



TAWHARANUI OPEN SANCTUARY SOCIETY INC.
Newsletter No. 59 Dec. 2016



80 Duvaucel's gecko now reside at Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary, the first mainland population of this largest New Zealand's lizard for at least 60 if not 100 years.



Coming Events

Sun 5 Feb. 9.15am. Sunday in the Park. A range of light tasks around the park followed by a BBQ.

Sun 5 March 9.15am. Sunday in the Park. A range of light tasks around the park followed by a BBQ.

Sun 25 March 9.15 am COSSI Day Conservation Organisations Sausage and sharing Day includes BBQ see page 11

Sun 2 April 9.15 am. Sunday in the Park. A range of tasks around the park followed by a BBQ .

Volunteer Days

Tuesdays 9am The nursery team meets at the Tawharanui nursery. If you would like to join this dedicated team
Contact: Ray Blackburn 425 4995 magsandray@gmail.com

Thursdays 9am A small group of volunteers meet at the Vol Hole for interesting track and maintenance work.
Contact: Roger Williams 425 9127 port.williams@clear.net.nz

Volunteer checking (to be done in your own time) See inside of the back page.

Chairperson's Comment

Fourteen years ago at the TOSSI inaugural meeting in the woolshed I volunteered myself for the committee and drove home thinking, "What I have I got myself into?" I was not completely sure what an open sanctuary meant. I was even gullible enough to think that once we built the pest proof fence that would be the end of predators inside the park. It did not enter my head that they might sneak around the ends of the fence and the trapping was going to be ongoing. I never considered back then, on that one day, that I would ever be editor of the newsletter and chairperson. My dreams were to be involved outside in the fresh air physically helping in the environment and doing something worthwhile towards saving endangered species. I completely overlooked the fact that someone had to do the gritty administration and paperwork.



Rhys and Shelia Thompson took on the newsletter as well as establishing TOSSI. I remember congratulating them on the neat newsletter and thanking them for the time involved in its production not realising that after Helen Crosby I was next for the job. This proves that when you join the TOSSI committee one does not know where it will take you, learning new skills and undertaking jobs you never dreamed of.

Time has caught up with me and it is my turn to do a two year stint as chairperson. Fortunately the TOSSI committee is well established with a strong well grounded knowledgeable team of passionate volunteers. This makes life easier for the chairperson. I feel privileged taking my turn in the role coordinating TOSSI with the Auckland Council. This Open Sanctuary is the first that combines conservation, farming and recreation.

Among the many things I have learnt over the years of being involved with TOSSI, is who eats what? Every thing has to eat something but I had not really thought much about it. As part of their diets, orca eat stingray, snapper eat cockles, volute eat pipi, morepork and black-backed gulls eat chicks, harrier eat dotterel eggs, grey-faced petrel eat squid, rogue pukeko eat an occasional duckling and so do shags and eels who come up underneath and snatch them. This all comes under the broad umbrella called evolution.

And now it is unfortunate that the Hereford Friesian cross cattle new at Tawharanui have eaten some of our prize carefully tendered mistletoe that Steve and Penny Palmer had established, leaving only one splendid specimen which is now guarded by an electric fence. The pure Friesians grazed earlier by the Council showed no interest in the mistletoe but the new breed are more inquisitive and obviously have a sophisticated palate. It is fortunate that volunteer Mark Paterson has taken the project on board and many more sticky seedlings have been transported by Mark, instead by bird beaks, and attached to host totara hopefully well away from the cattle.

During a visit to the South Island I saw acres of yellow lupin flourishing in parks, wasteland and on braided river beds. I felt extremely grateful to all those volunteers who helped remove lupin from the Tawharanui dunes. If we had left them they would have completely engulfed the dunes by now. It just shows what can be achieved by persistent, determined volunteers. One successful conservation effort that was interesting in the south was at the marina at Lake Wanaka where rafts had been made by volunteers for endemic crested grebe to nest on. Eight crested grebe sat proudly on eggs while the activity of the marina carried on around them. I could not help but think how lucky we are at Tawharanui that many species have successful stories because of our efforts. Thank you all.

