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TīTī Times

KAITIAKI ISSUE

Kaitiaki and Kinship at Big South Cape — Melanie McColgan

Tītī Eaties

Rakiura Tītī Islands
ADMINISTERING BODY

Manaaki Whenua
Landcare Research

UC
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Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND

Kā tangi te tītī.
Kā tangi te kākā.
Kā tangi hoki ahau.
Tihei mauriora.

The tītī is calling.
The kākā is calling,
and I wish to call.
Behold for there is life.

Contents

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Kupu whakataki/Foreword

Editor's Korero

Kia ora tatou tītī whānau

This edition – number 26 – of the Tītī Times comes to you at the finish of what has been a tough season. Aē we haven't enjoyed the bounty of what we've been used to for the last few years. But let's look back on the recent ones we've enjoyed and take heart in knowing that our kaumatua still relay the old adage; 'a bad season is followed by a good season.'

I am therefore especially pleased to bring this 'Kaitiaki' issue to you because it speaks about the processes and practices of protecting and looking after the land. As kaitiaki, we all have a responsibility to protect our whenua, especially as we wait for the conditions to become favourable once more for a harvest.

Melanie McColgan is our feature story for this issue. She recounts her whānau's own story of stewardship at Big South Cape. Decades of nurturing and restoration of their whenua are now giving back the rewards.

One of our science stories looks at the weird world of trematodes. No, we're not talking Star Trek or a Dead Space game for PS5. We're referring to a class of flatworms which make seabirds their home for a good part of their complex lifecycle.

To finish up, we leave you with some sumptious home cooking methods for tītī. Whether you like them roasted or rolled, crispy or cold, we guarantee you'll find a recipe in here that gets your taste buds screaming out with anticipation!

We love to read about your memories and receive your photos, so do keep your feedback coming. Haere tū atu, hoki tū mai. Happy reading everyone.

Tina Nixon
Editor

Kaitiaki and Kinship at Big South Cape — Melanie McColgan

Melanie McColgan doesn't really need an introduction. She has 900 friends on Facebook, which means that if you're reading this, you're probably one of them.

Melanie is the daughter of Marty and Joan McColgan. She affiliates to Kati Mamoe, Waitaha and Ngai Tahu. Melanie has an older brother – Tony. She grew up in Murihiku and has been birding since she was two years old. She has a daughter, Ruby, who is 21.

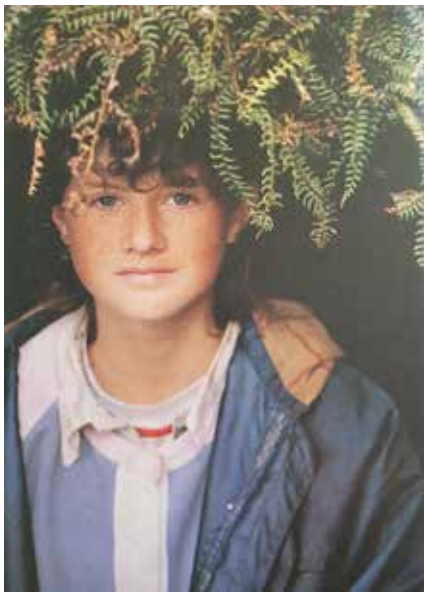
Melanie studied at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology and has qualifications in journalism, conservation and environmental science. She has spent more than 20 years working in the freshwater space, including a stint as a DOC ranger based in Te Tau Ihu. She now works as a Wai Connection Coordinator for the Tasman Bay Guardians where she is part of a team of dedicated conservationists and environmental educators who are passionate about improving the health of our waterways and oceans.

Melanie's *Muttonbirders Of Tītī Islands Rakiura* Facebook page turned 13 years old this year. She initially set the page up to provide a platform for birders to share information and stay connected. 'A lot of the people looking to join are just wanting to buy birds,' she says, 'but I have always wanted this page to be for birders and our whānau first and foremost.'

