



BRING BACK KOKAKO

For more about bringing back Kokako to GBI see our website or give us a call.

Summer Raffle Winner....

Congratulations to A.J. Browne of Medlands Beach who has won the recent Kokako raffle. Here he is picking up his prize.

We raised approx \$200 thank you to all participants



Kokako, Penguin, Fantail, Morepork and Seagull soft toys with real sound **for sale**.
Price: \$22.00 ea
Ph: 094290940

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Paper Nautilus - *Argonauta*

Many of you have probably search for and found Paper Nautilus casings on the beaches around Great Barrier over the last few months. It is an annual ritual with many 'Barrier people collecting the beautiful white shell of this sea creature. The trick is to find a whole one without any blemishes.

Note that the Argonaut which we call the 'Paper Nautilus' is not actually a Nautilus of any kind. It is related to bottom-living Octopuses and it holds onto its shell with suckers. The casing is made only by the female and it lays its eggs in the casing.

The *Argonauta* lives in the open sea and gets to Great Barrier Island with the ocean currents. The main food for this creature are free swimming molluscs and shrimp.



Photos © Julian Finn



BUSH TELEGRAPH

FREE

Issue 2: March 2012

Wandering Albatross on Medland's Beach

A dead Wandering Albatross was found by Grace and Karen Benson on Medland's Beach on 30th December 2011.

Albatross are washed up occasionally on the East Coast beaches, but this was only the second Wandering Albatross recorded by me – a fully mature bird at least 15 years old from its plumage pattern.

The wingspan was 3.2mtr and the body length 1.15mtr. The bill was light pink with a yellow tip, 16cm in length. Wandering Albatross breed on some of the sub-Antarctic Islands, such as the Campbell and the Auckland Islands, and are known to circumnavigate the globe while 'wandering'.

Many people stopped by to see it before it was delivered to Noelene Ngawaka, who will use the soft white breast and back feathers, perhaps in a cloak we'll eventually admire at the Art Centre! JO



Plant of the Month - Cubmoss

The cubmoss *Lycopodium cernuum* may be a bit of a mouthful, but it's a common plant along the Hot Springs track, and many other tracks on Hirakimata/Mt Hobson. Maori knew the clubmosses as Matakutuku or Paukarimu – there are several different species – from the resemblance to a tiny rimu tree. These plants belong to an ancient lineage, much older than the flower-bearing plants, and are all that remains of giant tree-like specimens that made the forests of Gondwanaland in the Carboniferous Era, c. 350 million years ago. The very similar *Lepidodendron* was then a tree 45m tall, and its decomposed remains formed many of the world's major coal deposits. So think of that next time you're off to the hot springs for a dip



John Ogden next to the Albatross to show size

Environmental Notice Board

- 28 Mar - next Auckland Council local board environmental planning sub-committee meetings GBI

If you have any questions or have a notice for this portion of the magazine please phone or email

Black Petrel

Some years ago down in Okupu DOC discovered that Black Petrels do nest at sea level and not just on Mt Hiraakimata. We had a few productive years but we think that has come to an end

First spotted was a Black Petrel just off the beach acting strangely. A couple of local fisherman kindly investigated. It was caught in a mass of fishing nylon. After being bitten a few times they managed to free it. Was this bird one of the pair from sea level?

There was a chick getting pretty big at this stage. With much sadness it was found dead where it had walked into an upright object - then fallen on it's back (like a cast sheep). You could see where it had tried in vain to right itself.



A Bird near its nest Hiraakimata

Did it go walking from its usual possie because it was curious, or was it hungry, waiting for a dead parent? Sadly no one is back nesting at sea level this year.

EP

Life at the Wharf...

Peter Tidy (the wharfinger) recently shared with me some of his experiences with the wildlife at the wharf at Tryphena over the summer. Two events stand out and I would like to share these stories with you.

1. The barge was just about to dock when Pete saw seven Little Blue penguins feeding on the krill which was heaped up along the edge of the wharf. The penguins had had their fill and were standing on the edge of the ramp unable to move because their bellies were full to bursting. Pete lifted each one of them up to sit under the sign near the ramp to get them out of the way and when the barge did eventually dock there were seven little birds sitting together under the sign. When the barge eventually left Pete went to move them back to the water. Six had already moved but unfortunately we don't know what happened to the last one. Pete said some children were going to take it to Karen Walker our Bird lady.

In speaking to Karen Walker she recommends people not to touch the penguins and give her a call at 4290478

2. At night when the generator goes on two morepork come out to hunt the Puriri moths and bugs that are attracted to the lights. Pete says these birds have been coming to the wharf for a long time.

FC



DID YOU KNOW.....

- SHINING CUCKOO TRAVEL UP TO 3000KM TO NZ FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS AND BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO AND BACK
- THEY PUT A SINGLE EGG IN NESTS OF SEVERAL GREY WARBLERS
- DO NOT LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN YOUNG
- ARRIVE GBI IN SEPT LEAVE FEB-MAR
- LOVE EATING CATERPILLARS
- HAVE A REPETITIVE SONG THAT IS VERY DISTINCTIVE FROM NOVEMBER TO JANUARY



Kokako Cocktails....

On 11th January we invited a group of people from Medlands to a Nibbles and Drinks event at Judy Gilbert's beautiful house at Windy Hill.

This was an opportunity to meet people from this particular area on Great Barrier Island and it gave us a chance to update them on what the GBI Trust is trying to achieve. We announced our intention to establish a scholarship for a Masters student and to increase our membership.



John Ogden and Judy Gilbert spoke about the vision for the GBI Trust and Judy related pest management to the project at Windy Hill where we had the event.

This particular event was a great success. We all had a chance to get to know each other a little more and we were lucky enough to get some more members and do some fundraising.

We hope to have more of these events in the future inviting people from different areas of the island to meet with us.

After to party....

After the nibbles and drinks afternoon a group of kids organized the Medlands Sandcastle Competition - they were Pete Nola, Izzy, Loulou and Anthony. We would like to extend a big thank you to these children for the \$30 they raised for the GBI Trust.

FC



Many of the young people who participated in the sandcastle competition

For Sale:

Bird prevention window decals - \$24.95 plus postage \$5
 email: gbitrust@xtra.co.nz
 or phone:4290940

Some info about Black Petrel

- GREAT BARRIER IS THE MAIN NESTING AREA FOR BLACK PETREL IN THE WORLD
- RANGE FROM TASMAN SEA TO COAST OF ECUADOR
- 1 IN 20 BLACK PETRELS SURVIVE TO BREEDING AGE (4 YEARS)
- THEY HAVE ONE CHICK A YEAR
- OLDEST KNOWN BIRD IS 29 YEARS
- PIGS, CATS AND RATS EAT BREEDING BLACK PETREL , EGGS & CHICKS.
- MOST BIRDS DIE AT SEA FROM LONGLINE FISHING
- WILL BE EXTINCT WITHIN OUR LIFETIME IF FISHING DEATHS AREN'T REDUCED.

KW