



# Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi

## Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027

August 2017

Version 2.2

# Introduction

## The purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to

- provide direction and focus (where we plan to go), and to
- act as a guide for effective decision-making (how we will get there)

It is not a management plan. Although it has been written by and for the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi (SoTM), the intention is that it becomes the strategic plan for the Tiritiri Matangi Open Sanctuary.

The Tiritiri Matangi Open Sanctuary is owned by the Crown and is classified as a Scientific Reserve, which in this case is open to the public. Scientific Reserves are established for the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity for scientific study, research, education, and the benefit of the country, ecological associations, plant or animal communities, types of soil, geomorphological phenomena, and like matters of special interest.

The Island is managed by a partnership of the Department of Conservation (DOC), iwi and the SoTM, with a Memorandum of Understanding between DOC and SoTM setting out a cooperative agreement.

This plan has taken account of feedback from staff at the Warkworth Area Office of the Department of Conservation and from SoTM Subcommittees.

## Our vision for Tiritiri Matangi

We want the Island to be a complex, healthy ecosystem, a haven for New Zealand's native species, a place that **engages and inspires** volunteers and visitors to **understand our unique cultural, natural and historic heritage** and to **make a difference** in their own environment.

## Our mission statement

SoTM's mission is to develop Tiritiri Matangi, in conjunction with DOC, iwi and other stakeholders, as a model of sustainability and management through five main areas of activity:

- protecting and conserving New Zealand's wildlife (nature conservation)
- protecting and conserving New Zealand's cultural and historic heritage (cultural and historic conservation)
- supporting research appropriate to the Island (insight)
- educating and inspiring visitors and other interested parties (inspiration)
- providing opportunities for people to be involved (participation)

## **Key Outcomes**

The five areas of activity are linked to the following key outcomes for 2027.

### **1. Nature conservation**

Tiritiri Matangi will:

- have a healthy functioning ecosystem serving the needs of advocacy, species protection, species management, and education
- be a model nature conservation project

### **2. Cultural and historic conservation**

Tiritiri Matangi will utilise its unique cultural and historic status to be a model project for heritage conservation.

### **3. Insight**

Tiritiri Matangi will be a key centre for research, generating knowledge that serves the needs of conservation.

### **4. Inspiration**

People will be inspired to become advocates for natural, cultural and historic heritage, and will seek to make a difference in their own communities and environments.

### **5. Participation**

The Tiritiri Matangi project will provide a range of opportunities for people with diverse abilities and personal interests to become involved.

# Section One – Nature Conservation

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| <p><b>Outcome</b></p>         | <p>Tiritiri Matangi will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a healthy functioning ecosystem serving the needs of advocacy, species protection, species management and education</li> <li>• be a model nature conservation project</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>What this means</b></p> | <p><b>A healthy functioning ecosystem:</b><br/>The ecosystem on Tiritiri Matangi will be broadly representative of the Inner Gulf Islands Ecological District<sup>1</sup>. It will contain a wide range of interacting plant and animal species that are known or thought to have been present on the Island or on other islands of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park <sup>2</sup>prior to human modification. This cannot be a ‘pure’ ecosystem, however, due to the legacy of human modification and the demands of the guiding principles outlined below.</p> <p><b>...serving the needs of advocacy, species protection, species management and education:</b><br/>The Island already has resident species (such as kōkako, takahē and several plant species) that would not have been part of a pre-human Inner Gulf Islands ecosystem. Such species are important to the Island for one or more of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they fulfil an advocacy/educational function</li> <li>• they need sanctuary on a pest-free island</li> <li>• their presence is part of a wider management programme in which the Island participates.</li> </ul> <p>The following are the main principles that will guide future conservation activities on the Island.</p> <p><b>Advocacy:</b> In this context advocacy means focusing public attention on, and instilling respect and concern for, conservation in general and the plight of particular species. The Island as a whole performs an advocacy role by enabling visitors to experience some of New Zealand’s most endangered wildlife in ‘natural’ (though managed) surroundings. Species that are particularly rare or nationally endangered are especially important for advocacy because it is difficult for people to see them elsewhere. The presence of such species on Tiritiri Matangi provides the opportunity to draw attention to their plight at a national level.</p> <p><b>Sanctuary:</b> SoTM considers it appropriate that the Island provide sanctuary</p> |

