



Wanted !  
Volunteers for  
Big Plant Weekend  
June 5 and 6

TAWHARANUI OPEN SANCTUARY SOCIETY INC.  
Newsletter No. 32 March 2010



Celebrating the fifth Art in the Woolshed at Tawharanui



## Coming Events

<u>Sat. 20 March</u>	Owl Prowl. Fully booked. Another Prowl in May if sufficient interest. Email secretary@tossi.org.nz
<u>Wed. 24 March</u>	Research Symposium 8pm. Matakana Cinema. Informative evening with researchers. Bookings essential. Email matt.maitland@arc.govt.nz or phone 426 1200 to reserve a space.
<u>Sun. 4 April</u>	<b>'Sunday in the Park'. Meet at 9.15 am in the woolshed for morning tea before work starts,</b> followed by barbecue and a talk by the resident ranger Maurice Puckett.
<u>April</u>	<u>Kakariki</u> to be released. Watch your emails for the release date.
<u>Sun. 2 May</u>	<b>'Sunday in the Park'. Meet at 9.15 am in the woolshed for morning tea before planting.</b> Barbecue lunch provided.
<u>Sat/Sun. 5&amp;6 June</u>	Big Plant Weekend. Meet at 9.15 am. Follow directions in the park. Bring warm clothes, clean footwear, rain coat and a drink. Barbecue lunch provided. Free camping for those planters who would like to work both days. Campers contact ARC 09 366 2000 and book into the camp ground.
<u>Sun. 4 July</u>	<b>'Sunday in the Park'. Meet at the Woolshed at 9.15 am for morning tea before planting.</b> Barbecue lunch provided.

## Chairman's Report

This summer couldn't have been more perfect to showcase the diverse features of Tawharanui, from the beaches for those of you who like the sun and surf, to the forested areas for those who like it cooler. Our sanctuary has it all and I hope you've found the time to enjoy it in your own way. It was nice to again interact with campers who helped in the nursery in January and to be reminded by these annual visitors that positive changes in the park's fauna and flora are becoming much more visible.

You will all have heard that TOSSI's largest fund-raising event, Art in the Woolshed, will be staged from 6-14 March. In fact, by the time you read this newsletter you may have already attended the exhibition and be admiring a beautiful piece of art that you couldn't resist buying.

Staging an event as large and as complex as this places heavy demands on TOSSI's organising committee, all of whom are volunteers, and we are very fortunate to have a convener of the calibre of Helen Crosby who has again established an efficient and dedicated team of helpers. Well done and thank you Helen and team, and thank you to everyone who has supported this, our fifth, exhibition.

As usual your committee has been busy with a wide range of activities - meetings, event organising, writing articles and reports, preparing submissions and funding applications, addressing community and business groups, another pateke release, monthly Sundays in the Park and numerous physical activities undertaken within the park. Thank you to all committee members for your dedication and hard work.

Coming up over the next three months we will have Art in the Woolshed, an owl prowl, hopefully another kakariki release, the second annual research symposium and our Big Plant events. We look forward to your continuing support - the more you put in, the more you'll get out.

Paul Williams

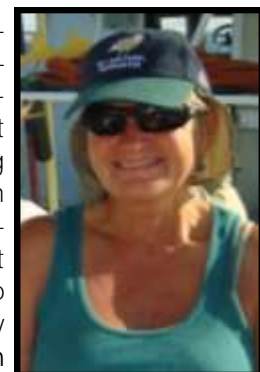


## Editorial,

Nineteen years ago on Mayor Island, I distinctly remember a monument in time, when the chiming of juvenile bellbirds, practicing three melodic bell notes over and over again, stopped me on the track. It never occurred to me then, that I might hear the same enchanting bells on the mainland at Tawharanui.

Last week the Ecology Bush avenue of trees resonated with the three note chimes of juvenile bellbirds, as if they were practicing in preparation for a performance at a debut concert. The forest was alive with a symphony of bird song. Juvenile tui, were calling to parents as they embarked on the new activity of finding their own food. Without the throat tufts it took a few seconds to work out who they were. Whitehead chicks nestled among branches were chirping constantly while busy parents returned every few minutes with food. A North Island robin could be heard warbling nearby. I stood transfixed by the chorus of bird song. Moments of magic such as this, are among the rewards for the work put in by so many people towards the restoration at Tawharanui. And a special thank you to people who work away quietly unnoticed. Thanks go to Keith Edwards who has patiently improved the pateke food dispensers so that pukeko can't access them and Russell Parish who has built a stile at west end which will help the pest proof fence monitors.