The page is steadily becoming a virtual archive for all things tītī. 'People use it to share their memories, find out more about their history, access pānui (meeting notices), get costs for wax and buckets…' Melanie could go on and on but her time is tight – she needs to be at the river to count inanga eggs while the tide is out.

'Growing up, te reo was not something we were encouraged to speak,' she says. 'And at school, us birding kids were often frowned on for being absent for two months every year. We took schoolwork down with us – the teachers always made sure of that. But it was hard to find the time to do it. Unless bad weather impeded the bird harvest, children were expected to work. There were the usual domestic duties – preparing lunches, sweeping out the house and maintaining the fire. But, for our whānau, if the adults were birding, so were the kids.'

It was not until a class assignment was set on India that Melanie's teachers and fellow students at last began to gain some understanding of exactly what her birding life involved. This was probably because she chose to do her assignment on the Tītī Islands instead. Melanie's birding account didn't just impress her teachers. She even went on to feature in a New Zealand school journal.



Melanie featured in a NZ School Journal.

The young Melanie was in charge of transporting birds to the pluckhouse, which could be a short distance, or a couple of hill-climbs away. 'The wire saved us a bit of carrying though, 'she says. Their wire has been used for decades to deliver birds to the whare and to winch gear up the rocks from the landing. On the rugged Tītī Islands, no other haulage system can compete.

As dead birds accumulated, the children would gather them together in groupings of 12 with a length of flax looped into a slip knot, which they called a 'hui'. It was important to do this quickly to avoid the carcasses being dragged off by weka or becoming infested with blowflies. The hui were then fastened to a roller hook, placed on the wire and shoved on their way down the hill.

Whānau with hui

The job was not over though. 'Unless there were others waiting at the bottom to retrieve ngā hui, it was important to get down there quickly,' Melanie says. Rats and weka would be waiting in the wings, and birds were easiest to pluck while still warm. 'Dad insisted we stack the birds in such a way and cover them with Jute sacks so as to prevent the blood and spew making the birds a greasy mess.'

Birders often speak of a spiritual connection or a sense of belonging they feel for their island. As an adult, Melanie feels a compulsion to share the importance of kaitiakitanga (good stewardship) stemming from her 'te ao tītī' background and whānau traditions relating to mahinga kai.

The importance of the imparting of knowledge of one's land has been bestowed in Melanie by her father, Marty. 'Dad has always had a love of the land,' she says. 'He has taught us from the beginning that we belong to the land, rather than it belonging to us.' 'We are only care takers,' he'd say. 'Our job is to nurture it and replenish it and pass it on to the next generation in the best possible state.'

'Dad always talked about the 'greening' of the land,' Melanie says. 'As a whānau, we would arrive at our island a good two weeks before the birding season commenced. This was a time to give back to the land, before we harvested.' Tūpare (leatherwood) was dug up during track-making and transplanted at the pakihi (barren land) near the whare if at all possible, which created a better habitat for tītī burrows. Offal was stored in drums (no longer thrown over the cliffs like the good old days). And they have discovered that feathers make excellent fertiliser. The whānau are still careful to ensure tītī burrows are not destroyed as a result of harvesting them each year.

Greening the pākihi

Dad was always 'at peace' while on our island, Melanie recalls. But on the mainland her father's temperament wasn't always. 'He knew the loss of Māori land equated to deteriorating health and well-being for our people. He was not happy to sit back and allow the Crown to take any more from our people.

Marty was undeniably an activist but also an entrepreneur. 'Dad designed and built one of the first plucking machines,' says Melanie. Indeed, Marty holds a patent for his apparatus, which generations of birders credit for saving the skin of their hands. Marty's machine shortened the plucking process significantly and alleviated some of the repetītīve strain on the wrists and hands, which could sometimes lead to tendonitis.

