

Please diary TOSSI's volunteer work  
and planting days  
5 July  
2 August  
6 September AGM and workday.

14,283 trees planted this season  
5,500 trees still to go!

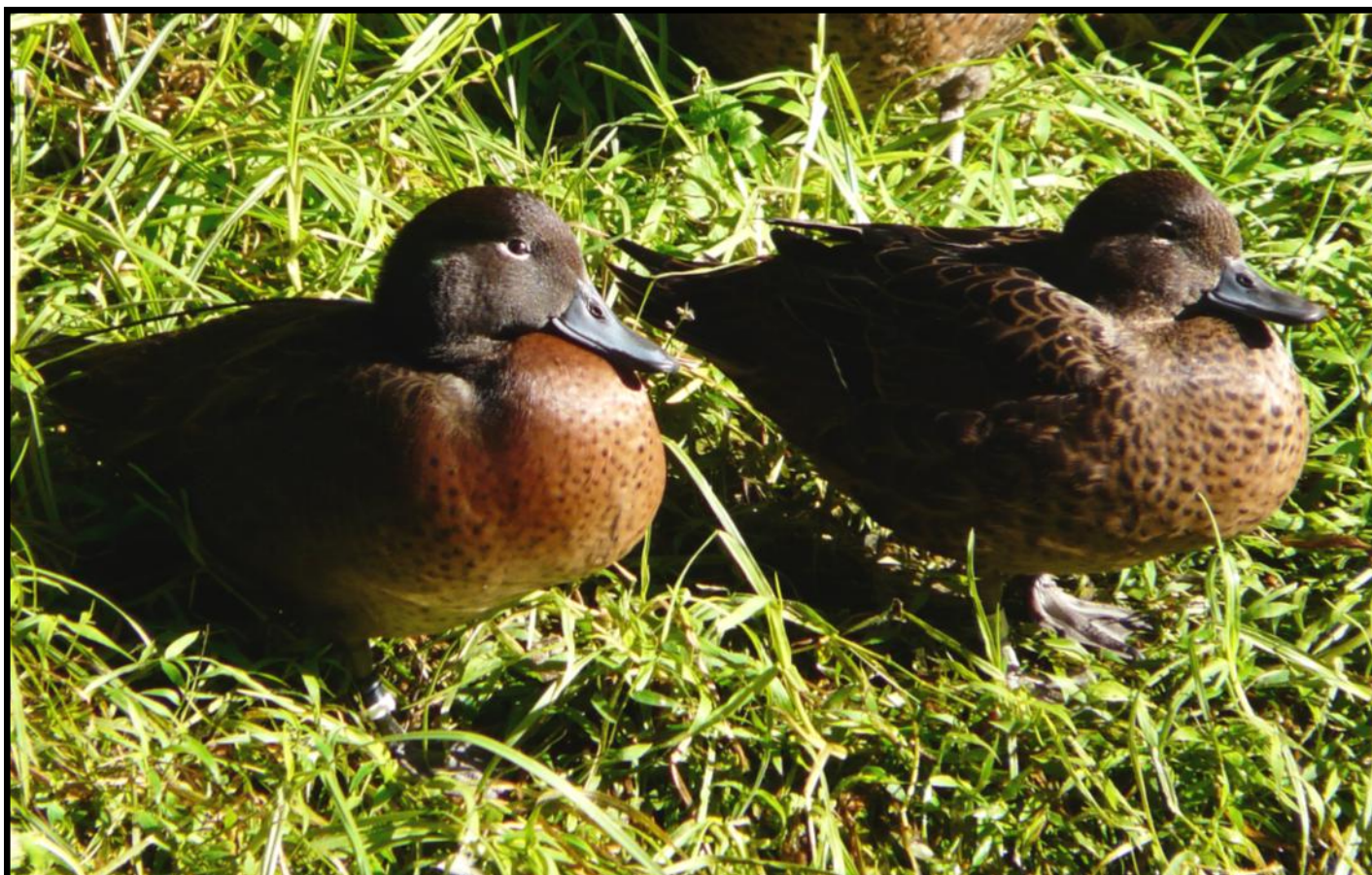


Subscriptions are due now!

Announcement  
Art in the Woolshed dates  
6 to 14 March 2010

## **TAWHARANUI OPEN SANCTUARY SOCIETY INC.**

### **Newsletter No. 29 June. 2009**



A male and female pateke bask in the sun on the banks of ecology stream.  
Pateke are listed as a threatened endemic species with 2,000 remaining in New Zealand.  
Pateke have been returned to Tawharanui through a captive breeding program by the  
Pateke Recovery Group.



Bell birds reintroduced themselves back to Tawharanui.  
Now they thrive providing a chorus of song inside the park and in neighbouring areas.



