



GuideLines

Number 359 – 2nd May 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)



Dear guides,

“This has been the best day of my life”

We all do what we do because of our passion for the island – and so it’s fantastic when we can ignite that passion in the younger generation. This comment was heard being made by a young child as they boarded the ferry recently.

Ferry cancellation – phone message no longer working

Recently we sent an email letting you know that the ferry cancellation phone message is no longer being provided. Here’s how you will be notified from now on.

Explore generally advise us by email between 11am and 2pm on the day prior. Their operating procedures determine when they can and cannot operate and they use the weather predictions to make the call.

As soon as we get the advice from Explore we send an email to all volunteers on the booking sheet advising of the cancellation. This will generally come from the booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz address.

Check your emails after 2pm the day before if the weather is in doubt. You can text or call the duty Guide Manager if you cannot access your emails for any reason.

Health & Safety – the concrete is slippery

Be very careful on the concrete road after rain, especially near the bottom. It has been identified as a hazard because we had several people slip over a short period of time recently. It seems to be more slippery on the right hand side coming down, but we have also had a slip on the left side.

And thanks for those of you who have helped keep everyone safe by sweeping the stones off the concrete. We are leaving the broom at the side of the road for ease of access but sometimes it does get moved back to the wharf shed.

Kawerau track

Thanks very much for those who have trialled Kawerau in reverse and provided us with feedback. We will continue to explore that option for making the track available, and I am fine tuning the briefing that needs to be given at the wharf to accommodate this alteration.

Kawerau and tides

During May we have two series of dates when we cannot access Kawerau track in the morning.

- 10-12 May
- 26 + 29 May

29 May we also may not be able to guide in reverse as high tide is 11.24am and it may not be low enough by early afternoon to enable safe passage. On the other days we will be able to guide Kawerau in reverse.

Do you have ideas for Guides Day Out?

As mentioned in the last issue, we are starting to plan these events. If you have any ideas on what you would like to be included, please let either Gail or Debbie know.

Ngā mihi nui

Gail Reichert

Guide & Volunteer Manager
027 222 7318

Following the Doc investigation and audit of our Health and Safety processes, we will be introducing some new procedures for guiding on the island. There will be more information coming out in the next two weeks regarding this so watch this space.

Ngā mihi nui

Debbie Marshall

Operations Manager
021 029 01520

Flora News

By Warren Brewer

Tiritiri Matangi's nikau grove.

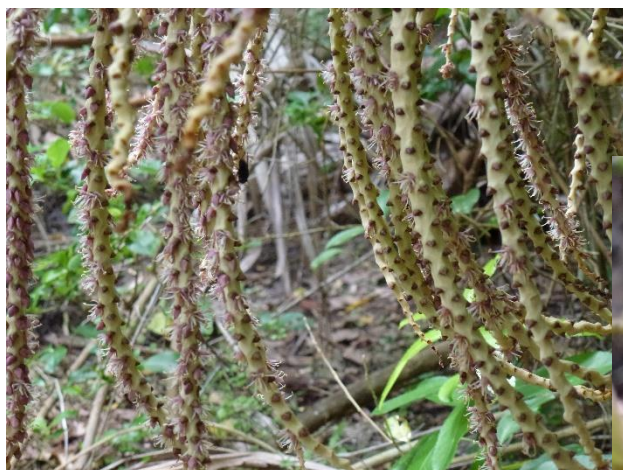
One of the highlights of the Wattle Valley Walk is seeing the nikau grove, planted during 1994.



Nikau, *Rhopalostylis sapida*, is regarded as the world's southernmost palm. The large palm family, *Arecaceae*, is mostly found in tropical and subtropical climates. Nikau is one of the few temperate climate outliers.

Tiritiri Matangi's palms first flowered during 2010 and there is now a steady display of flowers and ripening fruit for visitors to enjoy. Nikau flowers are carried on compact, much branched inflorescences. Separate male and female flowers are grouped into threes, a

central female with two larger lateral males. The male flowers, with six stamens, open first.



