to the discovery of plants that might otherwise have been missed. It shows the advantage of having everyone aware of what to look out for. Don't forget to check out the weed pictures in the bunkhouse in case you spy any of these on your wanderings around the island.

Also this year a botanical survey of the whole island was carried out by Neil Davies and Ewen Cameron in order to produce a list of all the plant species present. When this is available it will be a valuable resource to help future staff to know what is present and therefore be able to pick up new unwanted species

when they arrive before they have time to spread.

During this survey I am happy to say there was little sign of any of the previously widespread species. Ewen has however identified several species of other exotic and native plants not previously targeted in the weed control programme which he recommends for removal in order to further protect the natural character of the vegetation. Now that we have come so far with the other nasties we will have time to address some of these as well.

We would still like more help with monitoring of infestation sites. This only takes a short time and is an easy side trip on a day out. So if there is anyone else out there that would like to join the volunteers involved in this work please get in contact with Helen (email: lindsay.helen@extra.co.nz mobile 027 284 7357) or talk to Jen.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

*Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet)*

by Warren Brewer

Plants have had common names for centuries. These names usually described some medicinal, food or commercial value or were derived from a plant's physical features, colour of flowers, fruits or seeds. Names often varied from region to region and almost certainly varied from country to country.

In 1753 Carl Linnaeus (1707 -1778) published SPECIES PLANTERUM, introducing a system for the classification of plants, giving each one its own scientific name. This classification was based on descriptions of a plant's means of reproduction. The stamens (male) and pistil (female), their organs of reproduction, formed the basis.

This caused some controversy, upsetting the religious sentiment of the day. Many people were offended by the suggestion of say 12 stamens (husbands) serving 1 pistil (wife) as well as nearby flowers acting as concubines. One of the most bitter critics was the German botanist and physician Johann Georg Siegesbeck (1686 - 1755). He condemned Linnaeus' system as "loathsome harlotry". Linnaeus responded by naming a small flowered, smelly weed Sigesbeckia!

The system survived this debate and today (300 years after his birth) Linnaeus' botanical nomenclature is universally accepted. It is a binomial system with the genus name equivalent to a person's surname and the species name simulating a first name. The names are printed in italics, the genus name always beginning with a capital letter and the species name a lower case letter. Latin and Greek are used primarily for these names, plus bits of many other languages as well as the names of people and places.

Today as greater knowledge is achieved through studies of pollen morphology, DNA analysis etc, some genera are being reviewed and reassessed. Those genera possessing similarly defined characters are further grouped into families. So several species can belong to a particular genus and then similar genera can be

gathered into their own family.

Now let us examine and demystify the scientific names of a few of the plants we can find on Tiri:

*Coprosma* species

These are some of the first small trees and shrubs that we encounter on leaving the wharf landing area.

*Coprosma*

(Greek) kopros dung osme smell

When the first specimens of *Coprosma* were collected by Cook's botanists they were pressed and dried for preservation. Unfortunately they gave off an unpleasant smell which filled the tiny cabin on the Endeavour.



*Coprosma repens*

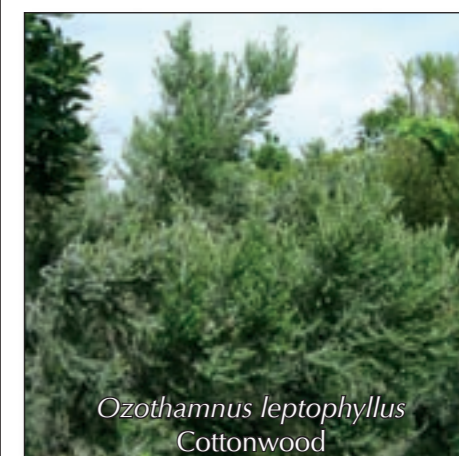
Two English words that are derived from kopros are:  
coprolite.....fossil dung  
coprophagous...dung eating (house dust mites, dung beetles).

The osme root is used in the names of two further plants on Tiri:

*Ozothamnus leptophyllus*

smelly shrub thin-leaved  
(formerly named *Cassinia retorta*)

Common name cottonwood, a named specimen can be seen on Ridge Rd.



*Ozothamnus leptophyllus*  
Cottonwood

*Alseuosmia macrophylla*

Sweet smell of large leaved the grove  
"regarded in the forefront of NZ's scented shrubs" A labelled specimen can be found on the Wattle track L.H.S of the steps leading down to the swampy "crackless spot".



