



GuideLines

Number 360 – 16th May 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)



Dear guides,

Urgent need for guides

Wed 5 June and **Fri 6 June** we currently don't have enough guides booked to cover our school groups – please help if you are able.

Future Guide bookings

Would you please get your bookings in for the month of June if you haven't already done so. And remember to use booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz as the email, also noting your departure point.

- Thursday 24 May we could do with another 2 guides due to cancellations
- King's Birthday Weekend – Sun 2 June, Mon 3 June – we could do with 2-3 more guides each day.

Ferry cancellations

After two days of cancellations this week, it's a timely reminder that the previous phone service is no longer operating. If the ferry is cancelled all volunteers booked will receive an email from booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz advising them. I know there are a handful of people we need to phone because of their lack of internet connection. Please let me know if you are in the same situation so we can ensure you get notification.

Ferry sailing reminder

A reminder that King's Birthday weekend sailing times on Monday 3 June are weekend schedule leaving city at 8.30am and Gulf Harbour 9.25am.

Health & Safety – contact numbers

Would you please ensure you have the following mobile numbers programmed in your contacts on your phone:

Guide Managers	Usual work days	
Debbie	Weds	021 029 01520
Gail	Thurs – Sat	027 222 7318
Yvonne	Sun & public hols	027 667 0367
Duty DOC Ranger		027 356 1067

Note that the **Ranger landline** will shortly be discontinued, so you should remove that from any contacts in your phone.

Similarly, our office phone 09 476 0010 is often very patchy for reception and sometimes difficult to hear ringing if there is a lot of activity in the shop/office. If you need to contact the office/shop please use one of the numbers listed above in preference to the landline.

Health & safety – bum bags

It is mandatory that you carry a SoTM bum bag with you on each guiding event, even if you have your own first aid and resources with you.

Health & safety – concrete road

Re the slippery surface – the road has also been water blasted and had a spray treatment applied to reduce the slippage. But with wet weather coming always be super careful coming down the slope and avoid the very steep right-hand corner near the drain.

You'll notice a new sign at the top of the concrete notifying of the slipping hazard if stones are present. We need to continue sweeping the area frequently. The broom is now being 'stashed' in the undergrowth by the side of the concrete. If you notice stones at any time please help keeping us all safe by sweeping them back. Sometimes the broom may be returned to the wharf shed, so have a look there if you don't see it at the top.

Fleece jackets and vests – place your order by 31 May

Our shop manager Ashlea is ordering more micro-fleece jackets and if there is enough interest, the vests as well. These are available to volunteers at cost price. Feel free to get in touch with Ashlea if you have any questions.

How to order:

- Email Ashlea your order retail@tiritirimatangi.org.nz
- OR fill in the order form in the shop
- Get your order in by 31st May

Micro-Fleece Jacket - Mens or Womens fit - \$74.20

Micro-Fleece Vest - Mens or Womens fit - \$63.20

- Embroidered with TMI circular emblem (same as previous years)
- Navy Blue colour
- Full length front zip
- 2x zipper pockets
- Men Sizes available: XS - S - M - L - XL - 2XL - 3XL - 5XL
- Womens Sizes available: 8 - 10 - 12 - 14 - 16 - 18 - 20 - 22 - 24

Feedback from visitors

We are keen to explore formal ways of getting feedback from visitors on their guiding experience. Not only is this important for the organisation to understand what people value about their visit, but also we want to gather ideas on how we might provide an even better experience.

If you have any ideas, please either email me or talk to me or Debbie on the island.

Feedback from you

Similarly, it is important that you let the duty Guide Manager know of any concerns or issues you experience with your guiding group or any other visitor to the island. Talking to the Guide Manager on the day is preferable, or as soon after as practicable if you can't connect on the day.

Guides in training

We currently have 10 people training to become guides, and a further five people who have expressed an interest. If you know of anyone who may be a suitable candidate, please direct them to our website page [Volunteer – Tiritiri Matangi](#) where they can download and complete an Expression of Interest form which is the first step in becoming involved.

Thank you

And finally, thank you for all the great mahi (work) you do inspiring our visitors about conservation and te taiao (the environment). You are the frontline of Tiritiri Matangi and play a vital role in creating lifelong memories for everyone you encounter on the motu whether guiding them formally or interacting them as you move around the motu.

