

Tiritiri Matangi Island

An open sanctuary



SUPPORTERS of



TIRITIRI MATANGI
incorporated

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

An open sanctuary

Tiritiri Matangi Island is a scientific reserve, a wildlife sanctuary and one of New Zealand's most important and exciting conservation projects. It is managed by the Department of Conservation in conjunction with the community group Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc. New Zealand's island sanctuaries help to ensure the survival of many rare and endangered plant and animal species. They are especially valuable because they are easier to keep predator-free than mainland areas.

To ensure minimum disturbance to wildlife, many sanctuaries, such as Hauturu/Little Barrier Island, only allow the public restricted access. However, Tiritiri Matangi has been developed as an open sanctuary, where the public are welcome to visit and enjoy some of New Zealand's rare and endangered wildlife up close and in their natural environment.

Tiritiri Matangi ('looking to the wind' or 'wind tossing about') lies 4km off the coast of Whangaparaoa Peninsula, only 1 hour and 20 minutes by boat from Auckland city.

Bringing back the wildlife

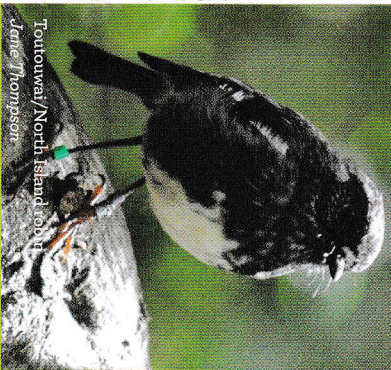
The 220-hectare island was originally covered by a mixed pōhutukawa forest, with kōhekohe and taraire dominant in the sheltered valleys. However, centuries of Māori occupation followed by European farming saw the majority of the island converted to rolling grassland, with only a few pockets of forest remaining.

Tiritiri Matangi's original wildlife suffered greatly when the forests were cleared for pasture. Many bird species were forced to leave in search of new homes and food sources, and only the more resilient species, such as the tūi, pīwakawaka/fantail, tauhou/silvereye, riroriro/grey warbler, korimako/bellbird and pūwetō/spotless crane remained.

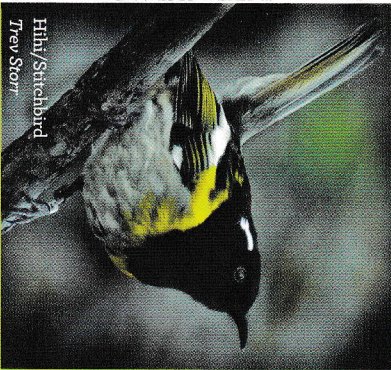
Since the island became a sanctuary, some of our rarer native birds, including teke/North Island saddleback, hihī/stitchbird, takahē, toutouwai/North Island robin, North Island kōkako, pōpokotea/whitehead, pukapuku/little spotted kiwi, pāteke/brown teal, mātātā/North Island fernbird, and fritipounamu/rifleman, have been re-introduced to Tiri. Tatara have also been successfully re-established on the island, along with Duvaucel's gecko, shore skink and wētā punga/giant wētā.



Teke/North Island saddleback
Martin Sanders



Toutouwai/North Island robin
Janie Thompson



Hihī/Stitchbird
Trev Storr



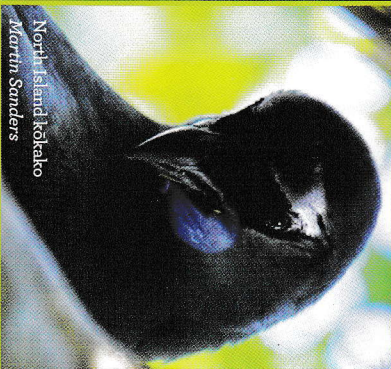
Pukapuku/little spotted kiwi
Simon Fordham



Kākāriki/Red-crowned parakeet
Lara Dixon



Fritipounamu/Rifleman
Simon Fordham



North Island kōkako
Martin Sanders



Takahē
Trev Storr

Volunteer and community support

The community group Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc is a major contributor to the development of Tiritiri Matangi as an open wildlife sanctuary, and its support and involvement is essential to the continuing success of the project.