Alison Stanes



## Open Sanctuary Coordinator Update

Wildlife translocations are high risk high return conservation management interventions. We have been very fortunate indeed with the success enjoyed to date with kiwi, pateke, robin and whitehead all looking very much like they will become established and deliver the goal of self sustaining populations. 24 Kakariki were reintroduced to Tawharanui Open Sanctuary in March and April 2009. As yet we do not have an established population as dispersal to the adjoining mainland has been very high, leaving birds remaining on park socially isolated and unable to breed. This highlights the inherent uncertainty of any reintroduction and the need to treat each as an experiment to maximise learning. A supplementary translocation is planned for April 2010 with up to 50 birds targeted for transfer from Hauturu/Little Barrier. The main difference with last years release is the intention to shift large numbers all at once to provide the 'conspecific attraction' to assist the birds bonding with their new home. Volunteers will monitor the survival and dispersal of these birds to document what happens in the interests of continuously improving our translocation practices.

One of the positives of providing the security from predators so necessary for native biodiversity recovery is the ability to spread the risk and assist the restoration of other sites. Shore skinks will be harvested from Tawharanui early March to establish a new population on Crusoe Island. These wild lizards will be supplemented with captive bred skinks from Tawharanui stock managed at Massey University. Those present at the February workday were fortunate enough to join in releasing some of these captive animals back to Tawharanui due the presence of *Salmonella*. This pathogen is naturally occurring in the Tawharanui population; however it is not desirable to shift it along with the host skink to a new establishing population.

ARC and TOSSI are supporting a translocation proposal to establish bellbirds at four new locations (Whakanewha Regional Park and Fenwick Scenic Reserve (both on Waiheke Island) Motuihe Island and Hamilton City Gardens). Birds will be sourced both from Tawharanui and Tiritiri Matangi. It is fantastic that this unexpected self introduction is now so numerous (our second most common forest species on park after tui) we can help return this missing treasure to other areas from where it has been long absent. This is further supported by natural range spread from Tawharanui, with bellbird reported on Kawau Is, Matakana Valley and Moirs Hill. This is not just exploration, successful breeding has been confirmed on the Takatu peninsula beyond the reaches of the park and buffer zone (the nest was protected from pests).

Other wildlife snippets of note include sightings of Auckland green gecko at Tokatu point. Two groups of two kaka fledglings were observed in Ecology Bush this summer indicating further successful breeding. A lone male tomtit was sighted on park in early January, the nearest population being the Dome forest, let's hope more follow suit.

A sapling of the threatened milk tree (*Streblus banksii*) was discovered in Possum Gully, a significant distance from the main cluster of plants in Ecology Bush, of which there was only a single adult prior to pest eradication.

Toutouwai/ NI robin have had a bumper season this year with 60 chicks fledged from 11 pair. Unbanded whiteheads have been observed feeding young, indicating a second generation of recruitment and breeding.

Join us for the 2nd Open Sanctuaries research symposium March 24 at Matakana Cinema. Stimulating and informative evening showcasing the behind the scenes research that helps our conservation management. Entry by donation, bookings essential. Contact [matt.maitland@arc.govt.nz](mailto:matt.maitland@arc.govt.nz) or 09 426 1200.

Matt Maitland



### New Website for TOSSI

TOSSI has a sparkling new website developed by Matakana design firm Dallow Boss. The new site includes information about TOSSI and Tawharanui Regional Park, maps, news and upcoming events. Re-developing the website has also allowed us to feature the photography of Alison Stanes and others from TOSSI and the ARC. Visit the new site at [www.tossi.org.nz](http://www.tossi.org.nz) and let us know what you think especially if there are aspects that you think could be improved.

James Ross

## Tawharanui Marine Park– the forgotten gem Roger Grace

It amazes me how few people take advantage of the fantastic snorkeling and scuba-diving opportunities in Tawharanui Marine Park. I snorkeled there twice recently on gorgeous days with hundreds of people on the beach, swimming and surfing. On the first occasion I was the only person snorkeling in the water. On the second occasion I had a buddy, and there was one other snorkeller just entering the water as we ended our hour-long snorkel session around Phoenix Reef. On the same days at Goat Island Marine Reserve there were at least 50 people snorkeling off the beach.

Admittedly the coastline at Tawharanui is more exposed to waves than Goat Island Bay, where the island shelters the beach from the prevailing swell. But on days when there is virtually no swell and the water is clear with an offshore wind, Tawharanui Marine Park is very, very good indeed!