Marty can also be credited for being the first birder to charter a helicopter to lift gear from boat to land in the mid 1970s. Up until then, families had to make the journey to the island by boat, alongside all their gear. The luggage would be offloaded by dinghy at the nearest landing. 'For us, that left a fair distance to lug building materials, supplies and birds on foot, up and over a big hill. Dad used a 4-wheeler motorbike with a trailer to set the house up in the late 60s.

Marty unloading gear from the chopper into a waiting dinghy. One of the first chopper unloads to be performed at the Islands,

Like so many birders today, Melanie's visits to the island are a lot less frequent. She now lives in Nelson with work commitments and financial pressures like the rest of us. In 2022 she returned to the Islands for the first time after a 19-year hiatus. During those years, she says she has woken from vivid dreams each day of the season which have her convinced she really is back there.

But she is at peace now after her recent return. All those years of looking after the land are now paying off. The birdlife is prolific. The forests are alive with song. The rats are retreating. The land is giving back.

Melanie and her father Marty taking some time to reflect,

Tītī Eaties

Well! What a lot of closet MasterChefs we have in our reader community!

You'll recall our last issue invited readers to submit their favourite tītī recipes. Thank you to all of you who have shared some.

What a versatile bird the tītī is! Whether you like yours roasted or glazed, boiled or braised, we promise that there is a dish in here to get your taste buds tingling. The photos speak for themselves!

Picking the winning dish was not an easy task. It was a tough call but we finally agreed that Margaret Cain's tītī rolls had that wow factor. Congratulations Margaret! You have scored yourself a one-way chopper flight to the Islands. Keep the recipes coming to be in to win yourself a prize.

Oh, and we apologise in advance if there are any drool marks on the page. (Like that one → )

WINNING ENTRY

Tītī Rolls

Tasty Tītī Treats
Margaret Cain

Ingredients

- *2 salted tītī*
- *fresh rosemary: 1 teaspoon maximum*
- *garlic: 2 cloves*
- *onion: 1 brown onion*
- *carrots: 1 or two depending on size*
- *parsley: 1 teaspoon*
- *olive oil*
- *2 sheets of puff pastry*
- *milk or egg to glaze*

Image: Amber Griffin Photography

Method

Boil tītī until cooked. When cool, carefully remove meat, and discard skin, bones, and fat.

Chop meat well and set aside.

Warm oil in pan; add finely chopped onion, crushed garlic, and finely chopped rosemary.

Sauté together on medium heat until cooked and soft. Add two small or one large finely grated carrot, and chopped parsley if available. Combine, and set aside to cool.

Preparation

Preheat oven to recommended heat for pastry, usually around 200°C.

Cut each of the two pastry sheets in half to make four long strips. Combine chopped tītī with cooled vegetable mixture, and divide into four 'sausages' to be placed on each piece of pastry.

Using milk or beaten egg, wet one long side of the pastry strip, roll mixture in, and seal.

Do this for all four 'rolls.' Glaze each roll with milk or egg. Using a sharp knife, cut to preferred size: each roll in four for a snack; each roll in eight for nibbles.

Place pastry side down on baking tray and place in hot oven. Use pastry temperatures and times as a cooking guide, but usually around ten minutes.

Tip

Don't overdo the herbs or the flavour will be overpowered. Carrot is a good filler, but you can experiment with flavours and your local produce.

Tītīpai

Kingi Karetai

Boil tītī then remove the meat. Make a filling with tītī, a tablespoon of hinu, light brown gravy (just under half the packet), some diced onion and watercress. Mix on semi-low with cream until smooth. Then throw into pastry for the baddest pies in the motu!

Roast Tītī With Tater Stuffing

Anita Bull

- Dice up some decent sized potatoes. (Anita recommends one decent size potato per bird.)
- Mix with chopped up onion.
- Add garlic and mixed herbs.
- Stuff the birds full with this mix and roast. Amazing

PS. Best used with fresh birds.

Tītī With Maple Syrup.

