

An international snippet ...

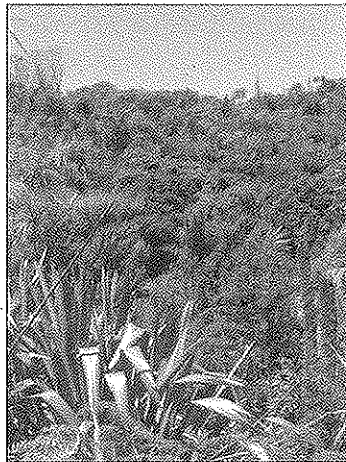
TIRITIRI MATANGI - A SUCCESS STORY

You don't need to be a beaky bird watcher with a silly hat to enjoy this bird sanctuary with its friendly endangered species, beautiful beaches and cool native forest.

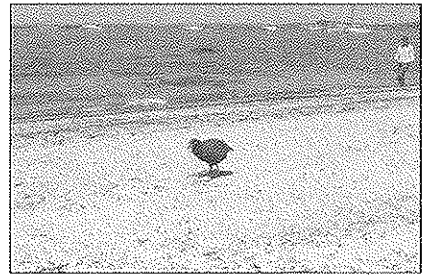
Tiritiri Matangi Island, 22 ha in size and only 30 km from central Auckland, is an open bird sanctuary and a real conservation success thanks to thousands of volunteers planting around 300,000 native trees during the last 21 years, allowing the reintroduction of 11 endangered bird species as well as tuatara, New Zealand's living dinosaur.

The island is unique because of the large number of bird species to be seen in a very short time and with such ease. Viewing and getting around is easy from well-constructed boardwalks suitable for all fitness levels. Many of the birds are relaxed around people and you can get quite

close. Native pigeons, tuis, fantails, baby blue penguins and bellbirds as well as rarer native birds – kokake, takahe, saddleback, stitchbird, red crowned parakeets, North Island robin and the little spotted kiwi can all be seen on the island.



You will also meet Greg, the island takahe. Greg, a bird of



character as well as size, may try to climb up your body and perch on your head - not to be encouraged, as he supports his weight by digging six claws into your flesh! Greg is a member of an endangered species, being one of only 17 birds on the island and about 230 in New Zealand. This species was thought to be extinct until rediscovered in 1948.

I am proud to have been involved in the revegetation of Tiritiri Matangi Island as part of an early community involvement program while a member of the Auckland Technical Institute Tramping Club in 1984.

Zara Kivell

This newsletter is a compendium of articles written by many different people. The views expressed are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

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