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TīTī Times

TIKAKA ISSUE

Te Tikaka O Te Tītī

Rakiura Tītī Islands
ADMINISTERING BODY

Manaaki Whenua
Landcare Research

UC
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
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.

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Kupu Whakataki/Foreword

Editorial

Kia ora e te whānau

Reflections from the Season

I write for the first time as RTIAB Chair after what I hope was a rewarding season for you all. From what I observed, this year was a definite improvement on the last—more chicks, and in better condition. While it may not go down as one of the best seasons, I trust that whānau had a satisfying harvest and enjoyed their time on the motu.

Many of us feel, and I've heard others express it too, that our tītī islands are the centre of our universe. It's hard to put into words just how deeply connected we are to our motu tītī. For birders, the islands shape our lives. When I'm not there, I find myself constantly thinking about them—planning, remembering, and longing to return.

One of the great joys of being on the island is the abundance of manu. This season was a standout for forest birds. Tīeke, kākāriki, tūī, toutouwai (robins), and pīwakawaka were all thriving. One afternoon, just outside our whare, I watched four young tīeke feeding, completely unbothered by my presence. It was a beautiful moment, but also a reminder of how vulnerable our manu are. If predators like rats were to reach the islands, the impact would be devastating.

As kaitiaki, it's vital that we remain vigilant and prepared. If you spot a pest, knowing what to do can make all the difference. Biosecurity readiness and taupata management are key priorities in the RTIAB's work programme this year. Information and resources will be shared at the upcoming RTIAB mid-year hui, as well as in the Tītī Times, and made available on our website: https://rakiuratitiislands.nz.

Ngā mihi nui

Dr Jane Kitson
RTIAB chair

Tamariki Of The Ngawati — Kihau Whānau On Papatea

Mum Erika Kihau says this year is the second season for the whānau and they absolutely love it. The youngest carries the name of the great chief Tuhawaiki and his sister is named after her great great grandmother, Naina Kihau-Russell. The kids love their time on the island and are introduced to the various elements of tītī tikaka at an early age.

Tuhawaiki loves the hunting part; he's not scared at all. He's the first person putting his gumboots on so he doesn't get left behind. Erika says the first season was a struggle for Tuhawaiki.

'His little legs couldn't cope, so his father had to have him on his back the whole season, but there was no way he was staying back.' This season he doesn't need to be carried anymore and is a boss birder.

Naina was the catcher last season. 'She was hesitant at first, but by the end she was diving in the bush; she also jumps in and helps with plucking. The kids are always asking to go to the island; we don't get many birds, but the place has a special wairua that calls us back home.'

Clockwise from right: Vayton Ngawati and Naina share the plucking chores, Tuhawaiki has gone from torch holder to birder, Tuhawaiki holds his tītī aloft, Naina proud of her catch, Tuhawaiki and Naina have taken to tītī birding with ease, learning the basics at an early age.

Minister's Sign-Off Of Management Plan Proud Day For RTIAB

Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation
Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Minister for Māori Development
Minister for Whānau Ora
Associate Minister of Housing (Social Housing)

Ref: 25-B-0193

24 June 2025

Tāne Davis
Chair
Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body
rtiabcontact@gmail.com

Tēnā koe Tāne

Thank you for submitting the new Rakiura Tītī Islands Management Plan 2024 to me for my approval, along with the associated summary of submissions, in accordance with the relevant clauses in Schedule 110 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (the Act).

I acknowledge the letter of support from Justin Tipa on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

I also acknowledge the Administering Body's ongoing role in controlling and managing the Rakiura Tītī islands, as if they were a nature reserve, in such a way that Rakiura Māori can continue to take tītī on a sustainable basis.

I commend you for the work the Administering Body has undertaken to review and produce the plan, particularly the extensive engagement with relevant parties, including the Department of Conservation. The plan comprehensively covers the relevant issues associated with managing tītī on the islands.

I consider the plan meets the requirement of the Act to "*provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the Administering Body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the Crown Tītī Islands in accordance with clause 13.6 of the deed of settlement.*"

On this basis, I approve the Rakiura Tītī Islands Management Plan 2024.

