



TAWHARANUI OPEN SANCTUARY SOCIETY INC.  
Newsletter No. 35. December 2010



Tawharanui gains a Marine Reserve status.  
400 hectares of the north coast becomes an under water sanctuary.



Tui at Tawharanui sipping nectar from flax flowers, carry a coating of orange pollen above their beaks.

## Coming Events—Sunday in the park

- Sun. 2 Jan. Sunday in the park. Meet at the Woolshed at 9.15 am. Followed by a sausage sizzle and a presentation by Mike Wilcox— Marine plant specialist.
- Sun. 6 Feb. Sunday in the park. Meet at the Woolshed at 9.15 am. Followed by a sausage sizzle and a guest speaker.
- Sun. 6 March. Sunday in the park. Meet at the Woolshed at 9.15 am. Followed by sausage sizzle and a guest speaker.

The speakers are permit holders with AC for postgraduate research work at Tawharanui and other parks.

## Chairman's Report, Dec 2010.

With the winter planting behind us TOSSI's volunteer programme, over the next few months, will focus mainly on weed control. Weed control is not the most glamorous of conservation tasks but it is one of the most essential. Unfortunately we live in an area that competes for the title of weed capital of the world. Given our temperate climate there are many garden escapees that have thrived in the wild and a number threaten even mature native forests. Climbing asparagus, old man's beard, moth plant and ginger are but a few of the invasive weeds that this country must cope with. There is little point making great efforts planting areas of re-vegetation if we sit idly by watching these same areas being smothered by invasive weeds.

The Park management team focus on the most invasive weeds and at Tawharanui their efforts are mainly focused on control of climbing asparagus, moth plant, periwinkle and woolly nightshade. TOSSI and other volunteers have the opportunity and ability to add to the park management's efforts. Alison Stanes and others have spent considerable time over recent years attacking weeds in the sand dunes. Initially their efforts were focused on apple of sodom and groundsel. These two weeds are now sparse in the dunes and lupins are presently being targeted. The dunes at Tawharanui are now recognized as amongst the most pristine in the North Auckland region.

Bone seed is another weed, that a combined volunteer and management approach, is bringing under control. Park ranger led groups including, TOSSI volunteers and non TOSSI volunteers, such as CVNZ and Keith Edwards, have made a significant impact on bone seed plants along the North Coast.

Beyond the co- operation between park staff and volunteers however is the need for an inclusive community approach, throughout the district, to tackle some of the weed problems of the area. It is difficult to eradicate any weeds within a local area if seeds are able to spread from adjacent properties. It is pleasing therefore to acknowledge the efforts of Neil Sutherland and the Forest and Bird group in tackling moth plant in the Leigh area.

So next time you see weed control as the Sunday In The Park activity remember it's much easier and effective when there is a group rather than an individual tackling weeds.

Season Greetings Steve Palmer chairperson



## Editorial



Having returned from a trip south, where I saw unwanted yellow lupin covering acres of land, I stood on top of a dune at Tawharanui and said, "I don't believe it!" In my absence two working teams had removed hundreds of lupin. A huge thank you goes out to those who have assisted with removal of lupin from the Tawharanui dunes. One more last session and lupin will become an easy management job rather than mass eviction. Judging from what I saw in the south it is pleasing to know that we at Tawharanui have taken control of lupin! In this newsletter you will read of fantastic volunteer efforts which make the Tawharanui Sanctuary such a success.

If you are short of Christmas gift ideas, fill out the TOSSI membership form at the back of this newsletter and give family and friends membership!

Have a very Happy Christmas. Alison Stanes Editor

## Open Sanctuary Coordinator Update

Welcome from the Auckland Council! The transition of Auckland local government has been reasonably seamless, the ARC regional parks team transferred largely as a single unit and many of our support staff in Heritage, Biosecurity and Communications have also found new roles in the new council. While we work out the finer details of how we all work together, it's business as usual on the park, an as usual that business is indeed busy.

Sixteen years in the making, Tawharanui Marine Reserve has now been approved by the Minister of Conservation. Protected as a Marine Park since 1981, the Auckland Regional Council applied for Marine Reserve status to enhance both the protection of this section of coastline and the opportunities for the scientific study of marine life. The benefits of this change include: greater clarity for users and marine reserve administrators due to straightened boundaries; greater understanding of marine protection at Tawharanui due to marine reserve status as rules will be consistent with those of other marine reserves (rules are consistent from one marine reserve to another but can differ between marine parks); management under a consistent regime with the nearby Cape Rodney Okakari Point (Goat Island) Marine Reserve.