Looking forward to seeing you on the waka (boat) and motu soon.

Ngā mihi nui

Gail Reichert

Guide & Volunteer Manager
027 222 7318

Hi volunteers,

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We have received advice from the Department of Conservation that from the **1st of July** DOC is removing the 50% member discount fee for SoTM members using the bunkhouse. From the 1st of July members will have to pay the full price of \$42 a night.

DOC has reviewed its Discount Policy for Recreation and Facilities, including the criteria for different groups to receive discounts. They are under increased budget pressure from rising construction and maintenance costs and reduced revenue due to the impacts of inflation, extreme weather events including Cyclone Gabrielle, and other economic pressures on New Zealand. The exceptions to this new charge include most of the biodiversity related bunkhouse bookings and working weekends. Supporters' weekends will still be put aside but members staying will need to pay full price.

Ngā mihi nui

Debbie Marshall

Operations Manager
021 029 01520

Flora News

By Warren Brewer

As the last few days of autumn slip by and winter beckons, blossom from our brush wattle trees is beginning to feed our honeyeaters. The greenish yellow flowers have a bottle brush-like arrangement. Flowering will continue throughout the winter months. The tree's leaves have soft and silky feeling when touched.

Brush wattle (*Paraserianthes lophantha*) is a tolerated exotic, native to south west Western Australia. Its presence on Tiritiri Matangi originates from a planting of



six trees in the lighthouse shelter belt in the 1940's. Its spread is now contained, by active management, to Wattle Valley.

The genus *Paraserianthes* belongs in the legume family, Fabaceae. *Paraserianthes* means "close to or almost serianthes".

Serianthes is a genus of 18 species of trees and shrubs in SE Asia and the Pacific.

Fabaceae is based on faba which is Latin for a bean.

Serianthes means "silky flowers".

Lophantha means "crested flower", describing the shape and form of the brush wattle flower.



Brush Wattle seeds (legume family)

Fauna news

Kōkako report

Morag Fordham has shared her comprehensive report on the 2023-2024 kōkako season on Tiritiri Matangi. To read her report, [click here](#).

The elusive miromiro

There have been two more reports of tomtit / miromiro sightings. Guides Yuki and Virginia spotted one on the Ridge Track, just past the



top of the Kawerau Track. Their sightings were nine days apart.

North Island fantail / pīwakawaka monitoring



Hester Cooper has advised that a paper has been published on the Fantail Project, run by Mel Galbraith and his Unitec colleague, Glenn Aguilar, that some guides took part in.

The paper focuses on the methodology which was used in monitoring the pīwakawaka. It is an open access journal so can be shared as widely as possible. The paper is available here:

<https://www.unitec.ac.nz/eypress/index.php/perspectives-in-biodiversity/volumes/2024-1/gpsfantail-tiritiri/> or
<https://doi.org/10.34074/pibdiv.002104>

Nature Conservation and Wellbeing Study

Guide Isabel has sent details of an international study being done by a young woman from the Anthropology Department at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, USA. Isabel met her when she was volunteering at the Kaipatiki Project. She's looking for people from Auckland to Zoom interview about the environment and our own well being. Participation will involve a recorded voice interview of approximately an hour. There is a small koha for participants. If you're interested, the details and contacts are here, or you can scan the QR code on the pic below with your phone camera app:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VuUErWvae6eoMRzGLbWlqW6HPjfpIXWPxtKljZG4ow/mobilebasic>


NATURE & WELL-BEING STUDY

Exploring the intersection of nature conservation and personal well-being in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland!

Looking for participants to share their thoughts and experiences about how local nature and the environment affects their well-being as well as opinions on local conservation efforts.
Participation is voluntary!

Who: Individuals aged 18 years and above who live in the Auckland area.
What: One 1-hour interview
Payment: Compensation provided
Participation is Voluntary
Contact: Suzanna Geisel-Zamora (SCZBioAnth@gmail.com) or Dr. Zaneta Thayer (Zane.Thayer@Dartmouth.edu)

Scan the QR code with your phone for more information and to sign up



Ask the Experts

We've been very lucky to get some questions answered by Chris Green who is now an Honorary Research Associate at DOC.

