

Bringing back the tūi to Banks Peninsula/Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū

“Not even the song of the nightingale can approach the sweetness of the tui”

—early European settler’s letter Home, 1851

Not only have New Zealand’s tūi been described as one of the seven best songsters in the world, they are key pollinators for many native plants and important seed dispersers for native trees such as kōwhai.

Sadly, tūi disappeared from Banks Peninsula about 20 years ago due to a variety of reasons including habitat loss, introduced predators and possibly disease. The last birds to be seen in any numbers were around Akaroa. Only one or two birds have been reported since then.

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, in partnership with local hapū is working to restore the tūi to Banks Peninsula. The plan has support from the Department of Conservation, Lincoln University, and the Christchurch City Council. With the help of the wider community, we aim to release tūi into the wild on Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū by 2009.

To flourish, tūi need trees, flowers, and insects. Tūi are keen nectar feeders. This food is more than 70 per cent of their diet at peak times of the year. Fruits and insects are also important. Ecologist Hugh Wilson, of Hinewai, has confirmed there is now enough year-round food available on Banks Peninsula for tūi.

This guide for planting can help you attract tūi to your own property.

Donations

The Tui Restoration Project needs help. When suitable birds have been found and captured, they must be transported, checked by veterinarians, and then monitored after release. In addition pest control must occur before and after any releases. Your donation can help this important work. All contributions are tax deductible and can be sent to: The Treasurer, BPCT, PO Box 172, Akaroa 7542. Please make cheques payable to: Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.

What you can do to help:

- Provide good habitat—regenerating mixed hardwood forest, protected from grazing animals, offers good nesting territories, nectar and fruit sources and insect prey. *“The most significant boost for tūi will come from increasing the area of ungrazed, protected, regenerating native forest.”*
— Hugh Wilson, Manager Hinewai Reserve

- Gardens may help significantly with tūi tucker as tūi are known to travel a long way to good nectar sources at the right time of year. See reverse side for a list of plants you can use to attract tūi to your garden.
- Use locally sourced native plants—great not only for tūi but for restoration.
- Remove predators and grazers—priorities for removal are :
 - 1) goats, deer, cattle, sheep and pigs
 - 2) ship rats and possums
 - 3) cats and stoats*“Ship rats and possums are most important leaf/flower/seed destroyers.”* — John Innes, Landcare Research/Manaaki Whenua
- Report tūi sightings to the BPCT coordinator or enter into the New Zealand Biodiversity Recording System (www.nzbrn.org.nz)

More information

Protecting native bush, pest control, tūi sightings and more – visit www.bpct.org.nz or contact the BPCT coordinator (contact details below)

Pest control

- www.sanctuariesnz.org / pest management / pest species
- War on Pests: <http://tinyurl.com/pest-war>

Planting

- Plants, advice and information – Motukarara Nursery www.doc.govt.nz or phone: 03 329 7846
- *Protecting and Restoring Our Natural Heritage*, (available from Motukarara Nursery for \$15) or free from the DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz
- *Food for tūi on Banks Peninsula*, DOC report

Tūi—other information

- Research: www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/newsletters/tui/
- Education: www.tuitime.org.nz/about

Contact

- Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
email: enquiries@bpct.org.nz or phone: 03 329 6340
www.bpct.org.nz