Mauriora

Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation

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Aurora Australis

This year we have been lucky enough to witness some particularly vibrant Southern Lights displays due to a coinciding peak of the solar cycle.

Above: Aurora Sighted From Taukahepa — Reti Bull.

Below: Stunning Aurora Viewed From Bluff — Bob Bowen.

Kaitiaki-Led Monitoring In North-West Canada — Lania Davis

The Inuvialuit of North-West Canada have harvested beluga whales since long before the birth of modern science. They have been the caretakers of their 'taonga' species for over 150 years, caring for their kaimanu and obtaining a vital food source in return.

In December 2024 we introduced you to Krista Tremblett, a PhD Candidate from the University of Alberta, who is exploring how indigenous community-based monitoring programs influence decision-making and resource management at different scales. As part of her study, Krista proposed to support a cultural exchange between Inuvialuit and Rakiura Māori related to community-based monitoring. In July this year, RTIAB Board Member Lania Davis (Edwards) and her son, 21 year-old Winiata Edwards, were lucky enough to be selected to travel to Tuktoyaktuk in the northwest territories of Canada to observe the beluga harvest monitoring program that provides valuable information on beluga health.

Having made their way from little old Rakiura all the way to Vancouver, Lania and Winiata carried on to Inuvik (which took five more flights), where they were met by Darrel Nasogaluak, Director of the Hunters and Trappers Committee. (From there it was a three hour bus ride to Tuktoyatuk.) The Committee plays a vital role in the sustainable management of indigenous food sources, including beluga whales, in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. It implements community-specific by-laws that support the Marine Mammal Regulations and ensure safe and efficient hunting practices. The Committee also participates in research and monitoring efforts, including incorporating traditional knowledge and engaging in collaborative research projects with scientists.

Lania and Winiata arrived in Tuktoyatuk in time for Canada Day, which the local community celebrates through the provision of shared (mostly barbequed) kai while beholding the local youth/future leaders taking part in demonstrations of strength such as battle displays using thick sticks and balancing on one hand.

Soon after this they were treated to a bus tour of the nearby pingos, which are intrapermafrost ice-cored hills, typically conical in shape which grow and persist only in permafrost environments, such as the Arctic.

Lania and Winiata had only been in Tuktoyaktuk for two days before a beluga expedition brought success. A local boat returned with a whale, which was processed on the shore. Their first taste of whale meat was very memorable. 'We were offered boiled 'muktuk,' which is essentially the skin and fat. I'd aliken it very much to pork belly!' says Lania. Muktuk is an important dish for the Inuvialuit – it enables them to store body fat in preparation for winter. It also quickly became a firm favourite of Lania's.

A whale sighting itself is another unforgettable experience. 'The sea is brown, due to the outpouring of silt from the McKenzie River. For that reason, it's difficult to spot beluga from much of a distance. Hunters usually sight ripples of water first. But when the beluga do appear, it's incredible! Out of the sea of brown sediment emerge these enormous white creatures! Often they are not visible until they appear directly beside the boat. It's an encounter that has to be witnessed to truly appreciate. It was also pleasing to see just how abundant these creatures were. We saw dozens of different pods during the time we were there.'

A beluga whale sighting in the Beaufort Sea — Arctic Ocean.

Lania and Winiata continued to sample a wide variety of beluga meat over the coming days. Beluga meat 'jerky' was abundant. 'Much of the whale meat is dried so that it can be added to winter stores. It's very meaty and fishy! Fish is either smoked or hung on racks outside to dry before being salted and frozen for winter. We were also treated to other meat dishes such as frozen sliced trout and dried whitefish.'

