

**IPPS New Zealand Conference
22-25 May 2008
Langham Hotel, Auckland**

“Southern Diversity”

PRE-CONFERENCE DAY TRIPS

We have chosen two one-day offshore visits for those conference attendees who would like to come to Auckland and experience some of the diversity that we have in this area of New Zealand.

ALL BOOKINGS are via the IPPS website www.ipps.org.nz At the website you can either book online via the link, OR print out a registration form and fax or post it in.

Places are limited so be in quick. YOU CAN NOT just turn up on the day without a booking.

Wednesday 21st May 2008

Pre-conference day trip to Tiritiri Matangi Island led by Jan Velvin. The cost for this trip will be \$95 each. This will cover ferry transport, lunch and guide fees. Strong shoes and a weather proof jacket will be required.

Jan Velvin Contact Details

T 09 415 7119, M 027 245 6962, E getgrow@ihug.co.nz

MEETING TIMES AND PLACES

You will be travelling on the KAWAU KAT and you should be at either of these wharves at least 20 minutes prior to the stated times sailing times.

8.20 am A bus will leave the Langham Hotel to the Down Town Ferry Terminal. Leave yourself sufficient time for parking at the Langham.

Boat Sails 9.00 am from The Downtown Ferry Terminal, Auckland

Boat Sails 9.45 am from Gulf Harbour, Whangaparoa

Tiritiri Matangi Island (Tiri) is one of New Zealand's unique offshore Island sanctuaries that help to ensure the survival of many rare and endangered plant and animal species. Open Island Sanctuaries such as Tiri have been developed for the prime purpose of advocacy for the endangered species found on the Island, and education for its visitors.

Tiritiri Matangi Island lies 4 km off the coast, it has an area 220 hectares, and is predator free, unlike the New Zealand mainland where many native plant and animal species have been decimated by human introduced predators such as cats, dogs, rats, mustelids, opossums etc.

THE FOREST.

Originally Tiri was covered with a mixed coastal forest primarily *Metrosideros excelsa* with a denser *Dysoxylum spectabile*, and a *Beilschmiedia tarairi* forest in the sheltered valleys. However by the 1970's centuries of Maori occupation and European farming had turned Tiri into rolling grassland with only a few pockets of original forest remaining. In 1984 a replanting programme was begun using volunteers. Between 1984 and 1994, 270,000 trees were planted. Central to the planting was the establishment of a nursery on the Island.

THE BIRDS

Tiri's original birdlife suffered greatly when the forests were cleared for pasture and only the more resilient species remained. The Tui, Fantail, Silvereye, Grey Warbler, Bellbird, Pukeko and Spotless Crake. As our 'new' forests have grown and are now beginning to producing food we have been able to successfully re-introduce and establish some of New Zealand's rare and endangered species such as the Saddleback, Takahe, Whitehead, Kakariki, Little Spotted Kiwi, Brown Teal, Stitchbird and Kokako. As the programme has matured Tiri is now providing numbers of these species for re-introduction to other off shore Island sanctuaries and back onto the mainland to the safety of predator controlled 'mainland islands'.

This is a unique opportunity to spend the day on Tiri, see some of New Zealand's rare and endangered species, and to experience this special Island conservation project as it is happening.

Thursday 22nd May 2008

Pre-conference day trip to Rangitoto Island led by Malcolm Woolmore. The cost for this trip will be \$55 each. This will cover ferry transport, lunch and guide fees. Strong shoes and a weatherproof jacket will be required.

Malcolm Woolmore contact details

T 09 416 8482 M 021 906 295 E malcolm@lyndale.co.nz

MEETING TIMES AND PLACES

You will be travelling on the FULLERS FERRY and you should be at Pier 2 at the Downtown ferry terminal, Auckland City, at least 20 minutes prior to the stated times sailing time.

8.35 am A bus will leave the Langham Hotel to the Down Town Ferry Terminal . Leave yourself sufficient time for parking at the Langham.

Boat Sails 9.15 am from Pier 2, Downtown Ferry Terminal, Auckland

Rangitoto Island is the largest, youngest and least modified of about 50 volcanic cones and craters in the Auckland volcanic field. It is the gateway to the Hauraki Gulf. The Island's name is derived from 'Rangi' meaning sky and 'Toto' meaning lava, translating to 'blood from the sky'.

Rangitoto is believed to be only 700 years old and is a wilderness of rocks and plants covering 2300 hectares with walking tracks around and to the summit, some 259 metres high. From the top you will have amazing views of Little Barrier Island, Great Barrier Island, the Coromandel Peninsula and other harbour islands.

The Island is made up of scoria and basaltic rock and has the largest pohutukawa forest in the country. It has more than 200 species of native plants including 40 species of ferns and 20 species of native orchids. Many plants form unusual hybrids or adopt strange behaviours because of the unusual conditions. The Department of Conservation has successfully completed a major project to eradicate possums and wallabies, which were destroying the island's pohutukawa. Now a major weed eradication programme is underway on the island.

The Island is not rich in land birds, probably because of the comparatively recent vegetation growth, but shores are well frequented by a variety of seabirds.

A Department of Conservation guide who will provide an informative tour will lead your visit. Sturdy walking shoes will be required.