

TiTi Times

KAITIAKI ISSUE

Meri Kirihimete Titī Whānui



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

Kupu whakataki/Foreword	2
Rakiura Tītī Islands Management Plan	3
Tony's Tasty Tītī Muttonbirds	4
Details of 2025 AGM/ Permit Day	6
Trows recognised at Environmental Awards	7
Tieke translocation a cause for celebration	12
Facilitating action through kaitiaki-led monitoring	14
Ros Cole – Senior Ranger, Department of Conservation	16
Associate Professor Brendon Dunphy (Waipapa Taumata Rau/University of Auckland)	18
Christopher Lockhart	19
Poem by Manaia	20

Production team: Tina Nixon, Cat White,
Blondini Gang Design

Cover image: *Ros Cole*

Foreword image: *Ros Cole*

This information may be copied and distributed to others without limitations, provided the Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body and Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd and the source of the information is acknowledged. Under no circumstances may a charge be made for this information without the express permission of Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body and Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd. ISSN 2463-2961 (Print) ISSN 2463-297X (Online)



Kupu whakataki/Foreword

Editor's kōrero

Me he manawā tītī, me tōhona hirika – The strength and perseverance of the tītī.

Kia ora e te whānau

'Tis the season, when our birds are here and we wait expectantly for the gathering of the grey clouds as they feed around our islands.

We are all watching for signs of what sort of season we may face next year. A southern rata blossom is depicted on our cover page as it blooms in the Christmas month. A good blossoming is regarded by many as a portent of abundance. We are all keeping an eye on indications of how the weather will play out this year. To date, the best money (57%) is on a weak La Niña.

Lots has happened this year, including the completion of the Management Plan for the former Crown Tītī Islands and the development of the website – both of which dovetail into our science programme. By early next year www.rakiuratitiislands.nz will act as a repository for all things tītī. The site will host a portal for permits. It will also host two separate spaces for both Rakiura Māori and the public. It will be the place for our korero and a place for our stories.

This December Tītī Times edition celebrates the sterling work of Russel and Teresa Trow who were selected as finalists for the WM Environmental Action category in the Southland Community Awards. These two have painstakingly worked to improve native biodiversity at Kundy Island and as a result have created a rich breeding ground for tieke/saddleback and other precious indigenous species. While they didn't win, their work was recognised and applauded. Their entry video amassed over 15,000 views!

We have lots of variety in this edition, including the successful commercial efforts of one of our best known birders, Tony McColgan and a profile on Ros Cole – a huge supporter of the work to save our endangered bird species on the Tītī Islands.

Meri Kirihimete everyone.

Tina Nixon
Editor
Tītī Times

Rakiura Tītī Islands Management Plan

The Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body has undertaken a full review of the Rakiura Tītī Islands Management Plan. As part of this review, we have prepared an updated draft of The Plan and a pull-out summary of it can be viewed on pages 8–11 in this issue.

The Plan has been two years in the making. The Draft Plan is now with the Minister of Conservation – Hon Tama Potaka – awaiting sign off. The Draft Plan has been shaped by Rakiura Māori with valuable feedback received during the formal consultation process in 2023.

RTIAB Chair Tane Davis says ‘this is a point in the process worth celebrating because it is the very first revision of the existing Management Plan since ownership of the 18 former Crown Tītī Islands was returned to Rakiura Māori.

The revised Plan reveals once Māori can gain ownership – and more autonomy by expressing rangatiratanga, then all prosper.

The Plan will guide the future mahi and approach for the RTIAB in its management role working with Rakiura Māori to enhance the Rakiura Tītī Islands. Also, like the previous Plan, copies of the Bylaws for the Rakiura Tītī Islands are included, as well as the Constitution of the RTIAB. Within the next year, it is anticipated the RTIAB will also review and update these documents in collaboration with Rakiura Māori.

To view the Draft Management Plan in its entirety, visit <https://rakiuratitiislands.nz/draft-management-plan>

Rakiura Tītī Islands Management Plan 2024 Overview

The Rakiura Tītī Islands (formerly known as the Crown Tītī Islands) are managed by the Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body. The Administering Body is required to have a management plan to guide their mahi and approach. This is an overview of the Rakiura Tītī Islands management plan. The full version can be found here: <https://rakiuratitiislands.nz>. The Bylaws for the Rakiura Tītī Islands control access to, and the activities associated with birding on the Rakiura Tītī Islands. The management plan contains additional guidance on management of the Islands.