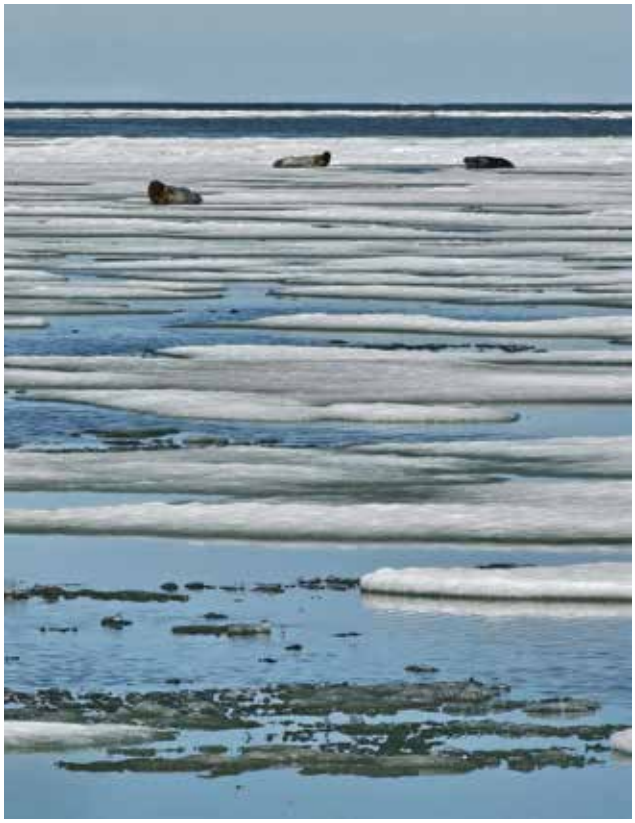
Local delicacies.

The Inuvialuit have been working with scientists for some time now, monitoring beluga in partnership with scientists and local monitors to assess the health of the creatures. The Hunters And Trappers Committee's beluga management plan sets out guidelines for what can and cannot be harvested based on monitoring data. The monitoring programme ensures the people can respond appropriately when there are signs of bad health among the beluga. When the whales are sick, the locals don't eat them. And they have also only ever hunted the males, ensuring the females can be left to breed.

'We were taken out to Hendrikson Island,' says Lania, 'where a monitoring station is based to observe the whales caught that day. The trip is an hour return voyage. The island is surrounded by sea ice and as well as beluga; we saw bearded seals resting on shelves of ice all around us.' Lania and Winiata spent ten hours on Hendrikson with local monitors and skippers hoping someone would bring in a whale that day but no such luck. They did manage to have a good look around however, and chat with the local monitors and learn about their roles.

The monitors based on Hendrikson Island spend 50 days at a time there and support the scientists who come and go. Hendrikson is an archaeological site full of old harpoon heads, spears and mittens. Locals talked to Lania and Winiata about traditional harvesting practices and showed them old artefacts.

As their two week trip drew to a close, Lania and Winiata were invited to gather with the community at Kitty Hall to be entertained by indigenous drumming, singing and dancing performances. 'We shared kai with them and responded with our own kapa haka and waiata items. We also gifted pounamu.' Their last day was spent visiting traditional sod houses and learning to make traditional knives (ulu's) and earrings.



Bearded seals on sea ice, further out from Hendrikson Island, in the Arctic Sea.

'We learnt so much and there is so much more we can learn,' says Lania. It is hoped that their visit will be reciprocated by the Inuilaviat community as soon as the tītī season next year. In the face of mounting pressures on food security, including climate change and resource development, it is becoming more important than ever to consider kaitiaki and modern science side by side.

Acknowledgements

Darrel Nasogaluak and his wife Josephine – guides and hosts.
Jim and Frank Elias and Lennie Emaghok – boat skippers and guides.

The Hunters and Trappers Committee for Tuktoyaktuk, including staff.

Canada-Inuvialuit Fisheries Joint Management Committee (Herb Nakimayak, Lauren Aarts)

Oceans North (John Noksana Jr.) Rakiura Māori and He Waka Kōtuia

Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body (Lania Davis, Winiata Edwards)

Rakiura Tītī Committee (Gail Thompson, Ricky Fife)

He Waka Kōtuia (Paulette Tamati-Elliffe, Tumai Cassidy)

Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research (Dr Phil Lyver, Puke Timoti) Māori Researchers

Canadian Researchers – University of Alberta (Krista Tremblett, Prof Brenda Parlee, Prof Fikret Berkes)

Above: Beluga meat being salted and dried.

Below: Group photo during expedition to pingos.

Above: One of the games used to strengthen rangitahi for hunting.

Above right: Views of Tuktoyatuk houses from Lania and Winiata's AirBnB.