Happy Christmas. Alison Stanes. alison.purple@xtra.co.nz

PS At the Christmas party the many volunteers contributing to the TOSSI story were thanked. However I apologise for forgetting one of the most important teams. The Fence Checkers just quietly get on every week walking the length of the Pest Proof Fence making sure the pest proof fence is in tact and the sanctuary is safe from incursions. A big thank you to you. Your job is among the most important on the park.

Open Sanctuary Senior Ranger update



Two overgrown takahē made an appearance at the TOSSI Christmas party. I was given the task of attempting to round them up and show them the serious business of laying eggs and producing chicks. To the hilarity of those present there ensued a pantomime of troublesome birds acting clumsily or mischievously (I'm not entirely sure which!) running off and kicking away their 'egg'. Although light entertainment, it was very descriptive of our recent takahē happenings.

We had an eventful Sunday In September with two takahē detected beyond the fence by monitors Karen and Brady. With great thanks to our neighbours several of us headed out to attempt a round up. The birds must have known this and parked up in head high gorse – such joy! Unfortunately for us their duty cycle transmitters went 'off air' at 4pm ending any ability to track or hunt them that day. The following day a great team effort was launched and both birds lured in much gentler country, into a catch pen and repatriated and placed in a holding pen. This wasn't a jail for naughty birds. It was apparent that the breakout was hard on the birds and female Whito was underweight and could do with extra kai, which is easiest in a captive environment. After six weeks in the pen I was about to let them free when they engineered a jailbreak of their own with a tree knocking down part of their pen. Freedom hasn't suited Whito well and today (Dec 6) we have sent her to Te Anau for some southern care to get her back into a healthy weight range.

We welcomed two new takahē on 21 September. Eddy (male) was destined to join Bowen (female) on park but Bowen managed to engineer an escape from her pen two days before transfer. A rejig of plans had Eddy paired with new female Ruiha at Burwood Bush and then transported north. Although they bonded well at Burwood, that pairing lasted about five minutes after release with birds going separate ways and now each is integrated with existing groups.

Representatives: Council staff, TOSSI and sponsors
Fulton Hogan carry the two takahe to the new site.



The best takahē news is three of our four groups of birds breeding this year. Tracking the regular reports of our excellent volunteer radio tracking team I was able to spot changes in behaviour with certain birds not seen and 'going to ground'. Closer monitoring led me to two nests, one in each of Mangatawhiri wetland and Waikokowai (Ecology) stream. The Mangatawhiri birds sat and sat and sat beyond full term and appear to have given up. The Waikokowai birds hatched at least one of their three eggs but this chick was unfortunately first found dead in the stream which flowed 1m nearby the nest. A real shame, but a first sign of breeding success.

I never actually pinned the location of the third nest as it was in dense high carex (well done nursery and planting teams!). Repeat observations showed an eventual move by the sitting bird. Still no closer to finding nest or nest remnants we trained a game camera on their feeder and were fortunate enough to catch a little black fuzz ball racing through behind the adults. Hooray! I was so delighted that all our hard work protecting the park, establishing takahē and monitoring them in their new home had paid off and we might meet our core takahē objective of contributing new birds to the national flock. We celebrate this success but at the same stage note that this chick has a long way to go yet. Management will be completely hands off for at least three month and the chick doesn't officially enter the national census until 1 October next year.

Another highlight of the last month was (yet another) first for national conservation. Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary is now home to 80 Duvaucel's gecko, NZ's largest gecko species. A partnership between TOSSI, Auckland Council and Massey University, with generous support from the Becroft Foundation, has seen these animals returned to the mainland for the first time in around a century. This long term research programme led by Dr Manu Barry of Massey will look at the ecology of the species and how they fare in the presence of mice.

A celebration of the return of these handsome beasts was held on 6 November with an excellent and informative presentation from Manu on the geckos and their ecology. This was followed by a chance to get up close and personal with several live geckos from the captive research population managed by Manu. The most common comment was 'aren't they huge', and these animals were not yet fully grown!

