



GuideLines

Number 367 – 22 August 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)



Tena koutou guides

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Missing tracking cards

We are missing the 10 tracking cards (recently refreshed) that were in the demo tunnel near the wharf toilets. If you know what has happened to them please let Sara know educator@tiritirimatangi.org.nz. Thank you.

Z Service station - Good in the Hood – Coasties can you support fundraising for us?

Following on from Debbie's request for support for concierges at **Silverdale Z service station** in the last GuideLines, we now have the following dates booked for us:

- 26 August
- 4 September
- 15 September

Can you help by joining the one volunteer who has currently put her hand up to be there on the three dates. It would involve being at the service station (times to be agreed between you) and mingling with customers to encourage them to cast their *Good in the Hood* tokens for our

organisation. It's an opportunity to talk about Tiritiri Matangi and the work we do there. With two or three people working together on the day (or part thereof) we should be able to make an impact on customers' decisions, potentially have some fun together ... and help our fundraising efforts for the motu.

Please email booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz if you can join in and help on one or all of those dates. Thank you.

Also **don't forget** to vote for Tiritiri Matangi in the [Environment category of the 2024 Canon Oceania Grants](#): This would support installation of informative display boards around the motu.

<https://www.canon.co.nz/about-canon/community/grants>

Guides Day Out

- **The walks and workshops**

As GuideLines goes to print, so we are putting the final touches on the programmes for both days. Next week we will have the full programme available both online and on the island. When you are on the island we will have booking sheets available for you to register for the walks/workshops you would like to attend. If you are not coming to the island please email booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org with your choices and we (Anne and I) will enter your name in the register.

Note that there are number limits on walks (12 people) and some workshops. If any activity is overbooked I will draw names on the Thursday prior to the event and advise who has been successful. You may need to note a backup activity if your name isn't drawn.

- **Bookings**

If you haven't booked your seat on the ferry for one or both of the Guides Days Out please do so urgently. Numbers are nearing capacity so it's important you act soon.

Guides needed on the following days – can you help?

4 Sept	4 needed
5 Sept *	Several guides needed
6 Sept	2 guides
11 Sept	8 guides
12 Sept	7 guides
14 Sept	3 guides

*This is Orewa College pōhutukawa plots day, so if you have been involved with this before, we would really appreciate your help again this year. Guides are needed to supervise the students' research activity and also to guide after lunch. It will be a full day.

Please get your September bookings in as soon as you can so we have a good view of our numbers. It helps us tremendously for us to have your advance bookings.

Email booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz and remember to tell us where you are boarding the ferry.

Chelsea Sugar – One of our sponsors visiting the island

We are currently talking with Chelsea Sugar about a group of their people coming to the motu to do volunteer work, such as flax cutting, drain clearing and beach clean-up. As a business they currently do similar volunteer work around their factory site at Chelsea Bay. We're hopeful of them coming over during September and October. We're really grateful to be able to host them because we can thank them in person for the raw sugar they supply for our feeders.

A sighted guide - guiding a blind/low vision visitor on Tiritiri Matangi

By Georgia Scott, trained guide

Several weeks ago, I had the privilege of guiding a visitor who was blind. I was excited at the opportunity to share my love of our special island with someone who originally may not have felt it was possible to visit. The responsibility I held to keep her safe and have a great day, played on my mind. I also reflected on how she may feel, trusting in a stranger to navigate an unknown environment.

Before our visit, I thought of how I could make sound and touch the heroes of our walk. It would take every ounce of strength I had to resist the excited point and "look" if I saw a kōkako bouncing through the trees (it's more of a reflex than a conscious thought). Which botanicals had interesting textures? Cabbage tree, kawakawa and pōhuehue immediately came to mind. How do I describe a bird to someone who may have never seen one? Can I reference colours, size, shape etc?

The day arrived and I met my guest. It was her first time to the motu, and she was excited to connect with nature. She requested to hold my upper left arm, so that we could walk side by side, and in her other hand was a hiking pole, which she used as a more robust cane. I had never acted as a sighted guide before, so I asked her what courtesies I should be aware of. She told me my main role was to inform her of potential obstacles and changes in terrain, e.g. stairs, and slippery surfaces.