Right: Scaled Whitefish— a freshwater species (also Canada's most important commercial freshwater species).

Below: NZ group flying He Whakaputanga (United Tribes of NZ) flag on Hendrikson Island.

FIRES, FOOD, FIRST AID AND FEATHERS — Maureen Arthurs

Maureen Arthurs is considered a taonga among the tītī birders of Taukihepa, for her knowledge, her commitment to sustainability and her skills as a nurse who has patched up dozens of people in the most remote of locations.

Her first memories of the island were as a toddler with her with uncle Manny and Granny Coulston. It is the memory of the nocturnal visits of the ruru that stays with her today. 'I still think today that it's the same morepork - it's always been with me and keeps following me, all these years,' she chuckles.

Maureen didn't return to the island until her mum married the legendary birder Mick Te Koeti in 1959. In 1960 she returned to the island as a 14 year-old.

'Many of the old ones believed that women should only do the plucking and cooking but Mick wasn't one of them.' So Maureen learnt quickly to get out on the manu and bird.

'It was two years before I learnt to nanao, but I got it!' Mick was great at nanao-ing and could catch a hundred a day. That was a pretty mean feat in those days.'

Maureen's trips to the island were only interrupted by nursing training in 1966 at Dee Street Hospital.

One of the first things people say about Maureen is that she has helped many, many people on Taukihepa with their injuries. 'I was the first port of call if they weren't too badly injured, but if they were, we had to call the Stewart Island Radio or the nurse at Stewart Island and the helicopter would come down and collect them.'

She remembers one particular incident where a birder from a nearby manu arrived on her doorstep with a mangled hand due to an injury with a cleaver. 'He told me he was chopping the birds' wings off and the cleaver chopped into the middle of his thumb and forefinger. I patched it up a bit, but I had to send him home to the mainland. Later though, he came to me and revealed that he had told a fib. It actually happened during a fight! I told him I had worked that out as you couldn't be chopping with the right hand and get hit with the cleaver on the same hand!' But Maureen would help anyone, no matter the circumstances.

Maureen was not only taught to bird but became an expert on all aspects of the island by some of the best birders of her day. She has passed that knowledge down to her children now as well. 'We didn't let them do any work until they were about eight years old because we didn't want to make them sick of it, so we just let them find their way into it nice and easy.' Her daughter, Kaylene, liked the island but didn't like killing the birds, although she did everything else.

Cuppa time — Maureen Arthurs

"Now my delight is taking my cousins and my nephews and nieces if they want to go and their children if they want to go and teach them, show them what the island is all about and teach them the traditions and how the work is done, if they want to keep coming good and if they don't at least they have had an opportunity to see what it's all about — that's my greatest pleasure now.'

Maureen says that while many things have changed, birding is still as hard as it ever was in respect of catching the tītī. 'Helicopters have made transport so much easier — in the old days your gear was dropped off by boats at the landing and then you would have to cart it all the way up a hill. We would still be bringing gear up at the end of the season! People say the birds are expensive, but they don't realise how expensive it is to get down there in the first place. We do need to cover our costs.'

'This year (2025), the birds were good, but last year was a poor season,' she says. 'I have only ever struck two or three seasons that were bad. My mother and stepfather had a few seasons when it was really bad. My sons have had a couple of seasons where it was pretty bad too.'

In 1991 Maureen stopped going down while she did some more nurse training for three years, but the wider whānau continued to go.

Sadly, her husband Ray, who has always been a lynchpin in the family birding team, is not fit enough any more to go down, so the family have filled the huge gap he has left.

This last (2025) season, Maureen and her daughters Kaylene and Ruby, along with their sons Chris and Glen travelled down first to maintain the tracks and get everything prepared. 'Then Kaylene and Ruby went home and Richard Wixon came down and helped with the torching and then the grandchildren came as well – it was a good team!'

'I have taught my family that what we can handle with our hands is what we get, we don't go overboard and kill, kill, kill. I have taught them to look after the land, look after your manu and then the land will look after you.'

I can't speak highly enough of my family,' says Maureen, If the boys didn't go I wouldn't be able to go. And Kaylene and Ruby come all the way from Australia to help set up and I really appreciate their hard work.'