The actual change will take place sometime next year following boundary survey, boundary marking, boat ramp signage and warranting of wardens. The change will be well notified to users. The existing restrictions on taking or disturbing marine life in the marine park will continue to apply within the boundaries of the marine reserve.

Dr Roger Grace, who has been diving and monitoring Tawharanui Marine Park since its inception, reports quite stunning stats on the huge numbers of crayfish and other species inside the protected area, clear evidence of the value to this ecosystem of the removal of fisheries harvest pressure. In many cases the 'recovery' or continued population growth of some of the critters studied has not yet peaked, despite over thirty years of protection. This leads us to ponder just what an undisturbed marine ecosystem might look like. Investigation of an underwater interpretation trail in the marine park is identified in the Regional Parks Management Plan. Although this may be some time away, you can start exploring this 'parallel universe' at Tawharanui. Over the warm summer why not take your mask and snorkel to the park and meet some of the locals?

Linking people with a recovering ecosystem is the focus of two walkway projects being led by TOSSI. Walkways and boardwalks are to be developed in the saline wetland of the Jones Bay lagoon and the freshwater wetland of the Mangatawhiri valley. In both cases the aim is to encourage and assist park visitors in exploring these areas where they can observe habitats and wildlife. These are part of an overall wetland rehabilitation plan for Tawharanui, most of which has now been achieved.

The Mangatawhiri wetland, although only restored and planted in 2007, is showing spectacular growth with many volunteer planted tress now well above head height. This improved habitat is proving popular with park wildlife, with kiwi, pateke, bittern, banded rail and spotless crane all recorded as using this area. It's very satisfying to see such rapid results obtained from volunteer led habitat improvement.

Summer is upon us and I hope you all take the opportunity to visit Tawharanui to walk the hills, listen to the birds, watch the trees grow and flop around in the ocean. Take your friends and families to show off the incredible changes achieved by this community partnership, together we are making something quite special!

Kind regards for the festive season,  
Matt Maitland

I can be contacted at [matt.maitland@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:matt.maitland@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or 09 426 1200



## Say YES to join TOSSI's nursery team

We need you to say "YES, I think the nursery team is doing a great job and I'd like to join in the fun".



As you know the TOSSI nursery produces 20,000 plants each year for re-vegetation within the sanctuary. It's a big job for volunteers and now that summer is here we need your help to get through our busiest season. We'd also love to hear from you if you know of any community or business groups that would like to have a special work session. The work's not hard, the camaraderie is great and the birds will love your contribution.

It's been a year since a nursery report last appeared in the newsletter. There are lots of people who have helped during that time and who I'd like to thank - Penny & Garth Allen, Susan Beer, Maggie Cornish & Ray Blackburn, Joy Bowyer, Christine Brookes, Michael Broderick, Elizabeth Clark, Jim Clarke, Dorothy Cooper, Helen Crosby, Sandra & Stephen Dorafaeff, Sue Drinnan, Barry Ferguson, Rachel Frost, Peter Griffiths, Elizabeth & Steve Harrison, Sheila Jenkins, Tony Keane, John Lowe, Kerry McGee, Jenni & Jim McGlashan, Annette & Bill Meyer, John Millett, Daphne Norris, Penny & Steve Palmer, Elizabeth Price, Jill Ronald, Gill & Colin Sargent, Michael Schwab, Alison Stanes, Anna Thompson, Sheila & Rhys Thompson, Ray Woolford, Deanna Yandley, numerous campers, Sunday in the Park volunteers, the CVNZ volunteer groups and Park Rangers Maurice, Colin and Lois.

To say "YES, I want to join the team" please phone Paul on 09 425 9877 or email [secretary@tossi.org.nz](mailto:secretary@tossi.org.nz) with your contact details. Paul Williams Nursery Co-ordinator

### Future planting at Tawharanui

Recently TOSSI representatives have had the opportunity to work with park management to clarify future planting plans. This process requires considerable coordination and cooperation. There is a need to balance ecological, heritage, recreational, farming, and volunteer priorities. Often there will be a requirement for new fencing before planting begins.