Q.1 I would like to understand the symbiotic relationship between the insect and the plant – especially the harakeke. Does the plant benefit in any way?

Chris Green: Of the common insect species associated with flax - as per the Manaaki Whenua/Landcare Research website below, I can't think of any that are symbiotic with the plant, i.e. the flax would not appreciate the attention = feeding damage from any of these insects.

In general terms some plants will respond to insect browse by growing more vigorously to compensate for the lost foliage. Others may produce chemicals in their sap and foliage to combat the insect and reduce the feeding. Both these examples tend to be seen in heavy feeding damage situations which I have never seen on flax, and which, on Tiritiri, grows very well and seems to be able to easily withstand any insect feeding.

All this is very different from the birds (other than parakeets!) which feed on the flowers and help pollinate the plant – which is a good demonstration of symbiosis. Similarly for other plants where bees are the pollinator.

<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/tools-and-resources/collections/new-zealand-flax-collections/insect-pests-and-diseases-of-harakeke>

Our question on pūriri in GL #357, 4th April, sparked two more related questions:

Q.2 How exactly do the puriri caterpillars force the development of live callus – what substance is the source of the live growth and how do the caterpillars stimulate the growth?

Chris Green: The pūriri moth caterpillars, under their web cover, feed on the outer sapwood of the tree. The tree responds by producing callus tissue to heal the wound – as you point out.

The sapwood and callus tissue are more nutritious than the heartwood where the caterpillar sits vertically in the trunk.

The feeding area under the web cover expands as the caterpillar grows. The tree will continue to try and heal the wound from the damage, but the caterpillar continues to feed on the fresh tissue which forces the tree to continue producing more callus tissue.

The caterpillar is, indeed, “farming” the callus tissue from the tree. This is a natural response of the tree, just as it would when a branch is pruned off, callus tissue is produced to cover the cut sapwood and protect the tree from being infected with diseases.

Q.3 What exactly is frass? Definitions online include powdery residue from insect boring and solid excretions from an insect larvae. Interesting new info for where the material for the web covering comes from, but what exactly are they boring: inner bark or woody core of tree? (Future question: what is the black web covering made from and how is it constructed?).

Chris Green: The frass definition is correct. All insects produce frass which is mostly dry after the larva has absorbed as much moisture as it needs.

Boring insects often have a problem to get rid of their frass from their confined tunnels as they usually have a method to either use it for camouflage or to eject it from their burrow.

The webbing cover of the puriri moth caterpillar tunnel and feeding area is produced by the caterpillar. Many caterpillar species can produce web, e.g. casebearer or leaf-roller caterpillars etc and many use it in making an enclosure in which to pupate e.g. gum emperor moth.

The website from the link you had in the GuideLines (4th April) had lots of photos of the “7” shaped damage of the caterpillar inside the tree. The interior heartwood is not very nutritious, so the caterpillar is only “feeding” on it to make it large enough as a cavity to rest in and protect it from birds or other predators that may break into the webbing cover.

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 10th June

Supporters' Weekends

Saturday 13th July

Saturday 7th September

Saturday 5th October

Working Weekends

King's Birthday Weekend – 1st - 3rd June

SoTM website links and blogs

- [Pukupuku / little spotted kiwi](#)
- [The kiwis are here](#)
- [SoTM blog page](#)

Cybersleuth

- [Northland wants to be the first region to eradicate wild deer](#)
- [Scores of starving brown pelicans found on Southern California beaches](#)
- [Managed retreat: How do we get out of the way of climate change?](#)
- [World's top climate scientists expect global heating to blast past 1.5C target](#)
- [Tūi numbers take off in Canterbury over past 10 years](#)
- [A Northland island has a very unusual problem ... too many kiwi](#)
- [Success for new giant wētā breeding program after decades long drought](#)
- [It's not hopeless: See how this tiny island was brought back to life](#)
- [Responsible dairying award for farmers creating wetlands, planting native trees](#)



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

Photographs:

Header and miromiro on right
Flora
Miromiro on left
Pīwakawaka
Footer – a Capella study

Virginia Nicol
Warren Brewer
Yuki Kojima
Bruce Crossan
Jonathan Mower



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