## Coming Events

**Sunday 5 July Volunteer Workday. Meet at the Woolshed 9.15 am.**

**Sunday 2 August Volunteer Workday. Meet at the Woolshed 9.15 am.**

**Sunday 6 September AGM. Meet at the Woolshed 9.15 am. Followed by a normal workday (New TOSSI note cards will be available for sale at each of the above workdays)**

**Art in the Woolshed 6 to 14 March 2010**

## Chairman's Review

There have been many exciting events in the sanctuary over the past three months. In March Les Cave organised another (I think the fifth) Kids Day at Tawharanui, during "Seaweek", and of course we had the first release of colourful, native Kakariki. In April we had another Pateke release and our first planting day with University of Auckland students, and in May we had three very big planting days with huge support from the public and TOSSI members. It's great to see the community come together to enhance the habitat of our wonderful sanctuary; many thanks to all who were involved.

I must commend our re-vegetation co-ordinator Steve Palmer (and Penny) for his determination, his excellent organising skills and for arranging such great weather. Mention should also be made of Jan Halliday's good work in increasing public awareness of these important planting events.



Thanks also must go to busy committee members Sharon Kast, Alison Stanes, Joe Crandle and David Stone for publicising TOSSI's activities over the last quarter by making presentations to several groups and to James Ross for preparing a submission to the ARC's draft Long-Term Council Community Plan 2009-19.

You will be delighted to read that Helen Crosby, our Vice Chair, has offered to convene another Art in the Woolshed exhibition, this time in March 2010. Thank you Helen - we are very lucky to have such a capable team-leader to organise this iconic event.

Dorothy Cooper, our efficient membership secretary, has enclosed a membership renewal form for the year 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010 with this newsletter. We value your membership and very much hope that you decide to renew because your fees and donations provide funding for our activities (we do not receive financial support from the ARC). Our large membership of 400+ illustrates that TOSSI has wide community support which is very important when we apply for contestable funds and it also demonstrates to your committee that we have your ongoing support.

**Paul Williams Chairman**



### Power Point Presentation

TOSSI has an excellent power point presentation with informative photos taken at Tawharanui.

If your organisation or club requires a presentation please phone Alison 095240291 or David 095285712

After a presentation given to the Point Wells Garden Circle incoming President, Ngaire Maddren (right), gives a donation to TOSSI Chairman Paul Williams while outgoing President Maree Claydon looks on.

## From the Editor

Sharing and receiving knowledge is a vital part of conservation. It was great to see TOSSI past chairman Les Cave back in the park in full swing, sharing knowledge with all the children during seaweek.

Knowledge was gained and shared after the aerial bait drop in 2004 when sandhoppers ate brodifacoum and NZ dotterels ate the sandhoppers. A formal paper was submitted to Notornis by John Dowding, Tim Lovegrove, Jo Ritchie, Sharon Kast and Maurice Puckett. This month the Guardians of the Bay of Islands were asking for volunteers to gather up any brodifacoum that lands on the islands beaches during their bait drop. Also Motutapu Island has it written into a contract that the bait must be cleared from the beaches. So others have gained knowledge from Tawharanui. With a little luck maybe some knowledge is shared through TOSSI newsletters, too!

**Alison Stanes Editor**



**Wanted !**  
**Pest buster volunteers to help with trap lines and monitors to check on brown teal.**  
**See inside back cover for more details.**

## Open Sanctuary Coordinator Update

Welcome to our new arrivals! Since last report we have had more kakariki from Little Barrier and more pateke from captive breeders released at Tawharanui Open Sanctuary. It is always a great pleasure to be part of these releases and to see the joy on the faces of those present. This is our reward for all the hard work that makes this site the treasure it is. Thanks to you all for making it so!

10 additional kakariki were released April 27<sup>th</sup>. An additional transfer was required as the 14 released in March aren't enough to ensure the genetic diversity for a healthy establishing population. Weather intervened again making another difficult catching trip for Luis and his team, then delaying departure of the birds for two days as a storm blew itself out. Luis and volunteers have been following the fate of the released kakariki, and so far have seen birds establishing themselves in their new home plus some movement afield. All translocations have an unknown outcome, our role is to do the best we can to make them work and faithfully monitor the outcome so we learn and grow. A supplementary transfer is planned for autumn 2010 to take the founder population closer to 50.

Pateke released in February have settled well. Thanks to our volunteer monitoring crew we know that these birds have settled into four main areas – Ecology stream, lagoon wetland, Mangatawhiri wetland, and the wetland in our pest management buffer. One has been known to leave (to Whanagateau) and three unaccounted for. This is a big difference from 2008 where about half the birds dispersed beyond our protected area. 12 of the 40 February cohort have died, with main cause of death being starvation (as birds struggle to transition from a captive to wild diet) and a few have been either predated or scavenged by harriers.