<sup>1</sup> As defined in the Auckland Protection Strategy, a report to the Nature Heritage Fund Committee produced in 2009 by Helen Lindsay, Chris Wild and Stacey Byers. See <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/getting-involved/landowners/nature-heritage-fund/nhf-akld-protection-strat.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> As defined in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Report, produced in 2001 by the Waitangi Tribunal. See [https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/wt\\_DOC\\_68327819/Wai728.pdf](https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/wt_DOC_68327819/Wai728.pdf)

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|   | <p>for particularly rare and endangered species of flora and fauna. As a pest-free island, it can play a role in wider conservation programmes which need permanent or temporary safe havens for species or populations whose existence is threatened elsewhere.</p> <p><b>Species Management:</b> The presence of some species on the Island supports wider management programmes operated by DOC. The nature of the Island (for instance its relatively small size) means that some resident populations will always need to be actively managed. Successful Island populations are a source for translocation to new sites.</p> <p><b>Learning:</b> Tiritiri Matangi is seen as a centre for learning about New Zealand’s native flora, fauna and ecology. The Island performs this role through its education programme and by supporting scientific research projects. The ecosystem may be managed in particular areas and on a limited basis to facilitate learning.</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> Underpinning the goal and guiding principles is the continued need for Tiritiri Matangi to remain free of destructive pests and diseases. Invasive weeds need to be kept under control. It is important therefore that biosecurity measures are adhered to and adequate information is provided to visitors to encourage compliance.</p> <p><b>A model nature conservation project:</b> By maintaining a healthy, functioning ecosystem, modified to serve the needs of advocacy, species protection, species management and education, Tiritiri Matangi is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a model of best practice in nature conservation</li> <li>• a project that sets the highest possible standard</li> <li>• an inspiration for others to follow</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>How to achieve these outcomes</b></p> | <p>The Tiritiri Matangi Island biodiversity plan provides a framework for the management of the Island’s habitats, fauna and flora.</p> <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes recommendations for a ten-year period and looks beyond to further possible outcomes</li> <li>• specifies management activities needed to sustain the current and future flora and fauna populations on the Island</li> <li>• makes recommendations for future translocations</li> <li>• indicates gaps in knowledge and recommends appropriate means of filling these gaps</li> <li>• addresses the need to maintain and possibly improve biosecurity measures, including weed management</li> </ul> <p>Progress against the plan is reviewed continually and the plan may be modified in the light of changing circumstances.</p>   |

## Section Two – Cultural and Historic Conservation

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| <b>Outcome</b>                    | Tiritiri Matangi will utilise its unique cultural and historic status to be a model project for heritage conservation.   |
| <b>What this means</b>            | <p>Tiritiri Matangi is a historically and culturally significant location for both Māori and Pākehā.</p> <p>The Island was a major crossroads for the Māori of the Hauraki Gulf and a settlement for a number of iwi over hundreds of years. The Island contains several pā sites, middens, kūmara pits and other areas of cultural and historic interest. Located close to the primary shipping channels into Auckland, the Island has played an important role in the development of Auckland as a major port and commercial centre. The lighthouse is the oldest still in operation in New Zealand, and the Island was the initial point of contact for traffic approaching Auckland, with its signal station able to relay the first key information on to the mainland. The Island also has a military and farming history.</p> <p><b>A model project for heritage conservation</b></p> <p>Tiritiri Matangi annually attracts a large number of visitors from both overseas and New Zealand. This, and its cultural and historic assets, make it an ideal venue for the restoration, preservation and display of this heritage.</p> |
| <b>How to achieve the outcome</b> | <p>Activities could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• highlight the human history of the Island</li> <li>• incorporate cultural components into the Island’s education programme</li> <li>• display the Island’s existing historic assets, such as the lighthouse and associated infrastructure</li> <li>• restore historic assets, such as the signal mast and foghorn</li> <li>• demonstrate and display New Zealand maritime history (pre- and post-European settlement)</li> <li>• collect assets and information relevant to the Island’s past</li> <li>• reproduce historic Island/mainland interactions, creating involvement with those who do not regularly visit the Island</li> </ul>   |