Josh Kahukura

Make homemade stuffing, roast it, then with 5 mins to go crank the heat up and glaze with maple syrup until crispy.

Yum.

Josh Kahutara's tītī with maple syrup.

Tītī In Seawater

Tina Nixon

Get some fresh unsalted birds. Wander down and get a bucket of seawater. Boil until legs pull away easily from the bodies. Crisp them up under the grill if you want. Great with swede and spud mash.

Tītī done in seawater.

Tītī With Pea Puree

Karalyn Van Derson

Karalyn recommends crispy skin freshies with a pea and mint mash.

Blend frozen peas, chopped fresh mint, olive oil and lemon juice together. The pea puree really does the tītī justice!

Karalyn's crispy skin freshies with a pea and mint mash.

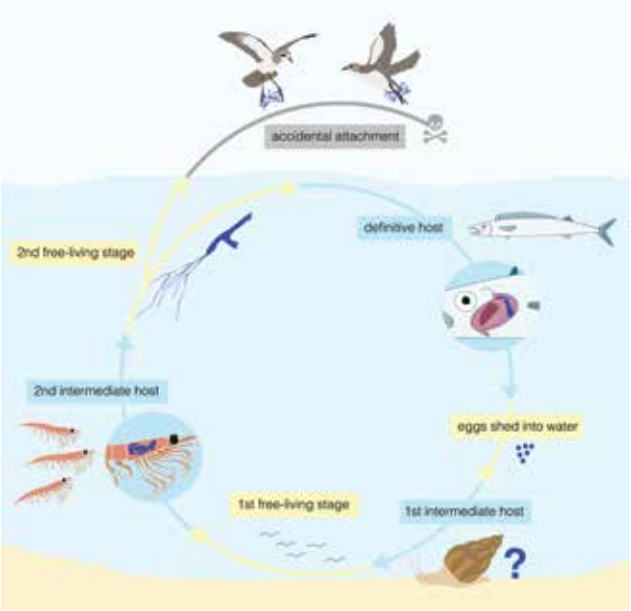
Copiatestes and Impact on Marine Life (what we know and don't know)

If you could come back in another life, consider being a trematode.

You'd have not one, but multiple life stages. And you would be capable of cloning yourself and enjoying those life stages many times over.

The downside is that you'd be an obligate internal parasite and your closest living relatives would be flatworms.

What exactly is a trematode? There's a reason you probably haven't heard of them. We know very little about them for a start. Trematodes are a class of parasitic flatworms that live in or on marine animals. Their entire lifecycle requires three animal hosts, beginning with a species of mollusc (which has not been identified yet), followed by euphausiids (better known as krill) and then a range of fish species (including baracoutta and silver warehou). Copiatestes are a group of trematodes which differ from the others because they have two 'free-living' stages in between hosts. Most trematodes have only one (between the first and second stage).



Complex life cycle of Copiatestes including when seabirds are accidentally impacted.

Between their second and final hosts, Copiatestes exhibit a pair of bladder-like bodies and fibrous filaments which stem from one end. Scientists are not certain why the parasite undergoes this additional life stage. One theory puts the purpose of the bladder-like structures down to buoyancy assistance because krill move to the surface after dusk to feed and return to the depths before dawn. It is thought the filaments assist with movement and increase the likelihood of the parasite coming into contact with a final fish host.

Larval stage of Copiatestes inhabiting euphausiid (top individual not infected, bottom individual infected)

This stage of the life-cycle poses threats to marine animals including fish and sea birds. Fish eat the krill and the sticky filaments entwine themselves in their gills, eventually killing them.

Seabirds are at risk too. The filaments entangle themselves around their legs and remain there. When a bird reaches land, these 'anklets' dry and become calcified. Birds become starved due to being unable to take off from land once more.

