



# GuideLines

Number 365 – 25 July 2024

## Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)



Tena koutou katoa (greetings to all)

### Stories from the guides – in the spirit of learning together

I hope to have ‘Stories from guides’ be a regular feature of *GuideLines*. First one up is from Barb Hughes. For those of you who don’t know her, Barb was the long-time educator on the island, and now enjoys a more relaxed time on the motu with students. Here’s a recent experience she relayed for publication.

A full-on energetic group of 8 ten-year-olds from Iqra School – English language from the students was clear. I learnt all the names quickly and worked to keep them engaged with the story of a motu/island full of taonga/treasure by finding the skeletons, the litter clearers, the monsters, the vampire plants, the pirates and more. We did a listening blog, the Hokeke (ear fungus) story and talked about how myths like that are so valued by Māori. All loved the treasure hunt especially the dinosaur and learning that birds are basically flying dinosaurs. We got to the top on time. Checking in with them on what they gained from the tour before hand over to Sara; lovely answers until one lad who had been a bit out there during whole tour just looks at me and another lad pipes up, “he cannot speak English.” Good grief for all that tour he didn’t get any of it. The other lad translated what he did enjoy. But did I feel a right nitwit, no wonder he was a bit naughty on tour.

Moral of story, find out right at the start if any students do not speak English! The teacher-in-charge plus the parent with the group gave no prior indication. Lesson learnt by the guide!

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### Correction and thank you

Apologies to Todd, our regular skipper on Tuhi Rapa. I misnamed him Troy in the last issue of *GuideLines*. He received a chocolate brownie as an apology!

And thank you guides and volunteers. There has been a noticeable focus and quiet over the last couple weeks when Todd is making safety and biosecurity announcements on board the ferry.

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## Guides Day(s) Out – bookings still available

A reminder to get your bookings in for these days. There is still room remaining on both days – Sunday 15 September and Saturday 21 September. Make your bookings through Anne at [booktguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:booktguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz) and remember to say where you want to board.

Some of the speakers confirmed so far are:

- **John Sibley** – doing both a walk (seagrass and foreshore environment) and a workshop
- **Morag Fordham and Kay Milton** will be doing presentations both days, probably something about kokako project
- **Simon Fordham** – will do a piece on the titipounamu/rifleman sighting project, and training guides on what you can do to contribute to this project.
- **Sahrah Mai** will be running a couple of workshops around guiding techniques – How to prepare self + group for the best possible walk; managing expectations; mitigation of potential issues eg mobility, hearing, attitude; group bonding. How to maintain momentum (speed), interest & focus; respond to questions; deal with challenging behaviours.

More about the speakers and their topics in the next issue of GuideLines.

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## Tell the Ranger

Talia has asked us to let her know as soon as possible (or whoever is on the island) if you see a biosecurity or safety issue while you are guiding. This includes any hazards such as loose mesh on boardwalks, broken steps, fallen trees etc that could be an immediate danger to visitors and guides. Please don't wait till you're boarding the ferry to hand over the message. Either find them in the workshop, go to the Ranger office, phone the Rangers' mobile 027 536 1067, or tell the Guide Manager. You can back that up by making a note on the guide log of the day. An accurate description of the location helps immensely.

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## What's the whistle kawa/protocol?

I was asked about the whistles in the bumbags, and how they were meant to be used. I had to say, 'I don't know if there is an actual recognised way of using the whistle if you need help'. So I thought I'd ask the audience. Does anyone have an answer to that? If not, I'm open to ideas and suggestions on how we might use them. Email me [guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz)

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## Emails and how things work

I thought I'd explain some of our email addresses and how they work, plus who has access to them. We (the Guide Manager team of Gail, Debbie, Anne and Yvonne) have 3 email addresses:

<a href="mailto:booktguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz">booktguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz</a> Use this to <b>book, change or inquire</b> about guide bookings.	The team of Gail, Debbie and Anne work this inbox. Anne deals with guide bookings a couple of hours each weekday morning. Debbie and Gail may also process some booking requests at other times, but predominantly Anne processes between 8.30am and 11am (ish) on weekdays.
<a href="mailto:shop@tiritirimatangi.org.nz">shop@tiritirimatangi.org.nz</a>	Please <b>don't</b> use this one to communicate with us. We receive shop orders, website inquiries and communications from Explore on this email.
<a href="mailto:guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz">guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz</a> You can use this to communicate with Gail on things other than bookings	This is Gail's direct and unique email address.

<a href="mailto:opsmanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz">opsmanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz</a> You can use this to communicate with Debbie on things other than bookings	This is Debbie's direct and unique email address in her role as Operations Manager
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### **Guides needed – can you help?**

If you haven't already got your August bookings in yet, we would appreciate hearing from you. Here's what we need in the first couple of weeks of August:

- Thursday 1 Aug – 3 needed
- Sunday 4 Aug – 1-2 needed
- Wednesday 7 Aug – 4-5 needed
- Thursday 8 Aug – 2-3 needed

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### **Two-way radios – can you help?**

We are gathering information to help us assess the effectiveness of two-way radios on the motu, particularly for use with people working alone. We have a request:

Does anyone have a pair of reasonably high-powered radios (5+ watts) that we could borrow to test? We have done some trials with 1-2 watt models, and they proved to be not able to cope with the terrain we operate in. Please email [guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz) if you can help. Or come and talk to Gail when you're on the motu. Or talk to John Sibley – he's doing the legwork in this project.

