



GuideLines

Number 354 – Wednesday 21st February 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)



Dear guides,

Hot days and full boats have been the norm for the last couple of weeks. Thank you to all for guiding larger groups in the heat, especially when we have to offer Moana Rua because of the tide height. We continue to have a mix of locals and international visitors. Looking back over the notes you make on the guide log we have had people from Canada, Switzerland, USA, Scotland, Poland, Japan, Australia, Ireland, Puerto Rico, and Cayman Islands. Your great guiding in sharing the story of Tiritiri Matangi will be spread around the world, which will no doubt bring more people to our motu. And thanks also to our Visitor Centre hosts and shop volunteers. Their days are very busy with the higher numbers coming through.

Your feedback

Thanks very much for those who have either emailed feedback or written on the sheet that I've had out with the guide log. The two aspects I asked about were the books in the bum bags, and ideas on how to make guides more visible to the Guide Manager during the morning visitor allocation.

Over the next week or so I will summarise your feedback and give you an idea of the patterns emerging from it.

One trend that emerged was the small books were mostly not wanted in the bum bags. We will start removing them and storing them in the box with the bags, so they are accessible for those who use them.

Bum bags and health & safety

Thank you to those who have remembered to draw visitors' attention to the contact numbers laminated card and map you carry in the bum bag. This is for your safety, should anything happen to take you out of action. Visitors need to know the numbers to contact and be able to orient themselves using the map to find how to seek help.

We will be checking the bum bag contents over the next couple of weeks to ensure everything is as it should be. Peter Evans has had the audit role over the last while. Shelley Denize-Evans (not related) has agreed to transition into this role. In addition to that change we will be placing an emergency blanket into each bag.

Rangers' contact details

On a similar note, please ensure you have the Rangers' number in your contacts list. This is vital for **all guides and also volunteers** doing other jobs on the motu. The need to contact them urgently has been highlighted several times recently with visitors who weren't happy to stick to the rules.

While you're at it, make sure you've got the ferry check number there too.

- Rangers' mobile – 02 536 1067
- Tiritiri Matangi / Explore ferry check – 09 916 2241

Whanaungatanga – connectedness/family

Thank you to the guides who have reached out and connected with new guides as they come on to the island. The feeling of inclusion and being part of a team is so important to help people as they come to grips with the role of a guide and what it means. If you could connect both coming to the island and on the return journey. It's a great opportunity to share some Tiri stories with new people and help them build their knowledge. And it's not limited to only new guides. Guides who don't come very frequently can also feel that lack of connection. So please reach out to them also.

Guides in training

We currently have seven guides who are on the training track: Tim O'Brien, Ilana James, Lorraine Pound, Elizabeth Marriott, Ai Gomi and Haru Matusubara. Two experienced guides have recently refreshed their training: Stacey Campbell and Virginia Nicol. We welcome them both back to the team.

Magnifying glasses

A message from Sara and Liz about the magnifying glasses in the back of the trailer: *You may notice some new boxes of magnifying glasses in the back of the trailer near the belt bags.*

They are labelled "education only" as they are for use by school guides only (about 3-4 per guide). We have sent out ideas for their use to school guides but feel free to check in with Liz or Sara. Please do not take if you are guiding the public even families - we have a limited number. (Gail is considering whether to buy a set for public guiding use).

Next to these is the box of bird ID clipboards which is again for school guiding only. We have had some go AWOL when used for other purposes. Again limited supply. Thanks again for your help.

Liz and Sara

More about magnifying glasses

We will soon be getting a supply of magnifying glasses to sell in the shop. When that supply arrives we will allocate some for use in guiding public groups, which could be

very useful for maintaining the interest of young people during the walks. We'll let you know when they are available and how we will keep track of them.

Guides needed – dates

Urgently need guides on these dates

- Thursday 29 February
- Saturday 2 March
- Wednesday 6 March
- Thursday 7 March
- Friday 8 March
- Sunday 10 March

Dates we need **at least 3-4 more guides**

- Saturday 24 February
- Wednesday 28 February
- Sunday 3 March

If you are able to help please use email <mailto:booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz> and state your departure point for the ferry. Thanks.

Gail Reichert

Guide & Volunteer Manager
027 222 7318

Concert for the Birds – Saturday 9th March

Once again, SoTM and Explore are presenting the wonderful island experience of a concert for – and with – the birds.

