



GuideLines

Number 352 – Wednesday 24th January 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)

Flora News

Summer fruit for the birds on Tiritiri Matangi by Warren Brewer

Mahoe:

The mahoe trees are having a second flush of flowers. Male and female flowers are on separate trees, spread along thin branches. New green fruit, which ripens to a deep purple, is also forming.



Mahoe male flowers



Mahoe female flowers and new fruit



Mahoe ripe fruit

Taupata

Taupata has fruit ripening on female bushes. Fruit can be seen on the taupata bush growing beside the wharf.



Taupata fruit

Karaka

Ripe karaka fruit on the large tree in the Visitor Centre courtyard is being harvested by kereru. The fruit's flesh is edible and very nutritious. The kernel inside contains the toxin karakin. Maori learnt how to neutralise the toxin by steaming and leaching in water to provide a food similar to oatmeal.



Karaka ripe fruit



Karaka kernels ready for steaming