The agreed future planting plan begins with the completion of the Twin Hills planting in 2011. There will also be some in fill planting during 2011. In 2012 the major planting will be in the area behind the information hut. From TOSSI's point of view this will be a welcome break from tackling the steep slopes of the Twin Hills area. From 2014 we will be planting an area called M 16 which lies between Twin Hills and the pest fence. This is an area of around 8 ha and will take 4 years to complete. The last new area to be tackled will be Slip Gully, an area that will again take 3 to 4 years and will present some access challenges.

The above plantings represent a total area of 15 ha or some 150 000 plants. To achieve these goals we will not only need enthusiastic planters but also continuing dedication from the nursery team that is the backbone of the planting programme.

Steve Palmer Plant Co-ordinator



People, parties, pricking out and planting. Nursery work is social and good fun.



Since 2004 a strong team of willing volunteers have formed the nursery team and made a major contribution to the project. Here are some of them at work and play!



### 3 October Sunday in the Park

A group of 21 adults and 3 children enthusiastic volunteers attended a lupin removal exercise in the sand dunes area. Lupin were planted years ago on the dune face, as they have a large tap root for holding back the sand. They have spread in to the mid dune area where natives have successfully done the same job, so the lupin are no longer required. In an effort to keep the dunes as close to what they once might have been, the lupin are progressively being removed. It was a bright sunny almost windless day and the work was very satisfying. Fortunately the NZ dotterels had not started nesting so three volunteers, Steve, Hamish and Roger went off and repaired the dotterel enclosure. Mean time a hen pheasant gave other volunteers an enormous surprise by rushing out from under a dead lupin bush where there was a nest with 14 creamy eggs.

Following the sausage sizzle, Sarah Wells from Massey reported on her PhD research subject, 'Mating System of the Tui.' This species is the most recognized and widely dispersed of the native New Zealand passerine birds and there is a surprisingly small data base regarding Tui breeding habits. Therefore Sarah's presentation was full of new and interesting information about this honeyeater, and much appreciated by her audience.

Alison Stanes TOSSI Host



Olivia, Hannah and Austin help with removing lupin from the dunes.



Austin displays long lupin tap root.



The white-collared pheasant nest with 14 eggs.

### 7 November Sunday in the Park

"It was a bright and sunny day with hardly a cloud in the sky". So goes the opening line to a children's story. How appropriate those lines were to 'Sunday in the Park' at Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Sunday 7 November last. Indeed the gentle breeze was needed to cool the regulars and newbie's who happily beavered away in the sand dunes of Anchor Bay removing lupin and apple of sodom while two likely lads, Brent and James, from Auckland's City Life Hotel, willingly accepted the challenge of removing an eight strand farm fence high up by Lone Kauri Tree.

Regulars Pat, Roger, Clare, Celia, Sue, Steve, Robert, David and Jill, and new visitors to the Park including the Goldwater/Christie family and Alex and Wendy from St John's Rotary Club, met at 9.15am in the woolshed for a quick cuppa and an introduction and job allocation from TOSSI Secretary, David Stone and an update from Matt Maitland, Open Sanctuary Co-ordinator, about happening within the Sanctuary. While removing the lupins a pair of NZ dotterels noisily warned the weeders away from their unseen nest, and reminded us that the thorough weeding being undertaken was to improve their habitat.

Tasks completed everyone returned to the woolshed to enjoy what has now become a hallmark of 'Sundays in the Park', a nourishing and tasty barbecue lunch prepared by Steve and Elizabeth. Afterwards Jo Peace of Auckland University presented a Power Point presentation about the translocation of shore skinks from Tawharanui to Crusoe Island between Motuihe and Waiheke Islands in the inner Hauraki Gulf. Fascinating to learn of the habits of these delightful but mostly unseen reptiles. Also, Jo's project well demonstrated the success of the Open Sanctuary as a safe breeding site for endangered species and that recent translocations of birds and now shore skinks from the Sanctuary within greater Auckland are helping to preserve and increase the numbers of native species.

David Stone TOSSI Host



November Volunteers in the dunes.



Sausage sizzle lunch.



Jo Peace speaks about shore skink translocations from Tawharanui.