Cases of entanglement have been documented in various species of petrels and prions. Smaller bodied species of seabirds which feed on krill are thought to be particularly susceptible. A record exists of a mass mortality event during the 1970's where more than 200,000 seabirds on the

Chatham Islands died from starvation. Entanglement from Copiatestes was evident in multiple carcasses.

And now the story comes closer to home. In January 2023, unusual mortalities of seabirds were reported by the Trow whānau on Kundy Island. The island is predator-free and it was therefore alarming when takahikare (white-faced storm petrels) and tītī wainui (fairy prions) were found dying unexpectedly and in large numbers. DOC staff were summoned and soon observed the tell-tale anklets on the legs of the dead birds. They also found anklets on the legs of other bird species on surrounding islands including kuaka (the common diving petrel as well as the threatened Whenua Hou diving petrel). Live birds were caught and had anklets removed as a preventive measure. Due to its remoteness, it was not possible to obtain an accurate estimate of how many birds died on these islands at the time. Testing of the anklets revealed that Copiatestes was present.

Tītī were not reported as casualities in this incident. They are larger and stronger than prions and petrels and as yet there is no evidence to show they are susceptible to this particular life stage of *Copiatestes*.

Bird leg with anklet.

However, climate change and warming seas mean that there is no certainty that tītī could not one day fall victim to *Copiatestes*. Te kaitiaki rōpu and scientists encourage all visitors to the Tītī Islands to be vigilant. If tītī or other seabirds appear to be sick or their behaviour is even just odd, please notify DOC, Invercargill at invercargill@doc.govt.nz.

Big Beasts and Mysteries

Tina Nixon, Editor *Tītī Times*

Big beasts, plant mysteries, blowholes and burrows are all in a day's work for the Manaaki Whenua (Landcare Research) scientists working on the Tītī research programme. As a member of the Rakiura Tītī Committee, I was recently fortunate to be with them on one of those days.

I was picked up from Fern Gully on Stewart Island by Gavin Burgess from Te Anau Helicopters, which also has a base on Rakiura, to join a team of scientists counting burrows on Ernest Island. It was a great day for flying. The team comprised Theo Thompson, James Arbuckle and leader Jo Carpenter. Their mission on Ernest Island, where our family has birded for decades, was to count as many burrows as possible in one day.

The three split up to plot different areas of the island. I stayed with Jo, who very patiently answered the many questions I had about so many aspects of the flora and fauna. I was also playing the part of a snap-happy tourist as I took in the beauty of the forest and the bounty of birdlife it sustained. As I stepped back to photograph Jo busy in her work, she suddenly looked up and her face became apprehensive and she quietly and calmly said, 'there is a big sealion right behind you.' I froze then turned slowly to see a young bull less than five metres from where I was standing.

Scientists checking GPS.

Very slowly, away I crept away from him before turning and yelling at the top of my lungs. He took off in the other direction! While I admit to being taken by surprise, we as Tītī Island whānau are used to seeing sealions on Ernest Island and from experience, have found a big yell normally gets them to shift.

The sealion I almost stepped on.

As Jo was moving through the bush she came across a dark-leafed shrub which excited her. She explained that it was a *Myrsine chathamica* – a type of Matipo – which has beneficial medicinal properties. She went on to say it was a bit of a mystery plant as it was only found on Tītī Islands and the Chatham Islands. No one has yet worked out how why this species inhabits small islands which are geographically relatively far apart.

I showed the scientists the famed Ernest Island blow holes and explained to them our whānau's recent history on the island. Dad and mum started birding there in 1964 and my sister and Tracy were there with them a year or so later. Mum and dad gave up birding as recently as 2006. My visits have been sporadic since then. My son Mat has been down for a few seasons in the last 5 years and our cousin, Storm Wardrop, has built a new house there. His kids are now part of the rhythm of the island.

I have been lucky over the years to have visited many of the islands surrounding Rakiura and know there is a unique and significant difference in the type of vegetation on Ernest Island compared to the others. I acknowledge that we all love our islands and we all think our islands are the best(!) but Ernest Island stands out with its lush bush skirted by a variety of coastal scrub. The scientists described it as a 'rain forest'.