With kind regards, Matt Maitland

I can be contacted at matt.maitland@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or 09 426 1200

Takahe



Ranger Maurice Puckett releases runaway White and Kikorango into a captive environment for supplementary feeding.



If you look hard at this photo taken by a camera installed at a feeder you can see the dark shadow of a takahe chick in the left corner.

Introducing the TOSSI Committee

I guess I've always been interested in the natural world, the great outdoors and taking the path less trodden. Over the years we have lived in a number of regions and had the privilege of exploring many parts of New Zealand which has given me a fundamental understanding of our amazing country. Returning to Auckland in 2000 we began re-exploring the wider region and headed northeast one weekend. My first visit to Tawharanui (or Takatu Point as my friends called it then) was in 1979. At the end of a windy, dusty road it was like a little slice of undeveloped paradise. Fast forward 25 years and I got that same sense of wonderment that it still existed but, EVEN BETTER, there were now reintroduced native species due to that predator proof fence. Inspired by what we found we began coming to Sundays in the Park and joined TOSSI. One of those days a couple of years ago I was wandering back for a well-earned lunch. Ngaire was alongside me and mentioned the committee needed a new treasurer at the AGM. Karyn Hoksbergen Treasurer



Most of my waking moments have been spent in education of one sort or another. I enjoy travel and have visited all seven continents, with highlights that include Yosemite National Park, the Antarctic Peninsula and Hauturu. This shows that I prefer outdoor areas to city streets though I do enjoy visiting New York. At Tawharanui I run the takahe and kiwi monitoring programmes, help out in the nursery and do BBQ duties for work days. Tawharanui first came onto my radar as a camping destination with a group of friends, many years ago but it wasn't until we moved to Warkworth in 2000 that I started coming to planting days and becoming more involved. I enjoy getting people enthused about our park. I'm enthusiastic about the idea that all of NZ could be like Tawharanui with its variety of endemic creatures, if only we could get rid of the furry mammalian predators and think smarter about development. Imagine having takahe and kiwi in your back yard! The technology is almost here. We just need to get the predator free spaces joined up. I'm also the Chair of the Warkworth Area branch of Forest & Bird. I look forward to the day when we don't need the pest fence at Tawharanui any more! When that happens, our many translocated animals will be able to spread out through to an environment that is safe again. Sally Richardson



When Kim and I moved to Matakana several years ago we were escaping the Rat Race. Reduced work demands meant time for some community focused time. I saw an article about the TOSSI Nursery Group and decided that fitted the requirement. I didn't realise it would also involve volunteering for a trap line, joining the committee and being heavily involved in the planting days. The best part is, we are loving it. It wasn't long before my wife, Kim, joined me with the trap line and then the other activities. I didn't realise what a great park Tawharanui was and how much enjoyment we would get supporting the work being done. Having spent many years in scouting, tramping and other outdoor activities it suits me perfectly. Being able to add value project managing activities such as the Bulk Potting Mix Bin, allows me to bring my work skills into action. I live on a lifestyle block, I work as an IT/Business Consultant and my clients know I spend Tuesdays at Tawharanui. Roger Grove Vice Chair



I grew up in France planning to become a teacher but soon left the country to see the big wide world around for several years. I have been in the "Rodney" region, for the last three decades teaching in different schools. With my growing family, we have been enjoying this beautiful part of the world and in particular "Tawharanui Regional Park" many times and, which I think is a specially beautiful peninsula, a jewel. I recalled the first time I was in this Regional Park and how I felt happy in this environment. I still feel the same today.

I am well aware of the fantastic asset here we all have. I have been actively involved with the park for the last 15 years doing tree planting, weeding, construction, bird monitoring, school tours and I recently joined the committee. Gilbert Barruel



My first experience of Tawharanui was when a bunch of us young larrikins set out in the wee small hours after a party on a mystery fishing trip. After a long and dusty drive along a very windy gravel road, dawn found us on a sweep of gravel beach complete with a couple of wrecked ships and various other pieces of rusting ironwork sticking up here and there. (That would have been Jones Bay where an old bund and jetty stood during the time that the area which is now a lagoon was quarried.) Years later I rediscovered Tawharanui when I joined the pateke monitors and the nursery unaware that the nursery role was going to take over a great part of my life.

