

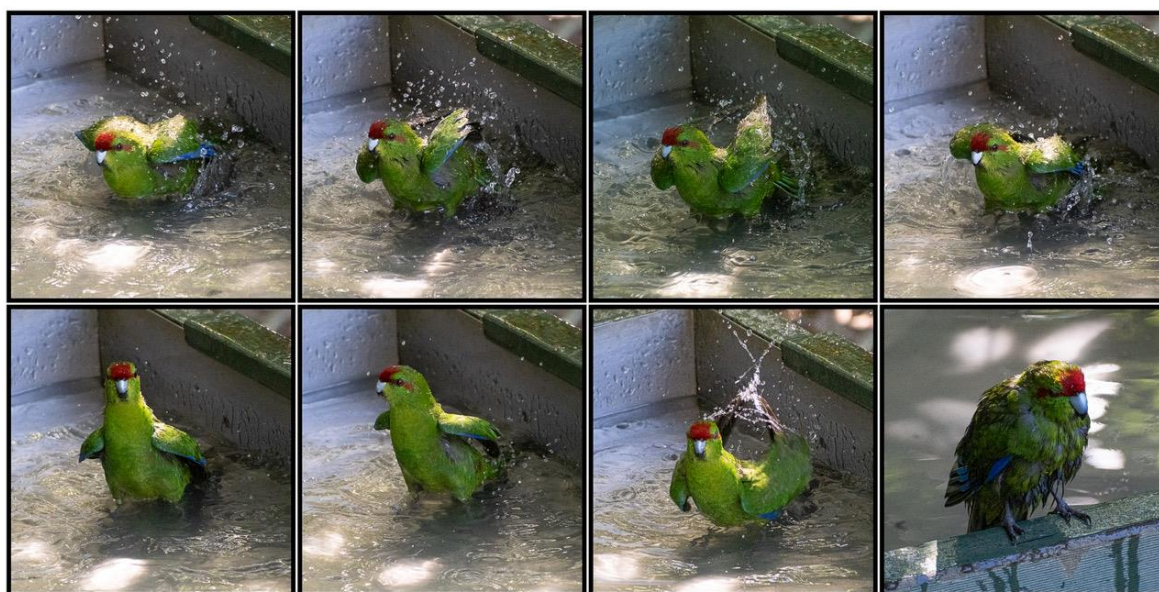


GuideLines

Number 358 – Thursday 18th April 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)



Dear guides,

Wildlife Engagement Protocols for Guides

Knowledge of these Protocols is an essential element of your guiding. In the last issue we gave you the link to access the recently updated Protocols document. We have also made the document available for guides to view by having it available with the daily log. However, we have become aware that not everyone has read the Protocols yet.

It is vital that all guides read this document and understand their responsibilities when guiding. So, for those of you who have yet to read the Protocols, we are repeating it here for your ease of access.

If, after reading this you have any questions about any specific actions, please raise these questions directly with the Duty Guiding Manager in person, or email booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz

Important – new Wildlife Engagement Protocols for Guides

Active Nests

- **Widespread knowledge of the location of active nests increases the risk of someone ignoring the welfare of nesting birds:** Guides should not deliberately reveal the location of any active nests to their groups or other members of the “general public” (including those staying over on the island).

- **Disturbance of nests can cause desertion by adults or chicks. Should a chick leave the nest early, then the chances of survival are low:** Guided groups should not linger in the vicinity of active nests. Should any members of a guided group notice an active nest, the guide should move the group away from the site. The guide should then explain that nests are vulnerable to abandonment if disturbed and request that the location be kept confidential to minimize risk.
- **If guides know the location of active nests, they can ensure that groups do not linger nearby:** Guides should share with each other knowledge of the location of active nests that are close enough to the track such that the presence of groups could disturb the natural behaviour of the animals.

Tuatara

- **Disturbance of burrows may cause unnecessary stress for Tuatara:** Although predominantly nocturnal, Tuatara may emerge from burrows during the day to increase their temperature. If observed during the day, they will most likely be close to their burrow entrance so that they can retreat if necessary. Guides should be discrete when showing tuatara to visitors. If a guide suspects that one or more members of their group may abuse this information, then the presence of the tuatara should not be revealed. When observing a tuatara, guides should not reveal the fact that it is near its burrow.
- **If approached too close, a tuatara will usually retreat into its burrow:** However, they should always be observed from the track and from a distance of at least five metres.
- **Tuatara tend to be sedentary so the same individual may be observed in the same place on different days:** It may, on occasion, be considered necessary for the location of some known individual tuatara to be kept secret. The location and reasons for this will be advertised through Guidelines. Should a group member notice any such individual, the guide should ask the group members to keep the location to themselves and move away at the earliest opportunity.
- **No unauthorized person should disturb a burrow,** including by leaving the track to investigate, day or night, nor shine a light into a burrow.