Maureen has seen a few changes to the landscape over her time on the island. A chunk of land slipped in 1975 and then again two years ago. 'It's eroded an area close to our house.' The slip is thought to result from a creek at the top of a gully. 'Our people were sensible though, and built where it was safe and not deep in a gully.'

Since the rats were eradicated, the bird life is now prolific. 'I remember when the scientists came and had a look around and they saw how much the bird life had improved after the rats were eradicated – they were amazed and delighted.'

But there is still one predator that is causing significant impact on the population – the weka. They were originally taken to the island as a food source but are now a predator of tītī.

'When I was young, eating them was our way of keeping their numbers down, but the young ones don't seem to enjoy them much, so they don't eat them anymore because they have fridges and freezers now and bring all their meat with them so aren't interested in eating them.' This means the weka are now prolific and they need to be eradicated. 'They are cunning pests, they get weary of any hunters quite quickly, and they eat muttonbird chicks and eggs,' says Maureen. But the weka are very selective in what they eat of the tītī. 'They don't eat anything but the eyes and the brains of the chicks and the eggs.'

Maureen says she will be going to the island for as long as she can, but admits she went for a walk on one of her old tracks this season and realised it was getting too hard. 'The mind says I can do it, but the body says 'you're kidding yourself, girl, you're kidding yourself!'

My pakeha friends ask, 'when are you going to stop going to the island?' says Maureen. 'They don't realise what a draw that place has on you, and I tell them I will go until I can't see, and I can't walk.'

Maureen says she still can play an important part of the yearly harvest and calls her mahi the Four F's. 'I'm the keeper of the Fire, the creator of Food, the plucker of Feathers and the dispenser of First Aid!' She knows she will still visit the islands as long as she is able to sit in the pluckhole and advise the kids on what to do and not to do. For Maureen, this translates as 'showing them the old ways and telling them stories of their past and keeping their pukus full!'

Maureen's Whakapapa

Tupuna: Teoti Mauhe

Myles Coulston married a lovely wahine — Ellen Mauhe — daughter of Teoti.

Her Grandmother Marion Coulston (nee Dallas) married John Joseph Coulston.

The Arthurs' rights to Taketu Manu come from their women.

Maureen's great grandfather John Dallas was the person who would today be classed as a pilot helping ships around the Southland coast.

Her stepfather was Mick Te Koeti.

Maureen and daughter Kaylene.

Peter Bellingham
Senior Researcher – Manaaki Whenua

Peter Bellingham is a forest ecologist by trade and Manaaki Whenua has been lucky enough to hold on to him for 30 years.

Over the last decade, he has also been an Associate Professor at the University of Auckland, where he remains an Honorary Academic and continues to supervise Biological Science students. Peter has also spent time with the Department of Conservation looking at the distribution and abundance of woody non-native plant species on public conservation land.

Peter has always been particularly interested in the impact of natural disturbances on plant life such as a warming climate, hurricanes, typhoons, fires, earthquakes and logging. This has led him to investigate island plant life in the northern Hauraki Gulf and its relationship with seabirds bringing nutrients to the soil from the ocean. Fundamental to Peter's investigation in the Gulf has been working with Māori as the kaitiaki in an effort to reinstate cultural harvests there.

As a natural next step, Peter now finds himself working with tītī whānau to provide insights into the spread of taupata. He is working with families whose manu are heavily invaded by the plant species and he relies heavily on the knowledge they contribute as kaitiaki. 'These families hold a centuries-long commitment to the Tītī Islands. Their knowledge has been handed down to them by tupuna for generations,' says Peter. 'The whānau bring an observational depth that Western science can not offer up. Their matauranga contributes wisdom and an awareness of seasons, dates, and tītī in such depth and detail. These families are working towards the same goal, so when our two knowledge systems are put together, we have so much more understanding.'

Peter is looking at what kinds of birds are dispersing taupata and to what distance they are capable of doing it. All kinds of birds are eating taupata seeds, and their flight patterns are providing him with an idea of where those seeds are being deposited. 'Kereru can fly for 15 kilometres easily,' says Peter, 'whereas tui will not often leave an island. And tiēke of course, can not fly at all.'