May 15 saw an additional 20 pateke arrive, surplus from the captive breeding network. So far all have stayed on site and seem to be settling. Shifting the supplementary feeders onto land has increased usage. We are on track to receive another 40 pateke next February.

Pest incursion is a reality we must continually grapple with here at Tawharanui. The change in season to autumn saw both possum and ship rat incursions inside the sanctuary. In events such as this our incursion response kicks into action. First step is to define and delimit the situation: what, where and how many? Then we can contain and eradicate the incursion by use of traps, tools, and trained dogs – whatever it takes! The hardest part is deciding when we are pest free again. Does non detection mean no pests? Sustaining the pest free status of Tawharanui Open Sanctuary remains our highest priority. In 2009/10 a key focus will be addressing pest incursions and how these may be limited.

What implications might the new Auckland Council have for Tawharanui Open Sanctuary? The short answer is there will be no immediate impact. At the transition date of October 2010 the new council will inherit all assets, contracts and relationships from the local bodies it replaces. Regional parks are protected in perpetuity for the people of the region and will remain. The positive relationship between Auckland Regional Council and TOSSI will continue – we expect a similar relationship to continue with the Auckland Council. I'll keep you posted as we learn more detail.

Kind regards, Matt Maitland  
I can be contacted at  
[matt.maitland@arc.govt.nz](mailto:matt.maitland@arc.govt.nz)  
or 09 426 1200



Matt seen with his daughter Amelie planting trees at the TOSSI Queens Birthday planting weekend.





## Seaweeek - second time lucky

It was a cracker day on the beach plus on the mountain bike trail. Seaweeek in March brought a horrible day and we had to postpone the annual school visit until early April. This time we got it right.

Almost 150 Yr 6 & Yr 7 students from Warkworth Primary, Matakana School and Mahurangi College had a wonderful day looking at marine and coastal studies and the Open Sanctuary thanks to the generosity of TOSSI and the ARC in funding their bus transport. This was the fifth year that this 'Local Schools Seaweeek Day' had been held, and once again activities were based out of the information hut at Anchor Bay.

Warkworth DoC staff (Liz Maire and Michelle Jenkinson) presented an interactive session where students matched items to different marine habitats. This included identifying the type of materials washed up on the shoreline and the impacts that these have.

The inimitable "Dotterel Chix", Alison and Sharon lead classes around the shorebird nesting sites in the Anchor Bay dunes. It was a case of who could spot the camouflaged eggs. Their placements were so convincing that one group who stumbled on what appeared to be an abandoned nest during their beach cleanup, breathlessly reported it to Alison and Sharon.

A bit of tug-of-war and tossing around of Jo Ritchie's giant rubber rat seemed to be both fun and informative when this writer ran a session on the predator fence and the Open Sanctuary.

The two Mahurangi College Yr 7 classes also rode their mountain bikes on the North Coast track out to the Trig above Tokatu Point, these children enjoyed the sheer exuberance of such a physical activity. It also gave them the chance to see what scope is available for recreational opportunities within our unique Open Sanctuary. Upon their return to Anchor Bay, they helped with a beach cleanup. Next year, more emphasis might be made of such a cleanup, the Sir Peter Blake Trust has a detailed kit to accompany this activity, information gathered can be entered into a nation-wide database.

Les Cave Teacher, Mahurangi College

Below- Sharon Kast talks to school children in the info hut.







**Seaweeek—Go forth and become conservation ambassadors!**



**Pateke —Go forth and multiply!**

Sharon Kast releases one of the pateke that arrived at Tawharanui in April.



Late in May the Ornithological Society of New Zealand held their seventieth national conference in Orewa. One of the field trip choices was to visit Tawharanui. Morning tea was served in the woolshed. The visit included walks to see the bird life and an opportunity to assess the success of the predator proof fence. Tim Lovegrove whistled up many bird species, so we hope the visitors **go forth** to their home towns in NZ and talk about Tawharanui.





## 5 April Volunteer Workday

Question -What would you do if you turned up to a Workday and there was nobody there?

Answer- Go to the beach of course! Two Committee Members – I won't name them, we'll just call them Sharon and Joe - arrived at the workday to find the Woolshed empty and no sign of any one. After conferring they decided rather imaginatively that there must have been a whale-stranding requiring ALL the volunteers. So they headed off to the beach. They arrived back about an hour later to find the Workday Host and others just arriving. Daylight Saving always catches someone out!

On a beautiful Autumn Day thirty-three Volunteers descended on Tawharanui with planting in mind. The soil was nicely moist, the plants in fine condition and most of us had been refreshed by the extra hour of sleep that the end of Daylight Saving provides. We planted the West Race drainage line; a part of the Twin Hills area that will be the focus of our planting efforts for the Planting Days over the next few months.

