



# GuideLines

Number 364 – 11 July 2024

## Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)



Tena koutou katoa (greetings to all)

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### Request from Explore skipper

Our regular skipper Troy has requested that all guides and volunteers remain silent and distinctly pay attention to the safety briefings on the ferry, including announcements when both leaving dock and approaching Tiritiri Matangi. This role models desired behaviour to our island visitors and encourages them to focus on the important messages skippers are obligated to deliver. And in case you aren't aware skippers have a screen in the wheelhouse with views through all cabins and decks on the vessel.

And please also pay the same courtesy and respect when the Rangers are doing their briefings on the island.

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### Guiding numbers over winter

With winter months now here the number of visitors needing guiding is much lower than in the summer. During term time schools are booked in for almost every school day and on these days we need more guides. On days where we have no schools, there is limited demand for guiding and we generally only need 5-10 guides. Any extra guides will be asked to complete other volunteering

jobs. These may include weeding, drain clearing, cleaning and other jobs helping admin or educators.

We would like you to be aware and prepared when you come to the island. We will do our best to give prior notice if we have numbers below 10 to guide but this is not always possible as we get final numbers at 9am on the morning of the sailing. Also our wonderful guides sell walks on the boat.

We greatly appreciate people booking ahead. Having bookings organised month by month is very helpful. Thank you for your support.

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### **Ferry cancellation phone reinstated**

The ferry cancellation phone number **09 916 2241** has been reinstated.

We will continue to send emails when we receive a cancellation notice from Explore Group. That generally happens between 11am and 2pm on the day prior the sailing cancellation day. The phone message will be updated as soon as possible after we receive notice from Explore.

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### **Info you can access in SoTM subscriber system**

Did you know that you can now access your volunteer guiding activities in our subscriber database? Our volunteer Anne Mouat is recording the daily guiding logs into the system, and is working diligently to enter the backlog of diaries from December 2023 onwards. The last few months are already entered. To access go to [tiritirimatangi.org.nz](http://tiritirimatangi.org.nz), select *Get Involved* tab, then *Renew Membership* (you'll need to enter your user name which is generally your email address). You will see your main membership record. Select *My Account* near the top of the screen, and then *Volunteering* on the left navigation bar. Screens may appear differently if you are accessing via your phone.

You can also update your contact details and emergency contacts there. Just select the pencil icon to edit when you are in the main My Account screen.

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### **Guide updates**

- Congratulations to Annie Aalbers who recently fledged as a trained guide. Annie has been solo guiding for a number of months, but due to demands on the day of her original assessment it didn't get formally completed. But now Annie is fully signed off and officially fledged.
  - We welcome Lara Smith and Donna Miller who have recently starting their training as guides
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### **Guide bookings for August**

Would you please start thinking about your bookings for August now so we stay ahead of the curve. Our bookings for July are all quite well covered - thanks very much for responding to our requests.

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### **Health & Safety - the final step**

We are now able to let you know about the final step we need to implement following the review by DOC. Those of you who have been on the island over the last couple of weeks have seen the Job Safety Analysis (JSA) sheet which DOC recommended we have all guides acknowledge every day before guiding. This is fundamentally about guides taking responsibility for their own wellbeing and fitness to guide each day. We will shortly have this up on the Guides Section of the website under the Health & Safety category. It's not easy to share here because it is in landscape (wide sheet) format. The JSA has had a header added to it - 'Am I safe to guide today?'

Here's how it will work

As a guide you need to be aware of the contents of two documents:

1. Health & Safety Overview for Guides (full text in the last GuideLines)
2. JSA - Am I safe to guide today?

Each day we will ask you to confirm your understanding of the two documents and make an acknowledgement that you are fit to guide. We will have a separate clipboard on the ferry which the Guide Manager will circulate for you to initial your acknowledgement. We will take the clipboard from the ferry each day and put it on the bum bag container in the trailer so that any guide who didn't sign on the boat can do so as they get a bum bag.

That's our best plan at the moment - and as with all new processes, we are open to suggestions for improvements.