Ernest Island rainforest.

An emerald blowhole.

By mid-afternoon, the scientists had completed all the plot surveys and we had about an hour to wait for the chopper. In the warm sunshine, we wandered along the beach and shared some kai and korero as we watched Gavin unload Storm's lovely boat, the *Kiri Lee*. Gavin picked us up after he finished unloading the *Kiri Lee* and dropped the scientists off at Putaihinu.

I then got the ride of my life as we transported scientists, dropped people off and picked others up. It was a magical end to an enlightening and fun but strenuous day for a 64 year old dumpling. As we landed at Fern Gully I pondered how lucky we are as a people to share the magical places that our Tītī Islands are.

Unloading the Kiri Lee

Adding up the burrow tally.

Later that night I headed to the pub and the boys at the back table were full of questions about my day. They were keen listeners and I was more than happy to share with them the adventures I had had and explain to them the science behind it and what we were learning.

I told them about the mystery of the *Mersine Chathamica* tree. I could hear them thinking about just how it could be that a tree was found in two different locations thousands of miles apart. One of my island mates posed that it may have something to do with the flax trade of the 1800's, as the Chatham Islands were home to a tougher variety of flax then than what was grown in the South. Early Māori are thought to have bought it from the Chathams to Rakiura. I think there is substance to this theory because our people used (and many still do) flax as string to carry birds. Perhaps seeds or cuttings were attached to the flax?

So perhaps a mystery solved? Definitely one to dig into a bit more. That's the great thing about Manaaki Whenua's Tītī science project – scientists and our people are working together. Our shared experiences and understanding will lead to a greater sum of knowledge which will benefit both us and our whenua.

Swift Action Commended in Response to Rodent Detections

Quick actions in response to rodent detections have been praised by conservationists after the presence of a mouse and then a rat were discovered in proximity of the Tītī Islands within the space of a week.

Indeed, while the prospect of two detections so close together may cause alarm, Southland conservation contractor Peter McClelland, who works closely with the RTIAB, has commended the responses of those involved. 'Discovery of the presence of a rodent can happen to anybody,' he said. 'The important thing is that the detections were reported immediately, which enabled a timely biosecurity response.'

Local birder Donald Bragg arrived at his Big Island house in March and saw recent signs, including droppings and chew marks on food, of a mouse straight away. He phoned a member of the Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body immediately and traps provided by DOC were sent down that very day.

A mouse was soon caught but the question still to be answered is 'are there any more?' says McClelland. 'We don't yet know if the mouse is the only one on the island, or if it is part of an established population.'

An investigation is now underway to verify whether or not there are more. McClelland hopes to prove this one way or the other firstly by checking the island with rodent detection dogs and if that isn't conclusive, through genetics. The RTIAB is currently working with the birders to get suitable samples. 'It's important that we compare samples which are found as far apart as possible to maximise the chance of them being from different individuals,' said McClelland. It will take several weeks before there are any results. In the meantime, the whānau on the island will continue trapping as this is the easiest way to prove there are more mice present. It can't prove however, that there aren't any more mice. However, if no more mice are detected, it doesn't prove they aren't there,' says McClelland, 'and at that point the dogs would be brought back to the island later on in the season to look for fresh signs. If it is proven that there is more than one mouse, we would then try and use any known genetics to estimate how many mice there were in the founder population (meaning how many got to the island in the first place).

Identification of more than one mouse would almost certainly trigger an eradication involving an aerial poison drop as well as baiting in and around the buildings. 'Poisoning is never the most desirable approach to tackling pests,' says McClelland, 'but if it is proven there is a population of mice on Big Island, the only alternative is to have mice on the island permanently, which no one wants.'