Thousands of people have volunteered their labour or donated money to the conservation project since its inception in 1988.

How you can help

If you enjoy your experience on Tiritiri Matangi and would like to be involved, join The Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc.

Visit:

- www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz
- www.facebook.com/TiritiriMatangiIsland

Tell your friends about Tiritiri Matangi and encourage them to get involved too.

A glance back in time

Tiritiri Matangi was settled by Te Kawerau-a-Maki. On the western coast, these early settlers built Tiritiri Matangi Pā, from which the island takes its name, and other settlements soon developed along this coastline. The remains of building sites and kumara storage pits can still be seen on most ridges on the western side of the island. A large settlement also existed at Northeast Bay.

Members of Ngāi Paoa later moved into this area and established the Papakura (red rock) Pā on the northern reach. This pā was destroyed in the 1700s during conflict between the two iwi.

Europeans arrived in the mid-1850s, and the island was farmed continuously from then until the 1970s when the farming lease was not renewed and the island became a recreation reserve.

The Department of Conservation now administers Tiritiri as a scientific reserve.

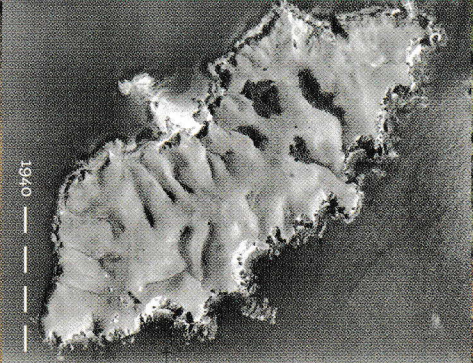
Tiritiri's 20.5-metre-tall cast iron lighthouse at the southern end of the island has guided ships through the Hauraki Gulf since 1865. The original two lighthouse keepers' cottages were replaced in 1918 with the buildings that exist today. The lighthouse is now fully automated and powered by solar panels, and the lighthouse area, including the historic watch tower and foghorn, is well worth visiting.



School group and brown teal *Prisino dayeg*



Tiritiri Matangi lighthouse *Kuhi Corkill*

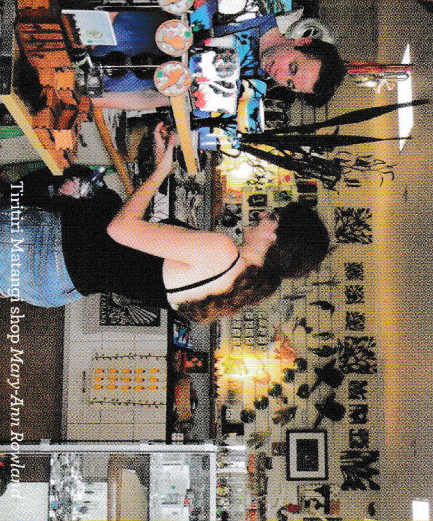


1940



2002

Tiritiri Matangi *Alex*



Tiritiri Matangi shop *Mary-Ann Rawlins*



Tiritiri Island *Kevin Strickers*



The replanting programme

A comprehensive native replanting programme began on Tiritiri Matangi in 1984 with the combined aims of accelerating the natural regeneration of the coastal forest and providing a rich and varied habitat for native bird, reptile and insect species.

In 1983 a nursery was set up on the island specifically to grow plants from seed gathered on the island. This became a cornerstone of the revegetation programme.

Initially, pōhutukawa was the main tree planted. This fast-growing tree formed a canopy for slower-growing species, shading out the thick grass and providing shelter from the exposed conditions.