Non-stop action meant that 1,500 Cabbage Trees, Flax, Manuka, Puriri and Kahikatea were in the ground (and piles of Apple of Sodom out of the ground) in time for an early lunch at the Woolshed.



Photos  
Non stop planters at work!

Right: Workday host  
James Ross



After lunch Steve Palmer took us on a tour of the recently formed Thompson's Track around the Mangatawhiri Wetland. We were impressed with the walk and the general good health of the TOSSI plantings in the area. Even the lack of a footbridge could not stop the intrepid crew from proceeding across a muddy drainage line.

Thank you to all who attended and especially to Maurice, Matt and the Committee members present who helped me muddle through my first workday as host.

**James Ross Workday host.**



### 3 May ARC and TOSSI Big Plant Day

Sunday turned out to be a beautiful autumn day, clear and calm, and perfect for our first ARC/TOSSI joint planting day of the year. The rain from the day before had softened the ground so the digging was easy.

We planted 4,355 trees into the Twin Hills wetland and foothills. The species, all from TOSSI's nursery, comprised Manuka, Cordyline, Flax, Mahoe, Coprosma, Puriri, Kahikatea and Pohutukawa.

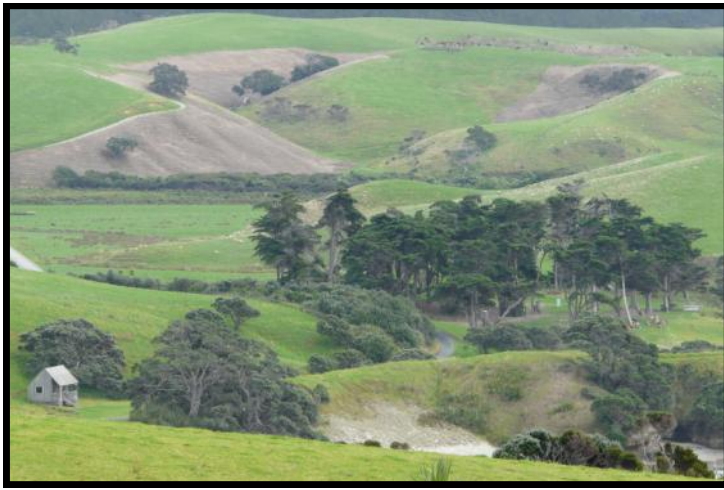
Many thanks to the seventy nine people who attended, to the ARC for catering and supplying equipment and Rangers, to the fifteen volunteers who set out the plants on the previous Friday and to Steve Palmer, TOSSI's volunteer re-vegetation coordinator. **Workday host Paul Williams**



### Birthday Celebration for Helena Stretton

In April of this year Helena Stretton celebrated her birthday. Wishing to mark the occasion with a tangible contribution to the environment, she opted to invite a group of friends and family to a planting event at Tawharanui. We were able to supply the group with trees and shovels and set them to work in the Twin Hills wetland. They were in fact the first group to plant in this area and it is pleasing to report that the 300 trees appear to have taken well. If others are wishing to mark a special occasion in a similar way we are usually able to help. **Penny Palmer**





Views of the Twin Hills gullies sprayed out and ready for planting.

### **TOSSI Queens Birthday Planting Weekend.**

I suspect it was our chairman who first suggested holding a two day planting over Queens Birthday weekend. There appears to have been agreement from the committee with the expectation that such an event would be the responsibility of the plant co-ordinator. Not sure whether the plant co-ordinator had any say in the decision as I was either away or asleep when the decision was made.

As it turns out the Queens birthday planting has been a great success. Exceptional weather, despite a terrible weather forecast, rain at the end of each planting, a very good turn out from both TOSSI members and non members, and a total of 6,300 plants in the ground. Such a successful outcome is not accidental but is very dependent on the dedicated work of many TOSSI volunteers. The nursery group provided the majority of the support for this weekend. Not only have they provided the input into the nursery but also spent many hours putting out plants, preparing the marquee and having the planting site organised for the planters arriving on Saturday morning. This hard core of TOSSI volunteers deserve special thanks. We were also fortunate to have help from CVNZ, a volunteer group of overseas visitors. This group, with the help of the rangers, did much of the lifting of plant crates into the planting areas. Elizabeth Harrison and Sheila Thompson led the catering and their efforts were much appreciated by the planters.

We have now planted over 14,000 plants during 2009. 11,000 of these plants have gone into the Twin Hills area and with a further 3000 to 4000 plants we will have completed stage one. The complete planting of Twin Hills will be a 3 year project.