General

- **Guides must never leave the tracks or deviate from approved guided routes to view wildlife:** Guides may inform groups of where they can view certain species, as long as this is a location that does not require leaving tracks, even by a few metres.
- **Guides must never move remove any vegetation or other protection to improve viewing of species:** This is particularly important for wetapunga and reptiles, as this will likely cause unnecessary stress.
- **Guides must not use any artificial means to attract birds:** 'Artificial means' includes playing calls, using squeakers and whistling etc.

Approved by SoTM Committee 23 March 2024

Guide bookings

Three simple reminders about making your bookings:

1. Thanks for remembering to use booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz as the email address to make your bookings, because it helps us manage our inboxes effectively.
2. Thanks for remembering to state either City or GH when you make your bookings.
3. Thanks for making those bookings as far in advance as your lifestyle permits – a minimum of Friday of the week prior (more if possible) because Explore download the bookings on a Monday morning to plan their crew requirements. For our overall guide planning it helps to

have our numbers organised two weeks in advance, particularly for helping schools plan the number of groups they need to organise.

Guides needed on the following dates – can you help?:

We critically need guides on these days in May (we don't have enough to cover our school guides on these days):

- Friday 3 May
- Saturday 4 May (there is a Y13 school group this day)
- Wednesday 8 May
- Thursday 9 May
- Friday 10 May
- Wednesday 22 May
- Thursday 23 May
- Friday 24 May
- Friday 31 May

We could do with another 2-3 guides on these days:

- Wednesday 1 May
- Thursday 2 May
- Sunday 12 May
- Saturday 18 May
- Sunday 19 May
- Saturday 25 May
- Sunday 26 May
- Wednesday 29 May

King's Birthday Monday 1 June – just a reminder that we need guides on this date also, and that being a public holiday it is weekend sailing times.

Guides in training

We currently have 10 guides in training, with the most recent to join our team being Stanley Shi, Zoe Neville-White, Fiona Kennedy and Robert Vruink.

And congratulations to Lorraine Pound who completed her fledging assessment this week after starting her training in January.

Guides Days Out

These two days are planned for early September and we are starting to think about speakers and workshops. If you have something on your wish list please email booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz so we can take into consideration in our planning.

Kawerau track and tides

Many of you will have experienced us not being able to guide the Kawerau track because of the tide height. The rationale for this has been well-discussed with several guide groups, but if you haven't been a part of those conversations and would like to understand the rationale, please talk to either myself or Debbie so we can give you accurate information. One work-around we are trialling providing visitors access to the Kawerau track by guiding the track in reverse, starting from the Visitor Centre at midday (week days) and slightly later on weekends. This is very much a work in progress and we need to fine tune our protocols around how this happens. It is all part of adapting to our changing environment. It will mean adjusting well-embedded guiding habits to cope with the different approach. Let's work together to trial this. At this stage it's not a given, but I would like to give it a good trial period.

We have had a range of opinions from those who have completed Kawerau in reverse recently, including one family group who we started with a guide staying in the bunkhouse with the group. That was very successful, especially for the visitors as they didn't have to get down to the wharf so early in the morning.

Health & Safety

The Health and Safety section on the Guides page on the website has been reinstated and you can find the most recent organisational H&S plan there. If you have not recently reviewed the plan please see the duty Guide Manager for a copy and to sign off your annual review.

I have recently swapped desks with the educators in the office and am now immediately inside the door from outside. I have created a [H&S area on the pinboard](#) there for quick and easy access in an emergency. You'll find -

- contact numbers for managers and rangers
- names of first aid qualified people
- the code to access the defibrillators
- list of LUV (vehicle) licence holders
- the emergency response booklet
- site plans showing location of fire extinguishers and LPG switch off points

ANZAC Day ferry times

And lastly a reminder that Thursday 25 April is a public holiday and the ferry sailing times are weekend times – leaving Auckland at 8.30am and Gulf Harbour at 9.25am.

I look forward to hearing from you with any questions and with your ideas for Guides Days Out.

Ka kite ano (see you again soon)

Gail Reichert

Guide & Volunteer Manager
027 222 7318

Tiritiri Matangi 2024 Photographic Competition

Time to pull out your best photos and send them in for consideration for the annual Photographic Competition and 2025 Tiritiri Matangi Calendar.