Tickets are \$120 per adult and \$50 for children 5 – 15 years.

They include:

- The return ferry trip
- Two hours of concert from 5:30pm with performance by [HOOP](#) (and on Facebook [here](#))
- Plenty of time for a walk with the birds before the concert



Pack a picnic and a blanket, put on your (grass friendly) dancing shoes and come for a great evening out.

Concert ferry times:

Departs Auckland : 2:00pm | Gulf Harbour: 2:55pm | Arrives Tiritiri Matangi : 3:20pm

Concert: 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Departs Tiritiri Matangi: 8:00pm | Gulf Harbour: 8:25pm | Returns Auckland 9:20pm



Flora News

By Warren Brewer

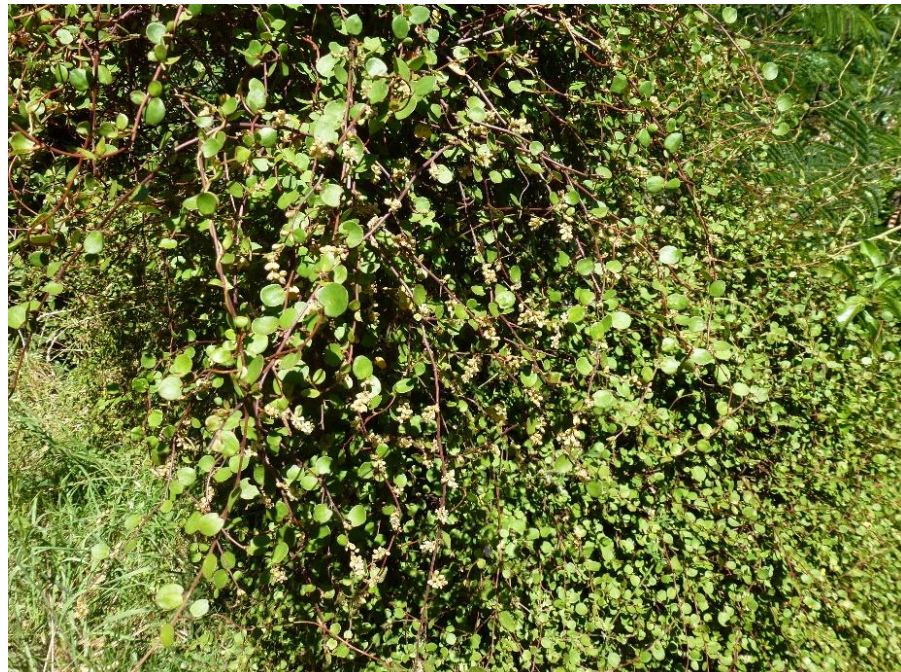
Kohekohe (*Didymocheton spectabilis*) now has new bud bearing stalks emerging from tree trunks and branches. This is called cauliflory (stem flowers) a feature frequently seen in trees which form the lower canopy in tropical forests. The buds will develop over the next couple of months when there will be a spectacular display of sprays of small white flowers.



*Kohekohe with
new bud
bearing stalks*

Pōhuehue (*Muehlenbeckia complexa* var. *complexa*). Also known as wire vine it belongs in the dock family, Polygonaceae. Pōhuehue is dioecious. Vines with female flowers form fruit from their tepals (undifferentiated petals). The fleshy tepals surround a small black seed. This succulent fruit was eaten by Māori, especially children as it is sweet and juicy. Many birds also eat the fruit. Pōhuehue is an important host for the caterpillar stage of many of our native moths and butterflies as well as a variety of other small insects.

*Pohuehue
with tiny*





*Pōhuehue fruit;
succulent tepals
around black seed*

Tawāpou (*Planchonella costata*). The green fruit on the labelled tree by Wharf Dam now has fruit beginning to ripen. In the next few weeks they will make an attractive sight.



Tawapou fruit colouring

Fauna News

Kōkako update

Morag Fordham reports “The remaining two chicks (Te Rae and Chatters and Jenny and Slingshot) have both fledged giving us a total of thirteen fledglings this season. Quite a few of the fledglings are being seen with their parents. Although they are as

big as their parents they can be distinguished by their much smaller pinkish mauve wattles.

The breeding season is finished and the kōkako are now moulting.”