**Steve Palmer Plant coordinator**



**In less than a week 6,300 plants left the Tawharanui nursery and went into the ground!**



**Thanks to a well coordinated amazing team of enthusiastic volunteers!**



## Action on Twin Hills.





## Farming stories from ranger and farm manager Colin Wards



I first worked at Tawharanui for about 3 months in 1977. After growing up in South Auckland it seemed such a beautiful place. I thought that I could easily spend 20 years there, not knowing that was exactly what I would eventually do. In fact it has been nearly 24 years. It had everything I loved:- native bush, sea and pasture. Tawharanui was very much a rural area with the only permanent neighbours being the Goodfellows and the Kingstons. Before the Kingstons put in a drive, they used to access their property through Tawharanui and out at west end. It took three hours for them to drive to Tawharanui from their home in Remuera. The hill paddock outside the predator proof fence, is named Kingston Paddock after them.

It wasn't until 1985 that I was asked if I was interested in working at Tawharanui and successfully applied for the job. In the interim period I had spent 5 years in the stock and station industry. My official title was "Farmhand 1st Class". In those days nearly all of the 1500 acres of Tawharanui Park were being grazed. We also used to graze Waikauri Bay which is the next bay along on the south coast and sometimes the pines at Kingstons on the north coast. We were running about 320 breeding cows, 3000 mixed aged wethers and 1000 wether lambs for replacements. Over the next few years these cow numbers increased to 430. We also started running some breeding ewes.

Access to the north coast paddocks had always been a bit tricky with an unusual route being over an old bridge which also served as a dam for the water supply. This was made easier when a new dam was built further up the stream and a track was cut into the hill. One incident I recall is taking a big mob of sheep across the bridge and one of my heading dogs got pushed off the downward side of the bridge by the sheep which is about twenty feet drop. Luckily it only ended up with a sore leg after just clipping one of the rocks.

Before the coastline was fenced, livestock were able to access most of the beaches. I remember having to catch a cow on a north coast beach and then getting a helicopter to lift off with a net. It was fairly weak for not having much grass or water for a number of days.

From about 1988 the livestock numbers began to reduce. Areas were fenced off from grazing such as the Tokatu Point(100 acres), the South Coastline, the Punchbowl bush and Home bush. More recently gullies have been fenced off with the intension of replanting native bush. This winter 2009, Tawharanui will winter 700 breeding ewes, 300 ewe replacements and 70 breeding cows on 400 effective acres, quite a lot less those than earlier years.

Most of the paddocks were already named when the Auckland Regional Authority purchased the property. The names related to where they are situated, except for Camp Paddock which is where American soldiers camped during the second World War, Airstrip Paddock was used to load topdressing planes, Hay Paddock was used to make hay but also was used as an airstrip and Hayters Paddock I think was named after a brand of hay mower. Over the years I have lived in the cottage, the vol hole and the homestead.

When I started at Tawharanui there were 2 telephone lines on the place. They were party lines and I think the call was "short long short". Now there are three phone lines, one fax line, one computer line, four radio telephones, one cell phone and one "pager contact" for the duty ranger. Things have certainly changed. We also used stock horses, two wheel motorbikes and tractors. Now there are two quad bikes, a motorized mule, a ute, and the tractor is rarely used. My old stock horse is buried in the sand dunes alongside a number of my old work dogs. Their graves are marked with stakes next to a Pohutukawa tree.

Once going up a steep muddy track, which went from Peters paddock now known as Mangatawhiri Wetland up to M16 we got stuck with the tractor trailer carrying about sixty bales of hay. There was no way out and we had to call the neighbour over with his bulldozer to haul us out. (Continued)





(Farming stories continued)

Some years ago a volunteer was driving a tractor down from Twin Hills with a trailer on behind. Somehow he went over the steep edge that has been planted in the last week. Fortunately he didn't roll it but instead managed to keep the tractor straight and continued down the bank to the bottom. He survived very shaken to tell the tale. Maybe that is why we have to do quad bike and tractor driving courses these days!

I have been involved in a number of rescues over the years including an English couple I had to take to Auckland airport after they crash landed in the airstrip paddock in a small connection flight going from Whangarei to Mangere. Another incident about twenty years ago was when a fellow with his fishing pack, fell about 60ft off a rock ridge near Tokotu Point. Luckily the tide was in and he landed in the water but did break his ankle on the way down. He was hauled up by Warkworth Search and Rescue on a stretcher and taken to hospital, treated and released only to arrive home to find his wife, who thought he was going to be away for the weekend fishing, shacked up with another man. Poor bloke!

Things have improved for birdlife. There are now pukekos, pateke, robins, kereru, kaka, kiwi, bellbirds, kakariki and

whiteheads at Tawharanui. Would you believe there was not one pukeko there in 1985?? Now there are probably 500.

My dogs had to do a kiwi aversion training course so that they can go on the park and not be tempted to chase kiwi. The course involves sniffing kiwi and getting a descent electric shock at the same time. One of my dogs got such a belt it ran off and hid for half an hour!

Anyway I could go on about different stories but that's enough for now. Tawharanui is changing and hopefully returning to some of its former glory when it was covered in huge bush and crawling with native birds.