Tawharanui Marine Park was created in 1981, after a lot of debate about whether to try for a Marine Reserve or something else. At the time there was only one totally protected marine area. The Goat Island Marine Reserve was created in 1975, the first to be created under the new Marine Reserves Act (1971). At Tawharanui there were concerns that a total no-take policy was too restrictive, and many people wanted to be able to continue recreational fishing which they maintained did no harm. We now know better!

Eventually, after consultation with the then Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, it was suggested that a Marine Park could be created, jointly using provisions in the Harbours Act for foreshore control, and the Fisheries Act for specific fishing regulations. This was a new idea which had not been used before. The possibility was to have a small amount of recreational fishing allowed within the Marine Park.

Walter Willis, a senior planner with the then Auckland Regional Authority, was a "voice in the wilderness", the only person involved who was adamant that the new Marine Park should be a haven for the fish, where they could get on with their lives without being hassled by fishermen. We are very fortunate that Walter managed to persuade the rest of the team that this was the way to go, and finally the regulations for the Marine Park specified no fishing.

I first got involved with Tawharanui in 1972, about the time it was being purchased by the ARA. After purchase the area was classed as a Regional Reserve closed to the public pending development of park facilities. Together with Marjorie Bacon (now Marjorie van Roon) from the Planning Department, we snorkeled around Flat Rock and mapped the interesting underwater features for what we hoped may eventually become a popular underwater snorkeling trail. I still have that map, which shows features like swim-through tunnels, small air-bubble caves, spectacular overhangs, and crevices where crayfish made their homes.

The Director of Parks at the ARA, Phil Jew, was keen to get some studies going, and commissioned me to undertake a series of studies aimed at defining what the marine life was like and as a basis for following long-term changes when the Park became accessible to the public. In 1977 I set up monitoring sites right around the Tawharanui Peninsula, on or adjacent to the coast backed by the future Regional Park. Intertidal studies included sites to follow rock oysters, and sea urchins or kina in rock pools. Sub tidal sites were established to follow reef fish, crayfish, kina, and habitat changes.

The monitoring was diligently followed for the first few years, with a few gaps, and picked up the early days of the existence of the Marine Park. Then a major administrative change occurred within the ARA (now ARC), and funding for monitoring was cut. After 1986 there followed a 16-year gap in monitoring, during which time some spectacular changes occurred but unfortunately have not been tightly documented.