Rakiura Tītī Islands ADMINISTERING BODY

Vision

Our vision for the Rakiura Tītī Islands is:

*Pupuruitia ngā taonga a ngā tūpuna
kia mau te tītī mō ake tonu atu.*

Hold fast to the treasures of our ancestors and keep the tītī forever.

Pou

The decisions we make, and the actions we undertake under this plan will be guided by the following pou, or principles:

Rangatiratanga:	Kaitiakitanga:	Manaakitanga:	Ahikāroa:
We will protect and exercise our right to authority, self-determination, self-management of the Rakiura Tītī Islands.	We will uphold our responsibility to nurture, guard and protect the Rakiura Tītī Islands.	As Rakiura Māori we will respect and support each other, including to uphold our cultural rights and practices.	We will maintain the long burning fires of occupation whilst caring for and nurturing the treasures handed down from our ancestors.

Tony's Tasty Tītī Muttonbirds

Not it's not KFC... it's better! If you haven't done so already you need to get online and get yourself a feed of *Tony's Tasty Tītī Muttonbirds*. Think My Food Bag – as in a mouthwatering meal of muttonbird delivered to your door. – but without the veges. And in a bucket.



Tony McColgan.

Tony McColgan started *Tony's Tasty Tītī Muttonbirds* in 2017. His inspiration came when he realised there was a bit of an untapped market in the North Island when it came to supplying the public with good quality birds at a fair price.

'I put myself out there a little bit to sell in the North Island because they were paying better money for the birds than they were down south,' says Tony. 'In Southland especially, the market's sort of saturated and there's a limited number of people that you can sell to and they're always looking for a discount.'

Tony's point of difference is keeping the supply chain simple. 'I don't use a middleman,' he says. 'Rather than buying up cheaper but poorer-quality birds to turn a quick profit, he sells birds direct from his manu to a more distant but discerning market.'

Tony's Tasty Tītī Muttonbirds soon became a household name. In terms of advertising, 'I dabbled in TradeMe and the newspapers for a bit,' he says, but social media quickly became his trusted media platform. Thanks to Facebook, the marketing has mostly taken care of itself.

Tony admits that he needs to monitor his account closely. 'My son-in-law absolutely loves roast tītī. He has been

known to put up lots of 'roast' posts, and every time he does, I get a flood of orders that I can't fill! So I've asked him to sort of tone that down a bit because I just can't supply.'

Tony's birds are sold in real time at prices he is up front with. Once the season commences and the birds begin to roll in, he lets his followers know and the orders begin to accumulate.

Selling direct is the safest way to do it. 'My family are at ease knowing that I'm not driving around with a car load of birds doing cash sales and haggling with suppliers.' North Islanders are prepared to pay a little bit more for the delicacy which is harder for them to come by, and the need to barter is therefore removed.

Tony is diligent and takes the time to 'keep things legit.' 'I pay tax, which always takes the shine off my earnings a bit,' he jokes. But it also helps to keep track of the money.

Tony supplies both fresh birds and salt birds. 'I'm selling more and more fresh birds and trying to develop that market,' says Tony. He acknowledges however that freight costs are high when it comes to sending fresh birds around the country. 'This season I thought I had some good orders which would help me branch out into that fresh market a wee bit more,' he explains. 'But the birds just weren't in good enough condition and they weren't there for long enough.'

Most birders will acknowledge that 2024 was a poor season. It has certainly been tough one for Tony who operates as a one-man band. After an evening of torching, Tony salts and packs his salt birds and freezes the fresh birds straight away so that he is ready for a catch the following night. 'I sort of restrict myself in terms of how many birds I bring back because there are only so many I can deal with in a 24-hour period,' he says.

But while the birds are there, Tony aims to process as many as he can. 'We all know there are a lot of poor seasons where we incur a loss or we only just break even.'

His buckets of tītī don't need to be kept in a chiller. They are preserved in salt, which pickles the birds. He advises his customers to rotate their buckets on a weekly basis to prevent the top birds drying out and going mouldy. 'The best way to preserve bucketed tītī is to keep it upright for a week and then upside down for a week. Be careful though,

as once the bucket has been opened it may leak when you turn it upside down, in which case a bit of duct tape around the seal should prevent this.'



Tītī buckets.

