

BRING BACK KOKAKO

For more about bringing back Kokako to GBI, see our website: <http://www.gbiet.org/kokako>



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OURS TO PROTECT
black petrel - tāiko



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Glenfern Sanctuary

We are open to the public daily 10am to 4pm for self guided walks, or guided walks for 6 or more people can be arranged beforehand (info@glenfern.org.nz). Bring a picnic, enjoy the gardens or walk the 2km long Glenfern Walk. Historic FitzRoy House and Glenfern Cottage are available for holiday rentals (stay@glenfern.org.nz) and also for use by the public for community events/meetings etc. We would love your input regarding how you would like Glenfern Sanctuary to best be utilized by our community. Please send any feedback to info@glenfern.org.nz. Enjoy your summer. From the crew at Glenfern Sanctuary

Catch fish, not seabirds

It's breeding time again for our seabirds and Taiko/Black Petrel are now sitting on their sole egg for the season, in between fishing for themselves, fuelling up in preparation for feeding their chick. Please be aware of our special seabirds (they only breed here and on Little Barrier Island) and take extra caution when fishing to not attract birds to your boat. You can do this by ensuring your deck is clean and clear of any fish waste, keeping any fish cleaning until the end of your fishing trip and not throwing out any waste during the day. Sinking burley and fishing tackle deep (below 6 m) will also help to deter many seabirds. If you would like an A4 double sided waterproof seabird ID guide for your boat contact Emma at E.Cronin@forestandbird.org.nz

The GBI Environmental Trust is offering **FREE Cat Neutering** for island residents. Sponsored by Auckland Council. Contact the local Vet, Anne Kernohan, on 463 to book an appointment.



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BUSH TELEGRAPH FREE

Okiwi Reserve Puriri

by Kate Waterhouse



puriri still lining the Okiwi river. Intended for stock shelter these days they are a refuge and food source for birds like kaka and kakariki that nest in tree holes and other insects and reptiles. Kakariki feed on over fifty species of NZ plants and puriri and cabbage tree and totara are some of their favourites. So, keep an eye out for kakariki in Okiwi and tune your ears to their distinctive kikikiki-kikikiki-kikikiki chatter, especially around those big puriri.

Photo: Luis Ortiz-Catedral, kakariki chick at Zealandia



Photo: K Waterhouse, Hiramata Kamahi are coming into flower especially on the ridges around Hiramata and are a magnet for bush birds, bees and geckos



While planting along the Okiwi river this winter (thank you to our Local Board and Okiwi Passion, Motu Nursery, Envirokiwi and our many helpers), we snapped volunteer Debi Pyle next to one of the bigger puriri you will ever see on Great Barrier.

This tree is just inside the Okiwi Reserve, across the river, upstream from the BBQ area and humans can easily miss it. But kakariki (red crowned parakeet) know it's there – big trees like this one are popular with kakariki because they have knotty holes the right size for a tiny nest and plenty of food year round. These trees used to cover the valley floor and many old fence posts here are made of puriri. We have the ancestors of the Cooper family to thank for big totara and

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Great Barrier Local Board



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Falling in Love at Four Years Old

I came to Great Barrier when I was four years old and it wasn't long before I fell in love with the place. To me Great Barrier Island is a place where people live as one with nature and a special island known for its idyllic forests and rare native species, uncommon in other areas. I was captivated by the native birds and trees when I first became involved with the Okiwi School restoration project at Okiwi Reserve. I remember our teachers telling us stories about how this park used to just be a muddy farm with a few large puriri and the other odd native trees. I loved looking at the park and thinking about how much it must have changed since those times the teachers spoke of. It amazed me that we could bring back nature and made me sad for what humans had



done in the past to Great Barrier Island. As my years went on at Okiwi school, I could see the bird life increasing, it was great to see the kaka population growing and the first kakariki to nest on Great Barrier Island in recent times. I could see the difference our little school had made and was proud to be a part of it. When I had to leave to go to boarding school in Auckland, I realised how damaged New Zealand really was and it made me sad to think of the forests that could have covered the area where I was boarding and I missed the opportunity to be in natural places. So, I was very excited when one of my Geography classmates mentioned that he had started working on Tiritiri Matangi Island as a volunteer guide- that got me started. When I got back from school, the first thing I did was go on line and check out this magical Tiritiri Matangi Island (Tiri). I found the contact to a lady called Maryanne who oversees all the guides on Tiri. A few emails were sent back and forth and it wasn't long before I found myself out on the Island on my first day as a trainee guide. I was welcomed at the

wharf by the calls of the bellbird, hihi (stitchbird) and saddleback and the friendly face of Maryanne. The birdlife there was spectacular and although very different to Great Barriers, it reminded me of home. As my experience on the island has grown, I have learnt more and more about the different bird species that call New Zealand home, including, the Takahe, Kokako, Hihi, saddleback, and bellbird. I have also learnt about the rich history of the island and its lighthouse which is the oldest lighthouse in New Zealand still in operation.

