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Dear Members,

In this issue: Fairy tern news; **Congratulations:** D'Artagnan Sprengel; **Thanks to:** Bennetts, Galtons, Anonymous donors; **Updates:** Sand mining; Mangawhai Central, Auckland Regional Parks, Coastal pathways; **Danni Rae:** Photos of Te Araroa Trail.

Fairy Tern News

Summary of breeding results for 2021-22 season (2020-21 season in brackets)

TOTALS:	Eggs laid: 25 (29)	Eggs hatched: 19 (16)	Chicks fledged: 10 (5)
Waipu:	Eggs laid: 2 (2)	Eggs hatched: 2 (2)	Chicks fledged: 0 (2)
	<i>(Both chicks died at the natal site)</i>		
Mangawhai:	Eggs laid: 15 (18)	Eggs hatched: 8 (10)	Chicks fledged: 7 (1)
	<i>(4 eggs failed to hatch; 1 egg from Pakiri hatched, but the chick died; 2 chicks died at the Zoo; 1 died at the aviary; 1 chick died at the natal site; 7 fledged on site)</i>		
Pakiri:	Eggs laid: 5 (5)	Eggs hatched: 0 (1)	Chicks fledged: 0 (1)
	<i>(One chick died while hatching; 3 eggs hatched at the Zoo; 1 egg transferred to Mangawhai, 1 chick died at the Zoo; 2 fledged from the aviary)</i>		
Papakanui:	Eggs laid: 3 (4)	Eggs hatched: 3 (0)	Chicks fledged: 1 (0)
	<i>(Chick from first nest died at the natal site; 1 chick from second nest died at the Zoo)</i>		
Zoo/Aviary:	Eggs laid: 0 (0)	Eggs hatched: 6 (4)	Chicks fledged: 2 (1)

As you can see from the summary, a much improved breeding season compared with last year. The rangers have finished monitoring the breeding sites and are busy writing their reports, summaries of which will be in the next newsletter, when they are available.



Waipu: The pair known as the “Greens” because of their leg bands laid a two egg nest in early November. Both eggs hatched in early December, but one chick died at 4 days old, due to natural causes. The other chick disappeared at 17 days old, presumed dead of unknown causes.

Captive chicks at the Zoo – 3 from Mangawhai and 1 from Pakiri *Photo: Shelley Ogle*

Mangawhai: A much better breeding season this year! The decision to discourage the birds from using the previously popular site near the coast certainly paid off as all the nests this year were laid in the large shell patch adjacent to the estuary where they were sheltered from the strong easterlies and storms. At times it was chaotic for the Rangers and volunteers keeping track of which birds were where, but on the whole the pairs and chicks co-existed peacefully with the main interference coming from a lone male which had to be continually chased off by the nesting pairs.

One of the newly hatched chicks on site at Mangawhai

Photo: Shannon Courtenay



A total of 8 nests were laid over the course of the season. The eggs from the two earliest nests were taken to the Zoo in order to encourage the birds to lay again, which they did and the second layings resulted in chicks fledging successfully on site. In one nest, the eggs failed to hatch, but all other nests resulted in one or two successful fledglings.



Mangawhai fledglings spending days at the estuary

Photo: Jake Ball

The chicks, now properly called juveniles, have left their natal sites and are starting to be seen around the Kaipara.

Darren Markin photographed this juvenile – RM-KpG on 20 January at Mangawhai Estuary





The same bird at Manukapua/Big Sand Island on the Kaipara on 19 Feb. *Photo: Darren Markin*

Te Arai: there were no nests at Te Arai this year

Pakiri:

Once again the Pakiri pair laid 3 nests. The first nest was flooded, the egg transferred to the Zoo, then back to Pakiri, but the chick died while hatching.

Captive chicks at the aviary learning to fish.



Photo: Shelley Ogle

The eggs from the second nest were moved to the Zoo where they both hatched, but one chick died shortly after hatching. The other chick was moved to the aviary where it was banded and released from the aviary, presumed fledged on 20th January.

The third nest containing 2 eggs was laid early December. Because of the risk of flooding, the eggs were taken to the Zoo and the nest was subsequently abandoned. One egg was transferred to a one egg nest at Mangawhai where it hatched and was banded, but later died from a suspected pecking injury. The other egg hatched at the Zoo and was transferred to the aviary where it was banded and released on 10th February, presumed fledged.