### 5 December Sunday in the Park



Clearing back the bush on ecology track.



Removing lupin from the dunes.

A small group of enthusiastic volunteers arrived and divided into two groups. I took the first team, in the red mule to clear the sides of the ecology trail which had become overgrown. Visiting hikers seeing the destructive activity, asked if we were vandals? We might have looked that way, but we were just determined to get the job done!

Alison took the second team in the green mule out to West End to remove lupin. The glorious day was so hot in the dunes, that they took a break and had a very refreshing swim frolicking in the waves and giggling at being off task!

The most welcome sausage sizzle was prepared by Steve & Elizabeth Harrison along with Christmas decor.

Guest speaker Cody Dey spoke informatively about his studies of pukeko and pateke on Tawharanui which was scientific, interesting and quite amusing!

Sharon Kast TOSSI Host



## Pateke do well this season at Tawharanui

Possible as many as eight broods of pateke have been successful this season at Tawharanui.



Ten pateke roosting by a pond in the camp wetland, have no bands on their legs. Released pateke had bands on their legs indicating that these are Tawharanui fledglings.



The brood of pateke above with seven ducklings photographed on October 1 are most likely the same ducklings photographed on October 29 in the lower photo. Ducklings grow fast. "They have too" says Kevin Parker, "otherwise they don't survive!"

Five pateke from the same broods as the photo above appear to be resting with an eye open. Maybe this is a health and safety procedure!

## Pied stilts have a tough time with avian predators



Pied stilt chicks have long bills and long legs, and look very similar to New Zealand dotterel chicks. Another difference is that pied stilts lay four eggs and NZ dotterels lay only three. Unfortunately none of these pied stilt chicks survived as harrier hawks discovered the colony when it was hatching and three nests became a feast! (see bird notes page 14.)



Birds not seen at Tawharanui

Alison Stanes takes a spring visit to see New Zealand birds across the country. (see article over page.)



On Lake Rotorua are NZ scaup, an active little diving duck. Note - the yellow eye of the male. The female does not. NZ scaup are listed as protected endemic.



At St. Anne's Reserve north of Christchurch are grey teal. These ducks are becoming rare. Note - a green speculum, and no bar near the eye.



At Rotorua little shag breed.



At Gore Bay a banded dotterel nests.

Both these species are occasional visitors to Tawharanui but nest elsewhere.



Above. South of Kaikoura is a colony of spotted shag nesting. Left. At Wing Span Rotorua a native falcon is watching for prey, mice and small birds.



At Arthurs Pass cheeky keas attack cars and motor homes!



Orakito lagoon on the west coast of the Sth. Is. is the only white heron nesting site in NZ

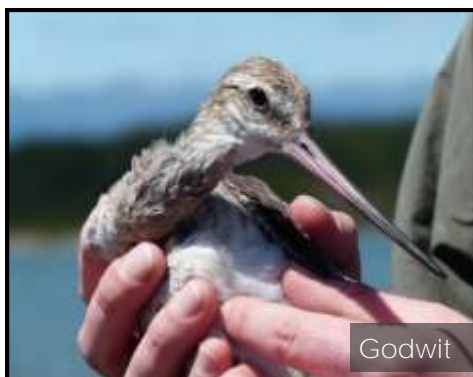


Spoonbill at Orakito.

## Birding, away from Tawharanui!

Spring is a glorious time for tripping as birds are busy with eggs and chicks and spring flowers are everywhere. Even the bright colours of unwanted lupins, broom add to the spring colour! The fragrance from cabbage flowers delight the sensors and Mt. Cook lilies are at their best. Hence, for the month of November my twin sister Heather, and I set out to see birds in the south. Seeing white herons nest at Orakito Lagoon was our main aim.

At Rotorua we were surprised to find thousands of red and black billed gulls jammed together nesting just behind the Polynesian Spa. Here, a natural water course provides protection from people and possibly predators. Visitors need binoculars or telescopes to see the hectic activities of crowded nurseries. A cacophony of frenzied bird sounds rang out as gulls scrambled to feed hungry squawking chicks of all sizes while other adults sat patiently on eggs. A kilometre north, on the lake side near a parking area was a small island with a couple of trees crowded with little and black shags all jammed together in precarious nests. Underneath more red and black gulls were busily nesting.