Pāteke and pūweto surprise

The pāteke at the wharf dam have emerged with a trio of new ducklings. While watching the enchanting family, guide Virginia was surprised by the appearance of two pūweto. She shared “..spotless crakes which were rather comical to observe, with their wary quick-footedness - zooming around when not foraging. One crake decided to chase the other for some reason”.



John Stewart's update:

Little penguins/kororā

After a terrible nesting season, when all the chicks in our nest boxes died, one persistent pair laid again in one of the display boxes. They have successfully hatched the eggs and we now have two large, healthy chicks. If all goes well they should fledge in another couple of weeks. The chicks were given their PIT tags last week which will allow us to identify them should they eventually return to nest on the Island.



Ancient Tiritiri Matangi – Adventures in deep time

Part 24 of John Sibley's wonderful 'Ancient Tiritiri Matangi' is now available. This edition is about the Rosid Eudicots found on Tiritiri Matangi today

Learn all about:

- The stunning variety of the Rosids
- Their ancient origins
- The intricate detail of the ovule structure that unites them
- The similarity between our indigenous Rosids and the Australian eucalyptus.

The article is available here: [Part-24-the-Rosid-seed-plants.pdf](#)
(tiritirimatangi.org.nz)



Kowhai is one of the Fabids subgroup of Rosids

Ask the Experts:

Send your most vexing questions to guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz and we'll ask the experts for an answer.

Don't forget we love to get your favourite newsy photos for sharing.

Up and coming

Tiritiri Matangi Talks 2024

Monday 29th April – Seagrass Meadows

Put it in your diary and register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2ykOrmYwRfytV3v6h3cYbw

Concert

Monday 10th June

Saturday 9th March

Supporters' Weekends

Saturday 11th May

Saturday 13th July

Saturday 7th September

Saturday 5th October

Working Weekends

Auckland Anniversary Weekend - 27th January

Easter Weekend - 29th March

King's Birthday Weekend - 1st June

Focus on Te Reo Māori

This is a major part in the New Zealand Curriculum across all levels in schools.

- 1. Helpful Guidelines for all SoTM members for upskilling in Te Reo Māori.**
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/maori-language-week/114961703/power-te-reo-maori-video-lesson-pronounce-words-with-confidence>
- 2.** The following link has been provided by the 2022 Year 11 te reo Māori students at Rangitoto College. It is excellent for learning about vowel and consonant sounds, and the use of macrons, in te reo Māori. It includes some key words specific to Tiritiri Matangi.
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/190hdBjzxyx_2Cpe8DC8aMI4mly_ZUShyqjW62rN-6hvY/edit?usp=sharing
- 3.** Note the ***Māori Bird Lore - An Introduction by Murdoch Riley*** is available in the office for guides/ SoTM members to pick up and dip into during lunch breaks.
- 4. Kupu Māori / words.** Ideal to constantly check the aural: Te Aka Māori Dictionary <http://maoridictionary.co.nz/> The sound in Māori is often quite different from the way many of us have traditionally pronounced kupu / words.

Cybersleuth

- [New 'korowai' gecko species discovered on Auckland's west coast](#)
- [The Wollemi Pine was long thought extinct. Now experts are trying to regrow it in top secret locations](#)
- [Bushy Park Tarapurui sanctuary near Whanganui in line for significant funding boost](#)
- [New kiwi hospital to care for NZ's feathered national icon](#)
- [SailGP: DOC concerned over possible endangered dolphin collisions](#)
- [Prioritise 'charismatic' species such as otters, pangolins in conserving wildlife, say Singapore researchers](#)
- [Three chicks dead: teamwork catches Muriwai ferret](#)
- [Pest control reverses 'downward slide to extinction' for kiwi](#)
- ['Zombie fires' burning at an alarming rate in Canada](#)
- [Kiwi are now calling Upper Hutt home](#)

SoTM website links and blogs

- [Tiritiri Matangi: a perfect fit for United Nations environment programme](#)
- [Spade brigade](#)
- [We chatter quietly away and then someone hears the first kōkako calls](#)
- [SoTM blog page](#)



**Ngā mihi maioha
(with thanks and appreciation)**

Photographs:

Header, pāteke and pūweto

Concert

Flora

Kororā

Kowhai

Footer

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Neil Davies

Warren Brewer

Karin Gouldstone

Jonathan Mower

Darren Markin



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