Tūi tucker attracting tūi to your garden



“Me he korokoro tūi ”
How eloquent is
he/she, who has
the throat of a tūi

Cover photo: D. Toman



Tūi tucker planting list—attracting tūi to your garden

some nectar/fruit
 main season nectar/fruit
 main season but not every year

Banks Peninsula native nectar plants	Height	Growth rate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Climbing fuchsia														
<i>Fuchsia perscandens</i>														
Fierce lancewood	6 m tree	med												
<i>Pseudopanax ferox</i>														
Fivefinger/whauwhaupaku	8 m tree	fast												
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>														
Haraake/NZ flax	2.5 m grass	med												
<i>Phormium tenax</i>														
Kōhūhū/black matipo	10 m tree	med												
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>														
Lancewood/horoeka	12 m tree	med												
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>														
Lemonwood/tarata	12 m tree	med												
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>														
Mountain fivefinger	5 m tree	med												
<i>Pseudopanax colensoi</i>														
Mountain flax/wharariki	1 m grass	med												
<i>Phormium cookianum</i>														
Patē/sevenfinger	6 m tree	fast												
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>														
Rohutu	5 m tree	med												
<i>Lophomyrtus obcordata</i>														
Tree fuchsia/kōtukutuku	12 m tree	fast												
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>														
Weeping Banks Peninsula kōwhai <i>Sophora microphylla</i>	10 m tree	med												
White climbing rātā/akatea														
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>														
Banks Peninsula native fruit plants														
Broadleaf	15 m tree	med												
<i>Grisehlinia littoralis</i>														
Cabbage tree/ti-kōuka	15 m tree	fast												
<i>Cordyline australis</i>														
Fivefinger/whauwhaupaku	8 m tree	fast												
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>														
Green coprosma	3 m shrub	fast												
<i>Coprosma virescens</i>														
Horopito/pepperwood	10 m tree	slow												
<i>Pseudowintera colorata</i>														
Kahikatea	40 m tree	med												
<i>Dacrydium dacrydioides</i>														
Kaikōmako	12 m tree	slow												
<i>Pennantia cynobosa</i>														
Karamū	5 m tree	fast												
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>														
Lowland tōtara	30 m tree	med												
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>														
Māhoe/whiteywood	10 m tree	med												
<i>Melicope ramiflorus</i>														
Marbleleaf/putaputawētā	10 m tree	med												
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>														
Mikimiki	5 m shrub	med												
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>														
Mikimiki	3 m shrub	med												
<i>Coprosma rubra</i>														
Mikimiki	2 m shrub	med												
<i>Coprosma wallii</i>														
Mountain fivefinger/orihou	5 m tree	med												
<i>Pseudopanax colensoi</i>														
Mountain tōtara	20 m tree	med												
<i>Podocarpus hallii</i>														
New Zealand ngaio	8 m tree	fast												
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>														
NZ passionfruit/kohia	20 m vine	fast												
<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>														
Patē/sevenfinger	6 m tree	fast												
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>														
Pōkākā	15 m tree	med												
<i>Elaeocarpus hookerianus</i>														
Puka/shining broadleaf	8 m tree	fast												
<i>Grisehlinia lucida</i>														
Red matipo/māpou	7 m tree	med												
<i>Myrsine australis</i>														
Rigid mikimiki	4 m shrub	med												
<i>Coprosma rigida</i>														
Rōhutu/native myrtle	5 m tree	med												
<i>Lophomyrtus obcordata</i>														
Round-leaved coprosma	4 m tree	med												
<i>Coprosma rotundifolia</i>														
Shining karamū	5 m tree	med												
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>														
Thick-leaved coprosma	4 m shrub	med												
<i>Coprosma crassifolia</i>														
Thin-leaved coprosma	4 m tree	med												
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>														
Titoki/NZ oak	17 m tree	med												
<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>														
Tree fuchsia/kōtukutuku	12 m tree	fast												
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>														
Wineberry/makomako	8 m tree	fast												
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>														
Wirenetting bush/korokio	2 m shrub	med												
<i>Corokia cotoneaster</i>														
Non-native nectar plants														
Bottlebrush	5 m shrub	med												
<i>Callistemon</i> spp.														
Camellia*	5 m shrub	med												
<i>Camellia</i> spp.														
Feijoa	4 m tree	med												
<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>														
Garden fuchsia	3 m shrub	med												
<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>														
Pincushion bush	2 m shrub	med												
<i>Leucospermum</i> spp.														
Pohutukawa**	15 m tree	med												
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>														
Protea	2.5 m shrub	med												
<i>Protea</i> spp.														
Red-flowered yellow gum	30 m tree	med												
<i>Eucalyptus leucogyon</i>														
Red-flowering gum	10 m tree	fast												
<i>Eucalyptus ficifolia</i>														
Red hot poker***	1.2 m clump	med												
<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>														
Silk tree	10 m tree	fast												
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>														
Silky oak	20 m tree	fast												
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>														
Spider flower	2 m shrub	fast												
<i>Grevillea</i> spp.														
Tree lucerne/tagasaste	10 m tree	fast												
<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>														
Waratah	4 m shrub	med												
<i>Telopea</i> spp.														

Tūi top seven

* appeal as tūi tucker may vary by variety, with early-blooming varieties best

** NZ native, but not native to Banks Peninsula

*** low-growing plants may increase risk of predation for tūi when feeding near ground

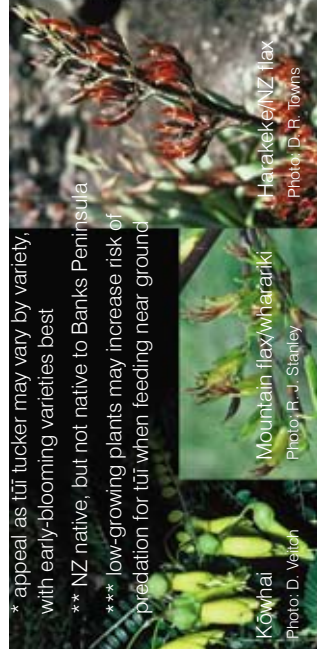


Photo: D. Veitch

Mountain flax/wharariki
Photo: P. J. Stapley

Haraake/NZ flax
Photo: D. R. Towns



Cabbage tree/ti-kōuka
Photo: B. Smith



Mountain fivefinger
Photo: C. Strubis-Kennedy



Tree fuchsia/
kōtukutuku
Photo: DOC

NZ ngaio
Photo: D. Crocchley