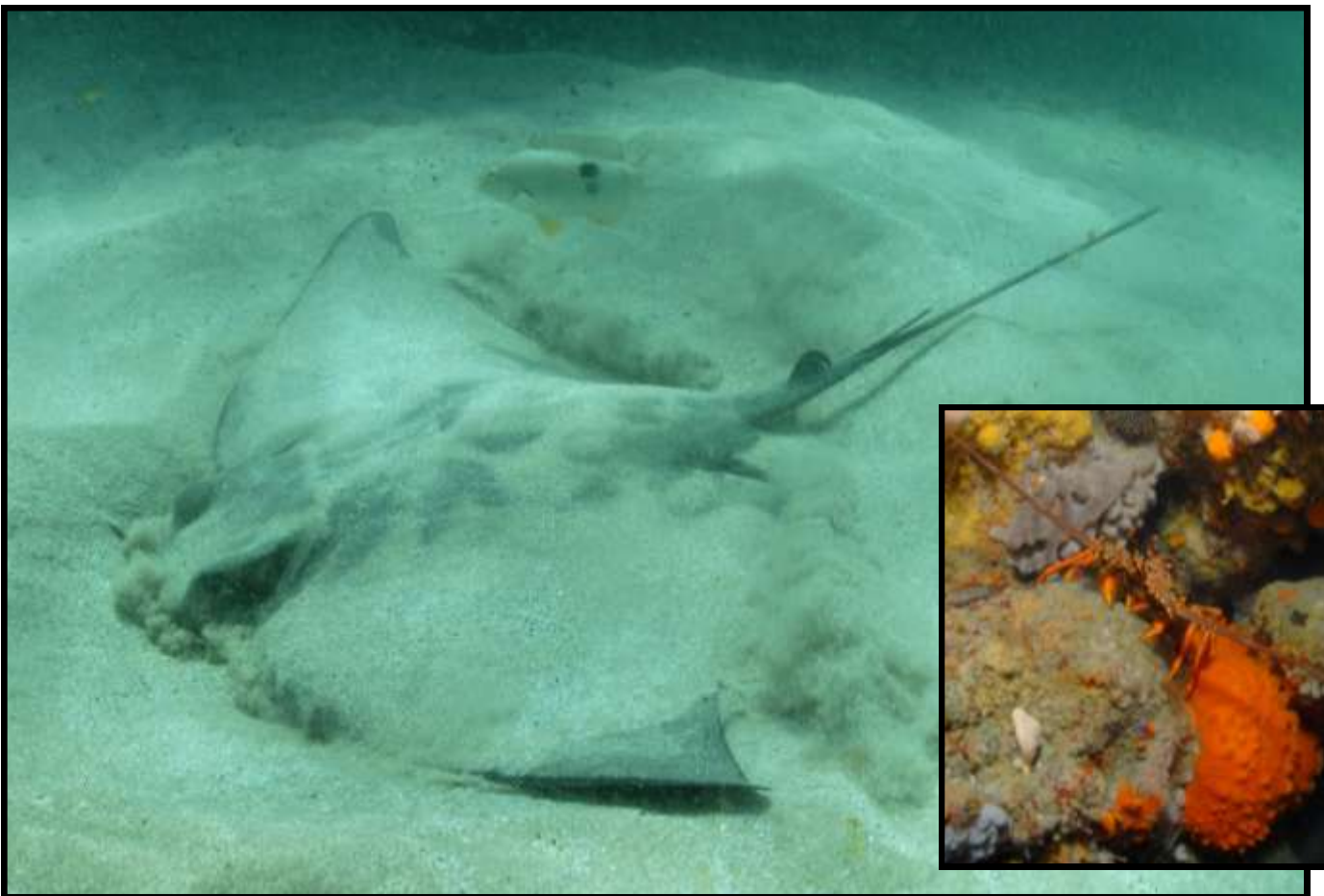
In 2002 a colleague of mine, Vince Kerr, in the Department of Conservation Northland Conservancy, was busily resurrecting a Marine Park at Mimiwhangata north of Whangarei, where I had for many years a parallel monitoring programme to that at Tawharanui. He was particularly interested in crayfish and found some DOC funding to re-ignite the sub tidal component of monitoring at Tawharanui.

Our 2002 monitoring showed a spectacular increase in crayfish in the protected sites around the Park, but a complete crash outside the protected area. Since then additional fish and crayfish monitoring was carried out, once with DOC funding, and last year with no funding – just because I am passionate about the Park and could see the advantages in knowing what was happening there! The crayfish in particular have continued to amaze me with further increases to spectacular proportions!





A large snapper followed me around for 40 minutes over the shallow weed off Phoenix Reef.



This eagle ray was happily feeding on the sand just off the beach in Anchor Bay, while a spotty looked on hoping for a few crumbs.

Insert. A small crayfish in a beautiful underwater garden at Comet Rocks. There are many crayfish in the fully protected Tawharanui Marine Park. Outside the Park you see virtually none!

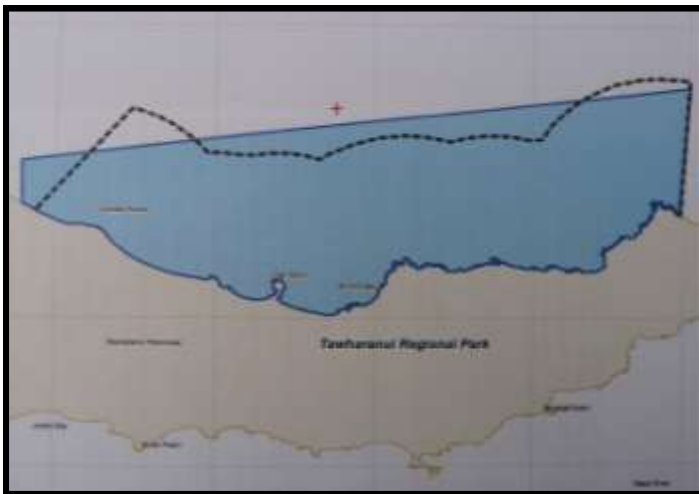
Recently there have been moves to change the status of Tawharanui Marine Park to a full Marine Reserve under the Marine Reserves Act, which would transfer control of the Marine Park to the Department of Conservation. An application was discussed, and advertised by the Auckland Regional Council in February 2003, has been approved by the Minister of Conservation, and awaits concurrence by the Minister of Fisheries.