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That's all for now. Enjoy your guiding and I look forward to seeing you on the motu soon.  
Noho ora mai (Stay well, be well)

**Gail Reichert**

**Guide Manager**

New email for Gail - [guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz)

Continue to send your bookings to [booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz)

## Flora News

**By Warren Brewer**

**Taurepo, a former Tiritiri Matangi plant treasure, has made a welcome return.**



*Taurepo flower and seed capsule*

A healthy seedling of taurepo (*Rhabdothamnus solandri*) has been found growing alongside the Wattle Track (*left below*). There are actually two seedlings, both with labels, a smaller one is close to the track edge (*right below*). To view them go 30 paces past the first water trough and look on the left side of the track.



Taurepo was planted in several sites on Tiritiri Matangi, using seeds sourced from Little Barrier Island. Taurepo is naturally restricted to the North Island and some of its nearby offshore islands. It forms a bushy shrub up to 2m tall with twiggy branches and distinctive tooth edged leaves. The leaves are harshly hairy to touch (sandpaper-like).



*Old taurepo sign*

Taurepo can bear a few flowers most of the year but has peak flowering from October to March. The pretty tubular flowers (*see header pic*) are coloured from bright orange red to orange yellow with reddish stripes on the petals.

Taurepo relies on visits from the honey eaters, tūī, korimako and hihi, for pollination. Fortunately all three are present on Tiritiri Matangi. On the mainland korimako are absent from the upper third of North Island and hihi were only present on Little Barrier Island. Tūī now tend to visit flowers higher up in the canopy, choosing many exotic trees. Silvereyes (tauhou) also visit but have to stab the base of the flower to rob nectar, avoiding pollination. Ovoid shaped brown capsules with numerous small seeds form after flowering.



*Taurepo seed capsules*

*Rhabdothamnus* is an endemic genus with just a single species (monotypic). It belongs in the gesneriads/African violet family, Gesneriaceae. The only NZ member, Tawāpou is sometimes called NZ gloxinia.

*Gloxinia* is a small genus mostly found in South America, also belonging in the African violet family.

Tawāpou's closest relative is the pumpkin tree (*Negria rhabdothamnoides*) which is found on Lord Howe Island, situated in the Tasman sea. *Negria* is also a monotypic genus.

Rhabdothamnus means "twiggy shrub."

## Fauna news

### Moa and other big things by Malcolm Pullan

For those times when your visitors ask you about what happened to the moa, [here's something you can add to your kit.](#)

## 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).

## Ask the Experts - speciation

*Question:* "When guiding recently the focus for one of the schools was speciation. At lunchtime some of the guides (including myself) were talking about this and realized that we were not very familiar with this term, what it means exactly and what examples we could show students of speciation (of both the flora and fauna) on Tiritiri Matangi.

Also one term we often use when guiding is evolution. When does evolution progress to speciation?"

*Answer:* In brief from Simon Fordham: "Species evolve because of genetic mutations. If mutations in individuals, as they are passed to their offspring, are of benefit, they may become dominant in a population. Species constantly evolve as the environment changes.

If one species is placed in a new, isolated environment (e.g. New Zealand), then the changes exhibited will be different to the source population (e.g. Australia). Given time, the differences will become marked, eventually leading to a new sub-species, and later on a species. This is speciation."

John Sibley has provided more detail, with a footnote added by John Stewart. [This is available here to print off and add to your kit.](#)

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.**

## 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>
1. 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\\_2Cpe8DC8aMI4mlyZUShy\\_gjW62rN-6hvY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/190hdBjzxyx_2Cpe8DC8aMI4mlyZUShy_gjW62rN-6hvY/edit?usp=sharing)
1. 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.
1. **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.

## Up and Coming

### Supporters' Weekends

Saturday 13th July

Saturday 7th September

Saturday 5th October

### Working Weekends

Labour weekend – 26<sup>th</sup> October

### 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](#)

### Tiritiri Matangi Oral Histories

- [Oral Histories](#)

### Cybersleuth

- [Kangaroo Island's little penguin numbers have fallen by more than 70% since 2011, survey shows](#)
- [Motutapu steps hunt up to remove rogue rat](#)

- [Frog 'saunas' help endangered frogs survive the devastating impacts of a deadly fungal disease](#)
- [Rifleman, NZ's smallest bird may be 'missing link' in birdsong evolution](#)
- [The secret reports about 25 dead kiwi that DOC didn't want you to read](#)
- [Flying in the face of Bird Flu](#)
- [Eco island's cash crisis – Maungatautari in Jobs for Nature pinch](#)
- [Rewilding plan aims to bring majestic white storks to London](#)



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

**Photographs:**

Header & Flora  
Footer

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Libby May



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