On the ferry ride I explained we would learn to identify the bird calls as we walked, so we could tell who was who. She seemed surprised that one could tell the birds apart based on sound only. I assured her by the end of the day, she'd notice the difference between species, and may be able to name some on sound alone.

After the biosecurity talk, we embarked on the Wattle Track, which took us just under two hours to complete at a leisurely pace with many stops. Within the first twenty minutes we located our first pair of kōkako, who on this occasion (being the first of three), decided not to make any noise. I had never wanted to hear a bird sing so much in my life. She noted that she could hear them bounce from tree to tree. After following them along the track for a little while, the pair then began to use contact calls. Our visitor commented on the softness of the call, compared to the chorus of hungry bellbirds and tui by the feeder.

Continuing along the track, we stopped at some kawakawa. It was perfectly timed, as the plants had started to produce fruit. We talked about the looper caterpillars eating holes in the leaves, and our visitor had a go at locating the leaves with the most active ingredient (and holes). I also located fallen flowers from pūriri and kōwhai trees, and we talked about what they look like, and how the birds would interact with them. As we walked, our visitor made observations about calls she had heard already. We then heard a very very high pitched call, which she excitedly said was new. I was glad to know the rifleman was within her hearing range!

Upon completing the Wattle Track, we enjoyed some lunch at the Visitor's Centre, and then meandered back towards the ferry. To my great delight, we heard the song which had evaded us all day. "Who is that?" our guest asked. "That's definitely a new one." We quickly located the kōkako pair and enjoyed their serenade for 10 minutes. We discussed the components of their song, and which individual was singing which part.

On the ferry ride home, I reflected on how much sensory input the motu provides aside from what I can see. Appreciating the textures of our flora, the subtle sounds of our fauna, and the scents which change with the seasons. Our visitor commented there were many more ways she could engage with the island than she had anticipated. She also provided some suggestions as to how we could make the motu more accessible for other blind and low vision visitors.

We disembarked the ferry and parted ways. I caught myself noticing every bollard, signpost, uneven paver, and the loudness of the post-workday bustle. I realized how unfriendly the city can be to someone who is visually impaired, and that a day out on Tiritiri must have been so refreshing.

Feedback

I'm always open to hearing ideas on how we might improve the guiding experience on the island, for guides and for visitors. Please let me know of any groans and grizzles, as well as good news.

The final word

We continue to receive very positive feedback from visitors whom you guide. So once again (and as always) nga mihinui (a huge thank you) for being the face (kanohi), heart (manawa) and soul (mauri) of our visitors' experiences. You make their day, and their reflections continue to spread our story around our country and the world because of your guiding.

Ka kite ano – see you again soon

Gail Reichert

Guide and Volunteer Manager

guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz or 027 222 7318 (Weds-Sat)

Flora News

By Warren Brewer

Flowers and fruit on kōwhai, karo and puka

The kōwhai trees on Tiritiri Matangi have been flowering for the past few weeks. A spectacular display has come from the large tree by the Ranger's house, attracting lots of visits from tui.



Attention is now turning to our karo trees. Their deep red flowers are providing a new source of rich nectar for our honey eaters. Karo flowers are gynodioecious, with fixed female and inconstant male flowers on separate trees.

Male flowers (left) have an outer ring of five yellow dots (stamens) and a larger central dot (a usually sterile ovary). The male flowers are in larger clusters than the female ones. Female flowers (right) have just a central stigma sitting on top of the ovary.



The puka tree close to the toilets below the Visitor Centre has tight bunches of new green fruit. The fruit ripens through purple to a final black colour.



Puka (*Meryta sinclairii*) was originally restricted to the Three Kings Islands. Nowadays with its large tropical looking leaves it has become a popular addition to suburban gardens. Meryta means to furl sails, to roll up, describing the tight bunches of fruit.

Special note: We've had a request for Warren's Flora Notes to be made available for download and printing. The Flora Notes from January 2024 have been saved into separate files and will be uploaded to the Guide's section of the website under Flor Information. Once there they can be printed as required.

Fauna news

Volunteer Opportunity – Rifleman / Titipounamu Surveying



Following on from the last GuideLines (No.366), there are still a small number of spaces left in this volunteer activity.