Another important method of preservation is to freeze the fresh birds whole. 'I leave the guts in them,' Tony says, which keeps the bird moist and means that the end user can prepare the bird as they wish.

The birds are also graded according to their condition. The fattest birds go in the buckets because customers generally deem that the plump ones are the choicest. The fresh bird market however, demands good quality, meaty birds that also look good.

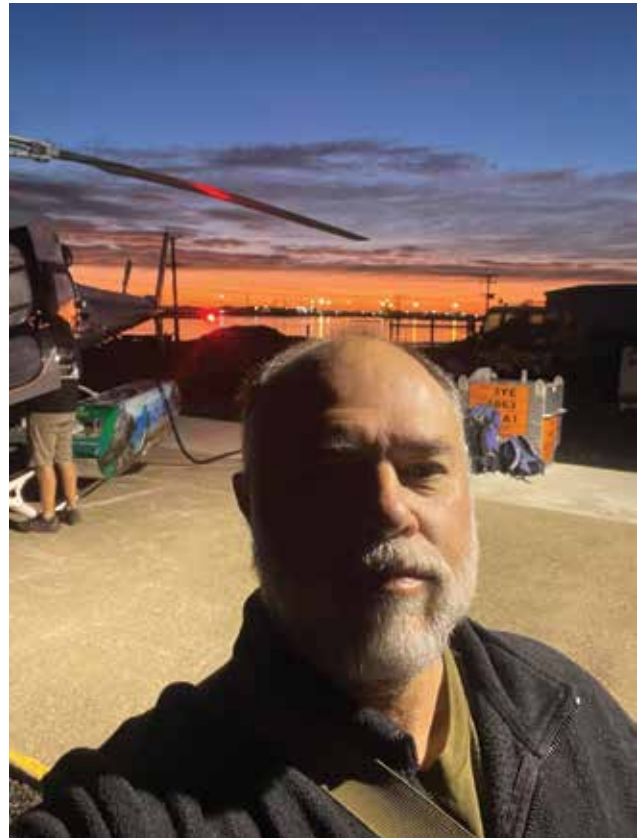
Birds with rips, defects or which are smaller but in otherwise good condition are classed as B-grade and fetch a lower price, although in Tony's view, they're the best birds to have because they are able to be boiled without losing all the fat off them.

Indeed the market is diverse, and there aren't many industries which demand so much of the supplier. Tony often thinks that he's 'a bit of a mug' in some respects in that he works 'really hard and sometimes I can come off the island and make no money out of it at all in a poor season.' A single bird can be handled up to 25 times before being placed in the bucket and then many more times as it travels by helicopter or boat to Tony's Invercargill home and then on to the courier. 'There's not too many businesses that can survive that model, but I keep going back and doing it again!'

And thoughts for the future? Yes he has some irons in the fire. 'I'd like to put some tutorials up on my page on gutting,

cooking and general storage. But mostly I'm just trying to grow my fresh bird market at the moment. And I'd also like to look into ways to convert waste (such as fat, necks, feathers and offcuts) into reusable material.

In the meantime, Tony will continue to do his best to satisfy the stomachs of hungry North Islanders. Like all of us, he is hoping for a lucrative 2025 birding season. So keep a careful eye on that Facebook page of his – it would be a shame to miss out!



Tony at dawn.



Wire and ferns.

Details of 2025 AGM/Permit Day

Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body Annual General Meeting

Murihiku Marae.

408 Tramway Road, Invercargill.

Saturday 15th February 2025 @ 9:30am

Important dates and closing times for permit applications and permit day attendance.

14th January 2025

1. **Applications** for permits to build.
2. **Applications** for permits for all non-Rakiura Māori (except for whānau) to enter the islands – this includes builders, helicopter pilots, boat skippers, researchers, and DOC staff.
3. **Nominations** for the three positions on the Administering Body must be received **5.00pm**.

4th February 2025

- **Confirm your attendance** at Permit Day with the Secretary for catering purposes and seating numbers.

6th February 2025

- Prior to 6th February 2025 Rakiura Māori and whānau are requested to **submit** their permit application to enter the islands and to take tītī during the 2025 season.

15th February 2025

1. **10.00 am** Annual General Meeting and Permit Day hui gets underway.
2. **12.00 noon** All permit applications must be received for Rakiura Māori and whānau to enter the islands and take tītī during the 2025 season.
3. **Before close of meeting** – all nominations for supervisors must be submitted.