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### **Health & Safety sign on sheets**

We are bedding in this process where guides acknowledge their fitness to guide and their understanding of the H&S requirements of guiding each day. There have been a couple of logistical hiccups in the system which we are working on.

In principle, the sign on sheet will be available for all guides from Gulf Harbour (weekdays/Saturdays) and City (Sundays and public holidays). To help the duty Guide Manager it would be useful to have one guide take responsibility for circulating the sheet to get sign off from all guides. The sheet will be placed on a special clipboard on the mid-deck on the port side near the café, on top of the blue/yellow plastic crate that holds our maps.

If you have not 'signed on' by the time we reach the motu, the duty Guide Manager will take the clipboard to the trailer where you can sign it.

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### **Thank you – you create the magic for people!**

And finally, thank you to all guides who continue to come to the motu in this winter weather. I am amazed by the buzz in the Visitors Centre on wet days when visitors come in from their guided walks. Even though they have been cold and wet they are still excited and buzzing about their day. And that's because of the passion and enthusiasm you show. Thank you.

**Gail Reichert**  
**Guide Manager**  
027 222 7318

## Flora News

By Warren Brewer

### Kawakawa and the pepper family (part one)



**Kawakawa** (*Piper excelsum*) has a strong presence on Tiritiri Matangi and is now in its flowering season. Kawakawa belongs in the pepper family, Piperaceae (piper is Latin for pepper), which consists of herbs, shrubs, climbers and small trees found mainly in tropical and subtropical regions of the Southern Hemisphere.

Kawakawa forms a small densely branched tree. The large heart shaped leaves are shiny above but duller and pale green on their undersurface. Unusually the leaves have no mid vein, instead a series of veins radiate from the base of the stem. The leaves are often holed from chewing by the kawakawa looper caterpillar, **tawhana**.



The flowers of members of the pepper family are minute, usually wind pollinated and clustered together on spikes. Kawakawa is dioecious: Male flower spikes (*below left*) are taller and slimmer and ripen to a dull black colour. The pollen is then released to be dispersed by wind.



Female flower spikes (*above right*) are shorter and thicker and densely packed with very small green flowers. The ovary of each flower is topped with a tiny stigma which gathers pollen. The fruit formed is a small drupe 2-3mm in diameter, green at first then ripening to orange. The fruit is edible and has a peppery tasting seed if crushed. Ripe fruit is sought out by birds, especially kereru and tieke.

Kawakawa fruit, bark and leaves were all used medicinally by Māori. They also mixed green kawakawa leaves with dry twigs to place between kumara plants. When burnt the smoke formed warded off any visiting pests.

Early European settlers used kawakawa leaves as a tea substitute. Nowadays the dried leaves are sold as a herbal tea. Kawakawa leaves contain myristicin, a compound related to eugenol (oil of cloves). Eugenol was used in dentistry for generations, mixed with zinc oxide powder to form a soothing dressing for badly decayed teeth. Māori chewed kawakawa leaves to relieve toothache.

## Fauna news

### Birds; the Formula 1 of the animal world by Malcolm Pullan



We've all marvelled at the speed and agility of the birds darting through the trees, or in the case of the defiant myna in particular (which surely has velociraptor in its family tree), avoiding cars. To explore part of the puzzle of this bird super-power, check it out on our [blog page here](#).

## Biomimicry

By Bob Bicker

### UV Glass to protect birds

Orb weave spiders, common world-wide, build their distinctive webs using strands of silk with UV reflective properties. Because birds can see ultraviolet light, the reflective threads prevent them from colliding with and destroying the webs.

Inspired by the spider's strategy ORNILUX® bird protection glass was patented with a UV reflective coating that mitigates birds' collisions. If every window was ORNILUX® the deaths of hundreds of millions birds globally would be avoided each year.

The glass was developed by German company Arnold Glas in conjunction with the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology and was tested on 19 species of garden birds in a flight tunnel at the Radolfzell Bird Sanctuary.

New York building code amendment 1482/Local Law 15 requires bird-friendly materials (not just glass) uniformly on 90 percent of facades up to 75 feet; up to 12 feet above green roofs, and at all glass railings and other hazardous elements, regardless of how high they are located on a building's exterior.

For more on Biomimicry, the website is [here](#).

## 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.**

### 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

### Annual General Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm  
MinterEllisonRuddWatts Seminar Room, PWC Tower,  
15 Customs Street West, Auckland City

### Dawn Chorus

28<sup>th</sup> September ([details here](#))

### Supporters' Weekends

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

- [Guides resource section](#) (password is **guides** – all lower case)
- [SoTM blog page](#)
- [Highway robbery – tieke v toutouwai](#)

### Tiritiri Matangi Oral Histories

- [Oral Histories](#)

### Cybersleuth

- [New study warns seabird populations face catastrophic decline due to unexpected factor](#)
- [‘This is huge’: World’s rarest whale washes ashore in Otago](#)
- [Kiwi trek: Waikato translocation the biggest ever with 222 birds getting new homes](#)
- [Secret ‘sky island’ rainforest saved by new discoveries](#)
- [The reason birdsong is so varied and what birds meme](#)
- [Sparrows may be ‘canary in the coal mine’ for lead poisoning in children](#)
- [Biologist Rosemary Grant: ‘Evolution happens much quicker than Darwin thought’](#)
- [Reality TV contestants eat protected weka on NZ-filmed show](#)
- [Stretched DOC delivers bitter financial pill to minister](#)



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

**Photographs:**

Header

Flora

Tui flying

Footer

Jonathan Mower

Warren Brewer

File photo

Davina Bennetto



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