



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## In Celebration of Hihi Week on Tiritiri Matangi Island

The Tiritiri Matangi Island Hihi Research Group in partnership with the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi and the Department of Conservation have instigated the hihi week project to heighten awareness of this special bird and promote conservation in New Zealand.

Late last year, 12 artists spent a day each on the island with hihi researcher Leila Walker. They were able to observe the hihi closely and record their observations through any medium they chose.

Artists involved in the project include Bob Steiner, Jo Luping, Cherry Lawrie presenting ceramic work, the textile designers Ingrid Anderson and Jane Aldridge, Celia Allison from Moa Revival, the photographers Reuben Price and Brent Stephenson, the Jewellery designer Ruth Baird and painters Doug Armstrong, Jan Ellis and Fleur Schultz.

**In Celebration of Hihi Week** runs from March 9 to 13, with a **jazz and blues concert** on the island on March 12. The musicians are Jonas Julio on guitar (Jonas played at the Winter Olympics in Whistler and the Rocky Horror Picture Show here), vocalist Moses Mackay (starred in the opera Macbeth and was support vocals for George Benson when he toured NZ last year) and Bassist Russell McNaughton (the opening act for Bon Jovi when it played in Wellington). Tickets are selling fast

During this week, hihi researchers will also have a display highlighting their work and be available to discuss the important contributions of scientific research into hihi ecology and conservation.

Artworks created during the project will be on sale on the island during Hihi Week.

The only naturally surviving population of hihi is found on Little Barrier Island. There are also reintroduced and managed populations on Kapiti and Tiritiri Matangi Islands and three mainland sites, Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (Zelandia); Ark in the Park and at Maungatautari.

Hihi on Tiritiri Matangi are the focus of many research projects including; how inbreeding (mating with relatives) can affect hatching and nestling survival; how a healthy diet can help hihi cope with parasites; how sensitive parent hihi are to the demands of their young and what happens when nestling hihi fledge their nests and where they go.

The global hihi population is estimated to be only a few thousand individuals with about 150 adults on Tiritiri Matangi Island.

For more information please go to [www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz](http://www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz) [www.hihiconservation.com](http://www.hihiconservation.com) and for ferry bookings: [www.360discovery.co.nz](http://www.360discovery.co.nz)