At the same time, tararua, kōhekehe, pūriri and many other trees were planted. Bird droppings are now helping to spread seeds, contributing to the regrowth of the forest.

By the completion of the planting programme in 1994, over 280 000 trees had been planted. The programme's success is fundamentally due to the support and involvement of thousands of volunteers, with most of the planting sessions carried out by visiting groups, including conservation groups, service organisations, school groups and sports clubs.



Hobbs Beach Mike Fidler

Exploring Tiritiri Matangi

Wattle Track (Tiritiri Wharf to Lighthouse, 40 minutes)

This track provides one of the best opportunities to see Tiritiri Matangi's birdlife in its natural environment as you meander through planted and remnant bush along a gravelled and boardwalked track. Tū, saddleback and bellbird are common, but sharp eyes might also sight whitehead, stitchbird, North Island robin and, if you are lucky, North Island kōkako. This track includes several sets of steps, so baby buggies can be awkward unless you are happy to do a little lifting.

Hobbs Beach Track

(Tiritiri Wharf to Hobbs Beach, 10 minutes)

This track runs along a rocky coastline to Hobbs Beach (named after the family who farmed the island for many years), which has a sandy beach and is good for swimming and picnicking. There are good views back to the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, and walkers are often entertained by kererū/New Zealand pigeon swooping through the air in their impressive display flights. Look out for kororā/little penguin boxes at the side of the track. These are often occupied during the spring and visitors may gently lift the inspection lids to observe the nesting birds.

Kawerau Track

(north end of Hobbs Beach to Ridge Road, 30–40 minutes)

This track climbs a short distance up from Hobbs Beach to join a boardwalk that continues steadily upwards, through some of the oldest bush on the island, including massive pōhutukawa and a large pūriri tree. Most of Tiritiri Matangi's birdlife can be seen here—watch out in particular for the tiny rifleman and elusive North Island kōkako. A 15-minute detour to the Tiritiri Matangi Pā site offers panoramic views back to the mainland. The boardwalk has many steps.

Ridge Road

(from end of Kawerau Track to Lighthouse, 25 minutes)

This vehicle track runs along the spine of the island roughly north-west to south-east. Those walking the Kawerau Track will join Ridge Road near its northern end. The Cable Track

runs parallel to Ridge Road for much of its length, offering pleasant walking through regenerating bush. There are several tracks leading off to the east or west coasts for those looking to explore further. At the southern end, near the lighthouse, the grass track crosses a steep hill from which, on clear days, there are good views of surrounding islands and the Hauraki Gulf.

Ngāti Paoa Track, Northeast Bay Track & East Coast Track

(Kawerau Track to Northeast Bay to Lighthouse, 1 hour 30 minutes)

The first section of this longer walk winds around the northern end of the island, where flax is the dominant planting and, in spring, kākārīki are often found feeding. Most of the track is on high ground, and there are several good viewing points out over the rocky shoreline and across to Wooded Island. The track continues past the site of Papakura Pā and Northeast Bay, both important sites of early Māori occupation. The next section along East Coast Track to the lighthouse is beautiful, with views out to Coromandel and Great Barrier Island/Aotearoa. Both these sections include steep areas, and walkers need to have a good level of fitness.

Popular track combinations

The many tracks and paths around Tiritiri Matangi provide lots of opportunities for round trips. Below are three suggested loops from Tiritiri Wharf.

Wattle Track loop (1 hour)

Tiritiri Wharf–Wharf Road–Lighthouse–Wattle Track–Tiritiri Wharf

Kawerau Track loop (3 hours)

Tiritiri Wharf–Hobbs Beach–Kawerau Track–Ridge Road–Lighthouse–Wattle Track–Tiritiri Wharf

Island loop (4 hours—reasonable fitness required)

Tiritiri Wharf–Hobbs Beach–Kawerau Track–Ridge Road–Ngāti Paoa Track–Northeast Bay Track–East Coast Track–Lighthouse–Wattle Track–Tiritiri Wharf