Papakanui: The first and last nests of the season were laid at Papakanui. The first nest with one egg was laid late October. The chick hatched and survived for about 18 days, but disappeared, presumed predated shortly after banding.

The female fairy tern mated with another partner and laid a 2 egg nest just after Christmas. Both eggs hatched but one chick died. The other chick was banded and has been well looked after by its parents and has fledged successfully, the first successful fledging at this difficult site since the 2016-2017 season!

The shell patch where the chick was banded in the vastness of Papakanui Spit

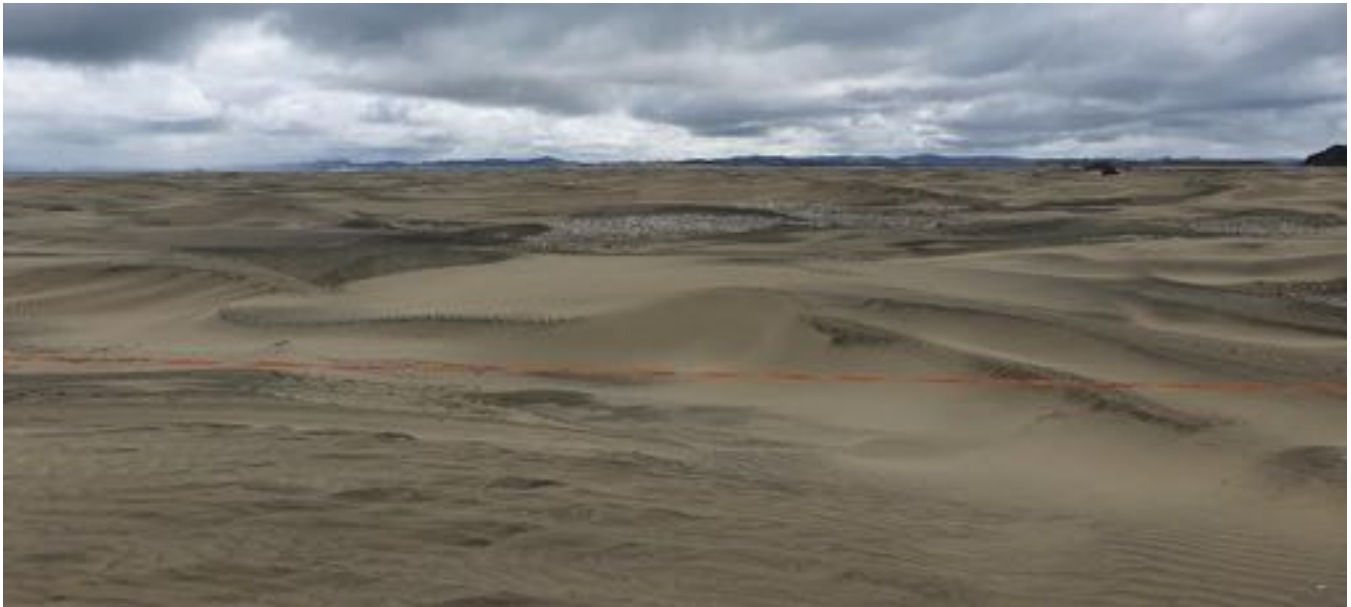


Photo: Ayla Wiles

Zoo/Aviary: Look out for a press release next week about the Zoo's work this season.

It's been a huge effort from all the DOC and Zoo staff, the Rangers, the trappers and volunteers to make this a successful season, not forgetting the birds who certainly did their bit!

Congratulations D'Artagnan Sprengel!

WildArt Young Photographer of the Year 2021 Winner

D'Artagnan Sprengel, New Zealand.



My name is D'Artagnan Sprengel and I am from Aotearoa, New Zealand. I have been taking photos since I was 10. For my 11th birthday I got my first DSLR (a Nikon D3400) and from there, photography became my passion. I mostly take photos of birds and insects as we have very few land mammals down here, but I also love doing astro-landscape photography.

