



## The ARC is about to lodge an application for the Tawharanui Marine Park to become a marine reserve.

The Tawharanui Marine Park, established in 1981, adjoins the northern side of Tawharanui Regional Park. As a marine park the area is a 'no take' zone managed by the Ministry of Fisheries.

Marine reserves are managed by the Department of Conservation so this application represents an administrative change which would strengthen the protection of the area by making it more clearly understood and easier to manage.

If this application is successful it would mean that:

- The existing "no take" rules within the Marine Park will continue to apply within the boundaries of the marine reserve.
- The proposed marine reserve will be almost exactly the same size as the current protected area. (Input from the community during consultation has been taken into account in the decision not to increase the protected area.)
- The marine reserve boundary will be straightened to enable better clarity for users and managers of the reserve and adjacent areas.
- The popular recreational fishing spot, Cigar Reef, will be outside the marine reserve boundary.
- Rules affecting use of the marine reserve will be clearer and more widely understood than with the existing marine park, given that rules are consistent from one marine reserve to another but can differ between marine parks.
- The marine reserve will be managed by the same body (DoC) as the nearby Cape Rodney Okakari Point Marine Reserve, rather than under two separate authorities as it currently the case.
- A marine reserve committee will provide a forum for stakeholders to have ongoing input into the management of the marine reserve.

The cumulative effect of these would be to enhance opportunities for the scientific study of marine life in this area due to the improved status, recognition, management capacity, visibility and enforcement of the protected area.

The ARC's application is scheduled to be lodged and publicly notified in June.

If you want to support or object to the proposed marine reserve you can lodge a submission in the two months following public notification. For more information (including a copy of the application) keep an eye on [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz) during June and July or call 09 366 2000 and press 2.

## Visiting Tawharanui?

Wondered what the high fence and magic gate is all about?

Visit the new visitor icon and all is explained!

Tawharanui's road to recovery is graphically illustrated for all to see.

Like a temperature chart this interpretation zig zags along the koru marking critical moments in the health and wellbeing of the park.

Thanks to Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc. and the staff Tawharanui has a positive prognosis.



**How to get there:** Take State Highway 1 north to Warkworth. Follow the signs to Matakana. Turn right at the Omaha turn off just beyond Matakana, head along Takatu Road and follow the signs to the park.

## Open at last... and almost pest free!



Several hundred people came to share in the official opening of Tawharanui Regional Park and the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary. ARC Chairman Michael Lee unveiled a commemorative stone and Cr Coney cut the ribbon to open the information koru, formally declaring park and sanctuary open.

Chairman Lee told visitors the history of Tawharanui, from farmland to parkland and from wilderness to open sanctuary. He acknowledged the people of the land – tangata whenua, Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc, volunteers, researchers, ARC officers, local communities and visitors.

The celebration of Tawharanui Open Sanctuary marks more than a decade of planning, fundraising, and genuine back-breaking hard work that has culminated in the most complex and comprehensive individual project to be undertaken on our regional parks network.

The Tawharanui Open Sanctuary is also the largest mainland pest eradication project to be attempted to date in New Zealand and is the first to be undertaken in a coastal lowland ecosystem.

Cr Coney acknowledged the unique partnerships that have made the open sanctuary a reality and paid special tribute to the TOSSI.

Congratulations to all involved, from the volunteers to the art buyers, who have been such an important part of Tawharanui Regional Park and Open Sanctuary.

### Some words from ARC Chairman Michael Lee

*He wha tawhara ki uta;  
He kiko tamure ki tai.*

*The flowering bracts of the kiekie on the shore;  
The flesh of the snapper in the sea.*

*These words capture the essence of this place,  
abundant in marine and forest resources.*

*This is a whakatauki describing Tawhara;  
the name of the flowering bract of the kiekie  
and Tawharanui; the name given to this land.*

## Art in the Woolshed at Tawharanui 2006

From dusty old woolshed to large airy gallery... in March Tawharanui Regional Park and the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc. (TOSSI) hosted the third successful Art in the Woolshed.

The exhibition raised \$36,000 for the open sanctuary project, through the sale of more than \$130,000 worth of high quality artwork.

Artworks by prominent New Zealand artists were on display in the woolshed, normally a fully functioning farm building, and sculpture was placed in the park against the backdrop of the lagoon, pohutukawa trees and the ocean.

Funds will go toward the ongoing project to restore and enhance the open sanctuary, in particular, nursery and wetland planting.

TOSSI wishes to thank all the artists who participated in the project, the visitors who purchased the artworks and the many volunteers who gave hours of their time to make the exhibition a reality, and a final thank you to the ARC for its support and assistance.

By Alison Stanes, TOSSI



### From the Pohutukawa Post team

We hope you enjoy this issue of pohutukawa post and don't forget to send us any parks stories to [catherine.boyle@arc.govt.nz](mailto:catherine.boyle@arc.govt.nz) or phone (09) 366 2000 ext 8238.

The ARC Park and Heritage Committee Chair Sandra Coney is happy to hear from you about any parks and heritage issues. Sandra would like you to give her your feedback on any aspect of regional parks. Please contact her at [sandra.coney@arc.govt.nz](mailto:sandra.coney@arc.govt.nz) or on (09) 366 2000.