Concurrently with the Marine Reserve application some adjustments have been made to the boundary of the Marine Park, in order to make it easier for people to judge whether they are inside or outside the protected area. This mainly involved changing to straight-line boundaries, instead of the half-a-nautical-mile distance off the coast as at present.

Next issue I will fill out some detail on results of the monitoring. I'm sure you will be impressed by the spectacular changes within the Park, and the contrast with what has happened outside the Park. This data set, spanning over 30 years, is one of the longest shallow rocky reef marine monitoring data sets in the country, if not the world. It is now used as a prime example of what can be achieved with a no-take policy in our inshore waters, and parallels changes recorded in the Marine Reserve at Goat Island, but in some ways is even better!

Roger Grace

From Marine Park - - - - to Marine Reserve—



### 3 January Sunday in the Park

Fourteen adults and one child attended and we worked in the nursery under the leadership of Elizabeth Clark. (The four year old, Emily, kept busy collecting the tubes and storing them, and then complained at the end because she wanted to keep working.) 551 kanuka were potted.

The food was organised by Steve & Elizabeth. Some of the public assumed it was for sale so Elizabeth explained it wasn't but suggested a donation for the excess.

Kit Brown, secretary, Motuora Restoration Society, joined in and spent time with Elizabeth afterwards looking around the nursery.

There was quite a long period of socializing at the lunch area near the woolshed. Several small groups took the ARC self guiding brochure to use during a walk on the Ecology Trail. There was no organized presentation at this first event of the year.

Joe Crandle Host







Young recruits help pack plants in the nursery at January Sunday in the Park.



A young family releasing shore skink at February Sunday in the Park.

## 7 February Sunday in the Park

In the continuing effort to make the first Sunday of each month attractive to a wider group of participants and to get people into the habit of marking their calendars and coming to Tawharanui, each Sunday not designated as a specific work session (such as Planting days in the winter and Art in the Woolshed in March) will have a presentation to the group after a sausage sizzle lunch by one of the permit holders for research in the Park. These are usually university graduates doing field work studies with their academic programs to achieve advanced degrees. There are currently nine people engaged at the Park in this activity at various times. We had Josie Galbraith give us a power point presentation about her continuing work on The Ecology of the Eastern Rosella which is intended to evaluate the effect of this Australian parrot on the native New Zealand species, particularly the Kakariki (red crowned parakeet) recently reintroduced into Tawharanui from Little Barrier Island.

In addition, last Sunday the Massey University team who have been using shore skinks from the sand dunes of Tawharanui to breed a new core population of these attractive little reptiles returned the original group back into our dunes. The "Sunday in the Park with TOSSI" participants were able to watch their release. The skinks had done their job of procreating enough offspring to form an initial colony to be translocated by Massey researchers to Crusoe Island in the Hauraki Gulf. We are unsure if these skinks actually earned an advanced degree from Massey for their efforts.

Steve Harrison Host

## 28 February Woolshed Preparation

Preparing for Art in the Woolshed started with a tsunami warning and Tawharanui Regional Park closed. It seemed that the whole preparation program was going to run a day late. However, by mid-day workers were permitted to go to the woolshed since the civil defence warning had been reduced to staying away from beaches. Sixteen happy hard working souls with much enthusiasm turned inside the woolshed into a gallery. A big thank you goes to those involved. On Monday Helen Crosby the Art in the Woolshed coordinator was informed by McEntee Hire that the marquees were to go up on Tuesday instead of Wednesday, so instead of plans running a day behind they are now a day ahead!



Alison Stanes

Art in the Woolshed



Barry Lett, Gary Horton and Mike Petre hang art works in the woolshed.



Barry Ferguson and Diana Winter install colourful banners.



Kay Mc Glashan documents items for the shop.

Below: Tanya Blong with her sculpture *Migration*.  
Below right: Visitors view art in the woolshed.



Maurice Puckett on the tractor installs Glen Davis's sculpture named *Intersection*.







Wings, by James Wright



Brick *Bollards* by Peter Lange in the sculpture garden.



*Three Heads* by Barry Lett.



*Climbing Wall* by Matt McLean

Below: Customers enjoy the shop.

Below: *Barnemone* by Douglas Todd.



## Art in the Woolshed – 6<sup>th</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010

As this is being written the 5<sup>th</sup> Art in the Woolshed is approaching the final weekend. Firstly and most importantly, we would really like to acknowledge the huge volunteer effort that has been made by so many TOSSI people and others to ensure the success of the show. Without naming everyone, thank you all very much - it would not happen without you.

