



# GuideLines

Number 362 – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)



Dear guides,

Mauri tū, mauri ora  
An active soul is a healthy soul

### Health & safety – weekly focus

As a result of the recent H&S review of our procedures by DOC we have been advised to implement a daily 'toolbox talk', which is H&S jargon for a simple conversation that focuses everyone's attention on any risks they are likely to encounter that day.

We've thought about how to achieve this while keeping the momentum of getting visitors started on their walks. Here's what we intend to trial to get this underway. Between myself and Educator Sara, we will draft a list of focal points using our Emergency Procedures Guide (which can be viewed on the H&S area of the pinboard in the office) and our organisational H&S plan. We will use this list to choose the focus for the week and briefly highlight this when meeting with guides, either on the dock/boat before landing on the motu, or immediately prior to allocating guides to visiting group.

As with all new initiatives, we'll give it a go and see how it works. Our commitment is always to have everyone home safe every day. This is even more important now we are moving into the wetter months with slippery tracks and darker environments. A gentle reminder of the importance of H&S for keeping you safe –the DOC report noted that of the last six evacuations from the island, five of them were guides.

### Last week's focus – don't walk backwards!

I have permission from Peter Evans to share his recent tumbling experience with you as a focus for keeping you safe. Peter was recently engaging fully with his guiding group on the Kawerau Track near the weta box/bandstand area. Unfortunately, he was also walking backwards while doing this, and as a result missed the step up and fell hurting his shoulder. He's currently off-island (miss you Peter) while waiting for a full assessment of his injury. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

## **Lanyards for volunteer guides**

We have purchased lanyards branded with SoTM logo and printed 'Volunteer Guide' (black lanyard with white printing) which will soon be placed in every bum bag. These will help visitors more easily identify guides as well as assisting Guide Managers in seeing guides amongst the people on the concrete at start of day. The lanyards have plastic pockets attached which hold the Emergency Contact Number card (island map on reverse) which is currently held in the bum bags. This makes the card easier to access for you when you show it to your group near the start of your walk, and also easier to access if needed in case of emergency.

Guides should wear the lanyards for the duration of your walk and replace in the bum bag before returning it to the trailer.

## **Bum bags – what's in them?**

I've been asked about the contents of the bum bags – here is the list of contents:

1. The Emergency numbers card which details procedure to follow in the case of an emergency - with map of island on the reverse showing best cell phone coverage and routes for seeking assistance
2. Brochure of island with map showing guided walking tracks (you can use this to orient visitors if you need to ask someone to go for help)
3. A whistle to summon assistance (from other guides in the area)
4. Disposable protective gloves
5. A simple bandage
6. Safety pins
7. Sticking plasters
8. A barrier mask (used when applying mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to minimise risk of infection)
9. Gauze bandages
10. Wound cleansing wipes.

In addition to these safety-related items, you will find a small plastic bag containing pohutukawa seeds and a piece of whau wood.

The small books (trees and birds) that were previously in the bum bags are now available in the trailer container where bum bags are stored, for those guides who would like to use them in their guiding.

## **Congratulations – newly fledged guide**

Elizabeth Marriott recently fledged after starting her training in January.

## **Guide bookings - July**

Thank you for getting your June bookings through. We seem to be quite well covered for the month. However, we may need to put out a call for guides for 27 June when we have a group of up to 80 University of Auckland international students to guide. We are awaiting final numbers this coming week.

To help us plan ahead we would appreciate if you can get your July bookings within the next week or so, but definitely by 20 June. Remember to add your ferry departure point to your email because this will help our new volunteer admin person Anne to record your booking accurately. We are planning to have Anne do most of the bookings Monday-Friday, while Debbie and I will cover weekends.

## Guides Days Out

We are now taking bookings for both days – Sunday 15 September and Saturday 21 September. For new guides this is the major learning event for the year where we have guest speakers and specialist walks/workshops, combined with a shared lunch. Some speakers/workshops repeat on the second day, while others are one day only. Email [booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz) to save your place. We'll have more details in the next month.