Also unclear is how the mouse reached the island in the first place. Vessels travelling to the Tītī Islands follow guidelines to ensure that pests are not on board. Containers should be cleaned and inspected. Luggage should be sealed and packing should take place as soon as practical before loading. Routine inspections of boats and gear are carried out using rodent detection dogs just prior to departure.

Mawson inspecting a crate

Despite observing these measures rigorously, Skipper of the Awesome, Peter Boyce, was surprised to discover that a rat had stowed itself away while his vessel was berthed at the Bluff wharf. As part of a routine check, dog handler Sandy King and her rodent detection dog Mawson

discovered it just prior to loading. Upon being sprung, the rat jumped ship and swam towards the wharf before they could catch it. "We had checked the Awesome a week before and it was rat-free, so this rat was a very recent arrival. This highlights the importance of getting the boat checked immediately before every trip, not just once at the beginning of the season," said Sandy.

Mawson (Photo credit Lairka Photography)

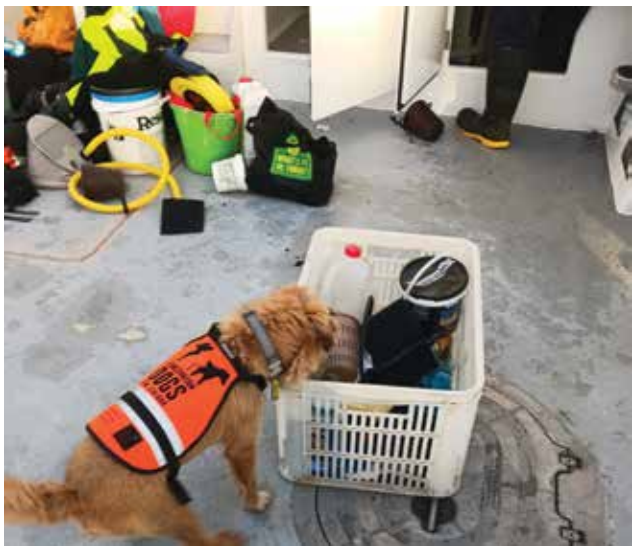
The Awesome at her berth on the Bluff Fisherman's Wharf

Fresh poison was laid immediately and additional traps were set. This was in addition to the precautions Boyce had in place already. 'I keep three bait stations on board permanently, as well as a mouse trap in the wheelhouse,' he said.

Boyce and Bragg have proved that no matter how careful we can be, encounters with pests do happen and rats and mice will take any opportunity to get to the islands. Importantly, they took action straight away and they have been open and transparent with the RTIAB from the very beginning, allowing a rapid response. They have highlighted just how important preventative measures are to ensure that the Tītī Islands remain precious jewels where our indigenous biodiversity can flourish.

If you find any sign of a rodent on the islands or on a transport vessel or aircraft, please report it to a member of the RTIAB as soon as possible.

Fishermen's wharf in Bluff. Note nearby the foreshore grasses and rock wall providing great rat habitat



Mawson investigating the crate that the rat had been hiding in.

Out at sea during the night? Turn your lights off for seabirds!

Aotearoa New Zealand is the seabird capital of the world. No other country hosts the diversity and numbers of seabirds like we do. Our seabirds are taonga and our long coastline is dotted with their colonies. Unfortunately, many of our seabirds are threatened with extinction, so addressing threats, including light pollution, is vital to their continued survival.

Why is addressing light pollution at sea important?

Many seabirds, including tītī, get disorientated by artificial lights at night, which can lead to collisions with vessels (vessel strikes). Following vessel strikes, seabirds can be contaminated with chemicals on deck (eg oil or fuel), causing loss of waterproofing and subsequent drowning. Vessel strikes also cause direct mortalities.

A trawler night-fishing.

The risk of vessel strikes is highest during foggy and rainy nights. Young seabirds are particularly susceptible to light-induced disorientation, potentially because their eyes are still developing. Newer LED lights may also be more confusing to seabirds, as birds' eyes are more sensitive to blue light than ours and the "white" LED lights contain strong blue light components that may create extra confusion for seabirds.