The Art in the Woolshed committee would also like to thank the exhibiting artists for their continuing support, Mike Petre and Barry Lett as the curators and TOSSI partner the Auckland Regional Council.

There was a lot of debate about whether TOSSI should hold this exhibition with the decision being made more than a year ago right in the middle of the recession. The TOSSI committee decided to proceed with AITW as it is more than just our main biennial fund-raiser, it is an art event in its own right and it raises the awareness of our sanctuary, and the work we are all doing within TOS.

The feedback about AITW 2010 so far has been great and there have been more than 2400 people, including art lovers, walking groups, secondary school groups, and garden clubs, through the exhibition with still the weekend to go. You will have to wait until the next newsletter for the end results of the exhibition.

The three environmental art installations have intrigued and stimulated many visitors and may have downright confused others, but they have added another valid dimension to the event which would be great to see built on in the future.

It is clear that Art in the Woolshed still has legs for the future however they may walk: so from the current committee, all the best for AITW 2012!

Helen Crosby – AITW 2010 Coordinator



### Volunteers required for night surveys

The outer Hauraki Gulf, is an area that is globally important for 14 species of tubenose seabird (petrels and shearwaters) who might one day call nearby Tawharanui home. Grey faced petrel last year returned to Tawharanui and fledged a chick. Volunteers are sought for further night time surveys for prospecting petrels from April through August. Interested volunteers should contact [secretary@tossi.org.nz](mailto:secretary@tossi.org.nz)

### Planting 2010

This year's planting will be a continuation of the planting in the Twin Hills area, which is a 3 to 4 year program. The first planting will be an ARC event on Sunday 2 May. Initially we will be planting in the wetland area of Twin Hills and later in the year will be moving up the slopes.

The plants are grown in the TOSSI nursery from seed collected in our local ecological district. Tawharanui peninsula is the main area we collect from but at times we collect from other coastal areas in the district. The main reason for ecological sourcing is to maintain genetic diversity. At first sight, it might appear that genetic diversity is increased by bringing in outside plants but in fact this may dilute local genetic adaptations thereby reducing genetic diversity.

Apart from ecological sourcing we also need to consider plant mixes for areas such as Twin Hills. Forest make up varies considerably within Tawharanui Regional Park. Factors such as north/south orientation, gully or ridge site have significant impact on forest composition. This influence is well appreciated when walking the Ecology trail. The broadleaf/nikau mix in the gully changes dramatically to a podocarp/kauri/kanuka mix as one starts walking up towards the ridges. We try therefore, in our plantings, to mirror these differences and not introduce plants where they would not naturally occur. We hope you will be able to join us and create another "Ecology trail" for the future on one or more of our planting days.

Planting days for 2010 Sunday May 2 Saturday and Sunday June 5 and 6 (Queens Birthday weekend)

Sunday August 8

Steve Palmer plant coordinator



Pateke Release  
 40 pateke were released on  
 10 February 2010



Photos: speeches followed by food generously donated by "Nosh" of Matakana, a little wait for the pateke to arrive from Christchurch and finally releasing pateke in Ecology Stream.

Jim Clarke of TOSSI releases a pateke.



Fiona Mc Kenzie of Shakespeare Open Sanctuary committee holding a pateke while Amelie Maitland and Sam Kee watch on.

**"It's gone!"**

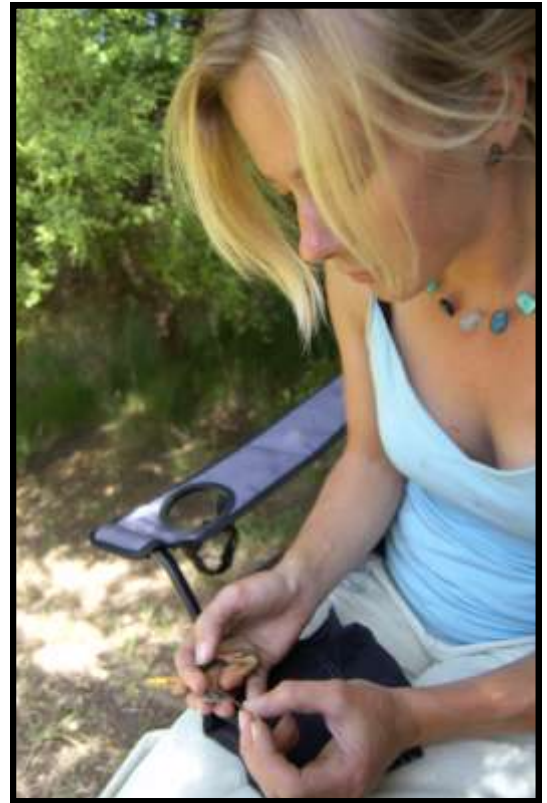




Tui chick.