Ray Blackburn



Tawharanui Regional Park became a favourite destination for our family starting with days enjoying the surf and beach cricket at Anchor Bay when our children were young. Since then Jill and I have spent a lot of time at what we fondly referred to as "Tuffers".

After a walk to Tokatu Point one weekend we came across an early "Art In The Woolshed" exhibition. Impressed with the event and the enthusiasm of the TOSSI crew and the purpose of TOSSI, we became members. Planting and Volunteer days followed and at one an invitation was made for me to join the Committee, and for about seven years I was Secretary. As a lawyer I'm mostly involved in administration, governance, legal matters and fund raising. Planting days and Volunteer Sundays remain regular events, sometimes with other family members and friends, and Jill and I are responsible for North Coast trapline A.

TOS and TOSSI help fulfil a belief in and active commitment to the preservation and protection of New Zealand's natural resources going back to my University days and the then Native Forest Action Council and the Maruia Society.

For my generation involvement in conservation and environmental protection and preservation initiatives are a satisfying and constructive way of 'giving back' to New Zealand society. TOSSI exemplifies that possibility having a variety of talented and committed members and helpers in all aspects of its activities. David Stone



I grew up in Melbourne in a family that enjoyed birdwatching, camping, sailing and bushwalking. Like most Australians we pretty well stuck to the green coastal strip of the wide brown land. Spending four days in the Victorian Mallee changed all that for me. The Mallee is a semi-arid region of sandhills, low scrub and dry lake beds with a fauna and flora all its own. Beguiled by its subtle beauty I spent many weeks camping amongst native pines and bulokes, helped a friend with his PhD on malleefowl and eventually worked to have large parts of this region protected in National Parks. I moved to Leigh 14 years ago, about the time that the Open Sanctuary was being created, and still can't believe how fortunate I am to have such a project so close to home. I started doing a trapline along the South Coast thanks to Rhys Thompson and was eventually 'encouraged' onto the committee by Sharon Kast. James Ross



My first introduction to the natural history world came when I grew up on a farm near Clevedon. My twin and I joined Girl Guides and achieved many badges one of which was Ornithology. Under the guidance of Ross McKenzie a well known local Ornithologist we observed and documented nests from construction to fledging. In our garden, orchard and farm these included black bird, song thrush and fantail. For viewing we used a mirror attached to a stick and held it over the nests, going the same time each day so that the birds got used to us. We also helped with banding pied stilts catching the chicks and delivering them to Ross McKenzie who sat in his car and banded them, and then we returned them to their nests. My interest in birds took a gap of 45 years involved with work and family before retirement brought me to Tawharanui where the intrigues of the natural world took hold again.

Alison Stanes Chairperson



Duvaucel's gecko arrive at Tawharanui



Duvaucel's gecko is New Zealand's largest living lizard and one of the biggest geckos in the world. It was named after Alfred Duvaucel who was a French explorer and collector of animal samples in the early 19th Century. When a large gecko specimen was found in a cupboard in the British Museum, people assumed it had come from India as part of Duvaucel's collection. Thus in 1836 it was named Duvaucel's gecko. It is not clear who actually collected the first specimen in NZ and had it sent for describing. Sally Richardson



Dr. Manu Barry from Massey University and Chris Wedding display a healthy Duvaucel gecko ready for releasing at Tawharanui.



At the function introducing Duvaucel gecko Tim Harker Ecology student from Massey and Sally Richardson from TOSSI check one out.



Manu shows a gecko to Chrissie Parker and Alison Stanes.



Matt Maitland and daughters along with Roger Williams can be seen practising their artistic skills painting plaster gecko.



Genevieve Becroft, Manu Barry and Tabitha Becroft release Duvaucel gecko. The Becroft Trust was key sponsor making the translocation possible.



