# Ewen lab hihi research update March 2011

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

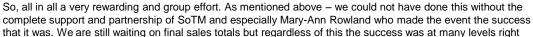
- No new papers accepted this month but a bunch in the pipeline.
- Our big media and outreach this month was the "In celebration of hihi week" co-organised with SoTM. It was a fantastic success and we are extremely grateful to SoTM and in particular Mary-Ann Rowland for her huge efforts in putting it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

# 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.



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

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- Dr John Ewen · Dr Phillip Cassey
- Dr Rebecca Kilner
- Post doctoral Research Staff

- Dr Patricia Brekke
- Dr Nathalie Pettorelli

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- Leila Walker
- Aliénor Chauvenet
- · Kate Richardson
- Recent graduates Dr Rose Thorogood

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