Correspondence, permit applications and nomination forms may be posted or emailed to the Secretary and must be received by the due date. Permit application forms, nomination forms etc are available from:

- The Secretary, Rakiura Titi Islands Administering Body, Email: rtiabcontact@gmail.com
- Or C/- 173 Grant Road, Otatara No 9 RD, Invercargill 9879.

Trows recognised at Environmental Awards

On behalf of all our whānau I can say we are extremely proud of Teresa and Russel Trow making the finals of Southland's prestigious Environment Southland Awards. While they didn't win the top prize, they received enormous positive recognition on social media with one of the most-viewed competition videos which amassed over 20,000 views! Russel and Teresa were surrounded by whānau and RTIAB members on the glamorous night.

They were complemented on their outstanding mahi by many attendees. The couple also have a busy bird transfer season coming up with tīeke being transferred to the Orokonui Ecosanctuary on the mainland. This has been a slow project to bring to fruition as we needed to be assured that our taonga would be safe. It's a first for New Zealand to see tīeke shifted to the mainland and a testament to the strength of the tīeke population to which The Trows have played an integral leadership role.



Rakiura Tītī Islands Management Plan 2024

Overview

The Rakiura Tītī Islands (formerly known as the Crown Tītī Islands) are managed by the Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body. The Administering Body is required to have a management plan to guide their mahi and approach. This is an overview of the Rakiura Tītī Islands management plan. The full version can be found here: <https://rakiuraititislands.nz>. The Bylaws for the Rakiura Tītī Islands control access to, and the activities associated with birding on the Rakiura Tītī Islands. The management plan contains additional guidance on management of the islands.

Vision

Our vision for the Rakiura Tītī Islands is:

*Pupuruitia ngā taonga a ngā tūpuna
kia mau te tītī mō ake tonu atu.*

Hold fast to the treasures
of our ancestors and
keep the tītī forever.

Pou

The decisions we make, and the actions we undertake under this plan will be guided by the following pou, or principles:

Rangatiratanga:

We will protect and exercise our right to authority, self-determination, self-management of the Rakiura Tītī Islands.

Kaitiakitanga:

We will uphold our responsibility to nurture, guard and protect the Rakiura Tītī Islands.

Manaakitanga:

As Rakiura Māori we will respect and support each other, including to uphold our cultural rights and practices.

Ahikāroa:

We will maintain the long burning fires of occupation whilst caring for and nurturing the treasures handed down from our ancestors.



Rakiura Tītī Islands
ADMINISTERING BODY

Tony Bridge, Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu Collection, Ngāi Tahu Archive, 2018-0311



Tītī © Oscar Thomas

South Island saddleback / Tīke © Oscar Thomas

Overarching management objectives

Key Objective 1: Current and future generations of Rakiura Māori are able to harvest tītī on a sustainable basis, in accordance with their customary rights and traditions.

Key Objective 2: The islands are managed as if they were a nature reserve.

Priority is given to Key Objective 1 – in that management of the islands as a nature reserve may not in any way adversely affect the customary rights of Rakiura Māori to take tītī from those islands.

How we will manage the islands and our activities on them:

Additional objectives and how we will work to achieve them are summarised in the following:



Tītī © Oscar Thomas



Tītī Heke / The Shores © Jamie Newmann

Sustainable harvest – harvest that supports a resilient population of tītī for future generations.

- Research and monitoring supporting an adaptive management approach embedded in mātauranga Māori.
- Sharing of mātauranga and tikanga where kaumātua support this.
- Provide wānanga and capacity building opportunities with a focus on future generations to sustain tikanga, mātauranga and ongoing leadership.

Treaty Partnership – the Crown upholds its role as a treaty partner and honours the rangatiratanga of Rakiura Māori over the Rakiura Tītī Islands.

- Advocacy work – including that Te Papa Atawhai/DOC honours and upholds its role as a treaty partner.
- Work to ensure that the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Deed and Settlement Act are upheld to the fullest extent.
- Seek full autonomy for wildlife management – inc. exemption for wildlife permits.

How we will manage the islands and our activities on them (continued):

Ecosystems and biodiversity

- ecosystems are healthy and thriving, biodiversity is abundant and tītī habitat is protected.