Chris Wedding, Ranger Evan Cameron and Matt Maitland carry Duvaucel gecko to the site for release.



Ngaire Wallen releases a gecko.

More Duvaucel gecko are ready to take up a new life at Tawharanui.

TOSSI Christmas barbecue



Runaway takahe Kikorango and Whito turn up with an egg at the Christmas party.



A delicious barbecue lunch was enjoyed in the shade of the decorated Council pagoda. Thanks to all.

Nursery Report December 2016.

The seasons come and go in the nursery. It's Summer now so that means transferring tubed seedlings into PB3 bags ready for planting. Last Tuesday our bagging programme started in earnest. With the help of ten CVNZ volunteers, plus their supervisor Bruce, visiting from their base at Atiu Creek Park, we were able to produce over 1300 flax and manuka. It's good to see the loaded trolleys heading out of the shed once more. For some reason, possibly the warmer spring, we're several weeks ahead of this time last year. This is a great start.

We now have a new clear roof over our germination / seedling area. It's suddenly gone from being too cool and dark to too hot and bright. Seems we can't win. We're busy draping shade cloth over the roof to cool things down a bit. But it will be wonderful next winter.

Our new bulk soil bin is making good progress thanks to Roger Grove and team. When this is complete it should save us quite a lot of time and money.

A couple of weeks back some of our group spent the morning in last year's planting removing weeds and tree guards It's doing amazingly well. The trees are already head high. Go take a look some time.

Merry Christmas, Ray Blackburn

Update on the robin population,

The robin population has been fairly stable over the past few seasons, with about 36 breeding females. So far this season, 60 young have been banded of a total of about 70 known to have fledged. This figure is very similar to the numbers produced at the same time last year, but less than the very productive 2013-14 season, when we had banded 96 young by 5 December. By the end of last season we had banded 112 young and by the end of the 2013-14 season we had banded 135 young.

We've had a few nest failures this year, most of which appear to be due to the weather and various natural causes. Spring was wet and cool, and some nests appear to have been abandoned during heavy rain. This year our cohort colour for the young birds is orange, so keep a look out for dispersing young birds with either orange over metal on the left leg, or orange over metal on the right leg, and two other colours on the other leg. Tim Lovegrove, Richard Chambers & Kevin Parker

New Zealand dotterel

YW-RB is back. For NZ dotterel monitors this is great news. YW-RB was banded at Jones Bay on 9 November 2007. Over the next seven years she and her partner GO-YO fledged 17 of the 50 chicks fledged on the park. More than any other pair of dotterel at Tawharanui.

In 2014 GO-YO died. His body and bands were handed in by a fisherman. Sharon Kast had observed GO-YO attacking a cock pheasant a few days earlier and it will never be known if the death was a result of this incident.

The following season YW-RB paired with GO-KO leaving an un-banded female abandoned for the season. YW-RB and GO-YO made their attempts at nesting and were unsuccessful at fledging any chicks. GO-YO was not as committed to helping as her previous partner GO-KO. So YW-RB left the relationship and found a new partner and nested at Waikawa Bay. This season she has brought back an un-banded partner and is nesting at Three Post Bay a little further east of Jones Bay. It will be interesting to see how they manage bringing up chicks here as the bay has fewer stones than Jones that hid feeding chicks from soaring black-backed gulls.

To date there are four chicks on the park and six nests with three eggs each.

Alison Stanes, Sharon Kast and Cheri Crosby.

Australian painted lady butterflies at Tokatu in November

On 11 November I saw at least two Australian painted lady butterflies (*Vanessa kershawi*) on the track out to Tokatu Point. Although I have not seen this species at Tawharanui before, it is a regular spring migrant to New Zealand, and they are known to breed here during the summer. It is thought that locally-bred young don't survive our cooler winters, and fresh migrants arrive from Australia each spring. Their host plants are various species in the daisy family, such as the cudweeds and other daisies (e.g. *Gamochaeta*, *Gnaphalium*, *Helicrysum*, *Arctotis* etc.). These include common wayside weeds and garden ornamentals. *Gamochaeta* grows on the track out to Takatu.