Tui fledgling have no iconic white throat tufts.



Sarah Wells takes blood samples from a tui.



Hungry tui chicks at Tawharanui. Photos : Sarah Wells

## Research on the mating system of tui

My work at Tawharanui Regional Park forms part of my PhD project at Massey University on the Tui (*Prosthemodera novaeseelandiae*). The Tui is a much loved New Zealand endemic honeyeater, and is familiar to most New Zealanders for its beautiful and unusual song, remarkable iridescent plumage and white throat tufts, and its habit of terrorising other birds!

Despite its familiarity, little is actually known about the Tui. Most studies on New Zealand birds have focused on more endangered species such as kiwi or the kakapo. As a result, little is known of the Tui's basic ecology and breeding habits. Tui appear to be one of the few species that have adapted well to human colonisation and development, although reasons for this are not well understood. However Tui are not immune to the changes in land-use occurring in New Zealand, as seen in the subspecies endemic to the Chatham Islands which was reduced through habitat clearance to just 260 adults by 1999.

My PhD in the wider sense investigates Tui population structure throughout New Zealand and the affect of habitat fragmentation on Tui populations. My research at Tawharanui looks at Tui mating systems and basic breeding biology. Tawharanui provides an ideal sanctuary for studying Tui, and as anyone who takes a quick stroll through the park can tell you, numbers here are wonderfully high. This has given me easy access to many Tui nests for my study. I have been present in the park throughout the Tui's breeding season, which lasts from the beginning of September to the end of January. Tui nests are quite conspicuous, being usually very large with a messy look to them, being made out of twigs and lined with fern fronds. However they can often be very well hidden in leaves at the ends of high branches. Common tree choices are manuka, kanuka, lemonwood, and pohutukawa.

Once a nest is found, I colour-band the parents for individual identification, and collect blood samples from both parents and chicks for DNA analysis in order to determine parentage, and in particular paternity. With the increasingly widespread use of genetics in studies of mating systems, it has been discovered that many passerine species partake in Extra-Pair Copulations, particularly the females! This means that the female may mate with more than one male, and therefore the supposed father guarding the nest may not actually be looking after his own offspring! As these matings are rarely observed, most song birds were thought to be monogamous. It is only with the advent of genetic analysis that the true mating behaviour of many birds has been revealed.

With the breeding season just over, analysis of samples has not yet been done. However, fieldwork was very successful, with blood samples obtained from 10 nests in which both parents plus chicks were sampled, and 9 more in which only one parent was sampled. Next season should be even more successful, with many birds having been banded this year, which will therefore not need to be re-caught. From observations of these nests I have found that both the male and female feed chicks-a behaviour which has not yet been clarified-although the amount of paternal care varies greatly from nest to nest, with some males not feeding chicks at all. Most Tui have 2 clutches per season, and most of these appear to be successful. I have found evidence of predation in only 2 of 19 nests; one of these an observed predation by Pukeko, and the other unknown with only feathers being found under the nest.

With most nests found already with chicks, hatching success is not easy to gauge. I have found some nests with unhatched eggs so it would seem that fertility is an issue in some nests at least. The number of chicks appears to vary from 1 to 4, with 2.6 being the average. Fledging success appears clearer, with early indications that around 82.4% of chicks survive to fledging, although more data is needed to verify this. This is no doubt grace to the eradication of predators in the park.

I will be analysing the blood samples this winter, and will be back next September to find more nests. I am aiming for 20, which should be enough to give a reliable estimation of Tui mating behaviour. I would like to thank ARC for funding this research, in particular Tim Lovegrove and Matt Maitland. I would also like to thank Maurice for his help, kindness, and always smiling face during my stay at the park; Barry Lett for allowing me free reign on his Tui; and to my volunteer Damien who overcame the fear of feisty Tui and their claws and was an invaluable help throughout the season. I look forward to seeing you all next September!

Sarah Wells

## Concert in the park 30 December.

One hundred campers attended and thoroughly enjoyed a concert in the natural amphitheatre in Cactus paddock on the south side of the Camp ground. Raewyn and I represented TOSSI with considerable help from rangers Maurice and Colin. It was a good evening, typical of previous concerts according to the reports from other committee members. We were given donations totalling \$145.40. I dropped off a thank you letter at the camp organiser's tent the next morning.