Picture to left shows flowering with male flowers opening and a visiting fly.

Below is a close-up of male flowers with stamens.



They soon disappear and female flowers open.

Pollination is mostly done by small insects. A few small birds (hihi on Tiritiri Matangi) also seek the nectar amongst the sprays, collecting pollen on their feathers.

New fruit which forms is green at first then ripens to a bright red to orange-red. Each fruit contains one seed. Kererū and kōkako are keen harvesters.

Nikau leaves were used by Maori for thatch, mats, baskets and wrapping food. Immature inflorescences and the young growing tip are edible when cooked.



To left is a mix of new flowers, green and ripe fruit

Below is a close up of fruit beginning to ripen.



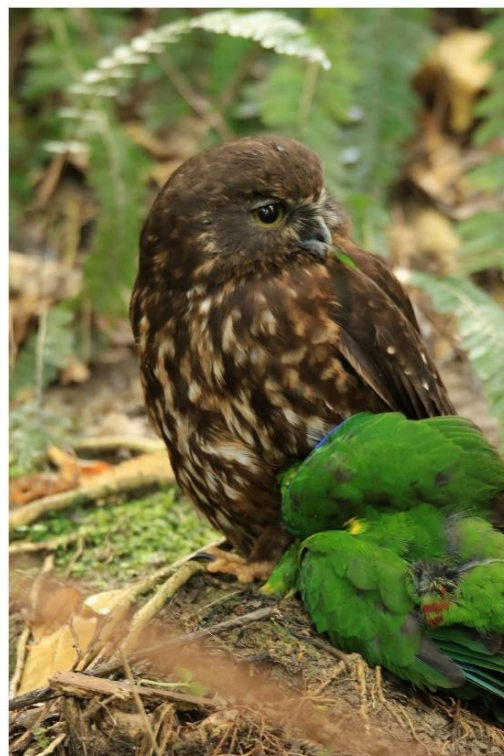
The species name *sapida* means savoury, pleasant to taste.

Rhopalostylis means club shaped style.

Fauna News

This powerful photo was taken by Bruce Dorset from the Whāngarei Camera Club. The group are regular visitors to Tiritiri Matangi and Yvonne regularly catches up with them to see if they have any great photos to share: Aaron Skelton, who took the takahe shot on the cover of the 2024 calendar, is a member.

When asked for the story behind this capture, Bruce, who was happy for the photo to be shared, said: "In August 2021 while walking the Wattle track, at the first water trough behind the seat we heard a ruckus and sat listening. Then I was able to get a photograph of a ruru who had just killed a kākārīki."



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

Monday 10th June

SoTM Social

Monday 13th May 7:30pm

Supporters' Weekends

Saturday 11th May

Saturday 13th July

Saturday 7th September

Saturday 5th October

Working Weekends

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

SoTM website links and blogs

- [SoTM blog page](#)

Cybersleuth

- [Beyond the DOC job cuts: 'The worst is yet to come'](#)
- [A 48m boat ran aground on my family's island in the Hauraki Gulf. It's the least of our worries](#)
- [Positive stories from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy](#)
- [Elation tinged with concern after sighting of great spotted kiwi in Golden Bay](#)
- [Wānaka bird deaths: Phenomenon 'not uncommon'](#)
- [The lagoon, the irrigation scheme, and a giant can of worms](#)
- [How an enthusiastic new photographer made birding history](#)



End of the day – the ferry's eye view from a guide who went on a Whale & Dolphin tour

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

Photographs:

Header

Flora

Ruru vs kākāriki

Footer

Alison Forbes

Warren Brewer

Bruce Dorset

Malcolm Pullan



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You are receiving this email because you are interested in Tiritiri Matangi Island

Our mailing address is:
Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc
PO Box 90814
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142
New Zealand