At the Manawatu River mouth we had arranged to assist a research team hoping to retrieve day length measure trackers, attached to the legs of godwits. Flocks of godwits and lesser knots summer over here fuelling up for the long haul back to Siberia. Around twenty enthusiastic birders humped gear to the site ready for canon netting and waited patiently hidden in the dunes for high tide. For a short time the wanted birds came



with in the target zone, but left while we waited for a stray to move from a life threatening position. As a result a mixture of twenty godwits and knots were caught and banded. No tracking devices with vital information were retrieved. It was a great opportunity to work with dedicated birders! Adrian Riegen the migrating bird specialist, Gillian Vaughan the Chairperson of Miranda Trust, and Hugh Robertson the Godfather of New Zealand birds who co-authored the New Zealand Field Guide known as Heather and Robertson.

Orakito Lagoon is managed by the Department of Conservation and a local tour company who provides jet boat transport along two rivers to get to the site. A viewing tower is positioned across the river from the leafy tree face where the herons nest tightly along with royal spoon bills, black shags and little shags. With telescopes and binoculars humans quietly peer into the private lives of these birds as they go about their daily business. The white herons are monitored carefully so our guide was above to indicate the nest that hatched yesterday. On a rough twigggy nest two herons balanced awkwardly, avoiding standing on the tiniest fluffy chicks at their feet. Other nests were in various stages of development while further birds were providing the most spectacular display of courtship. We stood mesmerised by the scene and were reluctant to leave. Silent blessings were sent to successful fledglings as we were ushered back along board walk to the jet boat.

Through out the journey shining cuckoo called at almost every bush site. However, we never sighted any of these shy birds. Rock Wren were not observed even though we spent days in their territories up Arthur Pass mountain valleys. Maybe next time! Alison Stanes





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Warkworth Walks Worth Doing

Eight fascinating guided trail walks through the unique and beautiful surrounds of Warkworth took place on the weekend 13-14 November. TOSSI sponsored one of these walks and our invitation included a walk on the wild side of Tawharanui, known for its spectacular panoramic views, diverse coastlines, wetlands and forest inhabitants. TOSSI Chair Steve Palmer welcomed the walkers and spoke about the Open Sanctuary during morning tea. Steve talked about volunteer opportunities and made an appeal for volunteers to help in TOSSI's native plant nursery. It was a great opening for me to start the guided walk by leading the group to the nursery. They saw row after row of luxurious green new plants. The nursery was in perfect order and looked stunning. From there we went to the wild side and the group was led along the coast through the ecology bush to observe the rare pateke ducks at the dam, bellbirds in the bush with yellow crowns from sipping nectar, robin on the roost, tui in the nest, NZ dotterel in the dunes, oystercatchers in the sand and nesting sites of kiwi in the kauri. A shining cuckoo, kaka and colourful kakariki made their presence heard. Lunch at Takatu point was surreal as Australian gannets soared below and Hauturu (Little Barrier) beckoned in the distance.

Sharon Kast



### Pest Plant management

Auckland Council employ contract sprayers to eradicate serious plant pests, such as periwinkle, asparagus scandens and moth plant. In this photo Te Nghere a professional spray team, work on the steep coastal cliffs on the south coast near Blue Bell Point, spot spraying a persistent patch of periwinkle. It is possible that it was introduced by a ship wrecked pioneer who once resided there.



### Weed workers time out!

Workers enjoy home made chocolate cake after second day this season extracting bone seed from Tokatu Point. Bone seed, an invasive large shrub, grows quickly and is taking over pohutukawa habitat in the north. At Tawharanui it is managed during spring when it is easy to spot the yellow flowers on coastal cliffs.

From left, Maurice, Keith, Hamish and Lois.

# Corporate visitors help at Tawharanui



Citi Bank Volunteers remove lupins



A Citi bank volunteer wrapped in an AC plastic bag to keep dry, clutches a bunch of flowering purple groundsel in the dunes.



Citibank volunteers relax in the woolshed after a day in the dunes in the rain followed by a sumptuous barbecue.



BDO volunteers exclaim - "More lupine to remove!"



One of two BDO teams heading out to remove weeds.



Surprise! A three egg NZ dotterel nest.



The rewards—good food and a good team building experience.

