

Profile of Jane Vaughan

by Sandra K Bogart

Born in Whangarei in 1941, Jane Vaughan nee Worsfold was raised in Kaiwaka where, from the age of “five and half”, she rode her horse five kilometres to school until the bus service started up.

“There was a polio epidemic for the first few months of my schooling in 1946, so each pupil was sent homework from the Correspondence School,” Jane said. “Later I attended Maungaturoto District High School at it was known then, by bus.”

After returning from OE where she worked in Britain as a nurse (and occasional barmaid), Jane married the boy across the road – Roy Vaughan. Over his lifetime Roy has been in the English and New Zealand Merchant Navies and worked as a journalist for the *NZ Herald*. He was involved in the sister city project between Auckland and Fukuoka, Japan and his experiences have led to the recent publication of two intriguing novels, *The Mereleigh Record Club Tour of New Zealand* and *The Mereleigh Record Club Tour of Japan* which are available in several provincial libraries and at the Mangawhai Books and Gifts Shop in Wood Street.

In the 1990s the couple lived in Fiji for a couple of years after the coup and Jane wasn't allowed to work for wages. “I volunteered at an orphanage In Fiji and at the Destitutes' Clinic, a lovely name, and very descriptive of its purpose. I was not permitted to work as a nurse, so I unpacked and sorted donated medicines from Australia and New Zealand to be used in the medical system and typed medical students' notes. I learned a lot about Fiji that way.”

After raising their two children, in Auckland – “My last paying job was at a medical practice on Karangahape Road which was very, very interesting. People from all walks of life came in and I do mean all walks. I thoroughly enjoyed that” – the couple retired to Mangawhai.

“There is plenty to do. I belong to the garden club, the Mangawhai Historical Society and for six years was a guide for the Walking Weekend event. This year I was tail-end Charlie keeping up the rear on the geology walk. I saw where ancient lava flows came out of the sea forming some of the rocks that I have known all my life. I also learnt about where New Zealand was joined to Gondwanaland. It was fascinating.”

One year ago Jane started a riparian planting team in Mangawhai. Working closely with the Northland Landcare Trust (www.landcare.org.nz) they applied and received funding to plant stream sides along the Mangawhai catchment area to help clean up the Mangawhai Harbour.

“It's a long term project and we want to plant every rivulet and stream that runs into the harbour to help stop siltation. It will improve the waterways for the native fish and clean up the water itself. Raglan has just planted its millionth tree and they've been going 20 years. People there are catching more fish now.”



Jane, in orange, celebrating the launch of the Tara-Iti, the NZ Fairy Tern Charitable Trust boat with Abby Meagher who was DoC's Ranger for Community Relations.

Photo/Sandra Boeart

Jane walks every day to keep fit and much of the year also treads carefully on the Mangawhai sand spit and Wildlife Refuge where she volunteers with the Department of Conservation coordinating the volunteers who look after the NZ fairy tern. She is also a member of the New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust and visits schools and markets, sometimes dressed in an NZ fairy tern costume, to educate people about the scarcity of this endemic shore bird.

She has been given the task of looking after the birds that will be part of an ornithological display at the new Mangawhai Museum and is looking forward to a trip to Te Papa where she will be taught to do so.

She's a rare bird, these days, who gives so much back to her community, but Jane doesn't squawk about it. She's just delighted there is so much to do in magical Mangawhai and committed to keeping it that way.