Joe Crandle



## New Zealand Dotterel Report

The roller coaster of despair and ecstasy monitoring New Zealand dotterels, as mentioned in the last newsletter, has tended more towards ecstasy in the latter part of the 09-10 season. It appears that once the black-backed gull chicks had fledged less adult gulls were searching for food for their own chicks, giving the New Zealand dotterel chicks a reprieve and a chance to fledge later in the season.

New Zealand dotterels were persistent this season, one pair having four attempts at nests which means laying twelve eggs, before achieving a successful brood. This has been a longer season not being completed until the beginning of March where as last season finished by 22 January. Management of feral cats and an offending black-backed gull at West End have also helped improve the numbers for the season.

Non nesting black-backed gulls appear to be transient. A flock of 16 resided at Anchor Bay for over a week in December. One day during that week three dotterel chicks disappeared the day they hatched and three dotterel eggs also disappeared. The gulls moved on and have not returned. As a result by February visitors to Anchor Bay were delighted at watching five fluffy little NZ dotterel chicks scurrying here and there in search of tiny edibles. By the end of the season 13 NZ dotterel chicks fledged.

### Annual summary

Year	Nests	Pairs	Eggs	Eggs lost	Chicks	Fledged	Chicks Lost	Adults lost	
06-07	16	9	40	14	26	17	9	Males m-OR and GO-OG lost off nest.	2
07-08	13	10	32	10	22	10	12	Male YM-YK lost off nest	1
08-09	15	10	44	10	31	5	26	Males GO-GY and YR-YR with 3 chicks each	2
09-10	11	10	49	21	28	13	15	UB+OB-WG last seen 12/11/09 lost off nest	1

## Variable Oystercatcher Report

Two chicks fledged in November and three fledged at the end of February making a total of five for the season. Through December and January 15 eggs disappeared from six nest. All these nests were exposed suggesting avian predators might have been involved.

Alison Stanes



## A Walk on the Wild side

Sponsored by TOSSI

Place: Tawharanui Regional Park.

Another Owl prowl may take place in May if there is sufficient interest.

Bring dinner for a beach side picnic and chat with Jo Ritchie who was project manager during the installation of the pest proof fence.

After dinner Jo will lead the night walk along the coast and through the Ecology Bush.

You need to be reasonably fit as there will be some off track walking.

Please bring good walking shoes (no jandals), a walking stick, one torch per person, a snack, and water. Walk not suitable for young children.

The walk will take 3 hours and is free, but donations to TOSSI would be appreciated. Bookings are essential. The owl prowl is limited to 15 people.

Email: [secretary@tossi.org.nz](mailto:secretary@tossi.org.nz) to reserve. A waiting list will be created if more than 15 people respond.

You will be notified by email meeting place details and your booking confirmed.

Sharon Kast

## Wanted — kakariki monitors

to use the telemetry gear and check out kakariki after the release in April. Ex. pateke and kiwi monitors welcome. New recruitments will be trained.

Please call Alison 09 5240291 now, or Jan 09 422 2356 during April

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

Rodney District Council

Pub Charities

Lion Foundation

Southern Paprika

ASB charitable Trust

A K Franks Charitable Trust

Action Bio Community

World Wild Life fund

Scottwood Trust

Bell Investment Trust

David and Genevieve Becroft Foundation

Endeavour Trust

Perry foundation

West Auckland District tramping Club

NZ Parks and Conservation Foundation

BNZ Save the Kiwi trust

Ransom Wines

Ducks Unlimited

Matakana Hardware

Environment Initiatives Fund

## TOSSI COMMITTEE

Chair	Paul Williams	09 425 9877
Vice Chair	Steve Palmer	09 368 7074
Secretary	David Stone	09 528 5712
Treasurer	Joe Crandle	09 425 8573
Editor	Alison Stanes	09 524 0291
	Sharon Kast	09 422 9990
	Jan Halliday	09 422 2356
	Steve Harrison	09 425 8500
	James Ross	09 422 6760

Correspondence Chairperson  
or Membership Secretary  
P.O Box 112  
Matakana 0948, New Zealand

Email [secretary@tossi.org.nz](mailto:secretary@tossi.org.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:

- 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

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



Beach visitors enjoy Anchor Bay on a hot summer day. Insert. A red-billed gull with no feet has been observed for the last two seasons in the safe surrounds of Tawharanui Open Sanctuary.



NZ dotterel chicks stepping out this season at Anchor Bay.



Three week old NZ dotterel chicks without their mature tail feathers.