*Alseuosmia macrophylla* toropapa

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? continued

Two words in English are derived from osme.

osmic .....of or relating to odours or the sense of smell.

osmium ...this chemical element is the heaviest known metal, so named due the pungent smell of its tetroxide.

Continuing up the steps that leave the "crazeless spot" also on the L.H.S is a rare small tree *Elingamita johnsonii* which has an interesting background to its name.

The passenger steamer Elingamite (2585 tons) left Sydney 5th November 1902 for N.Z. Master, Captain E.B. Attwood - 136 passengers, 59 crew. On 9th November 1902, in dense fog, the Elingamite struck West Island of the Three Kings group and sank within 20 minutes. 45 lives were lost. Two enquires took place over the next few years and Captain Attwood was finally exonerated when naval surveyors found the Three Kings were incorrectly charted by about 3 miles.

Major Magnus Earle Johnson (1885 -1976) collected *Elingamita johnsonii* in 1950. He took his little keeler "Rosemary" on at least 8 expeditions to the Three Kings.

His seamanship allowed the natural history of islands and their steep offshore stacks to be thoroughly explored. His efforts are further acknowledged by a seaweed *Sargassum johnsonii* which is special to the area.

Finally on reaching the lighthouse area we find fine examples of *Cupressus macrocarpa*, the Monterey cypress. This exotic tree from California was first grown in N.Z in the mid 1860s. It is called macrocarpa by farmers, builders, architects and most New Zealanders. Some of us are challenged by the scientific names of plants and often dismiss them as too difficult. However there are many examples of generic names slipping comfortably into common use such as Rhododendron, Clematis, Chrysanthemum. The use of macrocarpa as a common name is a rare case of a specific plant name achieving this status also.



*Elingamita johnsonii* showing fruit



*Elingamita johnsonii* Tiri specimen



*Cupressus macrocarpa*

## Flora Notes by Warren Brewer

Over the last few weeks it has been very pleasing to observe the healing process taking place in the forest. This heralds the beginning of repair to the considerable damage which occurred following the storms of early July and mid August. Many trees were either immediately defoliated or burnt so severely by the salt winds that they suffered subsequent leaf loss. Leaf buds and new leaves are now appearing. This is helping to soften for example the stark skeletal canopy of the mahoe trees on the Wattle track. Sadly several mature punga ferns on the Kawerau track, toppled by the storms, appear to be in terminal decline.



Leaf loss mahoe canopy Wattle track

On the brighter side some of the trees came through unscathed. Kowhai survived the onslaught and have given an especially delightful showing of their golden blossoms. Kaka beak also have given of their best with plenty of their scarlet flowers. On both the walking tracks the air has been redolent with the spicy scent of hange hange flowers - a good reason to feature this ubiquitous small tree.



Kowhai flowers



Kaka beak flowers

HANGE HANGE N.Z. Privet

*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*

hairy throat (describes flower) privet - leaved

There are about 35 species in the genus, found in Madagascar, Mauritius, Malaysia to Australia and N.Z.

The single N.Z. species is endemic. Hange hange belongs to LOGANIACEAE (after James Logan, Irish plantsman).

This family contains a number of plants which yield poisonous substances e.g. *Strychnos* genus contains 150sp. which are woody climbers, shrubs and small trees occurring in tropical and subtropical regions. A number contain highly toxic alkaloids.

*Strychnos nux-vomica*

(India) Its seeds yield the poison

strychnine.

*Strychnos toxifera*

(tropical America) The poison curare extracted from its bark.

Hange hange has a distinctive spicy curry like smell when flowering in spring. Early Maori roasted dwarf cabbage tree roots wrapped in bundles of hange hange (to enhance flavour). Hange hange sap was used to treat skin complaints.

Although commonly known as N.Z. privet it is not related to the privet pests of Auckland - *Ligustrum lucida* (tree) and *Ligustrum sinensis* (hedging). Both originally from China OLEACEAE.



Hange hange flowers

# Fauna Notes

Compiled by **Morag Fordham**

## Takahe

Sadly on 29 August at the vets in Nelson poor Poncho was put to sleep. It appears there was a low grade infection established in the bone of his bad leg leading to bone/joint deterioration. A possible treatment course would have been long and on going and it was felt it would be kinder to alleviate any further suffering. He is missed by his many friends.

On a more positive note Edge, a ten month old female was released on Tiri on 12 August. Originally Greg paired up with her but she has since dumped him for a younger bird, Mungo and they are together at the NE Bay Wetlands area.

Greg now lives by himself and can often be seen at the Wharf at ferry time.