## Citi Bank Visit 17 October

Eager families with keen smiling children, totalling forty in numbers, arrived at 9.30 am. to help return the Tawharanui dunes to their former glory by removing lupin. Ten cars followed the mule to the west camping area where during the welcome brief droplets of water came from the skies. By the time we reached the dunes for the lupin removal demonstration, the droplets from the heavens were intensifying. Health and safety included a question for the children –“which direction was the wind coming from and where would be the best shelter?” “Yes” I confirmed “from the north straight off the sea and limited protection would be in the lee of the few pohutukawa shrubs.”

Work began and a wave of volunteers progressed through the dunes westward toward the Marine Triangle. There were some without rain coats including children. ARC rubbish bags were quickly turned to children's water proofing by making a hole in the middle at the top and two for the arms. These were readily received! Work continued, so did the rain. By 11.am volunteers were wet and cold and some had already gone back to the woolshed. I silently wondered why we were removing lupin that have been there for some years, in such appalling conditions. “Someone else can do this on a fine day” I thought. I hunted for Janelle the Citi Bank coordinator but in the inclement conditions with every one spread out, I could not locate her. So I decided myself it was time to withdraw!

We all retreated, dripping wet, back to the woolshed for a hot cup of tea and a power point presentation competing with the deafening sound of rain pounding on the tin roof. This was followed by a splendid barbecue lunch with steak and salads and large sumptuous cakes with strawberries prepared by Steve and Elizabeth Harrison.

Of interest were two sweet young girls who quietly informed me that they knew a teacher who looked like me and even had a voice like mine. “Oh” I exclaimed “what is her name”. “Heather Smith” they replied. “She is my identical twin,” I told them “so of course she is like me.” (Even after 64 years she is still like me! Although I didn't tell them that!) Citi Bank volunteers were a staunch happy team who coped admirably with adverse conditions. Maybe they might bring a fine day next time they come to Tawharanui, for we would very happily welcome them back. Thank you to everyone who participated. A special thanks to Janelle Gundry for organising the day.

Alison Stanes

### **BDO's team building group spends a day in the park volunteering**

TOSSI hosted volunteers from BDO, Auckland (Chartered accountants) on 17 November as part of their team-building exercise by volunteering in the community. The group of 35 arrived by coach in time for morning tea with fresh pecan coffee cake set out by our own Elizabeth Harrison. TOSSI chair, Steve Palmer, welcomed the BDO team and told them a little about the Open Sanctuary project while they mingled and munched in anticipation of their work assignments. They would have plenty of time for questions after the work was done. We split the group in two. Steve took one team to the Twin Hill area to weed and I took the other into the dunes to pull lupine. Both teams worked hard under a hot sun and by 1 PM had enough “team building” and were ready to come back to the vol hole for a BBQ with sizzled sausages and all the trimmings prepared by Big Steve Harrison and his bride.

With an attentive and well fed happy audience, Steve took the opportunity to talk about the successes of the open sanctuary and the pest proof fence. He spoke about the TOSSI nursery and the many opportunities to volunteer. TOSSI posters and stuffed predators and birds were used as props. When you see Steve, ask him about the reproductive cycle of the stoat. You will be truly amazed, I promise! Steve thanked the BDO volunteers and encouraged them to spend the rest of the afternoon exploring in the park or going for a swim before heading back to the city.

Special thanks to Nina Hollis and Chris Nevas for organising the day.

Sharon Kast

As an added bonus, my team was rewarded by finding a 3 egg NZ dotterel nest in the dunes. I knew it was there, but let them experience the joy of finding it.

## Bird news

Pied Stilt. In Hay paddock opposite the lagoon car park a colony of three pied stilt nests, had lost eggs and chicks. Suspecting pukeko in the vicinity, I was in position at 6.45 am next morning. Immediately, I observed four airborne stilts attacking a harrier hawk. Shortly one descended, flushed the last incubating stilt from its nest and flew off with a chick. The aggravated pied stilt returned to incubate. Fifteen minutes later a harrier arrived and under aerial bombardment from the stilt took a second chick. Half an hour later a harrier arrived and landed at the nest site. The last one pied stilt attacked with high speed accuracy. The harrier cowered and ducked on each aggressive attack as it ate the last two eggs. On the video clip the harrier took thirteen minutes eating the eggs and the stilt dive bombed 106 times. Normally support stilts come to assist, but on this occasion it appeared as though the others had given up. Egg shells were left scattered at the nest site. All over by 7.30 am. Twelve potential stilts were lost in less than 24 hours. It seems that once the harrier discovered the colony as a food source they had a feast!