Like the whānau he works alongside, Peter acknowledges that the fight against taupata is really only just beginning. 'We are in the early stages of understanding what taupata can do to an island. On some manu, it is now the dominant canopy tree, and the families have some big decisions to make in terms of next steps.'

Peter hopes to continue to support them down this path. 'There are still so many unknowns in terms of the taupata predicament, such as climate change scenarios and what they mean for the motu. And then there is the question of how we regrow the trees that used to make up the canopy.' A changing climate also spells stormier seas - so again, what will the effect of them be on the islands?

There is still so much to learn about the forest ecology of the Tītī Islands, but if anyone can shed some more light on it, Peter can!

Peter Bellingham on Pikomamakau-iti March 2024 (credit Rowan Buxton).

Mhari and Norman York — Their Brand And Its Legacy

Created by Mhari and Norman York, the iconic symbol atop their buckets is a registered brand featuring a combination of their initials to form a unique marking that signifies their unity and muttonbirding culture.

Mhari And Noman's Iconic Brand

With the brand being around for 60 years plus, it is well recognised amongst the tītī community, as well as by whānau, local fisherman and chopper pilots.

Mhari and Norman had five children who all became muttonbirders and used this brand until branching out on their own with their newly formed families.

Their eldest daughter, Mārama, created a brand with her first husband Colin Gavan and it is still used to this day by their sons — Dane, Rowan and Mason — and their daughter, Aroha.

Linda, the youngest daughter, created a brand with her husband Kevin Larsen and it is still used to this day by Taria and Raynor.

Taua passed away last year leaving her sons James and Ranei as the beneficiaries to her brand, which will probably eventually be passed onto their children when the time comes.

Mhari and Norman with whānau in earlier days.

The tamariki and mokopuna of the Yorks stem from Mhari's bloodline which can be traced to Taukihepa. Direct descendants of Rewiti Te Akau Wero, their whānau resides in Murderers Cove, and the bird the manu Manuaroto.

Born and raised to be mutton birders, we frequented the Tītī Islands from early ages, some of us as babies and often with Taua and Koro (Mhari and Norman).

The gifts of our cultural heritage were passed down to their children and then onto us, the mokopuna. If we didn't learn from Taua and Koro we were taught by our parents. They all made sure the ahi ka remains solid in our whānau, and that we birded every year, which we do and will continue to do for generations to come.

The islands are a special place for us, and they're not just about muttonbirding, They are a place that feels like home, somewhere we yearn to be, because they hold a lot of memories.. We feel the energy from our tipuna as soon as we touch down on the soil. Even entering into our waters has a certain smell, the smell of peat and tuapare in the water lets off an aroma that lets you know you have arrived home.

"When the Island calls, We answer".

Is a saying I'm sure most birders feel and understand with their whole heart.

Taria York-Larsen
Grand-daughter of Mhari and Norman York

Norman and James York

Thoughts

Watching the rough seas as they pound the shoreline
It hypnotises you for as long as you want
The waves breaking on the rocks
The cruel numerical sea further out, with their white caps
Show their might and seem to beckon you.

The Tītī flying around, up and down, taunting the angry sea
Birds dashing magnificently through the bush,
Sitting in the trees, whistling beautifully.
Oh to be able to translate their harmonious sounds.

What a paradise this place is
Seeing other islands sitting further out –surrounded by the white surf
Seeing the world as it really is, or as it should be.
Wishing as time passes on, things can stay as they are.

If only clocks can turn back time
The wind whispers through the trees
The trees sway to and fro, as they dance their dance of defiance
Against the strong, prevailing gale force winds.

They stand tall and strong, and some are weak,
Some are aged with generations of seeing.
Some fall to the ground with a loud crack
And roar, defiant to the end.

I think of fishermen on their boats, and passengers on board
Battling the might of the sea and the elements.
Desperate! To reach the islands of their dreams
What brave and determined people

Who risk their lives every year to reach this place
A special place –a special breed of people
It's magic – it's instinct – it's their heritage, it's what they live for
"The call of the Islands"

Ka Karanga te tītī (the muttonbird calls)
Ka Karanga nga Moutere (the Island calls)
Ka Whakahoki I a ratou
Karanga a matou (and we answer the call)

Above: No question whose luggage this is!