For details on how to enter, you'll [find the flyer by clicking here](#).

Entries close on 30th April.

Flora News

By Warren Brewer

Poverty weed or gum diggers' soap, the kūmarahou shrub has many useful features.

Kūmarahou, *Pomaderris kumeraho*, a labelled shrub on Wattle Track, now has flower buds present. The buds will undergo a long development before flowering in early Spring.

Pomaderris is a genus of 70 or more species of shrubs to small trees. Sixty-five are native to Australia and eight are native to New Zealand.

Kūmarahou is restricted naturally to the upper 2/3rds of the North Island. Its name signals "kūmara planting time", the start of flowering guiding Māori to when kūmara planting should begin. The fluffy bundles of new tiny bright yellow flowers make a great display.



Māori applied fresh kūmarahou leaves to wounds and sores, and wounds were also bathed with an infusion made by boiling the leaves.

The common name poverty weed refers to its habit of thriving in poor clay soil. Gumdiggers' soap was coined from the time when men were employed digging for kauri gum in Northland. A slight lather comes from rubbing flowers and leaves with a little water.

Tiritiri Matangi has a second species of Pomaderris. **Tauhinu**, *Pomaderris amoena*, is more widespread in New Zealand. It is also present on Wattle Track.

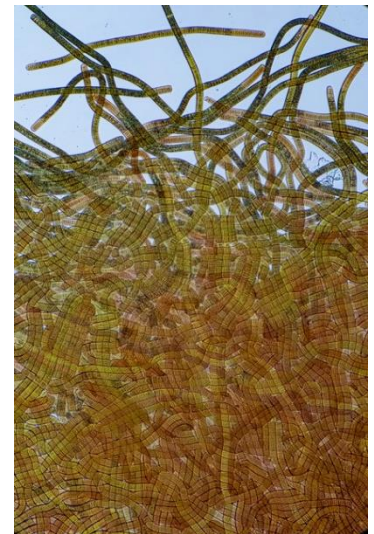
Pomaderris means "membranous lid," a covering for the seeds. *Amoena* means pleasing, charming.



Seagrass Meadows

This important Tiritiri Matangi talk by John Sibley is coming up on Monday the 29th of April. He'll be covering:

1. The strange and unique nature of the seagrasses.
2. The Ecological and economic importance of seagrass meadows
3. The problems it faces and how this impacts all life on Tiritiri Matangi and the entire Hauraki Gulf
4. The investigations currently underway to answer questions about the future of seagrass meadows
5. What all this has to do with the devastating Caulerpa invasion happening in the rest of the Gulf.



Find out about the toxic problem on our doorstep amongst the seagrass off Tiritiri Matangi. What is going on in this picture?

Where: Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings

When: 7:30pm

You can also pre-book to attend the zoom webinar this link:

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

Fauna News

Kōkako summary

Morag Fordham reports: We have 13 fledglings for the season, eight males, four females and one whose sex is unknown as Skye and Bátor's nest could not be accessed.

Discovery and Sarang were the only pair to successfully fledge two chicks. They are both females and have been named Rondo and A Cappella.

The other two female fledglings were produced by Wai Ata and Awenga and Pūtōrino and Sapphire and are named Kiri and Iorangi.



The eight male fledglings (with the parents' names in brackets) are Tāne (Shelly and Tama), Tūpari (Oran and Haar), Wedel (Haeata and Hotu), Rōreka (Wairua and Parininihi), Tuatahi (Phantom and Wakei), Kiseki (Rehu and Noel), Fonn (Te Rae and Chatters) and Nuka (Jenny and Slingshot).



The season ended with 25 pairs as despite having successfully fledged a chick *(UB10), Bátor and Skye have separated. Marihi who had paired up with Themba, (Honey and Rimu's son from last season)

has left him and is now with Bátor. Skye has been seen in the same area on her own and UB10 has been sighted only once and was alone.

The two youngsters, Moana and UB9, from last season are still together in a small area at the top of Little Wattle Valley/ Implement shed. As suspected, the recently caught and banded UB9, is a male and has been named Hēnare.

*We use the term UB (unbanded) until each kōkako has been given his/her own combination of coloured bands and a numbered metal band.