Rossie has paired up with Cheesecake and they are around the lighthouse area as are Blackwatch and Mahuika. Both Cheesecake and Mahuika are nesting. Blake also stays around this area, although he was recently caught having an afternoon nap on the lounge floor carpet in the Rangers house!

Ahikaea and Montague hatched a chick around 13/14 October. The other egg was infertile and has been put on display in the glass cabinet in the shop.

Whakama is still on his own around the Eastern track.

There are now eleven birds on Tiri.

A recent update from Burwood Bush confirms that the Tiri trio, Tango, Tiri and Hauraki have all acclimatised and settled in well.

The total known Takahe population has increased to 297 birds this year. There are 168 adult birds from the Murchison Mountains core area, 33 from Burwood Bush (13 yearling birds released into the Murchison Mountains in Oct 2006), 4 from Fiordland (outside the core area), 83 from the Islands and 9 display birds. This total excludes all birds under one year old.

## Stitchbird/Hihi

There were 151 individuals recorded in the pre-breeding census at the

beginning of September of which 83 were male including 23 first year birds and 68 were female including 22 first year birds.

The first chick of the season hatched on 18 October and by the end of the month there were six chicks, with six more nests with eggs due to hatch in early November. There are another twenty nests completed and awaiting eggs.

A recent update on the Stitchbird released into the Waitakeres confirms that there are at least eleven birds (four female and eight males) still in the Ark in the Park area where they are safer due to the 1800 baits stations covering 1100 hectares which control rats and possums. The main idea for this transfer is to see if birds can tolerate low predator numbers. To date all other Hihi populations are in "predator free" areas so this is an experiment which if successful will open up more site options for Hihi conservation.

## Kokako

Cloudsey Shovell and Te Koha Waiata have started building their nest.

The pre breeding census found our remaining pairs in their usual territories with the addition of Chinook and Piper who have paired up and moved into the territory previously held by Kahurangi and Bel Canto.

The new Taranaki birds are being seen from time to time often in the vicinity of Apple Bush. Brother and sister, Paraninihi and Te Rae are perhaps spending a little too much time together!

On 7 October a pair of birds from Waipapa (Pureora Forest) was released. Waipapa (GM/Y) and Mawhero (GM/W) will hopefully breed and help to improve the gene mix on the island. There have also been sightings of some of last years chicks who still have to establish territories.

## Brown Teal/Pateke

Ossie now has a new mate, a shy unbanded bird now called Bella. Blue Bonnet has between three and

five ducklings.

It is thought that one other duck also has ducklings.

## North Island Robin

There are between 70-75 adult birds on the island. The breeding season started early this year for the 35 pairs and the first chick had fledged by the second week of September. By the middle of October there were about 40 nestlings and 18 fledglings. Two pairs have already built their second nest which gives us a total of 37 successful nests to date.

## Little Spotted Kiwi

The female Kiwi injured in a freak accident in the recent 5 year Kiwi census has been successfully rehabilitated at Auckland Zoo and was recently released back on the island.

## Other Birds

Saddleback - the first two chicks of the season have hatched.

In October a pair of Paradise Shelduck was seen with six ducklings but once again the ducklings had all disappeared within a few days.

There is a Blue Penguin chick in one of the boxes near the Wharf.

In August a pair of Dotterels was seen flying to a small rocky outcrop off the Tiri Wharf.

The Shining Cuckoos are now back.

A recent survey has found that Diving Petrel numbers have increased and there are now several colonies on the cliff tops around Tiri.

A lot of Tuks and Bellbirds are being seen with orange heads as they are feeding off the flax flowers.

Tuatara

Recently a large Tuatara was seen on the ridge between Emergency Landing and Fishermans Bay. This is the first sighting of a Tuatara so far away from the original release sites.

Lizards - We are in the middle of the Shore skink survey and have so far found three females.