## Guide Manager – who's on when?

For the sake of clarity, especially for those who are not regular guides, our roster in the role of Guide Manager goes like this on island:

Debbie	Wednesday	021 029 01520
Gail	Thursday-Saturday	027 222 7318
Yvonne	Sundays and public holidays	027 667 0367

Please check you have these numbers loaded in your phones, along with the Duty Rangers 027 536 1067. The shop number 09 476 0010 can often have patchy reception, so best to use the mobile numbers if possible.

Enjoy your guiding – look forward to seeing you soon.

Ngā mihi nui

**Gail Reichert**

Guide & Volunteer Manager

027 222 7318

Hi volunteers,

It's time to have another read and familiarise/refresh yourself with the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Code of Conduct. This document is now available on our dedicated guides section of the website, along with the two internal reference documents. They can all be found here:

[Code of Conduct](#)

[IT plan for Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi](#)

[Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Complaints Process](#)

Ngā mihi nui

**Debbie Marshall**

Operations Manager

021 029 01520

## Care with email pop-ups

We've recently had a few requests to guide sent through to the GuideLines email, the inbox for which isn't monitored every day. To get the right attention needed, please ensure:

- For guide bookings you select [booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz)
- For membership details you select [membership@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:membership@tiritirimatangi.org.nz)
- To share stories or pictures for GuideLines or the Newsletter, use [guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz)

## Flora News

By Warren Brewer

### Three special hard ferns to look out for on Tiritiri Matangi

Ferns belonging in the family Blechnaceae are loosely called hard ferns. This family has the majority of its species in the Southern Hemisphere with two main centres of diversity. One centre is in Central and South America and the other in Australasia and parts of the Pacific. Many of the species have dimorphic fronds (two types).

In 2017 an extensive revision of *Blechnum*, a large genus in the family, resulted in lots of new genera and species being created. *Blechnum* is Greek for a fern.

Three special hard fern species are present on the Kawerau Track.

**Rereti, lance fern, *Austroblechnum lanceolatum***, is abundant along Kawerau Track, growing amongst the forest of kohekohe trees. This fern has two frond types. Sterile fronds form the main structure (rosette shaped) with fertile spore bearing fronds emerging from the centre. Rereti is native to New Zealand, also being found in Australia and parts of the Pacific. Māori cooked the young outer fronds to be eaten as greens. *Austro* means southern.



Left: Rereti clusters, Kawerau Track Right: Rereti rosette of sterile fronds with central brown fertile fronds

**Kiokio, palm leaf fern, *Parablechnum novae-zelandiae***, is endemic to New Zealand. Kiokio also has dimorphic fronds with fertile “shrivelled looking” fronds emerging from the centre of each plant. Kiokio can also be seen on Wattle Track, growing beside the nikau palm sign.

Māori wrapped vegetable foods in kiokio fronds to add flavour when hangi cooking. The fern’s young fronds (fiddle heads) were also cooked as a vegetable.

*Para* means “close to, almost.”

Kiokio has fairly large sterile fronds, hence the common name palm leaf fern.



*Kiokio with central fertile fronds*

**Pānako, thread fern, *Icarus filifomis***, is a climbing fern, tallest in the family. *Icarus* is a new genus with just a single species. It is the only family member with trimorphic fronds (three types). Beginning its growth in contact with the soil it has juvenile sterile fronds with small rounded leaves. As it starts to climb larger mature sterile fronds are formed. Wispy, thread like fertile fronds form the third type.



*Pānako climbing with juvenile and mature sterile fronds*

Filiformis means thread like.

Pānako, thread fern, is a unique New Zealand botanical gem, easily seen along the Kawerau Track climbing tree trunks.



*Left: Pānako juvenile sterile fronds    Right: Pānako thread like fertile fronds with mature sterile fronds*

Icarus is featured in Greek mythology, escaping from Crete with his father by flying with wings sealed together with beeswax. Icarus sadly flew too close to the sun.

**New Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Polo Shirts!**  
**\$37 Mens & Womens Sizes: S-2XL** \*for volunteers & staff only\*  
Forest Green Colour with embroidered SoTM logo  
Available in the shop or email [retail@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:retail@tiritirimatangi.org.nz)



## Sharing your stories

This is a reminder to everyone that we're currently working on promoting our Guided Walks to visitors and we *need* your stories. What you love about the tracks, how you feel about sharing with our very diverse visitors. The special things that only a knowledgeable and engaged Guide can add to a day on Tiritiri Matangi. We need stories for the Blog and the Newsletter. Send them through to both [staceybalich@gmail.com](mailto:staceybalich@gmail.com) and [guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz).