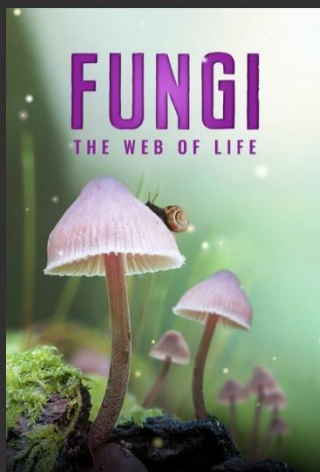
Kōkako Music

An Assistant Professor of Clarinet and his classically trained musician wife who were recent visitors to the motu were enchanted with the song of the kōkako. Their fascinating in depth musical analysis of the unique kōkako song has been posted on both Facebook and Instagram. To read it in detail click through to the [blog here](#).

Fungi: The Web of Life

This fascinating 3D film is being promoted by one of our guides. An additional 41 bookings are needed for Rialto Newmarket to screen it. If you're interested, tickets can be reserved [here](#), or by clicking on the ad below. No charges will be made until the screening is confirmed.

Screening:	May 9 th at 6:30pm
Venue:	Rialto, Newmarket
Cost:	\$25 per ticket plus \$2 booking fee
3D glasses:	Available for \$1 each



FUNGI: THE WEB OF LIFE

PROMOTED BY BLAIR GILES

Date: Thu, May 9, 2024 6:00PM

Where: Rialto Cinemas Newmarket
Rialto Centre, Auckland, Auckland, 1642, New Zealand

Join us for this very special screening of 'Fungi: Web of Life' in spectacular 3d. The film features the author of the bestseller book 'Entangled Life', Dr Merlin Sheldrake and narration by Bjork. Discover the mysterious world that exists between and connects all life on Earth. Introducing this beautiful film that showcases jaw-dropping time-lapse cinematography, Merlin Sheldrake conducts a Q & A (previously recorded at the World Premiere in London) with the team behind the search for an incredibly precious blue mushroom. "With millions more species to discover, our journey into the secret world of fungi has only just begun." Bring your own Real 3D glasses or reserve to buy and they will be available on entrance to the screening.

Tickets:

General Admission: \$25.00

Real 3D glasses: \$1.00

Additional booking fee of \$2.00 per ticket.

(Includes all applicable taxes)

Ask the Experts – this week it’s myths and mirths time:

Myth 1: The stitchbird is so named because they stitch the sticks together to make their nest:

It’s true the hihi / stitchbird makes a wonderful woven puzzle out of hundreds of sticks as the foundation of their nest. Their European name is however one of the many using onomatopoeia – it was thought their call sounded like a stitch being made (possibly by a large piece of machinery). The Māori name means ‘ray of sun’, from the bright yellow stripe on the breast of the males.

Myth 2: Tūī have two syrinxes (not cervixes which has been overheard) which is how they can make their complex sounds.

Scientific studies have shown the song of the tūī to be one of the most complex amongst avian songsters with a study revealing over 300+ different tūī ‘songs’. That’s still a very long way from the top of that ranking in numbers of songs, with the [brown thrasher](#) coming in over 1,000.

The **syrinx**, birds’ vocal organ, sits at the base of their trachea at the point where it divides into the two bronchial [tubes leading into the lungs](#).

Passerine birds, including the tūī, have nine pairs of muscles to control the syrinx’s tautness. The tūī is unique in that it can fine tune the airflow coming from each bronchial tube, giving it the ability to duet with itself. Their syrinx isn’t divided, it’s their control over the two bronchial tubes coming into the syrinx that makes tūī special.

Read more on this on the [Forest & Bird blog here](#).

Myth 3: Kiwi has the shortest bill of all the birds due to it being measured from nostril to the tip of the beak.

This is not how the beak is measured: It’s measured from the tip to the cere at the base of the beak – or to where the feathers start, depending on the species.

Also kiwis’ nostrils are not at the absolute end of their bill and there may be small passerines that have bills so short that their nostrils are closer too the tip than that of the kiwi.

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 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

Tiritiri Matangi Talks Monday 10th June

Maritime Historic Day Saturday 20th April

Photography Walks Sunday 21st April

SoTM Social Monday 13th May

Supporters' Weekends Saturday 11th May

Saturday 13th July

Saturday 7th September

Saturday 5th October

Working Weekends

King's Birthday Weekend - 1st June

SoTM website links and blogs

- [Kōkako music](#)
- [SoTM blog page](#)

Cybersleuth

- [The French aristocrat who understood evolution 100 years before Darwin – and even worried about climate change](#)
- [Dr Brian Richardson presented with Minister’s Biosecurity Award in Wellington](#)
- [Tortoise stolen from Ti Point Reptile Park found in Northland](#)



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

Photographs:

Header

Flora

Seagrass Meadows & kōkako

Footer

Martin Sanders

Warren Brewer

John Sibley

Virginia Nicol



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