**Colin Wards ranger and farmer**

### All Terrain Vehicle Course

TOSSI members sometimes have occasion to use the park's all-terrain vehicles as part of their volunteer work, so in April six TOSSI members joined six ARC park rangers in completing a two day course in their safe use.

The main aim of the course was to prevent accidents: ATVs (otherwise known as quad bikes or farm bikes) are unsafe if not used properly, as OSH statistics will attest. So we learned how to avoid flipping bikes going uphill, downhill and across slopes. It was, for a novice, exhilarating and a bit scary.

As course leader Troy pointed out, a lot of what we learned was about the limits of the vehicles. Always the emphasis was on how to avoid dangerous situations, and how get out of them in one piece if they do arise: see the photo of how to cross a steep slope with a mate hanging off the side!

We also learned how to back a quad and trailer through a slalom course, a skill of no known practical use. Checking and maintaining your vehicle were also covered.

Thanks to the ARC for giving us the opportunity to up-skill in this area.



Steve Palmer negotiates the quad along a bank, with David Stone 'hanging out' to counterbalance the weight and prevent it from flipping!

### Anonymous botch ups!

Someone at the beginning of the winter season, got the mule stuck on the south coast. The unexpected hour and a half walk back to the vol hole to get help she said, "seemed a very long way!"

Someone painting the roof of the woolshed had his ladder blown down by a freak gust of wind. Unfortunately a forty minute storm of driving cold winter rain followed and no one heard his calls till the rain stopped!

Someone using a private car to carry a back pack of spray accidentally bumped the nozzle and left a perfect ring of blue vegetable dye on the mock cream suede ceiling!





Luis Ortiz-Catedral works with kakariki. (article opposite page)  
Photos Luis Ortiz-Catedral

## Catching kakariki for release at Tawharanui

A number of us will have enjoyed attending releases of threatened birds at Tawharanui or elsewhere. However few of us will have given much thought to the effort and skill required to capture these birds. Recently a small number of TOSSI volunteers were fortunate to be given the opportunity of joining Luis Ortiz-Catedral and his team on Little Barrier Island to help with mist netting Kakariki.

Mist nets are, as the name implies, fine nets, which are strung horizontally between metal poles. The nets are made up of several horizontal bands with excess netting creating pockets, which help capture the birds. The nets range from eight to twelve metres long but are often set up in a line with overall length reaching twenty to thirty metres. Especially in shade and in calm conditions the nets become difficult for birds to detect. For Kakariki the nets are usually set up between a grassed area and the forest edge with the aim of catching them while they fly to and from feeding in the grassed areas. Experience and skill is required to untangle birds in the nets but all unwanted species flew off unharmed when released.

Several teams of twelve spent a total of three weeks capturing the 24 Kakariki released at Tawharanui. Capture rates varied from zero to a high of 9 birds a day. Each bird, therefore, represents many hours of work if being on Little Barrier can ever be described as work. Little Barrier reminds the visitor of what we have lost on the mainland but hopefully we can recapture some of this lost world in sanctuaries such as Tawharanui.

According to Matt Maitland, Open Sanctuary Coordinator, difficult catching conditions and the need to complete transfer to Motuihe were main limitation in catching birds for Tawharanui. A more robust founder population to ensure we have the genetic diversity for a healthy population is required for this translocation to succeed. An additional transfer will be undertaken in April 2010 to achieve this goal.

**Penny Palmer TOSSI**

Below: Josie Galbraith investigates rosella ecology at Tawharanui. (article opposite page)  
Photos: Josie Galbraith





## The return of red-crowned parakeets to Tawharanui Open Sanctuary

Red crowned kakariki are a protected native species of New Zealand. The translocation of 24 red-crowned parakeets from Little Barrier Island to Tawharanui this year represents not only a colorful addition to the bird community of the park but also a further step towards the recovery of New Zealand's most widespread parakeet species. Parakeets were released in the park in two lots: 14 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March and 10 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. Although red-crowned parakeets are not critically endangered, its remaining populations around the Hauraki Gulf are isolated. Establishing new populations on managed areas such as Tawharanui is thus a way of bringing these remnants populations a bit closer.

The collection of these sharp-beaked creatures (oh yes, they bite) on Little Barrier Island had numerous challenges, the most important being capturing enough parakeets of each sex and ensuring all individuals did not loose weight during their time on an aviary prior to the release. Since the capture depends heavily on weather conditions and actual number of parakeets around, the timing is crucial. We have "fine-tuned" such timing by looking at capture rates over the last two summers and it appears that early autumn is the best opportunity to catch parakeets.