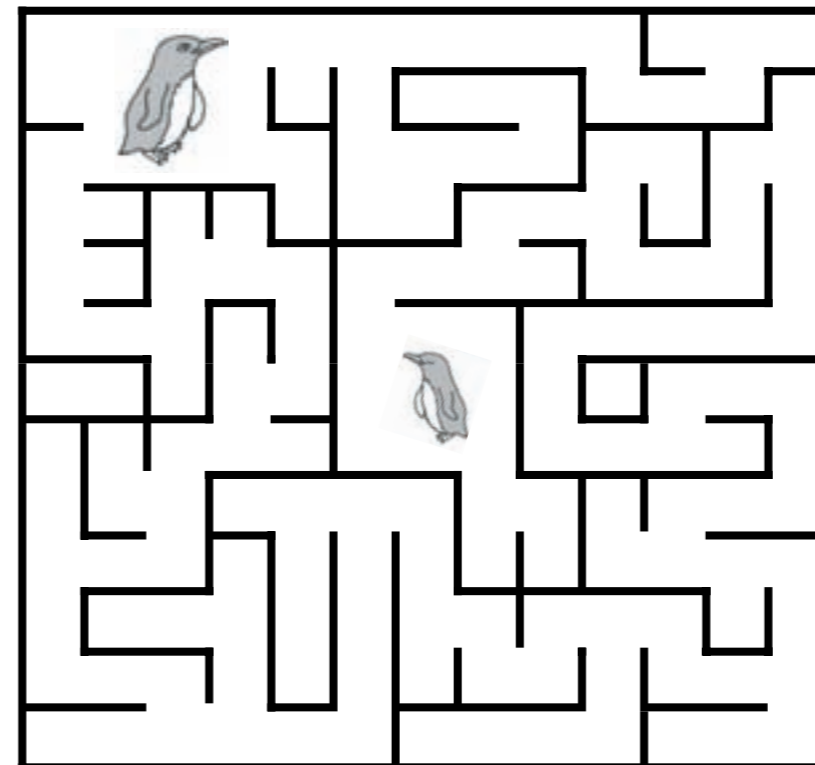
# TIRI KIDS

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

Hey everyone!

Spring has arrived and along with it, new life. If you've been out on Tiri lately, you may have seen some baby birds. So, here are a few activities to welcome spring onto Tiri.

Help the mother Blue Penguin find her chick...



Jo and Tess

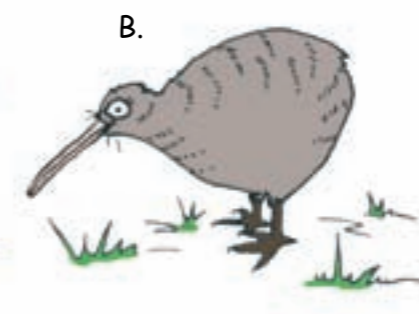
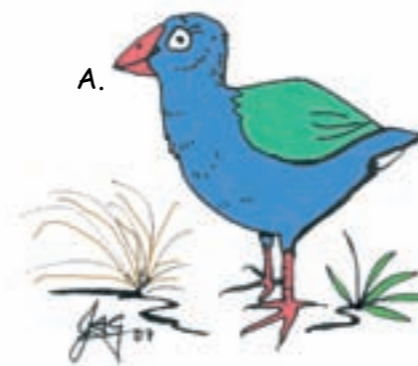


Here is a list of parent animals and a list of baby animals.

See if you can match them up to make a family.

A. Goose	1. Duckling
B. Swan	2. Owllet
C. Whale	3. Poult
D. Penguin	4. Leveret
E. Duck	5. Gosling
F. Spider	6. Eaglet
G. Sheep	7. Calf
H. Owl	8. Chick
I. Turkey	9. Cygnet
J. Hare	10. Spiderling
K. Eagle	11. Lamb

Can you match these mama birds with their eggs?



1.



2.



3.



4.



Answers (Don't peek): Baby animals: A-5, B-9, C-7, D-8, E-1, F-10, G-11, H-2, I-3, J-4, K-6. Eggs: A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3

Compiled by Jo and Tess: Tiri Kids, P O Box 90-814, Auckland Mail Service Centre.



# Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc. Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi will be held as follows:

**7.30pm Monday 17th March 2008  
at Kohia Teachers Centre, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom**

**(Enter Gate 2 on Epsom Ave, down slope and right, into middle level of parking building. Kohia is on the far side of the carpark accessed via covered walkway. Ample safe parking.)**

**At this meeting, the following items will be included:**

Welcome - Simon Fordham

Apologies

Minutes of Previous AGM - Peter Lee

Matters Arising

General Business

Financial Report - Bill Mancer

Election of Officers - In accordance with the revised constitution (2007) nominations closed 31 January.

## **Nominations for 2008 Committee**

In accordance with our constitution, nominations are sought for:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Between 4 & 9 ordinary members

Nominations, moved and seconded, need to be received in writing by 31 January. Please include a brief resume of the nominee for inclusion in the February Dawn Chorus.

Please forward nominations to:

Peter Lee

Secretary

Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi

PO Box 90 814

Auckland Mail Service Centre

AUCKLAND 1142

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



## **Dawn Chorus**