- Support restoration and enhancement where whānau want this.
- Translocation of species.
- Build knowledge about taonga or threatened species.
- Minimise vegetation clearance.

Biosecurity - pest free islands that are protected from harmful diseases, where feasible.

- Implement our biosecurity plan
 - including gear checks, quick reporting. (insert link)
- Prevent taupata from establishing, or work to control it.
- Monitor and control pest species, including animals and plants.

Taonga species interactions – there is little or no adverse impact on tītī from other taonga species.

- Manage taonga species which adversely impact tītī or the biodiversity of an island – such as weka.
- Monitor kekeno on the islands.

Climate and Marine – informed, involved and responsive to climate and marine issues.

- Stay informed and involved on climate change and marine issues.
- Share information on how climate or marine issues might affect whānau on the islands, and how we might adapt.



TU © Oscar Thomas

Health and Safety – people on the islands are safe.

- Support whānau with safety information.
- Safe helicopter landing sites, and record GPS locations.

Waste – islands that are free of rubbish.

- Rubbish collection services.
- Reduce non-degradable rubbish taken to the islands and continue with rubbish collections.

Fire – no uncontrolled fires.

- All fires are contained, whānau have smoke alarms and extinguishers, and store flammable materials safely.



Oleandra angustifolia / tēteweka © B Rance

Rakiura Tītī Islands

The management plan is relevant to these islands:



Tītī © Oscar Thomas



Tony Bridge, Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu Collection, Ngāi Tahu Archive, 2018-0311



Tieke translocation a cause for celebration

Rakiura Tītī Island Administering Body, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and Orokonui Ecosanctuary are pleased to announce a translocation of tīeke from Pūtauhinu and Kani Islands to Orokonui Ecosanctuary which is scheduled to take place in early 2025.

Tane Davis, Chair of the Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body says returning between 30 and 50 'at risk' tīeke from each island to the mainland is significant for all of Aotearoa, and a shared success story for the project partners involved.



Tane Davis with South Island Saddleback and mist net.

Tīeke are a taonga species to Ngāi Tahu, as acknowledged in the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act. The Rakiura Tītī Island Administering Body and Rakiura Māori are sharing this taonga with the public in order to safeguard tīeke and help the population to continue to grow.

The relationship between project partners, the Rakiura Tītī Island Administering Body, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, and Orokonui Ecosanctuary, is central to the success of this project. 'This project highlights the central role of mana whenua as kaitiaki of taonga species,' said Davis. 'It is also a very significant event in the context of protecting and restoring the biodiversity of Aotearoa, and in terms of the central role of mana whenua as kaitiaki of tīeke and other taonga species.'

Orokonui Ecosanctuary is a pivotal return point for wildlife in the mainland, providing a safe predator-free environment for a breeding population to establish, before they are released elsewhere. It also provides a location for the public to engage with wildlife, such as tīeke, not accessible elsewhere. Amanda Symon, General Manager of Orokonui, says it will be a great privilege to receive the tīeke and help support the next phase of their recovery on the mainland,

In preparation for the release, a detector dog will inspect Orokonui in December 2024 to be absolutely certain the sanctuary is predator-free (exact date is still to be finalised). Following this, the Rakiura Tītī Island Administering Body will undertake a tīeke population survey in January 2025. The transfer itself will be weather dependent and subject to avian influenza (bird flu) clearance. A survey of the tīeke population on Pūtauhinu and Kani Islands will also be undertaken prior to the translocation to ensure there are sufficient numbers.

The upcoming release highlights the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki, and their special relationship with taonga species. The Department of Conservation has been an enabler of this mana whenua driven initiative.



*South Island Saddleback,
Credit Stephen Jacquierey.*



*South Island Saddleback,
Blumine Island_Oruawairua,
Credit Oscar Thomas.*



*South Island Saddleback,
The Anchor Stone,
Credit Oscar Thomas.*

Facilitating action through kaitiaki-led monitoring

Rakiura Māori have harvested tītī since long before the birth of modern science. They have been the kaitiaki of this taonga for over 600 years, caring for their kaimanu and obtaining a vital food source in return.

Around the world, species valued for food security, health, and cultural well-being by Indigenous Peoples face mounting pressures from climate change and resource development. Tītī are no exception, facing threats from human activity and changing environmental conditions. While scientific monitoring of biodiversity increasingly relies on technology and data-driven approaches, there is growing recognition that indigenous knowledge systems and scientific methods can work together effectively to ensure the long-term sustainability of species such as tītī.