Fortunately elsewhere at Tawharanui this season, there are seven healthy stilt chicks thriving at two different sites.

New Zealand dotterel. From nine breeding pairs on the park three chicks have fledged and to date there are four chicks on the park and potential for more. We are very grateful to the Ron and Edna Greenwood Environment trust for funding for surveillance cameras installed at nest sites which will give us information on egg and chick losses.

Variable oystercatcher. Three oystercatcher chicks fledged early in the season. At the moment there are seven chicks on the park all doing well.

Grey Faced petrel. Two large fluffy chicks are still in burrows. Chicks are in the burrows for eighty days so monitors are waiting patiently for them to emerge.

North Island Brown Kiwi. The two radio tagged birds Geo and Hercules have with chicks have left their nesting burrows. Hopefully all the other kiwi are as busy!

Kaka. Flocks of up to ten kaka are seen and heard over head regularly at Tawharanui. No reports have come in with nest or chick sightings although we expect to see chicks around soon. Ancient old puriri trees at Tawharanui are ideal sites for these birds.

North Island Robins. There are fourteen pairs on the park and so far 26 chicks have been banded.

Whitehead. Buzzing calls of young whitehead are widespread at Tawharanui and males are heard calling from the tree tops.

Alison Stanes

Pateke. It has been a great year for pateke ducklings. At the last count there have been 6 confirmed broods of pateke ducklings, with between 5 and 7 ducklings per brood having fledged. Two other broods have been reported but not yet confirmed – and may never be, as pateke have a habit of moving to new locations, and keeping out of sight once they get there. Identified parents include both released ducks and second generation ducks. All good news – it's a far better breeding outcome than in any previous year. Jan Haliday



The new generation pateke are less shy and becoming more confident than the original captive bred releases. Pateke without bands, have been seen strutting out on Anchor Bay, swimming, feeding and resting at Ecology stream mouth, not too concerned about the human activity around them. Alison Stanes

## Say YES to join TOSSI's nursery team

We need you to say "YES, I think the nursery team is doing a great job and I'd like to join in the fun".

As you know the TOSSI nursery produces 20,000 plants each year for re-vegetation within the sanctuary. It's a big job for volunteers and now that summer is here we need your help to get through our busiest season. We'd also love to hear from you if you know of any community or business groups that would like to have a special work session. The work's not hard, the camaraderie is great and the birds will love your contribution.

To say "YES, I want to join the team" please phone Paul on 09 425 9877 or email secretary@tossi.org.nz with your contact details. Paul Williams Nursery Co-ordinator

A big thank you to sponsors who make the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary project possible.

- Auckland Council
- Pub Charities
- Lion Foundation
- Southern Paprika
- ASB charitable Trust
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- Ron and Edna Greenwood Environmental Trust

## TOSSI COMMITTEE

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## Application form for NEW MEMBERS Tawharanui Open Sanctuary

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about TOSSI?

Please tick how you would like to help:

- Planting/workdays
- Bird Counts
- Fund raising
- Administration
- Monitoring Pests
- Nursery
- Predator fence monitoring
- Environmental educational
- Publicity/promotion
- Art in the Woolshed
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee:

\$20 single membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$30 Family membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contribution (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations over \$5 are tax deductible

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Gift membership(as above)\$ \_\_\_\_\_