I saw a painted lady on one of the tracks on Rotoroa Island last summer. The habitat there was not unlike that at Takatu, being an open sunny gap through low bush with *Gamochaeta* growing amongst the metal on the track. I have also previously seen painted ladies on Rangitoto.

Look out for this colourful addition to our invertebrate fauna. Painted ladies are fast-flying, orange and black butterflies about the size of a white butterfly or yellow admiral.

Tim Lovegrove Heritage, Auckland Council

Activities on the Park



Nursery volunteers working on the new bulk potting mix bin,



Conservation New Zealand Volunteers help out at the nursery.



Thursdays volunteers repair their recently built Maori Bay Track by installing steps across a recent slip area.



Thursdays volunteers clearing a track around the east edge of the lagoon channel giving access to the south coast at high tide.

A visitor to Tawharanui



Australian painted lady, was sighted on the Tokatu Track, on 11 November.

A local returns to Tawharanui



YW-RB the most productive NZ dotterel at Tawharanui has returned after a season at Waikauri Bay.

Oi! Grey-faced Petrel numbers soar

Chris Gaskin was surprised. A grey-faced petrel had just landed near his feet at a secluded bay near Takatu Point. That night many birds had flown close overhead attracted by the raucus 'war-whoops' of enthusiastic volunteers, but this bird had landed and disappeared into a burrow. Two months later, in late August 2009, Chris revisited the burrow and found a chick, confirming that grey-faced petrel had returned to breed at Tawharanui.

Over the next two years, Chris developed a Seabird Restoration plan for Tawharanui. Grey-faced petrel (Oi) were the main target as they were already known to be present and were robust and widespread in the Hauraki Gulf. Since then TOSSI volunteers, research students and a variety of supporters have helped put that plan into place.

We established three seabird sound systems in 2011 playing a range of seabird calls to attract passing birds and encourage them to consider Tawharanui as a new home. As most seabirds will return to their birthplace to breed this is no small task! The sound systems quickly proved their worth and the next phase in 2013 was to add nest boxes near the speakers. Many of these nest boxes have been used by Oi and we have had a total of 9 chicks in nest boxes since 2014.

We also monitor the local population through night-time callback and banding sessions. These sessions, run by Megan Friesen from Auckland University, have proved a very successful way to introduce volunteers and students to seabirds and provide first-hand experience of seabird conservation. We have banded over 300 birds and by counting the number of birds recaptured hope to develop a model of the population size and trend. Of the 84 recaptures so far, only three have been banded elsewhere suggesting that we have a strong local population.

From Chris's first chick in 2009 the numbers have increased considerably: from ones and twos, to six in 2013 and 2014, then nine and now 16 this year! This is just the chicks we can see; there are several natural burrows on steep and unstable cliffs that are too dangerous to get close to and of course plenty of areas of coastal cliff that we simply can't check.

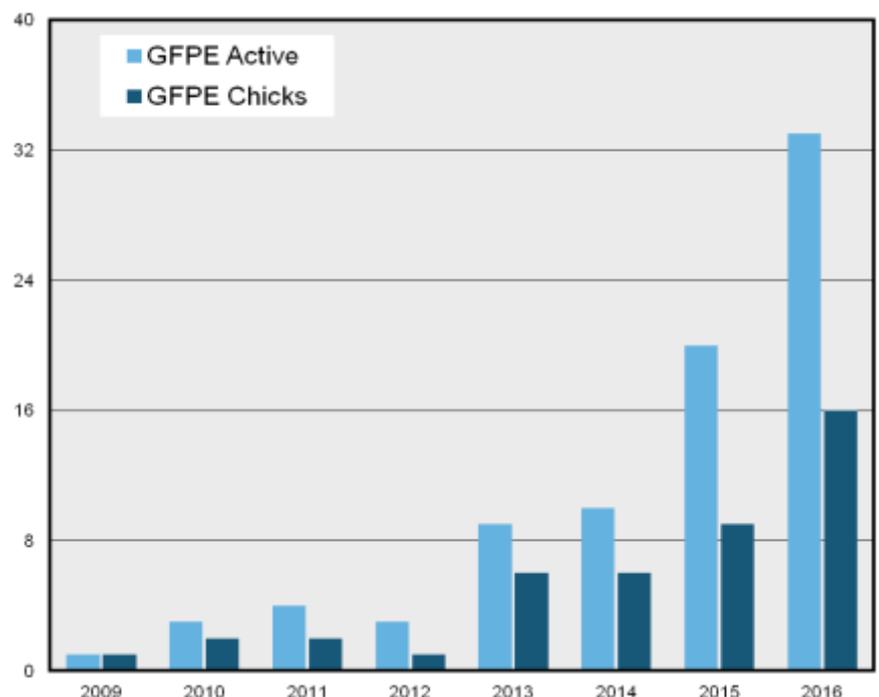
As a result this graph is just 'what we know' but it gives an idea of where the population was and where it seems to be headed!