Krista Tremblett, a PhD Candidate from the University of Alberta, is exploring how Indigenous community-based monitoring programs influence decision-making and resource management at different scales. Her research examines how monitoring that's grounded in cultural values and traditional practices can strengthen Indigenous Peoples' role in the management of biodiversity around the world. As part of her study, Krista is proposing to support a cultural exchange between Inuvialuit and Rakiura Māori related to community-based monitoring.

Krista first met with the Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body (RTIAB) in 2023 along with Dr. Phil Lyver (Manaaki Whenua) to propose a cultural exchange with the Inuvialuit, the Inuit of the western Canadian Arctic. Like Rakiura Māori, the Inuvialuit maintain strong connections to their traditional harvesting practices while adapting to environmental changes. They have developed a successful beluga harvest monitoring program that provides valuable information on beluga health.

Krista aims to support knowledge-sharing and learning about kaitiaki-led monitoring (beluga, tītī), particularly in terms of how Indigenous communities can effectively gather and use information to support both cultural practices and resource management decisions.

Visits to both the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Aotearoa would be held during beluga and tītī harvesting seasons, in 2025 and 2026 respectively. On Hendrickson Island there is a land-based camp where participants will have the opportunity to observe the beluga harvest sampling and monitoring program. This will include watching how beluga are prepared and stored for the winter and, she hopes, will generate ideas related to community-based monitoring and decision making.

Krista will be particularly interested in how monitoring data and information is shared with others and how the community-based monitoring programs have shaped policy and management. Through this work, Krista hopes to show how Indigenous Peoples' ways of monitoring and caring for their relations can shape better decisions while supporting cultural practices and self-determination.



Hendrickson Island, NWT.



Preparing beluga meat.



Fish drying in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT.



Midway Lake, near Fort MacPherson, NWT.

Ros Cole – Senior Ranger, Department of Conservation

Ros was born in Nuku'a'lofa Tonga in the early 1970s, and given the Tonga name Losi'lini. As the first palangi baby in the new hospital she was a curiosity being tiny, skinny, and white. Three years later she was joined by her brother who was also born in Tonga. Their dad was in the shipping industry and supporting the Tongan people with the formation of an export market for fish by creating floating ferro cement freezer barges and coordinating small coastal freighters between New Zealand, Tonga and later Fiji.

Ros's mum, born in Dunedin, trained as a teacher and first taught in Tonga. When Ros was five and a half years old her family moved from Tonga to Auckland, New Zealand. Auckland in the 1970s was not the bustling metropolis of today – you could still jump the back yard fence and pick blackberries. Holidays were spent exploring the Hauraki Gulf, Coromandel and Bay of Islands on a small 24ft keeler yacht. Ros's passion for nature developed with these early adventures which she took part in either barefoot or in rusty salt encrusted roman sandals. It is easy to see how her early life paved the way to her future career.

Ros completed a Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation Management at Lincoln University and then went on to

Otago University to complete a Wildlife Management Diploma under Dr Henrik Moller. During this time she was fortunate to visit Whenua Hou to observe the kakapo programme including the kiore eradication project and the first successful kakapo breeding season in 1997.

Whenua Hou introduced Ros to tītī, korure, para and other seabirds. Her first night was spent radio-tracking kakapo and hearing for the first time their slightly haunting but wonderful cacophony of sounds. Images of the mythical jabberwocky came to mind!



Best thing about working with RTIAB

The people, the manaaki, aroha and korero. Always feeling so welcomed by whānau and at peace on the Tītī Islands. The islands themselves are pretty awesome and amazing too!

Biggest achievements or really special moments

A difficult choice but two transfers stand out in particular. Being part of the inaugural tutukiwi translocation in April 2005 from the Snares/Tini Heke to Putauhinu, to reintroduce a snipe back to the Tītī Islands after they became extinct in the 1960's. Hearing the stories about the Hakawai, then being on the team that worked out how the Hakawai sound was made (Notornis Vol 52 Part 3.indd) and returning the bird to the Tītī Islands was fantastic. Seeing the grin on young Tamati Pennicott's face as he released a tutukiwi was a real highlight. Since that transfer, we (whānau and DOC) have continued to develop and refine how to transfer tutukiwi successfully.