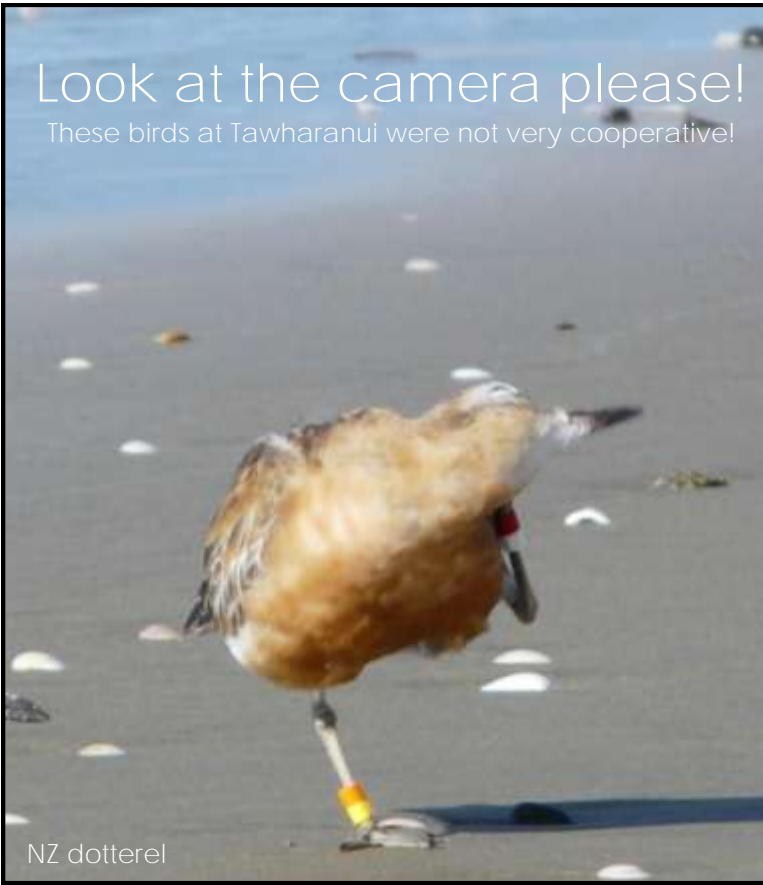
Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc. and return the completed form to:

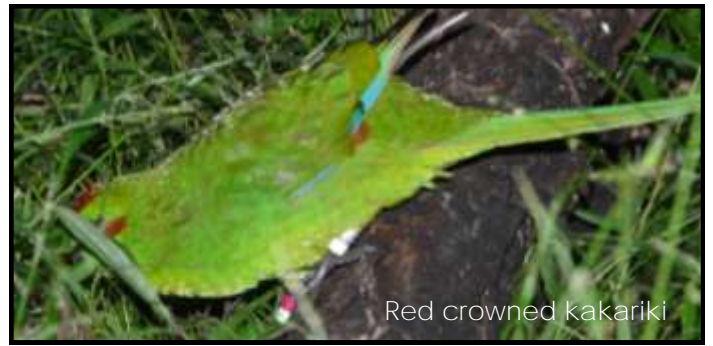
TOSSI Membership Secretary  
P.O.Box 112  
Matakana 0948

# Look at the camera please!

These birds at Tawharanui were not very cooperative!



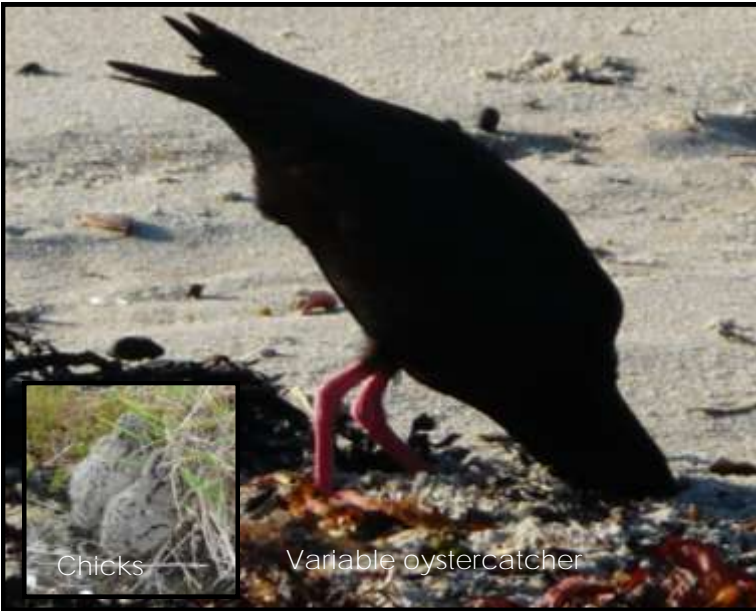
NZ dotterel



Red crowned kakariki



Bellbird



Chicks

Variable oystercatcher



Tui



North Island kaka



Pied stilt and chicks