As for ensuring every parakeet eats enough to keep their "weight on capture" we have come up with a new provisioning plan. Essentially we distribute fruit, corn cobbles and seed spikes hanging from the ceiling of the aviary in addition to placing these on food trays. Although this solution is simple, it was not too obvious at the beginning since we needed to provide enough variety and quantity of fresh food, with the least disturbance to the parakeets and minimizing food waste that might rot and cause further problems (i.e. fungus, bacteria etc.). These two improvements in the parakeet catching saga represent exciting prospects and we are preparing for another collection trip next autumn to achieve our goal of 50 parakeets released on Tawharanui by 2010.

In the meantime monitoring the parakeets in the park is a first priority and having 10 individuals with transmitters attached to their tails makes the task easier. If they survive their first winter, we expect they will start prospecting for nesting sites around October-November and hopefully we will be able to see the first parakeets hatched at a "mainland island" between December-January!

Thanks to all the enthusiastic field volunteers who helped on Little Barrier Island and to our sponsors ARC, TOSSI, Ransom Wines and Massey University.

**Luis Ortiz-Catedral Massey University**

## Investigating rosella ecology at Tawharanui Open Sanctuary

Eastern rosella are an introduced broad-tailed parakeet, native to south eastern Australia. Their brightly coloured plumage and noisy chatter make them a difficult bird to miss. Being the most numerous parrot species in the wild in the Auckland Region, most of us have had them in our gardens at one time or another. Even so, very little attention has been given to how they are interacting with native species within native ecosystems. They have the potential to compete for food and other resources, and also to spread avian diseases. As part of my MSc I have been collecting ecological data on eastern rosella at Tawharanui Regional Park, where there certainly are a number of the raucous Aussie imports.

My project has three main facets of data collection. Over the last breeding season, October – February, I was preoccupied with finding rosella nests. Like a number of New Zealand birds, including kakariki, rosella nest in tree holes and are very secretive about the whole affair, making detection of a nest site very difficult (let me know if you find any nests over the next breeding season!!!). At present I am catching rosella so samples can be taken for disease testing. Nothing with these birds is easy, and capturing them has been no different. After numerous unfruitful days mist netting across the park, success was found in the Mangatawhiri wetland, where strategically placed nets nabbed rosella coming down low to feed on flax and weed seed heads. These birds are now sporting very fashionable colour bands. The third, and yet to come, component of my project involves attaching radio-transmitters to a number of adult male rosella and mapping their whereabouts over time. This will generate information on the size of an individual's home range, the types of habitat being used, and also help locate nest sites over the breeding season.

As rosella are undoubtedly here to stay, it is important to learn more about their ecology and behaviour. The data I am collecting at Tawharanui will hopefully provide a better understanding of rosella ecology in New Zealand systems, and help determine what impact they are having on native species.

**Josie A. Galbraith University of Auckland**



## Membership Report for June 2009 newsletter

As another TOSSI financial year draws to a close it is an appropriate time to mention a couple of matters.

First, a big thank you to the 366 who renewed their membership for the 2008 – 09 year, it is very important to us to have your continued support and, welcome to the 39 new members who have joined TOSSI through the year swelling our ranks to 405. It is encouraging to have so many committed members who contribute in different ways, some are very 'hands on' out at the park, others help with the newsletter mail out, others with less free time are happy to be financial members and the support of all of you ensure that important projects like the nursery, transmitters and, of course, the high quality of our newsletter can continue.

Second, a gentle reminder that your membership is due for renewal now. (There is a renewal slip in this newsletter). Please include your email address in clear script, and tick the areas of interest you think you may, when time permits, be able to help with eg. fence checking, bait station monitoring, nursery work etc. or check the new box "I am happy to be an interested supporter at present." I look forward to receiving your cheques in the mail. If you do decide to pay by direct credit please do it after 1 July, to save our treasurer's sanity. **Dorothy Cooper Membership Secretary**

## Art in the Woolshed 2010

Art in the Woolshed (AITW) is happening again in 2010 and we hope you'll be around to join us out at the woolshed at some stage between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March.

After the success of the 2008 event, when \$50,000 was raised for the open sanctuary (that's after all expenses), and something like 3,500 people went through the exhibition, the organising committee has been wondering whether we can top that next time. Well, we intend to.

Certainly, our aim is to raise as much money as we can in 2010, but will people be buying art next year? The answer is, we don't know, and nor does anyone else.

Thinking about what AITW does for Tawharanui Open Sanctuary, though, we know that it achieves far more than just raising funds for our favourite place. It also raises the profile of this amazing environmental project, and that will be a goal for 2010 as well. Art in the Woolshed is now a recognised event in the Auckland arts calendar, noted for bringing together the works of many of New Zealand's top artists in a matchless park setting. By putting on a top-class art event we attract additional visitors to the park, and generate interest and media coverage for the park as well as for the exhibition.