Tiritiri Matangi Island is one of those crazy dreams that actually came true. Thirty-five years ago, the 220-hectare island was retired farmland full of rats, rank grass and bracken, recently 'returned to the people' as a Recreation Reserve. A group of people not unlike myself, discovered this island and came up with an ambitious plan to eradicate introduced pest species and replant the island with natives that would have once been common therefore creating a haven for rare and endangered native fauna. So far there have been successful re-introductions of Wetapunga, Takahe, Hihi, Kiwi, Kokako and more.

What I enjoy about guiding on Tiritiri Matangi is getting away from the hustle and bustle of day to day life in Auckland City and immersing myself in an almost fantasy world of beautiful animals, plants and scenery. The passion that I feel in these areas is so strong that I strive to foster a passion for it in others and hopefully create an awareness of what can be achieved with a little (lot of) hard work and dedication. I also enjoy the social aspect of guiding and meeting new people who often have their own very interesting stories of environmental involvement. I highly recommend getting involved with a volunteer organisation that shares a passion with you. The satisfaction that I get from being involved with something that does not just benefit myself is priceless.

Na Soul O'Reilly
Proud Great Barrier Islander and Volunteer Guide on Tiritiri Matangi.

Little Windy Hill Spreads its Wings

The Sanctuary has expanded! A recent addition of 160 hectares of private land to the Windy Hill Sanctuary brings the total Sanctuary area to 780 hectares and creates a corridor of protected land from the east to the west coast of the island.

Derek Bell, Robin Lonsdale, and Jeremy Lonsdale, part time residents in Mulberry Grove, purchased the bush property they have named 'Taumata' from Cathy Evans and Wayne Chaston and immediately embraced the opportunity to become part of the Windy Hill Sanctuary.

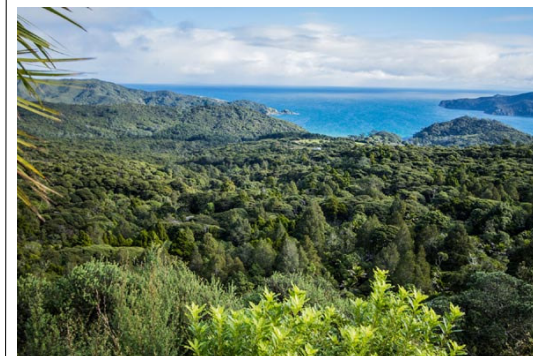
137 hectares of Taumata is a QEII Open Space covenant put into place by Bubbles Wheeler in 2006 and adds to the 130 hectares in the Sanctuary that are covenanted with the QEII National Trust.

Pre pest management monitoring for rats, birds, and lizards has been established and has been carried out over the remainder of this year so good baseline data can be gathered. Now that funding is approved, pest management for rats, feral cats and pigs will begin in early 2017. The area will now be off limits to pig hunters as these animals will now be managed by the Sanctuary Trust.

The enlarged Sanctuary area will meet up with the Mulberry Grove rat managed area and long term the entire Tryphena area will enjoy the boost in bird numbers that results from trapping and baiting rats.

Sanctuary Manager Judy Gilbert, is absolutely delighted with the addition

of Taumata as it has some magnificent mature bush and a mosaic of regenerating tea tree. Judy commented "I have long dreamed of protecting this beautiful forest from pests as I drive through it on an almost daily basis. Recent monitoring for rats in the mature forest showed high densities of the pests so few birds will have had successful breeding outcomes with this level of rats and nocturnal species, like geckos will have taken a hammering. I look forward to turning that around so it's the rats and other pests that take a hammering and our much enjoyed native species get to really thrive." The view of Taumata from the Rosalie Bay Rd lookout shows mature kahikatea, rimu, puriri, rata, and kanuka. Nikau are prolific.



The Bell Lonsdales are excited about their future involvement with the ecological enhancement of the island.

They have lived in Central Otago for the last 30 years and although work will keep them employed there in the short term, they look forward to spending heaps more time on the Barrier in the future and being actively involved in environmental activities. Special thank you to the Sanctuary funders and sponsors - Lotteries Environment, DOC Community Conservation Partnerships Fund, Auckland Council.

by Judy Gilbert