



# GuideLines

Number 368 – 5 September 2024

## Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)



Tena koutou guides

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### Guides Day(s) Out – 15 and 21 September

Our ferry bookings are nearing capacity on both days, so please get your bookings in to us at [booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz) as soon as possible to ensure you get a seat. Remember to tell us where you get on the ferry.

Also please check the full programme in the Guides Section of the website to select and register for the walks and workshops of your choice. If you're not coming to the island prior to the day, send your choices to [booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:booktoguide@tiritirimatangi.org.nz) and we will record in the booking sheet. Please make **one choice for the morning session** and **one for the afternoon session** on each day you are attending. You may end up with a bit of spare time to chat with colleagues and reflect on your learning.

When we arrive on the island on the day you need to know whether you are on a walk (starting from the wharf) or a workshop – you'll need to walk up to the Visitor Centre as soon as the Ranger briefing has finished. To make this as easy as possible for our visitors who need guiding we want guides to be certain about what they are doing in the first session.

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## Staying on track

A gentle reminder that guides need to stay on the formed tracks wherever you are on the island, unless you are part of a biodiversity project team actively working on a project.

Additionally, if you have visitors with you please only take them on one of our three concession tracks.

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## Welcome to new guides in training

Nau mai, haere mai to our newest team members who have recently signed up to train as guides:

- Jen Burgin
- Alex Ruan
- Catherine van der Vyver
- Julia Woodward

All will be starting their buddy guides in the coming weeks (or have started) and are looking forward to learning and exploring with our wonderful experienced guides. We currently have 19 people on the training track at various stages, many almost ready to fledge. Please continue to support with sharing your stories, knowledge and boosting their confidence.

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## Sweeping the tracks and boardwalks

Ranger Talia has inconspicuously placed brooms (see photos) on Wattle and Kawerau tracks as follows:

- Wattle – Wattle Valley hihi feeder
- Kawerau – the top three seats

Treasure hunt time to find them! Please use them to keep the boardwalks swept and clear. In the plan for the future will be some rakes for the gravel areas. We'll let you know when they have been placed.



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## Dawn Chorus – 28 September

This event is sold out now for visitors. We have 60 people booked.

For your information, the early boat for the Dawn Chorus event leaves Auckland at 4.00am and Gulf Harbour at 4.55am. Visitors have the option of staying on for the day, or returning on the ferry leaving at 10am.

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As always, thanks for being magnificent kaitiaki (stewards) for the motu and engaging with our visitors to ensure their experience is a lifelong memory.

**Gail Reichert**

**Guide and Volunteer Manager**

[guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:guidemanager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz) or 027 222 7318 (Weds-Sat)

## Flora News

**By Warren Brewer**

**Puawānanga and mingimingi are joining the spring flowering on Tiritiri Matangi.**



**Puawānanga** (*Clematis paniculata*) is now displaying splashes of pure white blossom amongst the green canopy of our forest. The flowers do not have true petals, but are formed by sepals. New Zealand has nine species of *Clematis*, all endemic, with white or greenish yellow flowers. They are all dioecious.

The flowers on male puawānanga vines are larger and more showy with lots of yellow stamens, tipped with pinkish red anthers. Female flowers have fewer, sterile stamens showing.



*Male flowers with pinkish red tipped stamens (L)*



*Female flowers (R)*



On female vines clusters of seeds, each with a long, curved plume, start forming after flowering (left).

Puawānanga means “sacred flower” and Māori legend considered the flowers to be progeny of the stars.

*Clematis* belongs in the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae. *Ranunculus* is Latin for a little frog, referring to the swampy habitat of the earliest species to be placed in this family.

*Clematis* means “vine branch”. *Paniculata* means bearing panicles (loose clusters of flowers). There is a good viewing of puawānanga early along Wattle Track. At the finish of the concrete path descend the steps and look up above the ponga ferns to the canopy. Other good sightings are on the Kawerau Track.

**Mingimingi** (*Leucopogon fasciculatus*) has a more modest contribution to Tiritiri Matangi’s springtime flowering. The dangling fascicles of tight flower buds which formed in autumn are now opening to show tiny greenish white bell shaped flowers (right).



Best viewing is along the grass track below Wharf Dam. As you climb the stairs there is a hedgerow of mingimingi bushes flowering.

Following flowering tiny round fruits ripen to a red colour (below).



Leucopogon means white beard (the flower petals are hairy). Mingimingi belongs in the heath family, Ericaceae, joining plants such as rhododendron, azalea, heather, cranberry and blueberry.

## **Tropical newcomers thrive as our sea temperatures continue to increase off Tiritiri Matangi:**

John Sibley presents an update on what's happening with our local marine ecology. It's available to [read on our blog here](#). It touches on the most concerning changes but there are many other examples on Tiritiri Matangi, and the overall longer-term situation is extremely serious.

So why not join the Climate Change walks and seminars arranged for the Guides Days Out later this month? You will be provided with up-to-date reliable science evidence, Info take-aways and examples on Tiritiri Matangi to enable you to passionately (and sensitively) inform visitors and your friends should the subject arise.

## **Fauna news**

### **Penguin display boxes are now locked closed**

Last season all the first clutch penguin chicks died over a two-week period in October, probably from starvation. The same thing happened on nearby Motuora. We know that when visitors open the penguin display boxes it causes stress, the most obvious signs being when adults move off their eggs to hide in the entrance tunnels. In order to give the penguins the best possible chance of raising their chicks this season, we have decided to lock the lids closed.



We hope you understand and agree with this action and will explain the reasons to interested visitors.

**John Stewart.**

### **Seabird counting**



Would you like to know more about, or get involved in, the annual seabird counting which is starting up again for the 2024-25 season? Roy Gosney has stepped up to fill the vacancy left when Mike Dye and Rachel Taylor left Auckland. He talks about the job and the new team he's assembling on the [blog here](#).

## Father's Day debacle at Wharf Dam

Guide Virginia caught the action at the Wharf Dam last Sunday when an orange banded pāteke tried to muscle in on a pair quietly enjoying the sunshine and high tide.

The pictures tell a tale of peace disturbed, displeasure expressed and an intruder (who appears to have an injured or mutated right eye) repelled.



## Ask the Experts

John Potter sent: “Last time I was guiding one of the children asked why we don’t clean up the messy forest floor with so many dead branches scattered all over it. So here’s my question: Which insects, microbes, fungi and creatures that live in soil do the important work of eating dead plants and animals and do we know the names of any of these decomposers which do this important job on Tiritiri Matangi?”

Your sub-editor has tackled this question with some expert guidance. It’s a fascinating subject with many rabbit holes to vanish down should you choose. The addresses of those rabbit holes and the answer – or at least a key to some of the answers – [is on the blog here](#).

The referenced 68 page document “Soil Atlas 2015 – Facts and figures about earth, land and fields” has been downloaded. If you’d like a copy email [guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz](mailto:guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz).

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

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 (fully booked) ( <a href="#">details here</a> )
Supporters' Weekends	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> September Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
Working Weekends	Labour weekend – 26 <sup>th</sup> October

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/](http://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

- [New Zealand rushes vaccination of endangered birds before deadly strain of H5N1 bird flu arrives](#)
- [How European scientists taught a previously extinct bird to migrate](#)
- [Native mistletoe's bad rap as parasite plant put to rest](#)
- ['Beaver bombing': Unauthorised rodent releases on the rise in English rivers](#)



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

### Photographs:

Header

Flora

Kororā

Tern welcoming party

Pāteke

Footer

Oscar Thomas

Warren Brewer

John Sibley

Rachel Taylor

Virginia Nicol

Virginia Nicol



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