It was a great thrill to learn that D'Artagnan has donated his winnings to the NZ Fairy Tern Trust. He is planning to compile a photographic documentary about fairy terns and has been out to Big Sand Island on the Kaipara with bird expert and photographer, Ian Southey. While there he met Darren Markin, another bird expert and photographer, so he's in good hands!

Congratulations from all of us, D'Artagnan! We're honoured that you've chosen to support us and we look forward to seeing your work.



Glow worms on a cave roof – D'Artagnan's winning entry

Thanks to.....

..... **Bennetts of Mangawhai** who have continued their outstandingly generous funding of the NZ Fairy Tern Trust with a contribution of more than seven and a half thousand dollars from sales of fairy tern cards, fairy tern chocolate eggs and gift wrapping and fountain donations. They've also kept visitors to the chocolate factory up to date via the fairy tern blackboard, which you can't miss as you come into the shop and café. Thank you, Mary and all the Bennetts team!

..... **Galtons Christmas Shop** who have donated \$1,500 from sales of their sparkly birds, beautiful Christmas tree decorations of New Zealand birds. Last Christmas they introduced a fairy tern into their range and have chosen to support our Trust through this donation. The birds will continue to be available for future Christmases, so keep an eye out for them if you missed them last Christmas. Thank you, Shona and the Galtons team!

..... **Anonymous donors:** We have received some extremely generous donations from individuals and organisations who prefer to remain anonymous. We respect their wish not to be named, but would like them to know that we are extremely grateful and really value their support. Thank you!

Updates

Sand Mining: Thank you to all who made submissions on the second and third applications to mine large quantities of sand off the Mangawhai- Pakiri coast.. The hearing on the first application was paused while a seabed survey was undertaken. This has now been completed and the hearings are to resume on 28th February.

Auckland Council have now reversed their position and recommended that the application be declined. This is thanks to a further submission from Te Whanau O Pakiri led by Olivia Haddon, which reiterated their concerns about the inadequacy of the consideration of their kaitiakitanga values; the failure to protect the characteristics of this special coastal marine area and the character of the seafloor and its life supporting capacity and the adverse impacts on their marine environment, cultural values, customary activities and way of life. The results of the survey confirmed their concerns and showed **the trenches are persistent and substantive, with the seabed in a worrying state, resembling a “ploughed paddock of hundreds of hectares”**,

Journalists from *Stuff* are in Mangawhai this week interviewing various groups about the impact of the sand mining. They will visit the Mangawhai Sandspit with representatives of the Trust and the Endangered Species Foundation. Look out for their story in the coming days.

Mangawhai Central: The Fairy Tern Trust joined the appeal against Plan Change 78 on the grounds that the intensive development so close to the estuary will cause adverse effects on fairy tern foraging areas. Mediation with all the parties involved has been taking place with three sessions since November last year.

Sarah Shaw, an experienced Whangarei barrister has agreed to represent the Trust on a pro bono basis. She has taken part in the most recent mediation sessions and has secured agreement on a number of measures that will protect fairy terns if the plan change goes ahead. Ian Southey has also been providing valuable advice and has agreed to be an expert witness for the Trust if the case goes to court. The outcome of the mediation is confidential for now, but thanks to Sarah we have achieved considerable improvements to the original plan.

Auckland Regional Parks: The plans for all of Auckland’s Regional parks are open for submission, which close on 4th March. In January 2018 the Trust along with Te Arai Beach Preservation Society and Save Te Arai submitted on Te Arai North Park and we will submit again with minor modifications. Please get in touch via info@fairytern.org.nz if you have any suggestions or ideas about the park.

Coastal Pathways in Mangawhai: Members of the Trust are meeting Kaipara District Council representatives with a view to installing informative signage about birds on new coastal pathways.

Photos from Te Araroa trail – Danni Rae



Danni Rae's fundraising walk of Te Araroa trail: Danni reports that she's now finished the South Island leg of the trail and is back heading north. She intends to reach Mangawhai around the 9th of March (fingers crossed for no more weather or covid related delays) She is also just over half way with her fundraising goals.

Danni has shared some of her photos of the South Island part of the trail.

We're looking forward to seeing Danni in Mangawhai in March. You can follow her on Facebook: **Danni's Walk for Wildlife.**