NB: We call burrows 'active' if there are birds present, an egg laid or if they show signs of being repeatedly visited by Oi.

James Ross committee



James Ross holds a grey-faced petrel chick.



Keeping our threatened species safe

Fence Monitors Wanted

The fence monitoring team would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the fence checking team. We work in teams of two, one walking each side the length of the fence, a distance of approximately 6 kms. The purpose is to check the integrity of the fence for the safekeeping of our endangered introduced birds. Full training is offered and initially new volunteers will be on standby to fill in for teams unable to do their turn. Teams are on an 11 week roster and have a week, Wednesday to Wednesday to complete the fence check and to enjoy a walk in the park. For more information

Contact: Jenni McGlashan 09 422 3733

Trapline Volunteers Needed

Trapline volunteers help maintain the network of traps and bait stations throughout the park. They serve a crucial role in detecting and eliminating pest predators that have somehow managed to get into the sanctuary. Volunteers adopt a line which they usually service once a month. You can do this alone or with a friend to help share the load. The lines vary in length and difficulty: some are physically demanding, others are literally a walk in the park! If you are interested please contact:

James Ross jamesross@paradise.net.nz.
Full training and advice will be provided.

COSSI Day Sunday March 25

Conservation Organisations Sausage and Sharing Information day.

This will be an opportunity to share Tawharanui with the committee and friends of other conservation organisations.

There will be short talks and guided walks through out the day and a barbecue provided.

So if you have not been to the park for a while here is an opportunity to visit or to help with the day. Pencil it in your diary and watch for further information.

TOSSI Committee

Chair	Alison Stanes	09 524 0291
Vice Chair	Roger Grove	09 422 3459
Secretary	James Ross	09 422 6760
Treasurer	Karyn Hoksbergen	09 5851315

Committee	Ray Blackburn	09 425 4995
	David Stone	09 422 9415
	Sally Richardson	09 425 0161
	Gilbert Barruel	09 425 0291

Newsletter Editor Alison Stanes 09 524 0291

Membership Secretary Janet Barruel

E letter Janet Barruel 09 425 9852

Email: secretary@tossi.org.nz

Website: www.TOSSI.org.nz

Correspondence: Chair or Membership Secretary
P.O Box 112 Matakana 0948

Application form for NEW MEMBERS Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Soc. Inc.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

E-Mail _____

Occupation _____

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"/> 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



This adult male yellow hammer was photographed feeding on seeds on the West End road. Yellow hammers were introduced from Britain to New Zealand between 1862 and 1870 by the Acclimatisation Societies. Their breeding range is from Britain to Siberia. They are territorial during breeding but in winter form large flocks seeking out food sources together.



This reef heron was observed feeding on the lagoon margins. Reef herons are less widespread than they used to be owing to increased human disturbance. These solitary birds are protected natives. They feed on small fish, crabs and molluscs, crouching and jabbing at prey. Occasionally one or two visit Tawharanui. Reef herons are not to be confused with the more common white-faced heron.