## Sharing your skills

Do you have some work skills and experience that you think could be put to good use on Tiritiri Matangi? We'd love to know if there's something you're happy to offer.

There are two areas where we currently need support:

- **Communications and publishing:** Dawn Chorus, GuidelInes and the new Newsletter are put together by a small group of volunteers working to keep our supporters and volunteers informed and engaged with everything that's happening on the motu. We would welcome anyone with experience with writing, proofreading, editing – or just keen to have a go. For more information email [guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz)
- **Assistance with improving signage and displays on the island:** We are seeking someone to join a small team on the Advocacy Committee to assist with upgrading the signage and other interpretation material in the Visitor Centre and around the island. Experience with digital material and electronic devices would be especially helpful as we seek to make our displays more up-to-date and user-friendly.

## Peter Lorimer

We were saddened to be informed of the passing of long standing Wellington-based member Peter Lorimer. He had joined the SoTM in 2002, and had been a member and regular annual donor since then.

Furthermore, a generous sum has been bequeathed to our society, from his estate.

Are there any members who knew Peter and what his particular interests were in conservation and environmental matters? This could assist the Committee in directing these funds to an appropriate project.

If you knew Peter and can offer any guidance do please contact the Secretary: [secretary@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:secretary@tiritirimatangi.org.nz).

With many thanks from the Main Committee

## Ask the Experts

*Send your most vexing questions to [guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto: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

### The brave and hardy Tiritiri Matangi swimmers

For the week of winter solstice, some guides are planning a swim at Little Hobbs. This activity will kick off on Wednesday, 19 June. The swimmers will be hitting the water at 2pm and would love you

to join them. If you are not keen on swimming, then taking a few photos would be appreciated. The challenge is also out there for Thursday and Friday guides, and the weekend crew, of course.



The tide will be incoming, about half tide on Wednesday, and hopefully there will be a nice flat sea. Maybe it would be a good day to bring the thermos with the hot drink for afterwards, and lots of warm clothes.

In case of cancellation, or disgusting weather, the swim will be in Matariki week, Wednesday, 26 June.

#### **Supporters' Weekends**

Saturday 13th July  
Saturday 7th September  
Saturday 5th October  
Labour weekend – 26<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Working Weekends**

#### **Explore Winter special deals:**

##### **SoTM Winter Deal:**

**50% discount** for SoTM members from 1 June – 31 July 2024  
Maximum two adults (including member) and three children per booking  
Promo code: SOTIRI24

##### **July School Holidays deal:**

**Kids go free**  
Valid for travel 3-28 July 2024 (based on days of operation during the month of July)  
Maximum one child per full paying adult  
Promo code: KIDSFREE24

#### **SoTM website links and blogs**

- [SoTM blog page](#)
- [Meet the volunteers: Davina, Diane and Bob](#)
- [Tuatara – Ancient Escape Artist](#)

#### **Tiritiri Matangi Oral Histories**

- [Oral Histories](#)

#### **Cybersleuth**

- [Ngā Whetū O Matariki | Matariki; te Mātahi o te Tau](#)
- [Locally extinct bird lured back to remote island with audio recording](#)



- [Finding the world's oldest flax snail fossils](#)
- [Shock discovery as baby tuatara found living at demolition site | Fifth baby tuatara found at Invercargill demolition site](#)
- [Researchers make concerning new discovery after analysing tortoise faeces](#)
- [How a trove of whaling logbooks will help scientists understand our changing climate](#)
- [Bringing back a long extinct bird: the little bush moa](#)
- [How parakeets escaped and made Britain their home](#)
- [Ultrawilding: Aotearoa and the tech revolution giving nature a leg-up](#)
- [Invasive Caulerpa seaweed found at Leigh for the first time](#)
- [Excessive vegetation in Arabia triggered massive butterfly migrations](#)
- [Rare shortjaw kōkopu released in Auckland's Waitākere Ranges to protect population](#)



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

**Photographs:**

Header

Flora

Swimmers

Footer

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