Left: Poem by Norman York-Pakinga (18.3.1999).

Below: Whānau at the manu.

Tītī Times RTIAB Member Profile Kayne Davis

Ko Kayne Tāne Davis tēnei. No Ōtautahi (Christchurch) ahau.

How long have you served on the RTIAB?

I have been a member of RTIAB since 2017 and have given eight years' service to the Board and its community.

How do you affiliate to the Tītī Islands?

Our whānau whakapapa to the Tītī Islands and harvest there. Tītī kaupapa has deep roots. The direct link for me is through my father's side (Tāne Davis). Both grandparents (Wiremu and Jane Davis) had whakapapa connections in their own rights, and the whānau tree grows beyond that. My Pōua grew up birding on Taukihepa (Big South Cape) while my Tāua's mother (Pearl Wilson, née Hunter) was the first to establish and consistently bird on Putauhinu Island. I was fortunate to learn the tikanga and observe leadership beside my grandparents from a very young age. This depth and richness which has been rooted in consistent participation across multiple generations guides my connection to the Tītī Islands.

Kayne Davis

Tell us a bit about your immediate family?

I am married to Selena Davis. She is a preschool kaiako by trade and has most recently moved into primary school kaiāwhina work. Her whakapapa is predominantly from the Netherlands. Selena and I have three kids. Our eldest son is Patu (10), our middle girl is Nayeli (9) and our youngest son is Ryker (3). Patu is named after my late uncle (Wiremu and Jane's third son) who passed away when he was quite young.

What achievement are you most proud of while serving time on the RTIAB?

If asked for the achievement I am most proud of while serving time with the RTIAB, it's the humble achievement of servant leadership. Bearing the weight of balancing decisions based on maintaining and enhancing the long-term mauri of our people and te taiao. As an Administration Body, we've addressed a lot of complex problems over the last few years. These problems inevitably impact our community in dynamic and inconceivable ways. In my opinion, the greatest achievement of the RTIAB has been the integrity of its decision making which I attribute to good leadership, broad knowledge and community involvement.

What is the biggest challenge you think the RTIAB will face in the coming years?

With the world becoming increasingly turbulent by the day, and the pace of change supercharging, we are in unprecedented and complex times. As New Zealanders, we largely operate in a framework governed by western ideals. However, we shouldn't allow this to foreshadow the wisdom of our tikanga. I believe it's our collective mātauranga (indigenous knowledge) that will help to solve the problems of tomorrow. My hope for the RTIAB is to remain steadfast with whatever is thrown our way, respond with the integrity of our values, and grow in response to our community's needs.

Kayne and family — Selena, Ryker, Patu and Nayeli.

What do you hope for your kids in terms of their Tītī Islands future?

To me, the greatest gift our Tītī Islands give us is tūrangawaewae. The physical place of our identity and a

place that anchors our belonging or sense of home in this world. The hope I have for my kids and the generations beyond that, is to continue to have the same opportunities to anchor their sense of self within the kaupapa of tītī. To me, these opportunities are only realised through our self-determination to participate and pass down the stories of our identity weaved through the tikanga of our kaupapa. Additionally, I believe owning responsibility as kaitiaki over our interactions within this delicate system is critical. Traditionally, we have needed the islands more than they needed us. Going forward, I think it's important we understand this is a relationship we have benefited from, as well as our continued benefit which relies on being responsible kaitiaki.

Right: The kids on the manu.

Leucistic Or Albino?

The Tītī Times received two pics of white tītī this season — discovered by Jodie Bull and Halen Norton.

White birds come in two forms — Leucistic — which means some or all white feathers, and Albino which means marked by all white and pink eyes. Leucism is the lack of melanin pigment in some feathers due to the absence of melanin-producing cells; Albinism is the complete lack of these pigments due to the absence of a particular enzyme (tyrosinase).

Both Jodie and Halen say the birds were gently returned to their burrows and not harvested.

Above: Halen and Aubree Norton Pohowaitai.

Left: Jodie Bull from Taukihepa.