The other really special moment was when tīeke were harvested from Big Island and returned to Taukihepa. All tīeke whakapapa back to those rescued from Taukihepa before they were wiped out by rats in the 1960s. The ecological disaster on Taukihepa is taught over and over again in New Zealand conservation – to be part of the restoration and being a small part of the team to reintroduce them back to Taukihepa was a full circle moment and pretty special. Margaret and Donald Bragg in the helicopter surrounded by transfer boxes filled with tīeke lifting off to Taukihepa is a treasured memory.

There are so many special moments, each made special and memorable by the whānau I meet and get to know. Thank you for sharing your islands with me and I really do look forward to continuing to work with you.

A career with DOC was inevitable really. Ros has worked as a ranger on Rakiura out of Murihiku and has benefitted from the wisdom of some wonderful mentors along the way – Jane Davis, Margaret Bragg, Stewart Bull, Michael Skerrett, Tane Davis, Russel and Teresa Trow, Pete McClelland, Andy Roberts, Andy Cox and many others. Ros feels extremely fortunate to have been working for conservation in a time of limited bureaucracy and getting things done was more straightforward. It has given her the drive to problem solve and find solutions.

Life can be hectic and sometimes chaotic for Ros. She balances full time work with family life as the mother of two teenage daughters and also finds time for farm work on their 80ha hill country sheep farm near Pukerau.

She also makes time for rejuvenation. Ros has an affinity for islands and the ocean, especially the Pacific, and she recently sailed from Bluff to Pitcairn Island via French Polynesia. For Ros, every island is unique and special in its own right. Each island holds secrets and surprises, and some only appear as you get to know them through spending quality time exploring.

She treasures her involvement with the Tītī Islands and witnessing their changes over the years, hearing the stories and feeling their intrinsic value, and looks forward to continuing her support of the RTIAB and whānau into the future. Feel free to contact Ros any time if you have any questions rcole@doc.govt.nz

Ideas for the future

- Seeing Rakiura pest free to protect the Tītī Islands with continued awareness of the importance of implementing good biosecurity to protect what you have. One moment's inattention can undo all the hard work you have achieved.
- The continued restoration of the Tītī Islands, both RTIAB and Beneficial Islands.
- Confirmation of which species of bat is hanging around the South West Islands.



Associate Professor Brendon Dunphy (Waipapa Taumata Rau/University of Auckland)

Ko Brendon Dunphy tōna ingoa. He ahorangi tūhono ia ki Waipapa Taumata Rau.

Brendan is a marine biologist at the University of Auckland (UoA) where he teaches and undertakes research on animals that don't move much (tio, kūtai, pāua) through to those that undertake vast migrations (tītī, other shearwaters/petrels). He is particularly interested in how life adapts to big ocean ecosystem shifts e.g., marine heatwaves; and how these animals cope so we can all help keep numbers high and continue to get a kai.

Brendan is also involved in the Tuākana learning community, a peer mentoring/support scheme for Māori and Pacific Island students at the University of Auckland. So if you have any rangatahi coming to UoA, let him know and he can link them in. The University also puts on free food, study sessions, and offer up other kinds of support to facilitate academic success.



