

# Ewen lab hihi research update

March 2011



## **ACCEPTED PAPERS AND MEDIA** *publications in scientific journals, popular science and media coverage*

- No new papers accepted this month but a bunch in the pipeline.
- Our big media and outreach this month was the "In celebration of hihi week" co-organised with SoTM. It was a fantastic success and we are extremely grateful to SoTM and in particular Mary-Ann Rowland for her huge efforts in putting it together. Check out below and for more images go to [hihiconservation.com](http://hihiconservation.com)

## **PRESENTATIONS, VISITS & NEWS** *conference presentations, visits to and from group members etc*

- Professor Geoffrey Hill from Auburn University in the USA visited Tiritiri Matangi and Leila Walker to work on the plumage colour project.
- Ali has done her PhD upgrade talk where she focussed on her population demographic study of the kapiti island hihi.
- Kate has finished sampling juvenile hihi on Tiritiri Matangi for this season as part of her PhD project.
- Planning is in full swing for the upcoming hihi translocation from Tiritiri Matangi with Kevin, Kate and Leila getting it and the birds ready.
- Claudia and John had their second baby boy – Liam – and are sure that two is enough!!

## **FEATURE STORY:** **In celebration of hihi week – Tiritiri Matangi Island**

In late 2010 twelve artists spent a day each in the field with hihi researcher Leila Walker. Our idea was to encourage more exposure of hihi, to showcase their colourful character, and to build bridges between science and the wider community. This project culminated in a week long celebration on Tiritiri Matangi Island where the artists visions were presented and offered for sale. All proceeds from these sales are to be fed directly back into hihi conservation. There was also a jazz and blues concert on the Saturday night with a special late night ferry to take people home. Patricia presented the seed of this idea in discussion with Mary-Ann (SoTM) who both then coordinated the artists. This grew with input from John who developed the science stand for the celebration week. Leila was key in showing all the artists the hihi and giving them some close connection with the species. Leila and Kate were then also the two scientists who answered questions and interacted with the public during the hihi week. Doug was the most expansive by being both a major contributor to hihi science and also presenting a painting with his artists hat on.

So, all in all a very rewarding and group effort. As mentioned above – we could not have done this without the complete support and partnership of SoTM and especially Mary-Ann Rowland who made the event the success that it was. We are still waiting on final sales totals but regardless of this the success was at many levels right from scientists interacting with artists, SoTM working closely with the hihi researchers on a public event, public engagement in hihi conservation science, and definitely raising the profile of hihi in New Zealand!



Bob Steiner (ceramicist) with Leila



## **FUNDING** *our major funders and new funding news*

### **CURRENT AND PAST FUNDING – thank you!**

+ British Research Council + Royal Society + Leverhulme Trust + Department of Conservation + AXA-fund + NERC + SoTM + ASAB + Massey University + Wesfarmers Industrial and Safety NZ Ltd.

## **STAFF AND STUDENT CONTACTS**

### **Permanent Staff**

- Professor Doug Armstrong (Massey University, New Zealand [D.P.Armstrong@massey.ac.nz](mailto:D.P.Armstrong@massey.ac.nz))
- Dr John Ewen (Institute of Zoology, United Kingdom [john.ewen@ioz.ac.uk](mailto:john.ewen@ioz.ac.uk))
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### **Post doctoral Research Staff**

- Dr Patricia Brekke (Institute of Zoology, United Kingdom [patricia.brekke@ioz.ac.uk](mailto:patricia.brekke@ioz.ac.uk))
- Dr Nathalie Pettorelli (Institute of Zoology, United Kingdom [nathalie.pettorelli@ioz.ac.uk](mailto:nathalie.pettorelli@ioz.ac.uk))
- Dr Kevin Parker (Massey University, New Zealand [k.parker@massey.ac.nz](mailto:k.parker@massey.ac.nz))

### **PhD Students**

- Leila Walker (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom [lkw24@hermes.cam.ac.uk](mailto:lkw24@hermes.cam.ac.uk))
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- Kate Richardson (Massey University, New Zealand [k.richardson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:k.richardson@massey.ac.nz))

### **Recent graduates**

- Dr Rose Thorogood (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom [rose.thorogood@gmail.com](mailto:rose.thorogood@gmail.com))