Vessel strikes are more common than you may think. For example, there are >190 vessel strikes of tītī on record in our commercial fisheries over the last 20 years and our fishers are not the only ones using lights out at sea! In addition, observer protocols are not tailored to vessel strikes so this is likely an underestimate.

Oscar Thomas with a vessel-struck tītī.

For some species, addressing this concern is particularly critical due to their low population size. Take the Kuaka (Whenua Hou diving petrel), for example. This small seabird persists in very low numbers (~220 adults) in Waikoropupū (Sealers Bay) on Whenua Hou only, but this bay is also an important anchorage for local fishers and other marine users. Kuaka are particularly susceptible to vessel strikes as they are poor flyers and consequently have high mortality rates following vessel strikes. As such, addressing lights on vessels in Waikoropupū is particularly important.

What can you do to help seabirds?

The following actions are recommended when you are at sea during the night, while always maintaining vessel and crew safety:

- Minimise light use, especially spotlights and floodlights, when you are within 5 km of an offshore island, where most seabird colonies are located.
- Avoid unnecessary movements and activities at night.
- Eliminate unnecessary lights.
- Shield lights to only light areas essential for safe operations.
- Use lights with reduced or filtered blue and violet wavelengths (eg 2200 Kelvin).
- Use black-out blinds wherever possible.
- Practice safe seabird handling and release techniques when vessel strikes occur.
- Record and report vessel strikes and contact marine@doc.govt.nz.

For more information visit: https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/conservation-services-programme/csp-resources-for-fishers/how-to-manage-marine-light-pollution/

Mhari Florence Baty (nee Bull)

It is with great sadness that we are marking the passing of Mhari Baty on Thursday 11 April 2024.

Mhari was the dearly loved daughter of Jim* and Freda* Bull and the beloved wife of Lester* Baty. She was the sister of Stewart, Kevin, Harry, Tamatea, Robyn*, Bill*, Ron*, and Katherine*, mother to James, Ranei, Marama*, Tania*, and Linda*, and a dearly loved Taua, Aunty, sister-in-law, Whāngai Taua, and friend to many.

Mhari birded all her life on Taukihepa on her manu Manuaroto. She served for a time as a member of the Tītī Committee. She was a strong supporter of the work being done to ensure that tītī harvest rights remain preserved. She will be remembered as a very witty and wise woman of great character and strength. She was loved and respected by everyone in the tītī birder whānui.

Farewell our dear kuia.

Left: Mhari. A much loved and avid birder.

Comp Time!

It Just Got Better (and longer...)

Remember that cool design comp we ran in the last issue? You know... the one where we asked all you rangatahi out there to come up with a great design for hoodies and tshirts that represents "*protecting our whenua from pests*." Well, you guys just got an extension!

We have had a great number of creative designs come in. But we also know what busy lives you all lead. So here's your second chance to become awesomely famous by coming up with a great design for hoodies and t shirts that represents "***protecting our whenua from pests***."

If you need to be reminded of the requirements, here they are:

- Designs must feature our RTIAB logo somewhere on the clothing eg on the chest or sleeves or back.
- They must depict *'protecting our whenua from pests'* however you want to interpret that.
- We want to see Toi Māori in the design and a Māori name - you could choose but something along the lines of Kaitiaki O Murihiku or O Rakiura, for example, but we are open to suggestions.

What's in it for the winner? It's more like, what isn't?!

- There will be an awesome prize like an iPad or a cool phone or a rat trap.
- Be featured in the next Tītī Times edition 27.
- The winner's hoodie will have their design printed on it. We'll make them available for you all to purchase early 2025.

So get sketching! Or painting. Or computing or whatever your special talent is. Revised deadline is now **21 July 2024** (end of school holidays).

All entries to tinanixon@gmail.com