Christopher Lockhart

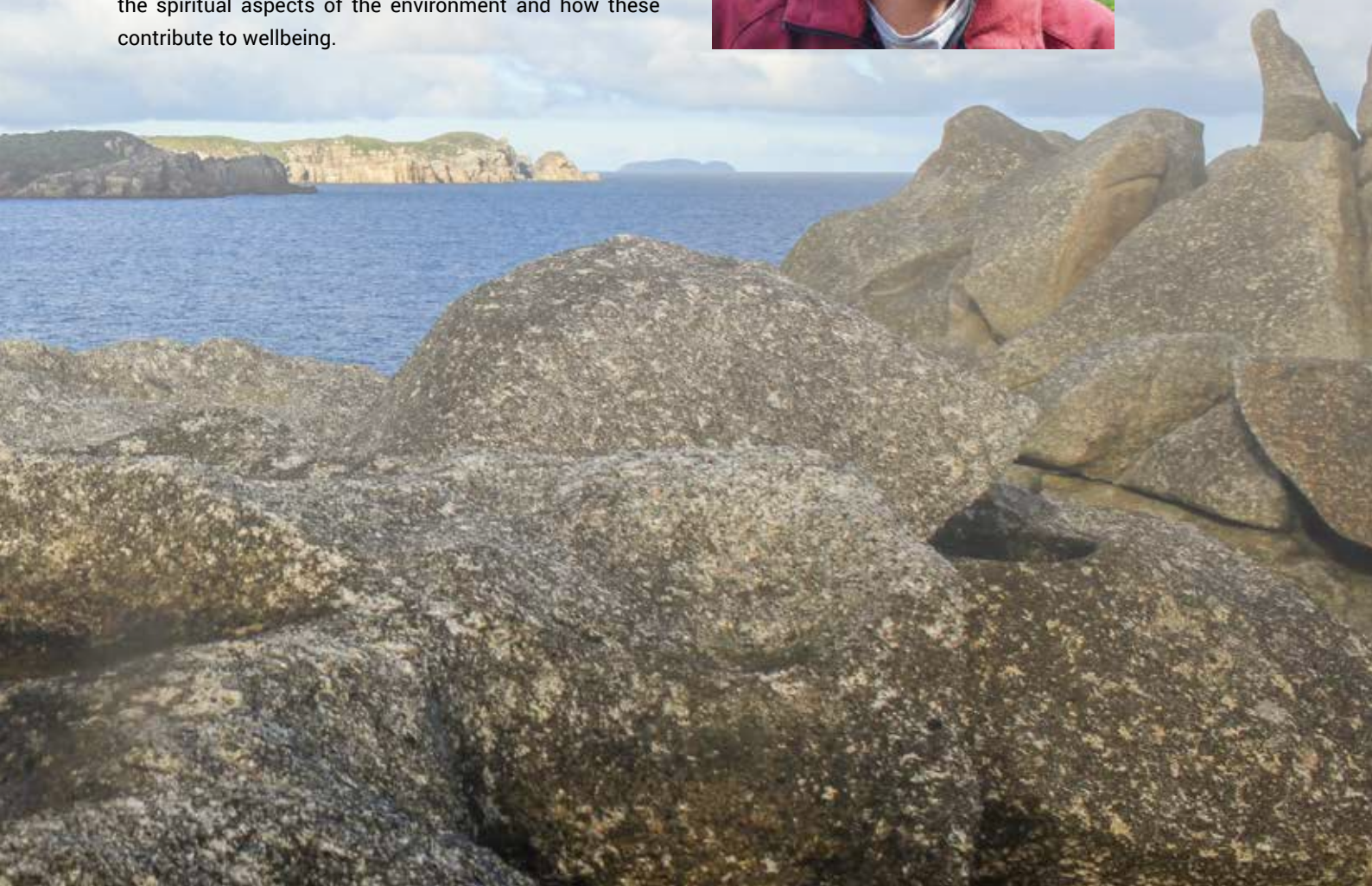
University of Canterbury | UC – College of Business and Law, Doctor of Philosophy – Working with the Te Weu o te Kaitiaki | Regenerating Indigenous Pathways project.

Chris Lockhart is part of the team leading the Manaaki Whenua and Predator-Free Rakiura pest eradication project. The project is a massive \$2.8 million research partnership agreement which seeks to rid Rakiura/Stewart Island of all major predators – possums, rats, feral cats and hedgehogs.

Christopher was born in Wellington but moved to Auckland at an early age to be closer to whānau. His father was born in Auckland whilst his mother is Singaporean. He completed his tertiary education at the University of Auckland before moving to Ōtautahi Christchurch in 2022 to take up a position as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Canterbury.

Chris has a background in social psychology with a focus on religious and spiritual beliefs and values. His Ph.D. research focused on the impact of religion and spirituality on people's attitudes, looking at environmental and political beliefs. Christopher is particularly interested in the spiritual aspects of the environment and how these contribute to wellbeing.

His current work looks at values that underpin attitudes towards the environment, including whānau and community decision-making, as well as kaitiakitanga practices and responsibilities. He hopes to understand the impacts of cultural practices on personal and collective wellbeing given the importance of tītī to birders, and how decision-making might motivate collective action to support the islands' ecosystems. Chris also aims to look at how knowledge is shared, and how birding traditions are passed on to the next generation.



Poem by Manaia

Protect our manu
Unite the whānau
Touch the soft tītī feathers
A place of native nature
Under the manu the tītī call
Hear the helicopters flying near
I am Rakiura maori
Night time adventures
Unforgettable memories

By Manaia Elder