## Section Three – Insight

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| <b>Outcome</b>                    | Tiritiri Matangi will be a key centre for research, generating knowledge that serves the needs of conservation.   |
| <b>What this means</b>            | The Island provides unique opportunities for ecological, cultural and historic research. Both short- and long-term studies are practical.   |
| <b>How to achieve the outcome</b> | A wide range of research projects will be supported and undertaken by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• proposing and supporting topics identified as significant in relevant operational plans</li><li>• accommodating other relevant proposals for research</li><li>• providing financial, volunteer and logistical assistance to researchers</li><li>• providing appropriate facilities for accommodation and work spaces</li><li>• initiating programmes which concentrate on current management and monitoring issues and include participation of stakeholders</li></ul> |

## Section Four – Inspiration

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| <b>Outcome</b>                     | People will be inspired to become advocates for natural, cultural and historic heritage, and will seek to make a difference in their own communities and environments.   |
| <b>What this means</b>             | <p>SoTM members and volunteers will be inspired by a deep sense of connection to the project, based on regular opportunities to participate and be involved</p> <p>Visitors to the Island will be inspired by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their experience of all that the project encompasses</li> <li>• the need for stringent biosecurity, recognising the threats posed by destructive pests, diseases and invasive weeds</li> <li>• the physical interpretation at appropriate locations</li> <li>• high-quality, enthusiastic guiding</li> <li>• engaging and informative cultural and historic structures, displays and information</li> </ul> <p>Non-visitors and the wider community will be inspired by informative and engaging communications.</p>   |
| <b>How to achieve this outcome</b> | <p>The Supporters will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continually review and improve the Island’s interpretation</li> <li>• provide an effective, safe network of guiding routes that balances visitor needs, DOC constraints and maintenance obligations</li> <li>• develop and manage an active communications strategy for all stakeholders, based on a wide range of content shared through a range of distribution channels</li> <li>• fund lower-decile school visits</li> <li>• provide sufficient numbers of well-trained, well-informed and motivated volunteer guides</li> <li>• recruit, train and manage volunteer guides</li> <li>• provide curriculum-related resources, guiding and activities</li> <li>• provide off-Island seminars and talks for guides and members</li> <li>• provide guest speakers to talk about the project to other groups</li> <li>• work with other natural, cultural and historic projects to enhance overall learning</li> <li>• provide relevant public events</li> </ul> |

## Section Five– Participation

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| <b>Outcome</b>                     | The Tiritiri Matangi project will provide a range of opportunities for people with diverse abilities and personal interests to become involved.  |
| <b>What this means</b>             | The public will have volunteering, visiting and supporting opportunities, both passive and active.   |
| <b>How to achieve this outcome</b> | <p>A wide range of opportunities will be made available by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engaging with DOC and iwi on key aspects of planning and management for the Island including the strategy, biodiversity and communications plans</li> <li>• developing trained, knowledgeable and competent guides backed by appropriate initial and ongoing training and quality control</li> <li>• providing volunteering opportunities in the shop, as guides, on maintenance teams and helping with scientific and research projects</li> <li>• facilitating volunteer help and logistical support for researchers</li> <li>• providing membership opportunities and benefits</li> <li>• offering affordable guided walks for visitors</li> <li>• providing opportunities for visitors to experience the Island at night</li> <li>• improving the quality of accommodation for overnight visitors on a financially-sustainable basis</li> </ul> |