As we have to hand back unused beds, please contact tiri@naturepix.co.nz before this weekend if you're interested.

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

Annual General Meeting

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

Dawn Chorus

28th September ([details here](#))

Supporters' Weekends

Saturday 7th September

Saturday 5th October

Working Weekends

Labour weekend – 26th October

Explore special deals:

"Take your Dad for free!"

Dads go free on Father's Day

Promo code:

Valid for sales until Saturday 31st August and for travel on Father's Day, Sunday 1 September 2024

DADSGOFREE

<https://www.exploregroup.co.nz/explore/special-deals/dads-go-free/>

Do you know a young conservationist dedicated to helping te taiao thrive? Or a school student who demonstrates kaitiakitanga (guardianship) in their local community or school?

SUPPORTERS OF TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND PRESENT

JUNIOR CONSERVATION AWARDS



We want to celebrate those primary/intermediate school eco-champions who, inspired by the Tiritiri Matangi Restoration Project, are making a positive contribution towards promoting a message of kaitiakitanga – guardianship of our natural world.

To take part, visit our website to complete the nomination form explaining why this person is an eco-champion.

THE WINNER OF THIS AWARD WILL ENJOY A FREE TRIP TO TIRITIRI MATANGI FOR 2 ADULTS AND 2 CHILDREN.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 18TH OCTOBER
WWW.TIRITIRIMATANGI.ORG.NZ/SCHOOL-SCIENCE-AWARDS/



SoTM website links and blogs

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

Tiritiri Matangi Oral Histories

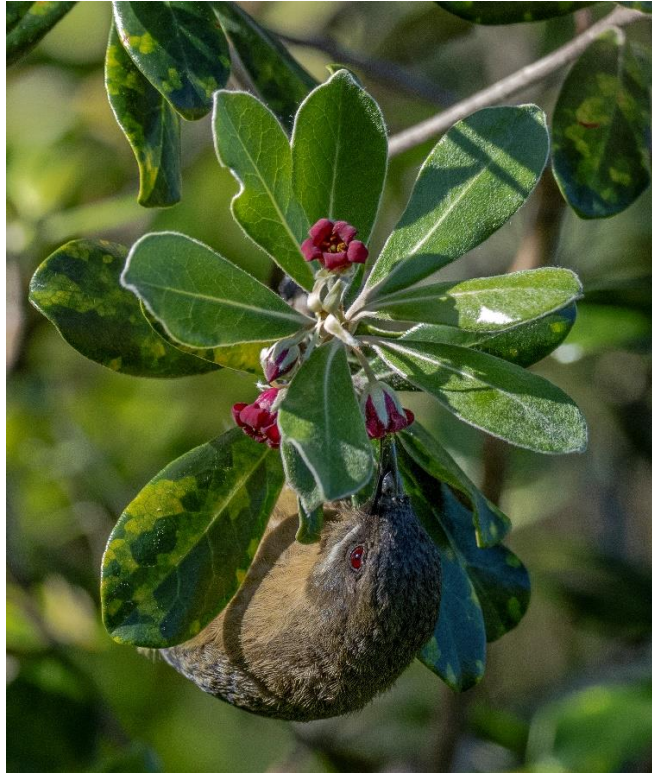
- [Oral Histories](#)

Focus on Te Reo Māori

- [Pronounce Māori words with confidence](#)
- [Kete Mātauranga – Introduction to Te Reo Māori](#)
- [Māori dictionary with aural](#)

Cybersleuth

- [Super-spreading seaweed could mean \\$150m hit for Hauraki Gulf](#)
- [Strange whale trend on Aussie coast during migration: 'Really different from last year'](#)
- [Desertification was supposed to be the 'greatest environmental challenge of our time'. Why are experts now worried about greening?](#)
- [Native Australian bat not seen in NZ for a century found in Blenheim backyard](#)
- [A kiwi is a kiwi ... or is it? Five species of kiwi you never knew about](#)
- [Harnessing harakeke – a new future for a traditional taonga](#)
- [A same-sex flamingo pair are raising a newborn chick together](#)



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

Photographs:

Header (haekaro)

Flora

Titipounamu

Footer - korimako in karo

Jonathan Mower

Warren Brewer

Alison Forbes

Jonathan Mower



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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