

Dear Members,

In this issue: Fairy tern news; Calendars; AGM report; Art n Tartan; MBS flocking; Sandmining - Update; New Toilet; Thanks: Bennetts.

First, welcome to new members: Diane May of Mangawhai, Mark Harris of Christchurch and Imogen Rumbold of London.

Fairy Tern News

It's been a very disrupted start to the breeding season due to the very wet and windy weather, particularly at the east coast breeding sites.

Papakanui on the west coast saw the first fairy tern nest of the season, with two eggs laid around 20th October. Both hatched, but one died shortly after hatching. The other chick has thrived and was banded RpG-YM (Red, pale Green – Yellow, Metal) on 2nd December.

Another nest at Papakanui was washed away and although the egg was rescued and taken to the Zoo, it failed to develop.



The Papakanui chick with father (B) -RM, known as Bertram, the oldest male fairy tern.

Photo: Shelley Ogle

Waipu saw the second nest of the season, with a two egg nest which was subsequently lost, likely to harrier predation. The same pair renested later in November, again a two egg nest. The eggs were

transferred to the Zoo where it was confirmed that both were fertile, but one was dead, while the other is developing.



The other Waipu pair laid one egg in early December, which was taken to the Zoo during adverse weather and confirmed fertile. The parents have been sitting on a dummy egg, so the real egg may be able to be returned.

The Waipu female defending her nest against a dotterel
Photo: Charlotte Donald

At **Mangawhai**, there were six nests on the ground at one time, with a total of nine eggs laid, seven of which have been confirmed as fertile, while the last two are yet to show signs of development. Some of the eggs were taken to the Zoo for the captive rearing programme and when adverse weather caused the remaining nests to be abandoned, they too were taken to the Zoo. So, there are currently no nests at Mangawhai, but it is hoped that the birds will renest.

A rough morning at Mangawhai
Photo: Shannon Courtenay



Fairy tern with fish being chased at Mangawhai
Photo: Chris Patterson

Pakiri has yet to see a nest, but the resident female is accepting fish from her two male suitors, so there is still hope.

2023 Calendars



The cover of our beautiful 2023 calendar.

We have a few of our calendars left and if ordered now, may reach you in time for Christmas.

They are \$20 each and as a special offer to **paid-up** Trust members, we will send them to you **postage free** in New Zealand. Otherwise, add \$5 for postage within New Zealand.

The calendars are A4 size, that is each picture and each calendar page is A4 size with plenty of room to write in appointments by each date.

As a special bonus, January 2024 is included.

TO ORDER:

Email your order to our secretary, Glenys Mather at info@fairytern.org.nz

Direct credit: ASB Wellsford A/c No: 12-3094-0197257-00

A/c Name: New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust

Please include your name and Calendar in the reference field

Annual General Meeting

At our AGM on 25th September, the 30 or so present heard an interesting talk from Jacob Ball about his ongoing research into fairy tern foraging around Mangawhai Harbour. Jacob is currently a roving Ranger for DOC and hopes to continue his research and complete his thesis.

Reg and Lyn Whale were presented with honorary life membership and a calendar in recognition of their amazing work controlling predators on the Mangawhai Spit. During the ten years that Reg has been carrying out this work, no fairy tern birds, chicks or eggs have been lost to the target predators!

The make up of the committee remains the same, with the welcome addition of new member, Melanie Scott. Convenor: Heather Rogan; Treasurer: Jenny Price; Secretary: Glenys Mather; Membership Secretary: Paulette Whitford. Committee: Guy Folster, Diane Piesse, Melanie Scott, Debbie Stone, Jane Vaughan.

Please email info@fairytern.org if you would like copies of the Annual reports.



Art n Tartan

Art n Tartan is a much loved annual event in Waipu, sort of Northland's version of the World of Wearable Art.

Trust member, Sue Barker sent us the programme showing the outfit she designed. Note Fairy Tern on staff.

Jan-Arie got best model.

PS... Tecomanthe Pods misspelt in programme, sadly.



Mangawhai Beach School Flocking

A few years ago Pukorokoro/Miranda Shorebird Trust initiated a project they named "The Flock". This year one of the Mangawhai Beach School teachers, Jackie Fanning, has been running a weekly lunch time session with a limited number of children who are interested in environmental matters. They have covered a number of topics, set up a trapping line at the school which they monitor regularly and gone on field trips at other times.

The latest activity has been to create a flock of shorebird species seen at Mangawhai. As the fairy tern is one of these birds, our Trust has become involved with Jackie and the children. From bird templates of godwit, oystercatcher, fairy tern, red knot and pied stilt one of the men at the

Waipu Menzshed has cut more than 80 birds out of plywood for the children to paint.....no easy task on a band saw.

The completed flock can be positioned on lawns in public places like schools, libraries, town halls and the like to promote the importance of shorebirds in our community. The project is still a work in progress, but has been taken on enthusiastically by the children.

The photos show Neville of the Waipu Menzshed cutting out the shapes and the finished shapes ready for painting.



Sandmining – Update

The sandmining issue is heading for the Environment Court in March next year and the Fairy Tern Trust has joined the appeals to oppose consent. We are most grateful to barrister, Chris Patterson who has agreed to represent us on a pro bono basis.

Three consents were sought by McCallums. The first for far shore mining was refused consent by Auckland Council commissioners. A different panel of commissioners heard the next two consents sought for near shore and mid shore mining. They declined the near shore application, but gave limited approval for mid shore mining as long as it was north of Te Arai Point. McCallums have appealed all three decisions, while others, including DOC and Friends of Pakiri Beach oppose their appeals and the partial approval given.

The Environment Court judge has directed that all three applications and the various appeals are to be heard together. It is expected to take some time.

New Toilet

Representatives from Kaipara District Council, Te Uri O Hau and the Fairy Tern Trust, along with local artist, Shann Whitaker met recently to open new toilets at Lincoln Street Reserve, Mangawhai. The toilets and water tank are adorned with a mural featuring the fairy tern. The work was designed and painted by Shann Whitaker and Waipu artist, Melinda Butt.



Kaumatua Ben Hita blessed the facilities and as representative of the local community, I had the privilege of turning the key to open the toilet.

Thanks to.....

.....**Bennetts Chocolates** again for their amazing donations from sales of Fairy tern chocolates and cards.

If you're in Mangawhai, check out the fairy tern information board at Bennetts Chocolate factory for all the latest fairy tern breeding news.



Best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and New Year,

Heather Rogan and the Trust committee