Each of the four AITW exhibitions we have held to date has in one way or another seen some new developments, and this will be case in 2010 also. In 2008 we opened up more of the woolshed to include the race area – slatted floor, pens, faint whiff of sheep, and white walls and excellent lighting for the art works. The art looked great, and people loved it.

As well the exhibition was professionally hung by Barry Lett and Mike Petre. The result was wonderful use of the space and works intelligently and sensitively presented. We are delighted that Barry and Mike will be involved again in 2010.

Art in the Woolshed is always a huge amount of work, both before and during the event. In between times it is also a lot of fun, and very rewarding. There's nothing quite like teamwork to make you feel good. We'll be calling for your help over the next few months so get involved (again!). You can help make AITW 2010 the best exhibition yet.

**Jan Halliday AITW 2010 Committee**

## Native plant nursery produces over 20,000 plants

The nursery workload has dropped since April and we are now more involved in transporting plants out to the various planting sites within the park.

Our helpers over the last three months were Steve Harrison, Penny & Steve Palmer, Gill & Colin Sargent, Christine Brockes, Bill Meyer, John Lowe, Rachel Frost, Elizabeth Clark, Dorothy Cooper, Sheila & Rhys Thompson, John Millett, Steve Rigby, Jenni & Jim McGlashan, Penny & Garth Allen, Susan Beer, Tony Keane, Rachel Frost, Maggie Cornish & Ray Blackburn, Sue Hoyle, Alison Stanes, Jennifer & Basil Kirker, Jill Ronald, Marcia Butcher, Ray Woolford, Barbara & John Maltby, Maureen Briggs, Fran Jones, Sheila Jenkins, Ranger Maurice and Ranger Colin – many thanks to you all, especially Penny, Elizabeth and Jenni for the regular supply of home-baked cakes.

This season we've produced 20,326 healthy plants and exceeded our annual production target. Well done to everyone who has helped – you are a wonderful team.

**Paul Williams Nursery Manager and TOSSI Chairman**



### **Pest Busters –**

#### **Volunteers Needed for Trap Lines**

This is an opportunity for everyone: the trap lines are of various lengths from about two hours to several hours, and while some are through challenging terrain others are a "walk in the park". Some lines involve handling chemical baits but most are based on traps loaded with fresh eggs. Lines would suit either individuals or pairs. Training will be provided.

If you are interested in being a part of this important program please contact James Ross on [jamesross@paradise.net.nz](mailto:jamesross@paradise.net.nz) or 09) 422 6760.

### **Monitoring Pateke**

Monitoring pateke and other new arrivals at the park gives invaluable information about the success of our translocations and how to improve them. The time you have to commit can be short-term or on-going. Please call Jan (09 422 2356 / 021 212 5312) if you are interested in this rewarding work.

### **For sale- Tawharanui note cards**

A new range of coloured note cards, all photographed at Tawharanui will be available at volunteer workdays and at the AGM. The cards have no script and are suitable for all occasions. The cards are \$2.50 each or five cards for \$10. Stored in your cupboard they can save you a visit to the shops. They make an excellent gift pack for Christmas and birthdays instead of a bottle of wine!

All profits go to TOSSI. Alison Stanes



### **TOSSI Tee shirts**

will be available for sale  
At the AGM on September 6. Helen Crosby

### **TOSSI COMMITTEE**

<b>Chair</b>	Paul Williams	09 425 9877
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Helen Crosby	09 422 9936
<b>Secretary</b>	David Stone	09 528 5712
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joe Crandle	09 425 8573
<b>Editor</b>	Alison Stanes	09 524 0291
	Sharon Kast	09 422 9990
	Jan Halliday	09 422 2356
	Steve Palmer	09 368 7074
	James Ross	09 422 6760

**Correspondence** Chairperson  
or Membership Secretary  
P.O Box 112  
Matakana 0948, New Zealand  
**Email** [secretary@tossi.org.co.nz](mailto:secretary@tossi.org.co.nz)  
**Website:** [www.TOSSI.org.nz](http://www.TOSSI.org.nz)

### **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:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planting/workdays                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Counts    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring Pests                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Predator fence monitoring                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental educational                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity/promotion                      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art in the Woolshed                      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am happy to be an interested supporter |   |

#### **Membership fee:**

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

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

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

Donations over \$5 are tax deductible

#### **Gift Membership:**

Please send membership to  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**



## Ten kakariki released at Tawharanui.

Luis Ortiz-Catedral has been busy with Massey university students and TOSSI volunteers catching kakariki on Little Barrier destined for Tawharanui Open Sanctuary. Ten kakariki arrived by helicopter on Monday 27 April. The circles in each photo display kakariki zooming into their new home.



Jan Halliday TOSSI and Sharon Kast TOSSI release kakariki



Alison Stanes TOSSI and Maurice Puckett ARC Ranger release kakariki



Pateke seen basking in the sun on the banks of ecology stream